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Massachusetts Convention Monday, 21 January 1788 (excerpts)

Convention Debates, 21 January, A.M.

. . . *On motion*, Resolved as follows, viz.

Whereas there is a publication in “The Boston Gazette and the Country Journal,” of this day as follows, viz.

“*Bribery and Corruption!!!*

“The most diabolical plan is on foot to corrupt the members of the Convention, who oppose the adoption of the new Constitution. Large sums of money have been brought from a neighbouring State for that purpose, contributed by the wealthy;—if so, is it not probable there may be collections for the same accursed purpose nearer home?

CENTINEL.”

Resolved, That this Convention will take measures for inquiring into the subject of the said publication, and for ascertaining the truth or falshood of the suggestion therein contained.

Ordered, That the Messenger be directed to request the Printers of the said Gazette, to appear before this Convention, forthwith, to give information respecting the said publication.

Convention Journal, 21 January, P.M.

. . . The Messenger informed the Convention that he had acquainted the Printers of the Boston Gazette, &c. of the order of this forenoon respecting them, and was answered that one of them would attend the Convention this afternoon. . . .

A letter from Benjamin Edes and Son Printers of the Boston Gazette &c. relative to the publication entered this morning. Read and committed to Mr. Parsons, Mr. Nason, Mr. Gorham, Mr. Widgery, Mr. Porter, Mr. Gore & Mr. Thomas of Plymouth. . . .

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