

An American, *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 21 May 1788

...Ye friends of religion and morality! ye lovers of liberty and mankind! will ye not seize this opportunity proffered you by the bounty of Heaven, and save your country from contempt and wretchedness?

The voice of the people, say the most noble champions of freedom, *is the voice of God*. Before the ratification of the new government by the state of Maryland, the constituents of the conventions which had then adopted it were *a majority of the free people of the United States*. Viewing us as one nation, the constitution had then received *the solemn authoritative sanction of the people*. But as Maryland has *since* added her number, and as it is next to certain that the adoption of South-Carolina will take place before the rising of your honorable house, you will view the constitution *as ratified by nearly two thirds of the union*. After that event you will find too, that of eight conventions, which have determined on it, *all* have given it their approbation, and among them *two*, containing larger numbers of free citizens than *any three* that are yet to decide. Rhode-Island, we know, has rejected the government in an informal way; but we cannot injure you *even for a moment*, by supposing that *their principles and conduct* could ever have insinuated themselves into your minds. We trust you will concur with us in thinking, that as the considerate approbation of *the wise and good* is a fair argument in favor of a public measure, so is its deliberate rejection by *the weak and wicked*.

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