

**“A.B.C.”, *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 5 March 1788**

*Messieurs* PRINTERS, The words Federal and Antifederal, like many others, have departed already from their original signification. Instead of being applied only to the friends and enemies of the new government, I find they are applied as epithets to many other things, a short account of which I shall endeavour to furnish you with for your useful paper.

The following is a list of such persons, qualities and articles, as are designated with the epithet of Federal.

General Washington, Dr. Franklin, and all the first and most useful characters in the American revolution.

The mechanics in every part of the United States.

The war-worn officers and soldiers of the late American army.

Widows, orphans, and aged citizens, who have deposited their fortunes in the funds of the United States.

The friends of public credit and national faith are all federal.

Patriotism, integrity and industry, are all *federal* qualities.

Gold and silver are *federal* mediums of commerce.

American nails and paper, cloth buttons, leather breeches, and leather pockets for cloth cloaths, American beer, Hare’s porter, New-Jersey and Connecticut cheese, and cyder, Massachusetts womens’ shoes, and all other things manufactured in the United States, are *federal*.

In my next address to you, I shall send you a list of *antifederal* persons, qualities and articles.

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. Original source: Commentaries on the Constitution, Volume XVI: Commentaries on the Constitution, No.