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Citizen

Massachusetts Centinel, 30 January 1788

To Colonel W — D —.

SIR, Was it well, because you heard one citizen say, that he heard an other citizen declare, that [“]a plan was on foot to silence Mr. N —” and that a person informed you, that he was at Providence and was *told* that “*a bag of money* had been sent to Boston, to quiet the members, of Convention, &c.” thus to trumpet to the world the plot of BRIBERY and CORRUPTION, you did on Monday last; and positively to ASSERT, that “*the most diabolical plan IS ON FOOT*, to corrupt the members of the Convention”—and to declare that [“]LARGE SUMS of money have been brought from a neighbouring State for that purpose, contributed by the wealthy”? Indeed, Colonel, it was not! Indeed it was not acting up to the square—nor was it wholly consistent with the character of HONOUR and VERACITY, which thy fellow townsmen, say the Printers, know to be yours. Why, Sir, to assert so positively, that a plan of bribery was on foot, from such a Canterbury tale—such a Robinhood’s barn story—at such a period—indicates motives far different from those you say actuated you.—Indeed it does—and, Sir, had you been silent on the subject, it had been better.

Boston, Jan. 28, 1788.

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