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A Friend to Truth

New York *Daily Advertiser*, 4 March 1788

County of Orange, March 1, 1788.

Mr. CHILDS, In a paper of Mr. Greenleaf's, dated the 28th ult. I observed a piece dated Montgomery County, Feb. 9th, 1788, asserting, that the inhabitants of Ulster and Orange conceived it to be their duty and privilege, in order to consult on a subject appearing to them important, &c. &c. &c. and every one present declared they would not adopt the plan of government published by the Convention, but oppose it as a system calculated to destroy the equal liberty they now enjoy, &c. &c. "They caused the said Constitution to be burnt in the most public place of the town, with the usual circumstances of disrespect and contempt. Notwithstanding," &c.

Now, Sir, as a member of the community, and an inhabitant of Orange County, I think it my duty to remove those false aspersions against my fellow citizens of that county, by placing the matter in its true light, and as exactly conformable to truth as can be, without being prejudiced in favor of either party.

The particulars are as follows:—About eight or ten days previous to this great meeting, it was noised about in the two counties, that the effigies of three gentlemen of respectable characters in the city of New-York were to be burnt at Ward's bridge (by some called Irish Town) in the county of Ulster, for having heretically asserted that they were for the adoption of the proposed Constitution; in consequence of which a number of people, who usually frequent such scenes, from the county of Ulster attended, and some few from Orange County.

After passing the grog freely, it was determined to appoint a Committee, when, unfortunately for the County of Orange, there happened to be present Mr. C — e G — e [Cole Gale], merchant, of Goshen; R — n H — s [Reuben Hopkins], Esq. Captain J — n W — d [John Wood], persons equally learned in politics, who, with four colleagues of Ulster County, formed a Committee, and after appointing Hendrick Smith, late or some time ago, Esq. Moderator (persons equally averse to the Constitution) while the other persons present were intent on the real^(a) business of their meeting, being joined by a few other persons,^(b) they in grand procession marched to Ward's bridge, about two hundred yards from the house of Mrs. Hordenbeck, a tavern at that place, with the Constitution on a long pole, carried as some say by a Sarjeant-Major, and some by a constable, followed in procession by fifteen men, out of the number of perhaps one hundred present (who probably would have followed had they been able so to do) where a sheaf of straw was set on fire, and the copy they had jointly purchased of the Constitution, was on the firing the straw thrown into the Wallkill; but not satisfied with this supposed mark of

contempt (as was asserted) a certain other tavern-keeper finding considerable money had passed through the hands of his neighbor, informed (either in person or by proxy) that a similar scene the ensuing evening should be acted at his house; but considerably to his disappointment, it was too soon, as they had not got over the *spirit* of the antecedent meeting. I am, Sir,

A Friend to Truth.

- (a) Getting grog.
- (b) The Committee.

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