

An Old Planter, Virginia *Independent Chronicle*, 20 February 1788

To the PLANTERS and FARMERS of Virginia.

...That the present government of the United States is fundamentally vicious, seems agreed by every body. A new one has been proposed, by the united voice of the wisest and most virtuous men on the continent—These men were chosen by our different Assemblies,—they have agreed in sentiments with an unanimity almost unknown in the history of mankind: in that whole body there were but three dissenting voices to the constitution now offered to us. This my friends forms a strong presumption that it is good. But when I look at the objections of these three dissenters, as judiciously collected in a late paper—I find they hardly agree amongst themselves in any one of them, so that if they had been the sole persons employed to frame a constitution, some two of them, would have rejected almost every objection, stated by the third—this forms another strong presumption that the government now proposed to us is good...

Let us look around amongst the other states, would any wise or virtuous representation ever have proposed...let us therefore conclude, that the general interest of this and all the United States, will be at least as safe, I think safer, in the hands of the general delegation, than our particular interests are in the hands of our assemblies.

This view of the subject will readily strike men accustomed to general reasoning: but will be less apt to affect many of us, than the palpable clear advantages we will derive from the constitution. These can be brought home to every man's feelings.

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-02-08-02-0001-0236>
[accessed 31 Aug 2012]

Original source: Ratification by the States, Volume VIII: Virginia, No. 1