

The recent Insurrection in Western Massachusetts has caused Great Stirrings over all the Country. The Regulators, as Daniel Shays, Job Shattuck, and Luke Day call themselves, and Many of their Followers have been Captured. There is a Loud Cry among Rich Merchants and Politicians for Strong Punishment for these Shaysites as they are known; which sentiment is supported by His Excellency Governor James Bowdoin.

We are of the belief that Reasonable Men can see the Shaysites are not True Cause of this Violent turmoil; but contrary are the result of Government separate from the People. Incidents have occurred in New Hampshire, Maryland, South-Carolina, and Virginia where Farmers have made attempt to cease the Courts from Prosecuting Debtors. The debts of Our Farmers are Great: one of every Three of them in western Mass. is being prosecuted in the Courts there. There is No Money to pay debts, for the Rich are not desirous that Paper Money be printed, and Hard Currency is departing the Country so that Merchants can make good Their debts in Europe.

Lowly Lawyers and Greedy Politicians say They have the Law on Their side. The Farmers say something is Deadlie Wrong when so many of Them are being Jailed for Unpaid Debts. The Farmers watch Their cattle, farms, and Personal Possessions auctioned for only a Fraction of their Worth; and They are Helpless to Act. We hear even the Farmers Themselves can be sold into Servitude to pay Unsatisfied Judgements! The Courts are uncaring and the Despicable Lawyers are uncaring, and the Greedy Merchants are uncaring; They only want Their Own Debts Satisfied. We say Capt. Shays and the Others were Wrong attempting an Armed Insurrection, but the Legislature and Courts of Mass. and Other States are Wrong in acting in Their Own Interests and Forgetting they are to Represent the Will of the People.

His Excellency General George Washington is Mortified beyond Expression by the Incident, and has called for a meeting to review Our National Character and to find a National Solution to keep Our Country from being Rendered at the Seams. We affirm completely the Opinion of His Excellency; the Time is Upon us to Act decisively for the Benefit of All. We can only Hope the Call of Congress to Our Sister States to send their Best Gentlemen to Philadelphia in May will be Heeded. Once and for All Time we must decide if this is to be One Great Nation, or a Shallow, Weak Gathering of Independencies acting to Further Their Own Greedy Interests. We cry GO to Philadelphia, Gentlemen of the States! Go there and Solve the Problems of this Independent and United Nation, before One of Our Sister States decides to close Her Borders and Seek Help Elsewhere.

If this Task is Not done, We fear Disruption and Insurrection in Various of Our Sister States where support of the Shaysites is great among the People and Opposed sharply by the Fearful Politicians and Disreputable Lawyers and Merchants who Control Our Money. But Not Our LIBERTY!

Plautus

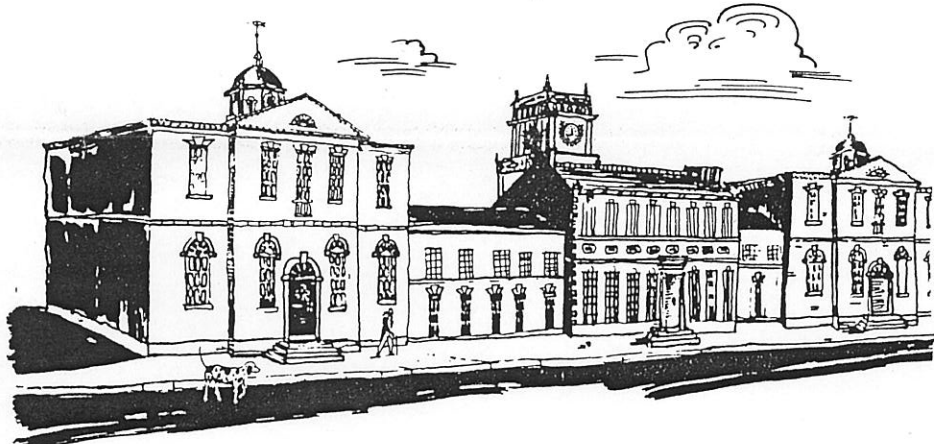
Boston Relates Its Experience!

