

DEMONIC

ARSENIC

With the same indignation ought you, my fellow-citizens, to reject the advice of those *political quacks*, who, under pretence of healing the disorders of our present government, would urge you *rashly to gulp down* a constitution, which, in its present form, unaltered and unamended, would be as certain death to your liberty, as *arsenick* could be to your bodies.

Luther Martin: Address No. III, *Maryland Journal*
28 March 1788 (CC 4, 502)

CUP OF POISON

Since I hold it sacredly my duty to dash the cup of poison, if possible, from the hand of a State or an individual, however anxious the one or the other might be to swallow it.

Luther Martin: Genuine Information XII, Baltimore *Maryland Gazette*
8 February 1788 (CC 4, 92)

DANGEROUS AND DIABOLICAL INNOVATION

AND WHEREAS it is the interest and duty of all our true and faithful subjects and friends to oppose, counteract, and defeat this *dangerous and diabolical innovation* upon the *anarchy* of our dominion.

“Wat Tyler,” A Proclamation (Satire), *Pennsylvania Herald*
24 October 1787 (RCS PA., 202)

DAZZLING POLISH BESTOWED UPON AN INSTRUMENT OF DEATH

The flattery of language was indeed necessary to disguise the baneful purpose, but it is like the dazzling polish bestowed upon an instrument

of death; and the visionary prospect of a magnificent, yet popular government was the most specious mode of rendering the people accessory to the ruin of those systems which they have so recently and so ardently labored to establish.

John Smilie, Speech in the Pa. Convention
28 November 1787 (RCS PA., 407)

DEADLY POISON

Let me ask you, my fellow-citizens, what you would think of a Physician, who, because you were slightly indisposed, should bring you a dose, which properly corrected with other ingredients might be a salutary remedy, but, of itself was a deadly poison, and with great appearance of friendship and zeal, should advise you to swallow it immediately, and trust to accident for those requisites necessary to qualify its malignity, and prevent its destructive effects?

Luther Martin: Address No. III, *Maryland Journal*
28 March 1788 (CC 4, 502)

DEMON OF DOMINATION

The question will then be, Whether this plan be calculated for our welfare, or misery; whether it is the temple of liberty, or the structure of despotism? and as the former, or the latter, shall appear to be the case, to adopt, or reject it accordingly, otherwise to banish the demon of domination by suitable amendments and qualifications.

“Centinel” XI (Samuel Bryan), Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*
16 January 1788 (CC 3, 387)

DESTRUCTIVE AND DIABOLICAL FORM

View your danger, and find out good men to represent you in convention.—men of your own profession and station in life—men who will not adopt this destructive and diabolical form of a federal government.

“A Farmer and Planter,” *Maryland Journal*
1 April 1788 (RCS MD., 469)

INFERNAL PLOT

Some of our Patriots (I mean Antifederalists, for they possess all the patriotism there is left in the country) would have us believe that the

current of opinions, not only in N. York but in Maryland, Virginia & the Carolinas, is much against the constitution; which those of us who favor the *infernal plot* laid by you & your confederates in the grand convention to subvert the liberties of the country, are very unwilling to believe.

Samuel Tenney to Nicholas Gilman, Exeter, N.H.
12 March 1788 (RCS N.H., 268)

THE MOST DEADLY POISON

In these it has a specious resemblance of a free government—but this is not sufficient to justify the adoption of it—the gilded pill, is often found to contain the most deadly poison.

“Brutus” III (Melancton Smith), *New York Journal*
15 November 1787 (RCS N.Y., 252)

POISON

We need not hesitate swallowing the poison, from the ease and security of instantly obtaining the antidote.

Luther Martin: Address No. III, *Maryland Journal*
28 March 1788 (RCS MD., 458; CC 4, 500)

VILE SYSTEM

This new scheme is as vile a system as was ever attempted to be imposed on an enlightened people.

Poughkeepsie, N.Y., *Country Journal*, 11 March 1788 (RCS N.Y., 854)

WORK OF THE OLD GREAT DEVIL

While some have boasted it as a Work from Heaven others have given it a less righteous origin and charged it to the old great Devil. *Medio tutissimus ibis** I have many Reasons to believe that it was the Work of plain honest Men and such I think it will appear.

*You will go most safely in the middle.

Gouverneur Morris to James LaCaze, Williamsburg, Va.
21 February 1788 (CC 4, 171)