

1778. Feb. 9.

Durham.

38 101

State of
New Hamp^{sh} Durham Feb^{ry} 9th 1778. In Town Meeting

The following Instructions for the Representative of said
Town were bro't in by a Committee appointed to draught the
same - which, being read - it was Voted that the same
be accepted - & that a Copy thereof be deliver'd to ~~the~~
S^r. Representative

Sir

A proposed Plan for the Confederation & perpetual Union of the United
States of America, as agreed to by Congress, hath been laid before us, and for some
time under our Consideration. - Deeply impressed with a sense of the Importance &
necessity of such a Measure being speedily carried into Execution & of the difficulties
that naturally attend the combining together so many States varying in
Habits, Produce, & Policy, has inclined us rather to pass over, & not object to some
small matters which to us might seem amendable, especially as we cannot
be acquainted with the particular Circumstances of every State, & the
Answers which they might make to such Objections. - And desire you, to
use your Influence in the General Assembly of this State to have our Delegates
in Congress invested with Power in the Name & behalf of this State to subscribe
said Articles of Confederation as they now stand agreed to by Congress.

We have also had under Consideration the Recommendation
of the General Assembly at their last Session to the people at large
to instruct their Representatives on the expediency of calling a

Conventions

Convention to form a new & permanant System of Government for
this State ~

A Wise, Regular, and equal Constitution of Government is
one of the greatest Blessings on Earth, & without which no Society
can be really happy, & enjoy the common Blessings of Life for any
considerable length of time: ~ That such a form may be established
in this State is what we most ardently ^{wish} for ~ Yet considering
that while we are embarrassed with a distressing War, and our
attention continually called off to the most strenuous exertions to
defend ourselves, how difficult, or rather impossible it will be to
attend with that coolness, calmness and Deliberation that is absolute-
ly necessary for forming such a Constitution as the Happiness and
Prosperity of this & succeeding Generations depend on ~ We are
of Opinion that its being delayed until a more favourable turn
of our public Affairs is absolutely necessary when the Convulsions
generally attendant on the forming or altering Constitutions, can be
got over with less danger to the public Weal. ~ Therefore we
expect you will use your endeavour to have that Matter postponed
for the present time ~

A True Copy.

Attest: John Smith. Town Clerk.