

Virginia Centinel, 2 July 1788

This happy event will form an epocha more peculiar in its nature, more felicitating in its consequences, and more interesting to the philosophic mind, than ever the political history of man has displayed. Where is the country in which the principles of civil liberty and jurisprudence are so well understood as in this; and where has ever such an assembly of men as formed the late General Convention been deputed for such a purpose? To see an assemblage of characters, most of them illustrious for their integrity, patriotism, and abilities, representing many sovereign states; framing a system of government for the whole, in the midst of profound peace; unembarrassed by any unfavourable circumstances abroad, uninfluenced by any selfish motive at home; but making the most generous concession to each other, for the common welfare, and directing their deliberation with the most perfect unanimity, to see a constitution of government thus formed, and fraught with wisdom, economy and foresight, adapted to the political habits of their constituents, to the state of society and civilization, to the peculiar circumstances of their country, and to those enlightened sentiments of freedom and toleration so dear to all good men.

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