There has been a recent astonishing Change in our Affairs, and only the Benevolent Deity who Superintends all things may say with certainty what they may mean for the Future. September Last, as all the World knows, Daniel Shays led a rabble into a general Rebellion against the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Governor, His Excellency James Bowdoin, having attempted all moderate Measures of Relief, was finally compelled to call out the Militia.

It is the general Opinion here that His Excellency has no chance to be reelected next month. It is to be feared that the current Measures of the General Court will make our Interior People even more ungovernable. This sad Episode has had only one fortunate result. It is now plain even to the meanest Intelligence that a Crisis is upon us and that new Remedies are called for. Even the man likely to be elected Governor next Month, the Hon. John Hancock, Esq., beloved of the Masses, must acknowledge the need to Strengthen our Feeble systems of government, no matter how much he may worry about a Combination of the overgrown Rich.

Because of the Strange turn of events described above, it is not Easy to predict who will go to Philadelphia. The best possible choice would be the Sagacious John Adams, but he serves in England as Minister. The Hon. Samuel Adams, who has grave Reservations about the proposed Convention and who would strenuously oppose any real revision of the Articles, fortunately does not wish to attend. The choice seems most likely to fall upon Rufus King Esq., who indeed induced Congress to have the Convention called; Nathaniel Gorgam Esq., who has the Political acumen to sail for every Breeze and who has called the Articles a "phantom of government" that must soon expire; Ellbridge Gerry Esq., who would oppose a strong National Government and Caleb Strong Esq., because he comes from Hampshire County and we must in all events please our Western brethren. Many here hope that Judge Francis Dana will consent to go, but his Health is such that he cannot bear the fatigue of such a tedious Journey.

Boston . . . February 21, 1787



The new State House in Philadelphia

Congress Calls for Philadelphia Convention

On this Day We received Such Long-Awaited News of Congress' Call for Convention in May to Remedy those Defects of the Articles of Confederation. This Late news is Wellcome and Pleasing to Many of the Belief that Amendment is of necessity. Just in January, the Honourable Doctor Benjamin Rush made point that Our Government's Conception was Unfavourably Circumstanced, and that Our Land was under Ravagement by the Bloodybacks while Our Articles of Confederation were put to Paper. We moved against the Known Corruptions of the King's Government, but had not Enough Experience to construct a Longlived Republic.

Widely Known are Our Central Government's Troubles, which shall grow with No revenue. Twice petitioned were the States to remedy this. Only to have Such Petitions refused by first Rhode Island and later New York. Our Central Government cannot issue Currency; It cannot muster an Army; It cannot control and regulate Commerce, neither Here nor Abroad. The English are Grazing and Feasting on Our Home Markets, even as they Deny Us their markets in the West Indies. Our Government lacks the Vigour to drive Them from Stronghold within Our Territories. The Virginians were Knowledgeable of these Shortcomings and issued the call for a Convention in Annapolis, September last.

TO BE LET

And entered upon the 10th of March next, An improved FARM, containing about 100 acres of Land, half of which is meadow, the Dwelling-house commodious. Situate in Richmond Precinct, Commonly called Point no Point, 5 miles from the city. Enquire of GEORGE ROBERTS IN Philadelphia.

February 19th, 1787

North-Carolina Lists Choices

On this day the capital had news of Congress' call for a May convention of delegates of all States to recompose The Articles of Confederation. Our governors are desirous that a delegation to the Convention be led by Our Honourable Governor Richard Caswell, tho ill health could hinder his attendance. If indeed unable, the burden of Leadership will cloak ex-Governor, the Hon. Alexander Martin, loved by the Farmer. Also favoured by the Farmer is the Hon. Willie Jones, tho prejudice against the interests of Commerce and Compelling Government could Prevent His Attendance also. Regarded as well for the Delegation are two Bright-eyed Men, William R. Davie, Esq., of Halifax; and Richard Dobbs Spaight, Esq., from a township near New Bern.

It is Clear that the Majority of the People display Friendly Regard for the Maintaining of the Articles and the Sovereignty of Our State, as opposed to Strong Central Governors. Should the Hon. Mr. Jones option to remain at home. Ex-Governor, the Hon. Mr. Martin will solely hold that view among the Delegates. Each of the Remaining Delegates take great stock in Strength for the Central Government; perhaps these Wise and Honourable Men could be termed Nationalist.

