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Philadelphiensis I, Philadelphia *Freeman's Journal*, 7 November 1787 (excerpts)

. . . The gentlemen who are friends to the new Constitution had better not blab so freely, especially in regard to the freedom of the press; they ought to wait until this government of governments is once established, and then instead of a coat and jacket of contempt and indignation they may speak boldly about a gallows, a gibbet, or at least a dungeon, for such writers as the Old Whig or Centinel, who have dared to speak like freemen. I wonder that our wellborn should allow such mean fellows to write against this their government—such base wretches ought not to live in the same country with gentlemen; and as soon as our new government is confirmed, these vile enemies to its splendor and dignity shall quit their capering, I'll warrant them; a federal soldier with a fixed bayonet will soon give such daring dogs their quietus. Ah! what glorious days are coming; how I anticipate the brilliancy of the American court! Behold that gilded chariot set with diamonds and drawn by eight Arabian horses. Off with your hats you poltroons, here is the President going in state to the senate-house to confirm the law for the abolition of the liberty of the press. Men and brethren will not these things be so? Yes, most assuredly, if we adopt the new Constitution in its present form. These things will be so. Rouse then, rouse my fellow citizens, and show yourselves to be freemen. This is the most important object that ever presented itself to your understanding. The independence of America, which God himself vouchsafed through his infinite mercy to confer upon us, must end in a curse, if this tyrannical government be suffered to be established. But forbid it heaven! . . .

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