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Monitor

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My Countrymen, Four classes of opposers to that form of government submitted to your consideration will probably spring up among yourselves: First, your enemies—of these are two sorts; 1st, open, such as frankly profess their attachment to the interest and crown of Great-Britain; these are not very numerous or dangerous, for being acquainted with their persons, their character and artifices, you will without difficulty frustrate their attempts to undermine your liberties and subvert your government; these are therefore incomparably less to be dreaded than 2dly, those secret enemies which are privily lurking among you, under the covert of friendship to your independence and felicity, whose crafty and subtle insinuations will find an easy access to the minds of the inattentive; these influenced by that virulent spirit and malignity which reigns within them, will exert their poison in disseminating discord, uneasiness and discontentment among the unwary, and exciting jealousy and complaints against every measure proposed for the securing and fortifying your rights against the encroachments of wicked and designing men. These like a venomous viper hugged in your bosom, if possible, will eat out your bowels, prey upon your very vitals, and sap the foundation of your national security and happiness. You will therefore place a double guard against the deceptions of these sycophants, for you are exposed to more mischief and in greater hazard of ruin from the tradition of these caitiffs, than from any class of men whatever.

But next to these in respect of danger to your interest, are secondly, the lawless, disobedient and licentious, whose highest wishes are to live uncontrouled without restraint, and make their own vicious inclination the sole measure of their actions. Such as these will labour to propagate fiends, quarrels and contentions—to annihilate all authority and government—to introduce and maintain a state of anarchy and disorder—and counteract every system which promises safety and defence to the peaceable citizen.

Thirdly, avarice and iniquity will prompt their votaries to oppose the establishment of government in all its forms, lest they shall be compelled to resign their ill gotten gains—to discharge their honest debts—pay their just and necessary taxes, and prevent their vile intentions to defraud and over-reach the innocent and inoffensive.

Fourthly, the ambitious, whose inordinate eagerness for promotion will create in them an aversion to a constitution, the principles of which are unfavourable to the advancement of men of their character, to high and important places of trust. Under this head may be ranked, lovers of novelty, whose restless, fickle and unstable tempers provokes them to an insatiable fondness for innovations and changes—divisions and subdivisions of states, counties and towns. These never

find contentment in their present circumstances—are ever aspiring for that which is unattainable by them. In vain will you tender for the approbation of such, any kind of permanent government under heaven.

The ignorant and misled, possibly it may be thought, will constitute a fifth class of opposers; but these being generally under the influence of innocent motives—well wishers to mankind in general, and friendly to peace and good order, you may by due information, excite them to accede to all such measures as you can convince them will be conducive to the good of the community at large. I flatter myself that you will be virtuous, and (I think upon good grounds) that you will readily accept the recommendation of the late federal convention—that you will zealously oppose its enemies, and do all that within you lies to convince your deluded friends. It is of high concernment that you should accept it; for (to adopt the words of an inspired prophet) “It is not a vain thing for you, it is your life.”¹ I have heretofore pointed out to you its necessity and excellency, together with the happy fruits of your embracing it, as well as the ill effects of the contrary: and now its opposers, their characters, machinations, aims, ends and designs, have cautioned you against their devices, and expect that you will fall in with it—For it is already so far complied with, that a convention is to be held in this, and several other states, by order of their respective assemblies; and you will soon be called on to give in your suffrages for delegates to represent you thereat, and I am confident that you will suffer wisdom to direct you to the choice of persons of knowledge and uprightness, whose deliberations shall be governed, and final result determined by the most disinterested motives—by a strong affection for you, and a high regard for your dearest interest; and then I have not the least doubt remaining, but the forementioned recommendations will be confirmed and ratified, which will wholly disappoint and baffle the plots and purposes of your malicious adversaries, to ruin and destroy you.

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