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Thomas Lusk Speech: Massachusetts Convention 4 February 1788

Major LUSK concurred in the idea already thrown out in the debate, that although the insertion of the amendments in the Constitution, was devoutly wished—yet he did not see any reason to suppose they ever would be adopted.—Turning from the subject of amendments, the Major entered largely into the consideration of the 9th sect. and in the most pathetick and feeling manner, described the miseries of the poor natives of Africa, who are kidnapped, and sold for slaves—with the brightest colours, he painted their happiness and ease on their native shores; and contrasted them with their wretched, miserable, and unhappy condition in a state of slavery. From this subject, he passed to the article dispensing with the qualification of a religious test—and concluded by saying, that he shuddered at the idea, that Roman Catholicks, Papists, and Pagans might be introduced into office—and that Popery and the Inquisition may be established in America.

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