To the Landholders and Farmers: Remarks on the objections made by the...

LANDHOLDER

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To the Landholders and Farmers.

N U M B E R IV.
Remarks on the objections made by the Hon. Elbridge Gerry, in the new Constitution.

To conjure a man for an opinion in which he de-

confess himself honest, and in a matter of which all men have a right to judge, is highly injurious; at the same time, when the opinions even of honourable men are submitted to the people, a tribunal before which the means of citizens hath a right to speak, they must abide the consequence of public censure. We are ignorant whether the honourable gentleman pollutes flattery dignities or emoluments which will be endangered by the new federal, or hiths motives of policy to prejudice his mind and throw him into the opposition; or if it be so, do not wish to evade the objections by such a charge. As a member of the general Convention, and deputy from a great state, this honorable perfidy hath a right to speak and be heard. It gives us pleasure to know the extent of what may be objected or even furnisled, by one whose function was the trust to employ gery and make the defective parts of the constitution, if any such there be. Mr. Gerry, the character of an objector, tell us "he was fully convinced that to prefer the union an efficient government was indispensably necessity, and that it would be difficult to make proper amendments to the old articles of conference" therefore by his own concession there was an indigualible ne-
lies may have their fits of madness and passion, this tho' not probable is still possible.

We have a recent instance in the state of Rhode-Island, where a desperate junto are governing, contrary to the sense of a great majority of the people. It may be the case in any other state, and should it ever happen, that the ignorance or rashness of the state assemblies, in a fit of jealousy should deny you this sacred right, the deliberate justice of the continent, is enabled to interpose, and restore you a federal voice. This right is therefore more inviolably guarded than it can be by the government of your state, for it is guarantied by the whole empire. Tho' out of the order, in which the Hon. gentleman proposes his doubts, I will here to notice some questions which he makes. The proposed plan among others he tells us involves these questions "whether the several state governments shall be so altered as in effect to be dissolved? Whether in lieu of the state governments the national constitution now proposed shall be substituted?" I wish for fagacity to see on what these questions are founded. No alteration in the state governments, is even proposed; but they are to remain identically the same that they now are. Some powers are to be given into the hands of your federal representatives; but these powers are all in their nature general, such as must be exercised by the whole or not at all, and such as are absolutely necessary; or your commerce, the price of your commodities, your riches and your safety will be the sport of every foreign adventurer. Why are we told of the dissolution of our state governments, when by this plan they are indissolubly linked. They must stand or fall, live or die together. The national legislature consists of two houses, a senate and house of representatives. The senate is to be chosen by the assemblies of the particular states; so that if the assemblies are dissolved, the senate dissolves with them. The national representatives are to be chosen by the same electors, and under the same qualifications, as choose the state representatives; so that if the state representation be dissolved, the national representation is gone of course.

State representation and government is the very basis of the congressional power proposed. "This is the most valuable link in the chain of connexion, and affords double security for the rights of the people. Your liberties are pledged to you by your own state, and by the power of the whole empire. You have a voice in the government of your own state, and in the government of the whole. Were not the gentleman on whom the remarks are made very honourable, and by the eminence of office raised above suspicion of cunning, we should think he had, in this instance, insinuated merely to alarm the tears of the people. His other objections will be mentioned in some future number of the"

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