

**Headline:** United Columbia. Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, March 6

**Paper:** Massachusetts Spy, published as Massachusetts Spy: Or, the Worcester Gazette;

**Date:** 03-15-1797; **Volume:** XXV; **Issue:** 1248; **Page:** [3]; **Location:** Worcester, Massachuset  
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the domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty. The public disquisitions, discussions, and deliberations, issued in the present happy continuation of government.

Employed in the service of my country abroad during the whole course of these transactions, I first saw the Constitution of the United States in a foreign country. Irritated by no literary altercation, animated by no public dispute heated by no party animosity, I read it with great satisfaction, as a result of good heads, prompted by good hearts; as an experiment, better adapted to the genius, character, situation and relations of this nation and country, than any which had ever been proposed or suggested. In its general principles and great outlines, it was conformable to such a system of government as I had ever most esteemed, and in some states, my own native state in particular, had contributed to establish. Claiming a right of suffrage in common with my fellow citizens, in the adoption or rejection of a constitution which was to rule me and my posterity, as well as them and theirs, I did not hesitate to express my approbation of it, on all occasions, in public and in private. It was not then, nor has it been since, any objection to it, in my mind, that the Executive and Senate were not more permanent. Nor have I entertained a thought of promoting any alteration in it, but such as the people themselves, in the course of their experience, should see and feel to be necessary or expedient, and by their Representatives in Congress and the State Legislatures, according to the Constitution itself, adopt and ordain.

Returning to the bosom of my country, after a painful separation from it, for ten years, I had the honor to be elected to a station under the new order of things, and I have repeatedly laid myself under the most serious obligations to support the Constitution. The operation of it has equalled the most sanguine expectations of its friends; and from an habitual attention to it, satisfaction in its administration, and delight in its effects, upon the peace, order, prosperity and happiness of the nation, I have acquired an habitual attachment to it, and veneration for it.

*What other form of Government indeed can so well deserve our esteem and love?*

There may be little solidity in an ancient idea, that congregations of men into cities and nations, are the most pleasing objects in the sight of superior intelligences: But this is very certain, that to a benevolent human mind, there can be no spectacle presented by any nation, more pleasing, more noble, majestic or august, than an assembly like that which has so often been seen in this and the other chamber of Congress, of a government, in which the executive authority, as well as that of all the branches of the legislature, are exercised by citizens selected, at regular periods, by their neighbors, to make and execute laws for the general good. Can any thing essential, anything more than mere ornament and decoration be added to this by robes or diamonds? Can authority be more amiable or respectable, when it descends from accidents, or institutions established in remote antiquity, than when it springs fresh from the hearts and judgments of an honest and enlightened people? For it is the people only that are represented: It is their power and majesty, that is reflected, and only for their good, in every legitimate government, under whatever form it may appear. The existence of such a government as ours, for any length of time, is a full proof of a general dissemination of knowledge and virtue, throughout the whole body of the people. And what object or consideration more pleasing than this can be presented to the human mind? If national pride is ever justifiable or excusable, it is when it springs, not from power or riches, grandeur or glory, but from conviction of national innocence, information and benevolence.

In the midst of these pleasing ideas, we should be unfaithful to ourselves, if we should ever lose sight of the danger to our liberties, if any thing partial or extraneous should infect the purity of our free, fair, virtuous and independent elections. If an election is to be determined by a majority of a single vote, and can be procured by a bribe, through artifice or corruption, the government may

increase of such nations; if, while the conscious honor and integrity of the people of America, and the internal sentiment of their own power and energies must be preserved, an earnest endeavor to investigate every just cause and remove every colorable pretence of complaint; if an intention to pursue, by amicable negotiation, a reparation for the injuries that have been committed on the commerce of our fellow citizens by whatever nation; and if success cannot be obtained, to lay the facts before the Legislature, that they may consider, what further measures the honor and interest of the government and its constituents demand; if a resolution to do justice, as far as may depend upon me, at all times and to all nations, and maintain peace, friendship and benevolence with all the world; if an unshaken confidence in the honor, spirit, and resources of the American people, on which I have so often hazarded my all, and never been deceived; if elevated ideas of the high duties of this country, and of my own duties towards it, founded on a knowledge of the moral principles and intellectual improvements of the people, deeply engraven on my mind in early life, and not obscured but exalted by experience and age;—and, with humble reverence I feel it my duty to add, if a veneration for the religion of a people, who profess and call themselves Christians, and a fixed resolution to consider a decent respect for Christianity, among the best recommendations for the public service; can enable me, in any degree to comply with your wishes, it shall be my strenuous endeavor that this sagacious injunction of the two Houses shall not be without effect.

With this great example before me; with the sense and spirit, the faith and honor, the duty and interest of the same American people, pledged to support the Constitution of the United States, I entertain no doubt of its continuance in all its energy; and my mind is prepared, without hesitation, to lay myself under the most solemn obligations to support it, to the utmost of my power.

And may that Being, who is Supreme over all, the Patron of order, the Fountain of justice, and the Protector, in all ages of the World, of virtuous Liberty, continue his Blessing upon this Nation and its Government, and give it all possible Success and Duration, consistent with the Ends of his Providence."

After concluding his speech, the President descended from his seat, to receive his oath of office from the Chief Justice, who pronounced the following constitutional oath with great solemnity, which was repeated by the President in an equally audible and solemn manner.

"I do solemnly swear, that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend, the constitution of the United States."

Having taken his oath, the President again resumed his seat, and, after sitting a moment, rose, bowed to the audience, and retired. After him, followed the Vicepresident (though not without a contest betwixt the late President and him with respect to precedence, the former insisting upon the Vicepresident taking it, and he with great reluctance receiving it.) Afterwards followed the members of the Senate, Foreign Ministers, Heads of Departments, Representatives, &c.

This ceremony and spectacle must have afforded high satisfaction and delight to every genuine Republican. To behold a fellow citizen, raised by the voice of the People, to be the First Magistrate of a Free Nation, and to see, at the same time, he who lately filled the Presidential Chair, attending the inauguration of his successor in office, as a private citizen, beautifully exemplified the simplicity and excellence of the Republican System, in opposition to hereditary, monarchical government, where all is conducted by a few powerful individuals, amidst all the pomp, splendor and magnificence of courts, independent of the Great Body of the people; and we think it may be justly asked in the appropriate words of our First Citizen, *"What other form of Government, indeed, can so well deserve our esteem and love?"*

The oath required by law was the same day administered, in presence of the Senate of the United States, to THOMAS JEFFERSON, Vicepresident of the United States and President of the Senate, when he took the oath.