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Philadelphia *Freeman's Journal*, 7 November 1787

Extract of a letter from N. York, Nov. 4.

“It is astonishing with what a high hand matters are carried in Massachusetts, relative to the adoption of the New Constitution. Freedom of enquiry, particularly among the Bostonians, seems to be put entirely out of countenance.¹ *John Adam's Chickens* (commonly called the *Well Born*) are already, in imagination, completely mounted upon the shoulders of the populace.—Some nations have been cheated out of their freedom by a long concatenation of subtilty and deceit; there are, in this country, too many that would carry the *same point* by downright impudence and effrontery:

‘Who first the generous steed opprest
Not kneeling did salute the beast;
But with high courage, life, and force
Approaching, tam'd the unruly horse.’

“The clergy, I find, are, generally, very busy in proving by their present (as well as by some past) conduct, that *politics* and *theology* are by no means incompatible. I had hitherto imagined, this order of men were paid and maintained by the people to keep them in mind of their duty to GOD and their neighbours. But, it seems, they have a sufficiency of leisure upon their hands to fix, at least, *one eye* pretty steadily upon the political affairs of the world we are in.”²

1. At issue in Boston was the principle of open access to and the impartiality of the town's newspapers. Antifederalists complained that in order to get their articles printed they had to leave their names with the publishers of some newspapers.

2. Possibly a reference to the October meeting in New York City of the Baptist clergy of the Middle States that expressed support for the Constitution. Under Article XXXIX of the New York constitution of 1777, clergymen were not permitted to hold any civil or military office or place.

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