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## Cassius I

### *Massachusetts Gazette*, 16 November 1787

It was the saying of an eminent legislator, that if we had *angels to govern us*, we should quarrel with them. The conduct of *some* among us, has repeatedly evinced, beyond a doubt, that this would actually be the case; we have proof of this in a more particular manner in the opposition now made by some (but I sincerely hope the number is few) to the form of government agreed upon by the late federal Convention. I firmly believe, if a form of government was proposed to some of the inhabitants of the United States, by the great AUTHOR OF NATURE himself, founded on the basis of eternal rectitude, and sanctioned in the courts above, that they would object to it.

It is a happy circumstance for the citizens of the United States, that they are acquainted with the motives which actuate the present opposers to the plan of federal government; as they now, instead of listening with candour to the dictates of mad frenzy and wild ambition, will treat with the deserved contempt all their productions.

The opposers to the plan of federal government, are composed of such as are either deeply in debt and know not how to extricate themselves should a strict administration of law and justice take place, or those who are determined not to be contented under any form of government, or of such as mean to “owe their greatness to their country’s ruin.”—Are such fit men to point out objections to a government, proposed by the first characters in the universe, after a long and candid discussion of the subject?—Are such fit characters to propose a government for ruling a free and an enlightened people?—Can those who are known to be divested of honour, justice and integrity, expect to propagate sentiments that will outweigh those of men whose characters, as true republicans and wise statesmen, are known from pole to pole—men, whose wisdom and firmness have emancipated the United States from the yoke of bondage, and laid the foundation of an empire, which (if the people will still follow their precepts) will last till time shall be swallowed up in the “wasteless ages of eternity?”—Can scribblers whose fame is but of a day, think to influence the citizens of the United States so far as to cause them to reject a form of government, calculated to diffuse the blessings of civil society far and wide?—If they can harbour ideas of such a nature, I pity their weakness and despise their villainy.

Some writers in Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts, have displayed their scribbling talents in opposition to the plan of federal government; but it is easy to perceive by their arguments, that they are men who are fearful of not being noticed in a federal government, or are

some of the stamp beforementioned. Their arguments are without weight, and their assertions and insinuations as foreign to the real state of facts as any thing possibly can be: they anticipate evils, which, in the nature of things, is almost impossible should ever happen, and, for the most part, their *reasoning* (if it is not a degradation to reason to call such jargon by its name) is incoherent, nonsensical and absurd.

Some writers in Massachusetts have discovered such weakness, inconsistency and folly in their productions, that it discovers them to be entirely ignorant of the subject they pretend to discuss, and totally unacquainted with the plan of government proposed by the federal convention. Among this number, is a scribbler under the signature of *Vox Populi*; whose signature, to have been consistent with his productions, should have been *Vox Insania*. This *pompous* and *very learned* scribbler, goes on to harrangue the publick about the *danger, hazard, terrour* and *destruction* which will attend the adoption of the federal Constitution. He pleads, in a *mournful* strain, much about *woful experience*. From this circumstance, I am induced to suppose *Vox Populi* was an adherent of the celebrated *Shays*, in his *unfortunate* expedition the last winter, and *wofully experienced* the *misfortunes* attendant on the *insurgents*, through the energy of government. However, the inhabitants of Massachusetts may be assured, that they will have WOFUL EXPERIENCE with a witness, if they suffer themselves to be led away by such ignorant, knavish and designing numbheads as *Vox Populi* and his clan, so far as to reject the plan of federal government proposed by the Convention. *Vox Populi* complains that our source for taxes is exhausted, and says we must have a new system for taxation: but he must consider, that if the federal government is adopted, we shall not have occasion to employ the legislature so great a part of the year as we are now *obliged* to do; of consequence, government will be able to apply their money to better uses than paying anti-federalists, while they are spreading their poisonous vapours through the already too much infected atmosphere.

Mr. *Vox Populi* remarks, that some people are already taxed more than their estates are worth; in this instance I sincerely believe he speaks the truth. But what is the occasion of their being thus taxed?—It is because they make a show as though they have property, though in fact it belongs to another; they live sumptuously, and riot in the property of their unfortunate creditors. Perhaps Mr. *Vox Populi* is one of this class, and has *wofully experienced* a taxation more than *his whole estate* is worth: if he is, I would advise him, instead of employing his time in belching out his “*de facto*’s, *plene proofs*” and other *chit chat* of the like kind, and disseminating his execrable “*ideas*” to go about adjusting his affairs, as it will tend more to his honour, and perhaps be the means of saving him from the *woful experience* of confinement in a place much more fit for him than that in which he now is.

I pity Mr. *Vox Populi*’s weakness and conceit, in thinking he and others of his class, have *accents not less majestick than thunder*, as I really think he is very singular in his opinion. Instead of his “*accents*” being *majestick as thunder*, they are as harmless and insignificant as the feeble breeze.

Citizens of Massachusetts, look well about you; you are beset by harpies, knaves and blockheads, who are employing every artifice and falsehood to effect your ruin. The plan of federal government is fraught with every thing favourable to your happiness, your freedom and your future welfare: if you reject it, posterity will execrate your memories, and ceaselessly insult your ashes: if you adopt it, they will revere your departed shades, and offer up libations of gratitude on your tombs.—May that wisdom which is profitable to direct guide your judgments—and may you, by adopting the federal government, secure to yourselves and your posterity, every social and religious advantage, and every national blessing.

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