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Solon

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Mess’rs. ADAMS & NOURSE, It is not at all surprizing to observe how *alarmed* some *particular characters pretend* to be, that any thing should be said respecting measures being taken to *effect any amendments* in the *Federal Constitution*; and that such measures will but *delay* the *operation* and *salutary* effects so ardently wished for, and expected from the new government, as this is a mere *bagatelle*. The Conventions of a number of the States which have adopted the Federal Constitution, and among these are to found *some* [of] the *most populous* and *opulent* in the *Union*, have deemed amendments absolutely necessary, and have proposed sundry accordingly: At the same time, they have discovered their *wisdom* and their *true federalism*, in first adopting and ratifying the Constitution, that no public injury may accrue by a delay of the operation of the system, while the amendments are attended to.

A wise and free people in forming a Constitution of government for *themselves*, should ever provide against their own political annihilation, by reserving to themselves, the *power of amending or altering* the Constitution, whenever they judge it *necessary* and *expedient*, without offering *violence* to the *Legislative or Executive powers*, or even *interrupting* them in the regular discharge of their respective functions, until the alterations or amendments are made, and the administration directed into them. This is an excellence in the Federal Constitution, which is scarcely elsewhere to be found in the world; for in article fifth, it is expressed, that “The Congress whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or on the application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing amendments, which in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof,” &c.—Hence proposals for amendments are perfectly constitutional; and since so many States have thought them *necessary*, they become an object of the first attention. More than a sufficient number of the States, constitutionally necessary to put the new government in motion, have already adopted it, (and it is ardently wished that all may soon accede to it)—every moment of delay, unless unavoidable, will be regreted by every friend to his country, while common-sense and reason dictate, that such amendments as have been deemed necessary, be early brought forward, and these will not in the least retard the operations of the government, or prevent its acting. The amendments which have generally been proposed, are a *more explicit definition of, and limiting of power*, not a restraint to action. If therefore, the amendments proposed, are necessary to the *security* of the *liberties* of

the *people*, they *ought* to be attended to *immediately*; and even if they were not in some particulars so essential as some have imagined, yet if a *great* number of the people, have conceived them to be so, the principles of *national policy, as well as natural right*, clearly mark that *those* for whom the *government is formed, should be satisfied*. Will not every man therefore, who is a *real federalist, cheerfully and zealously* endeavour to *give that cement* to the *Union*, which shall *appear most likely to render it indissoluable*; without this, will not *pretensions to federalism*, be but a *cloak* to the *ensign of faction and disunion*.

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