New Bern, North-Carolina . . . February 22, 1787

Mr. Adams Replies to the Insurrection

The Honourable John Adams, Our Minister to England, expressed this day His Distress, caused by the Late-Arrived News of the Shaysite uprising in Massachusetts. The Hon. Minister has long favoured the Strengthening of Our Present Confederation, regarding specially the Separate Regulation of Commerce by States. Word of the Seditious Meetings in Massachusetts and the Panic apparent in some Circles has led the Hon. Mr. Adams to express His Views with the written Medium at which He is Adept. His volume *A Defence of the Constitutions of Governments of the United States of America*, lately published, should be of Great Interest to both Americans and Europeans.

In the Hon. Gentleman's opinion Radical Change in the National Government need not be. If the States would remain in Devotion to the Principals of Republican Government, those being the Separation and Balance of Power in a Government of the People, and will response to the Just Complaints of the People of the Real Grievances, Liberty and Order alike will be maintained. Nonetheless the Hon. Mr. Adams warns attention must be given to the Rebellion of the Shaysites, for "when a cry is set up for the abolition of debts, equal division of property, and the abolition of senates and governors, it is the time for every honest man to consider his situation."

London . . . February 6, 1787

Conn. Prepares to Convene

The call by Congress for a Convention next May has not created much Excitement in Connecticut. When he received the Message from Congress, His Excellency, Governor Samuel Huntington consulted with the Council, whether to summon a Special Session of the Deputies, but all agreed that there was no Need for such unseemly haste.

It seems certain that Gen. Huntington represents the prevailing Mood of the State and that a Delegation will be sent to Philadelphia. There is even now speculation about Who will be sent. Those with the best Intelligence in Political Matters say that the choice will certainly fall upon the learned William Samuel Johnson, Esq., who even now serves in Congress and who may be the Next President of Columbia College and Oliver Ellsworth, Esq., who has served in Congress and in the State. It is hoped that He will conquer his Habit of Holding Conversations with himself, less the Neighbouring States form an improper Opinion of his Sanity.

Hartford, Connecticut . . . February 22, 1787

When Commissioners from Virginia, New Hampshire, New York, Delaware, and Pennsylvania assembled, it was Disheartening to Note that four States sent no such Hon. Delegates. The Convention issued an account after four days, Declining to Consider Commerce. In Stead the Hon. Alexander Hamilton of New York authored a call for another such Convention by which to consider the Larger Issues of the Confederation. Those who favor Our Present Articles were shocked at the Boldness of the Delegates, in the Belief that Congress alone could make such a Call. The Hon. John Jay of New York said that a Convention not called by Congress had no sanction.

The Hon. Mr. Hamilton's call was presented to Congress, and such motions regarding the Newly-called Convention were defeated, until the Hon. Delegation from Massachusetts put forward a motion of Acceptance of the Time and Place for the Convention suggested by the Annapolis convention; with such Provision that the Issue of the New Convention be confined to the reversionment of Our Articles of Confederation.

We are Now at the Critical Point in Our National Affairs, and We are opportuned to repair the Mistakes of the Revolution; Offering up Proof to Europe that a Nation truly Free can alter Peacefully Its Government.

Baltimore, Maryland . . . February 23, 1787

Virginia Selects Delegates

We became Enlightened today of Congress' much awaited call for a Convention in Philadelphia in May next to revise the Articles of Confederation. Our own General Assembly put forth its approval of such a call November last, and Dallied but two weeks in delegating a Distinguished Gathering of Fellow Citizens to attend the Convention. Called by Their State and Country were the Honourable General George Washington; Once-Governor, the Hon. Patrick Henry; the Hon. Governor Edmund Randolph; John Blair, Esq.; George Mason, Esq.; George Wythe, Esq.; and the Hon. James Madison. Whether the Hon. General Washington and friend, the Hon. Patrick Henry will honour the Convention with their Enormous Prestige is yet unknown. As toward the Hon. General's position, the Hon. Governor Randolph had naught to speak, but did affirm that the Hon. Mr. Henry has Declined to Serve. The Hon. Mr. Madison from Orange County, longtime Champion of Strength in Central Government, enjoined with like-minded men as the Hon. Alexander Hamilton of New York to Issue the rallying cry for the Up and Coming Philadelphia Convention in hopes of putting forward solutions for the Sum of the Problems besetting the Union, and None doubt the Attendance of the Hon. Gentleman.

