

238. Othello**Philadelphia American Museum, November 1788 (excerpt)**

Essay on negro slavery, No. 1,

... On all occasions impartiality in the distribution of justice, should be observed. The little state of Rhode-Island, hath been reprobated by the other states, for refusing to enter into measures respecting a new general government; and so far it is admitted that she is culpable. But if she is worthy of blame in this respect, she is entitled to the highest admiration for the philanthropy, justice and humanity, she hath displayed, respecting the subject I am treating on. She hath passed an act prohibiting the importation of slaves into that state, and forbidding her citizens to engage in the iniquitous traffic. So striking a proof of her strong attachment to the rights of humanity, will rescue her name from oblivion, and bid her live in the good opinion of distant and unborn generations. . . .

239. Warrant Calling a Town Meeting, 4 December 1788¹

State of Rhode Island & Providence Plantations—

To the Town-Serjeant or either of the Constables of the Town of Providence in the County of Providence in said State—Greeting—

In Conformity to an Act of the Honorable the General Assembly of the said State passed at the Session on the last Monday in October last you are hereby required in the Name of the Governor and Company of the said State to warn the Freemen of the said Town to meet in Town-Meeting at the State-House in said Town on Saturday the Sixth Day of December instant at Two of the Clock in the Afternoon, then and there to take into Consideration a Proposal transmitted by His Excellency George Clinton, Esqr. President of the Convention of New-York to the Legislature of this State, that a General Convention of the States should take Place in Order that such necessary Amendments be made in the Constitution proposed for a federal Government as will secure to the People at large their Rights and Liberties, and to remove the exceptionable Parts of the said proposed Constitution. And thereupon to give their Deputies Instructions whether they will have Delegates appointed to meet in Convention with the State of New-York, and such other States as shall appoint the same; or such other Instructions as they may deem ~~necessary~~ conducive to the Public Good: That the said General Assembly may know their Determination at the Session to be holden by Adjournment on the last Monday in December instant—And also to transact such other Business as shall then and there be thought necessary Hereof fail not and true Return make. Given under my Hand and Seal at said Providence this Fourth Day of December, A. D. 1788, and in the Thirteenth Year of Independence

Daniel Cooke, Town-Clerk

Providence 5th Decmr. 1788.

In obedience to the within Command I have Warn'd the Freemen to Meet at time & place Within mentioned—

Henry Bowen T. Serjt:

1. MS, Providence Town Papers, Vol. 12, no. 5042, RHI.