

The Jewel, Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*, 2 November 1787

MR. OSWALD, Fair play is a jewel, say the tars, and they often say true. If we are to leave our names with you, both sides ought surely to be governed by the same rule. I think your correspondent Galba is therefore wrong in supposing that the opposers of the constitution only should be thus restricted. I am a federalist from the bottom of my soul, and shall never therefore write on the other side, yet if the rule is to be adopted I will conform to it, from a regard to equity which always looks on both sides of a case. The reason why it is supposed proper to leave names with the printer, I take to be this—To put it in his power to declare that every writer is either a NATIVE or a CITIZEN of one of these states; for no foreigner has a right to say a word on the subject: We want no such aid, and it may perhaps be found on an investigation, that some antifederal pens are dipt in foreign ink, keeping in view the old maxim, “divide and conquer.”

Cite as: The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution Digital Edition, ed. John P. Kaminski, Gaspare J. Saladino, Richard Leffler, Charles H. Schoenleber and Margaret A. Hogan. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2009.

Canonic URL: <http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/RNCN-03-13-02-0135> [accessed 18 Jul 2011]

Original source: Commentaries on the Constitution, Volume XIII: Commentaries on the Constitution, No. 1