Many Good and Honest folk are wary, suspicious that the Hon. Delegates are divining to Frame a New Government rather than amend the Articles. Suspicion by the Good Folk may be Well-Founded, and as we scrutinize past attempts to Amend, We remark that no Amendment has yet been affirmed by the Complete Thirteen of America's colonial States. Those Persons who fear new Government fret greatly about Strong Central Governors, which could work to oppose the Interests of Our State. They argue that to Decrease the Powers of the States is to Boundary that Government nearest to the People.

Supporters of the Stalwart Central Government contrary argue that Through Order is Liberty Preserved. Without strength Our Government cannot Protect the Rights of the People, these Honest Men proclaim, and Anarchy will become the Order of the Day. If the Promise of the Revolution to secure Stable Government of the People is to be Fulfilled, Anarchy and Chaos must not find Handhold.

Richmond, Virginia . . . February 22, 1787

A NEGRO MAN

was committed to gaol on suspicion of being a runaway, on the 26th of January instant, who call himself Shedrick, 22 years of age, about 5 feet nine inches high; he says he is the property of Patrick Glasgow, in the state of Georgia. His master, if any he has, is desired to come, proof his property, pay charges and take him away, or he will be sold for his fees, in five weeks from the state. AARON MUSGRAVE, gaoler.

West Chester, Chester County
January 27, 1787

Jefferson on Insurrection

The Honourable Congressman from Virginia, Edward Carrington, made known to an Assemblage the contents of a writing by the Hon. Thomas Jefferson, Our Minister to France, which clever words describe the Insurrection of the Shaysites in Massachusetts, September last. The Hon. Gentleman is of the Belief that the Punishment of the Insurrectionists is secondary to the lessons which must be reaped from the Uprising.

In a notable passage from a missive put down on the 16th of January, the Minister has made clear His Belief that the people must act as the Censors of Their Governors, and that the errors of these Honest and Sober men tend to keep the True Principals of their institution.

The Hon. James Madison of Virginia made known as well Additional Letters from the quill of the Minister to France, citing his Belief that the Shaysite Rebellion was exemplary of the need for Expressions of Discontentment. "I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary to the political world as storms in the physical. Unsuccessful rebellions indeed generally establish the encroachments on the rights of the people which have produced them."

Richmond, Virginia . . . February 16, 1787

Dissention From Rhode-Island!

No matter what the other States may do, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations will remain True to the Republican Principles for which so much Blood and Treasure were spent in the last Struggle against Tyranny. The Convention in Philadelphia is a Monster of Iniquity, Planned by the Rich and Powerful to put the Heel of usurped Authority on the Necks of honest Farmers and Tradesmen. Observe those who favor it! Are they not Generals and Colonels? Lawyers and College graduates? Merchants and Land-jobbers? Where stand the Yeomen of America? the Three Millions of Freemen? They will not be in Philadelphia come May. They will be at their Plough and at their Workbench. None from Rhode-Island will put their Hand to the dirty Work of the Convention.

We have not yet Scotched the Snake of Aristocracy in Rhode-Island but we have Drawn its Fangs. Last year we elected the Honest John Collins as our President, who has promised Relief for the Distressed. The General Court issued 100,000 of Paper Money to ease the burthen of our State Debt which may be Calculated at some half Millions of Dollars. It was to be Expected that the Merchants would Oppose any measure designed to Benefit the Farmer and Laborer, and they have done all in their Power to render our Paper Money worthless. The General Court met Resistance with resolution and made it a Crime to oppose the paper issue, without the Privilege of trial by Jury. Last September, certain Leading Men of Influence prevailed upon the bankrupt Butcher, John Weeden, to Defy the Law. His attorney then argued before the Superior Court of Judicature that the judges, Gentlemen all, had the Power to render Null and Void acts of the Legislature. This the Judges presumed to do, throwing our Financial affairs into Confusion.

The Good People have justly Resented this Injury. The General Court summoned the offending Judges before it and roundly demanded an Explanation. Merchants will no longer be allowed to write Promissory Notes, Newport is reduced from a City to a Town and we will reelect John Collins. In Rhode-Island, the People rule and will send no One to Philadelphia!

