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A Citizen of America

New York Daily Advertiser, 19 February 1788 (excerpts)

They now pretend to be great advocates for the liberties of the people, and the most strenuous opposers of arbitrary power.—While they are divesting us of our property, and endeavoring to bind us in the chains of despotism, they yet are so intolerably stupid, as to tell us, that the Rulers under the New Government may treat us still worse than they have done. In the name of common sense, what additional degrees of degradation can they invent or inflict, when we are divested of our property, and the most violent efforts made to deprive us of the freedom of election, and the author and ring-leader of all this mischief, reelected to a seat in the national council; what can we have to dread, from a change? Will the New Government hang us because we are poor? . . .

Cincinnatus assures Mr. Wilson, that the public creditors are satisfied in receiving their interest in paper, from the old Government, by which they must sink at least eighteen shillings in the pound. And we shall doubtless find some of his party, so destitute of the principles of truth and candor, as to assure the public, that the bulk of the people are perfectly satisfied with the conduct of those Despots in both Houses of the Legislature, who have endeavored to deprive us of the freedom of election, in chusing (as the people of every State in the Union are doing, or have a right to do) whether we will adopt the proposed Federal Constitution or not. . . .

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