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Coxe Papers, Tench Coxe Section, Incoming Correspondence 21008
PHI (RC-ALS, 4pp.)

Samuel Smith to Tench Coxe, Baltimore, 13 April 1788

It is with pleasure I can Inform you that this Town has escaped a deception deeply laid by the Antifederalists-- About a fortnight before the Election of Delegates for the Convention Mr Saml Steritt & Mr. David McMechen offered themselves as Candidates--Some doubts had arisen to Clear which they called a meeting at Fells point & there declared themselves in the most unequivocal manner to be Federal--That is, said both We will to the utmost of our abilities promote the adoption of the new Constitution without previous amendments-- and we will oppose any adjournment unless by agreeing to adjourn we shall prevent a total rejection of the Government--Similar Sentiments they declared to many of the most respectable characters in Town--& every Man placed such Confidence in their Honor that not a doubt remained until Sunday when the departure of Mr S Chace to offer himself for Anne Arundel County--& Messrs Paca & Martin for Harford County together with the apparent acquiescence of the warmest Antifederalists gave an alarm--& the propriety of questioning the Candidates was mentioned & on Monday Morning was generally taked of--At 3'OClock a very respectable Body of Citizens assembled, when Mr. McMechen professed himself Federal, but that he could not accept the

Constitution without Amendments--this declaration together with a very petulant Speech from Mr. Steritt wherein he called the Meeting a party & refused any Satisfaction convinced the people they meant to deceive--The Poll was adjourned & a meeting held at Mr. Starcks where Doctr McHenry & Doctr Coulter were nominated to be poll'd for unless the other Gentlemen should satisfy the Town more fully next Morning--A Committee waited on them next morning with the necessary Question, to which (Being Confident they had lull'd us into such Security that we could not Injure their Election) they gave a most Insolent printed answer wherein they avowed their Sentiments--The Duplicity of such Conduct & their Insolence, roused all ranks of people & to their & our great Surprize the Doctors gained their Election with ease. The Poll was closed on Thursday Morning--It was Immy Conceived that if Mr. Chase & others could with propriety go out of their County (Contrary to the Resolve of the Legislature & the Constitution of Maryland) to others as Delegates--That the same reasoning gave the Citizens of Baltimore (who had not already voted) a Just Claim to Vote in the County & application was made to the Sheriff who refused to accept such Votes--The Coroner & two Magistrates In Consequence opened a Poll & before 9 O Clock at Night 600 votes

were taken for the County Federal Members which gave them a Majority--If it should answer no other purpose it will prove the Federalism of Baltimore. Not more than 10 of those who voted for M & S but were deceived by their declarations & thought them truly federal

Baltimore Harford & Anne Arundel Counties have returned Antifederalists--In all the State I do not believe there will be found [---] [other?] Members of that description--Those Coun[ties] [were?] unfortunately under the Influence of Men [---] [---] British Debts in Continental paper & of Course dislike the Complexion of the Federal Courts--Such people have been at Infinite pains to disseminate the most artful falsities-- however you may be assured there is not a State in the Union more truly Federal than Maryland--Letters from good authority in Virga. give us every assurance that a Majority of Federalists are chosen to their Convention--

1. RC, Coxe Papers, PHi.