



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

csac.history.wisc.edu > Ratification at a Glance > Massachusetts > Significant Events and Outcomes Associated with Massachusetts > The Alleged Bribery of the Massachusetts Delegates

Boston Gazette, 28 January 1788

To the PUBLICK.

Finding that a well-intended publication in the *Boston Gazette*, signed Centinel, through the perturbation of the publick mind, has been misconceived, and conclusions drawn therefrom which never entered the heart of the author; in order to satisfy as far as possible, the candid enquirer, he feels himself call'd upon to gratify the publick by narrating some of the causes that induced it:—The author heard a citizen of this town declare to another citizen “*A plan is on foot to silence Mr. N* — [Samuel Nasson].” A credible person, now in town, informed the author, that he was told at Providence about a week ago, by a reputable gentleman there, That a *bag of money* had been sent down to Boston to quiet the members of convention in opposition to the new constitution.—From these and some other corroborating circumstances, the author thought it serious; and actuated by the best motives, sent that piece to the press; not conceiving it would have been noticed in any other manner than he intended.

CENTINEL.

As many curious Persons appear solicitous to know the real name of the person whose signature was CENTINEL, in our last Gazette, we are as solicitous to gratify them;—and though we do not hold ourselves under any LEGAL obligation to expose the author, yet, having obtained his CONSENT, we chearfully

MENTION THE NAME OF
COLONEL WILLIAM DONNISON,

known by his fellow-townsmen as a man of honor and veracity.

EDES & SON.

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. V: Massachusetts [2] (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 1998), 763–64.