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Federalists and Antifederalists

## Fair Play

Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*, 4 October 1787

(excerpt)

. . . It is a fact, I believe, that will not be denied, that many of those who arrange themselves under the banners of those who call themselves *Federalists* were either *downright Tories*, *lukewarm Whigs*, or disaffected to the cause of America and the Revolution; and who now eagerly wish to seize the present opportunity to gratify their revenge and to retaliate on the *real Whigs* of 1775 and 1776. And I am the more inclined to espouse this opinion, because the author of *Tar and Feathers* aims to destroy the distinction of *Whig* and *Tory*, and to establish one more odious, viz. *Federalists* and *Antifederalists*.

The *new friends* to the *tarring and feathering* system seem to direct their resentment against the *Tories*. “*Laughable indeed would it be to suppose*,” that they had not well examined and sought for a few of that class of beings among their own party to begin with. Look at home first Mr. *Tar and Feathers*, and try to work a reformation there before you begin to *deal damnation* abroad. There invoke the *Great Jehovah* to forgive thy past crimes and follies; and presume no more thou blasphemous wretch to compare your infamous doctrine of *expedients* with the purpose of that DEITY, “who sent the deluge in the days of Noah.”

I shall conclude for the present, Mr. Oswald, with observing, that I consider this daemon of discord as some cowardly “*villain*,” “*however dignified among villains*” — some ferocious monster, whose nerves do not admit of his heading a *tarring and feathering mob*, but who, at the same time, would rejoice to see anarchy and confusion prevailing and triumphing over peace and good order among the citizens of Philadelphia.

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. II: Pennsylvania (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 1976), 153–55.