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Pennsylvania Herald, 5 February 1788

The enemies of the new constitution, says a correspondent, rely as much on lies for the promotion of their cause, as on any other means. In Boston, a design to bribe the members of the convention, opposed to the proposed plan of government, with “large sums of money, brought from a neighbouring state,” is announced in one of the papers. On enquiry it appears the writer dares not discover himself—but shelters his falsehood behind the liberty of the press—the printer will not give up his name. In this state the people are at one time alarmed with a report of disarming the militia, by order of council—at another time, with “large orders for ammunition being sent to Europe”—again, a subscription is set on foot, for the purpose of bribing writers and printers! In fine, to enumerate the various rumours circulated to serve the basest purposes, viz. to generate a spirit of discord and disturbance, would be equally tedious and disgusting.

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