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2402 (1787-1788, 4 missing)

(incomplete)

Coxe Family Papers, Tench Coxe Section, Reel 51

Nov. 1787 - May 1788, esp. 258-263

PH: (RC, 8pp.)

A. C. Hanson to Tench Coxe, Annapolis, 19 April 1788

I have just received your last favor; and the arrangements of the post office make it necessary for me, either to write in great haste, or wait till the next post day--I prefer the former.

I am now enabled to give you perhaps more certain information, than was contained in my last letter, respecting the state of opinions in this state--

Our elections throughout the state began on Monday last whilst I was attending a general court on the E. S. These elections are expected to continue 4 days, wherever there is an opposition. Unfortunately, on that shore, the people are far too little concerned on this very singular occasion. The fact is, that very little opposition have been made to the adoption of the government, it is taken for granted almost that the meeting of convention will be little more than a formality. The contest does not lie betwe[en] federalists and antifederalists, and I fear, that some persons, opposed in their hearts to the federal government, will be elected on a supposition of their electors, that they are friendly to the government, and will prove enemies in the end. I have that opinion of all the antifederalists with whom I am acquainted, that I believe them capable of any steps short of a breach of a solemn

engagement to their constituents--I therefore suspect, that on the E. S. where in only one county there are candidates declared antifederalist there will be chosen perhaps 10 or 12 Delegates of this last description, out of 32 which make up the complement of that shore.

On my return home, yesterday I found the poll just closing for the county, after a hard conflict between 4 Pro's and as many Con's. At length it is decided in favor of the latter. S. Chase (a resident of B. Town was elected contrary to the proposed regulations of the legislature, which require a previous residence of a twelve month. His cousin J. T. Chase, and Colo. Mercer, (by some thought also ineligible) and Benjamin Harrison are his three colleagues. In Harford county all there are chosen 4 antifederalists. In Baltimore county there is confidently said to be a similar choice.

Perhaps it may gratify your curiosity to see a list of objections published at the opening of poll in Ann Arundel county--The following is an exact copy of a hand bill published in large capital letters

Bill of rights

Liberty of conscience

Trial by jury

No excise

No poll tax

No standing army in time of peace, without limitation

No whipping militia, nor marching them out of the state without consent of the general assembly

No direct taxation without previous requisition

Signed

J. T Chase

J. F. Mercer

[in margin:] There has been published a supposed state of the returns in Virginia which was a majority in favor of about 14 or 15 counties.

1. RC, Coxe Papers, PHi.