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## Centinel XXII

### Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*, 14 November 1788 (excerpt)

To the PEOPLE of PENNSYLVANIA.

*Friends and Fellow Citizens*, It was my intention to appropriate this number to the consideration of the enormous sums of public money unaccounted for by individuals, now ascertained by a late investigation of Congress; but accidentally meeting with an address to the freemen of Pennsylvania, signed *Lucullus*, published in the *Federal Gazette* of November the 6th, I thought no time should be lost in detecting the atrocious falsehoods, and counteracting the baneful poison contained in that address. In a former number I noticed the base policy practiced by the *republicans*, as they stiled themselves, of imitating and prejudicing that part of the community who were disaffected to our cause in the late war, against the constitutional whigs, by the grossest calumny and misrepresentation of their conduct and principles, and thereby duping the disaffected into the support of measures, which their dispassionate judgement would have reprobated, as highly injurious to the common welfare. That address is a continuation of the same policy, and from characteristic features, is known to be the production of *Galen* [Benjamin Rush], who has done more to destroy the harmony of Pennsylvania, and forward the vassalage of her citizens to the *rich and aspiring*, than all the other firebrands of party and instruments of ambition.

We are now hastening to a crisis that will determine the fate of this great country, that will decide whether the United States is to be ruled by a free government, or subjected to the supremacy of a *lordly and profligate few*. Hitherto the gratification of party spirit and prejudice was attended with the ruin of the honest whigs and the emolument and aggrandisement of the *republicans* at the common expence; but now it would be attended with the loss of all liberty and the establishment of a general thralldom—men of all descriptions, except our rulers, would equally wear the fetters, and experience the evils of despotism; it therefore behoves every man who has any regard for the welfare and happiness of his country, of himself, or his posterity, to endeavor to divest himself of all prejudices that may bias or blind his judgement on this great occasion. In confidence of a dispassionate perusal and consideration, I will now take up the address and expose its falacy. It begins “You will be called upon, on the last Wednesday of the present month, to give your votes for *eight* persons to represent you in the Legislature of the United States. You never were called upon to exercise the privilege of electing rulers upon a more important occasion. Two tickets will be offered you. The one will contain men who will support the new constitution *in its present form*; the other ticket will contain men, who will

overset the government under the specious pretext of amending it.” Here is a plain, explicit avowal that the new constitution is to be supported in its *present form*; I hope this declaration will open the eyes of those people who have been deluded by the deceitful promises of amendments, and, that being thereby convinced of the fallacy of the reiterated assurances of amendments, they will now embrace the only method left of obtaining them, by giving their suffrages and influence to the other ticket. The bugbear raised to intimidate the people from voting for this ticket, viz. “That the design is to destroy the government under the specious pretext of amending it,” I trust will be treated with the deserved contempt, and that this low device will only confirm the people the more in their determination to support men favorable to amendments. . . .

Philadelphia, 12 November.

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