East Greenwich, Rhode-Island . . . February 22, 1787

Loaf, Lump, and Muscovado Sugar Molasses and Rum, Manufactured by

MILES & MORGAN And to be SOLD at their Store, in Second-Street, between Arch and Race-Streets, Philadelphia, Where Merchants and Shopkeepers may be furnished at the shortest notice, and on the most reasonable terms. February 19, 1787

Yorkers React to Convention Call

We in this contentious City are ever divided in our Opinions and will be so on the question of the Philadelphia Convention. There are, it is true, worthy men here who are all aflame in their Desire to Blot out the Articles of Confederation. Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and Robert Morris, Esquires, form a mighty triumvirate of wealth, intelligence and energy on the side of a more efficient General Government. It was indeed Colonel Hamilton who was the engine of the Annapolis Convention and who is hottest of all for another Convention of the States even without the approval of Congress. He complains to all who will listen that Congress grows more feeble every day. He says that the National Government must have an independent income because the present system of asking the States for Requisitions has failed.

In the last three years, Congress has received only 1,400,000 dollars, all of which had to be Expended on current necessities so that not a Penny was paid on the principal or interest of the national Debt. Furthermore, the Colonel observes, the States have become more and more laggard in their Payments to Congress. Connecticut and Delaware have paid only one-third of their latest Requisition; Rhode-Island and Maryland about one-half and Virginia about three-fifths. Only Pennsylvania and New York are up to Account.

Colonel Hamilton's reputation, however, is greater abroad than it is at home where he cuts a smaller figure than our Governor, His Excellency George Clinton, who believes that the Articles should not be revised. We see no reason here to create a stronger National Government which may indeed be to our future Detriment. We are an Empire in ourselves and if we should prevail in our Claim to the rich acres of the Vermont Territory, we shall have land sufficient for an hundred Generations. We possess the finest port in America and already engross half the Trade of Connecticut and New Jersey. We are destined to be the largest, Richest State of the Union. Why should we then create a Rival?

We Yorkers will send a delegation to Philadelphia but it will certainly be men not likely to accede to demands of those who want a stronger Government.

New York City . . . February 22, 1787

South-Carolina Comments

Glad tidings were received on this day, of Congress' beckoning for a Convention of Delegates of the States to reconsider Our Articles of Confederation. The Assembly, to be held in Philadelphia, May next, will strengthen the Hand of Our Central Government, which prospect pleases Men of Stature and those Commorborn.

Incumbent upon Our state's congress is the task to select a Proper Delegation that must be composed of Worthies competent to cast the Lure of Our State upon the gathering. Foremost among those Wise and Honorable Candidates, we advise the Hon. John Rutledge, Governor of Our State thru most of the turbulent Years of the Revolution. As well should be regarded the Hon. General Cotsworth Pinckney, hero of the Revolution and knowledgeable of the Need for Strength in Rule. Likewise, we propose the Youthful Charles Pinckney, Esq., experienced well as member of Our Assembly and Congress. Finally, we would put forward Pierce Butler, Esq., a Gentleman of the Lowlands.

The Proper Time is not the Present for Our Assembly to let fade Calm Leadership provided by our gentlemen, which Quality can best serve Our State and Country in the coming Convention.

Charleston, South-Carolina . . . February 22, 1787

THE LIBERTY GAZETTE 1012 East Navajo Street Farmington, New Mexico 87401

Published weekly (May-September 1987) to bring to the public the development of the United States Constitution and show American life as it was in 1787.

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief: Gary C. Mahan; Contributing Editors: James P. Walsh, Avon, Connecticut; Dennis Golliday, Pensacola, Florida; Susan A. Westbury, Urbana, Illinois; David M. Head, Cochran, Georgia; Terry Engstrom, Ames, Iowa; David K. McGee, Farmington, New Mexico; Illustrators: Susan Willmarth, Hoboken, New Jersey; Molly F. White, Farmington, New Mexico; Consultants: Rob Pigott, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Bill Vincent, Farmington, New Mexico; Joel M. Jones, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Support Organizations: Farmington Daily Times; Farmington Committee on the Constitution; Farmington Public Library, Farmington, New Mexico; New Mexico Press Association; New Mexico Endowment for the Humanities, Albuquerque, New Mexico.