Phileleutheros, Northampton *Hampshire Gazette* 4 June 1788 (excerpts)

Quid miseros Mies in aperta pericula cives prosicis? VIRGIL.

I have but a word to say at this time to Philanthrop—It would seem by his discourse that he would not be thought a friend to the cruelties exercised in carrying on the Slave-Trade—but yet rather than lose his darling constitution, he would have that trade carried on—Here I am reminded of some conversation to which I was lately a witness. A gentleman lately conversing upon this matter said he disliked [the?] Slave-Trade, but he would not have the Constitution set aside on that account—he was asked the question whether, if he had a son a slave in Georgia, he would not overset the Constitution if he could? his reply was "Indeed I would"—This I doubt not is the case with Philanthrop, and every other advocate of the Constitution—I could wish him to reconcile this with humanity—perhaps Philanthrop wishes to reap the benefits arising from the Slave-Trade and let the southern States bear the iniquity—I once heard of a certain man who sent a horse to market by his neighbour—the horse was sold and the returns made, which were so much more than the owner expected or thought he was worth, he had doubt upon his mind whether he ought to receive the whole proceeds—he called a council of neighbours to determine the matter—the result upon the whole was, seeing the horse was sold and the pay made, he who sent him to market should keep the amount for which he was sold—and he who sold him, should bear all the sin—this is the only way I can conceive of, for Philanthrop to get out—and a pretty miserable *get out* too, if I rightly judge of the matter—If we cannot connect with the southern states without giving countenance to blood and carnage, and all kinds of fraud and injustice, I say let them go—Often do we see unhappy convicts led forth to execution for only taking the property of another—The Congress by the new Constitution are to make laws for the punishment of piracy and murder upon the high seas—But all this seems only to respect white people—the Africans may be pirated, hacked and tortured, and all with impunity. The killing a negroe in the southern states is no more accounted of, than the killing a dog—this is a fact.

"Is there not?["] sure there is, "some chosen curse,
"Some hidden thunder in the stores of heaven,
"Red with uncommon wrath, to blast the men."
Who sport with lives and drain out human blood.

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