

## Nicholas Collin to Matthias Hultgren, Philadelphia, 29 March 1788 (excerpt)

... I have already told you about the New Form of Government which the grand Convention worked out here in Philadelphia last summer. Let Leufvenius, in London, send for a copy of it. Now it has been adopted in this order: by Delaware, Pennsylvania, Jersey, Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts: the first and last of these with a small majority. In New Hampshire a convention indeed sat, but as the majority was found to be obstinate, it dissolved and is to meet again in June. Then the State-Conventions in Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas will meet [also]. N York's meets in April—there it is said to be difficult; likewise in Virginia. When 9 States have ratified, the first Congress will meet—but it cannot have any real power until at least all the large States have acceded. Party spirit is violent, and worst in this State. In Carlisle there has been a riot; and many petitions have been presented to the Assembly against the Constitution. Foederal and antifederal are now in America what hat and cap were in Sweden. Even the better antif—I writers call the new Constitution a conspiracy, and show the public snares and chains in every section of it. It is, however, really good, and gives Congress the power to tax and defend the country, which is absolutely necessary. As has previously been related, I wrote a piece while the Convention was in Session—An essay on the means of promoting foederal Sentiments in the United States of America, by a foreign spectator, with the addition in the last number by a Native of Sweden. It circulated in 30 successive numbers for 2 months around the whole continent. Just before the Convention published its work, I had gotten toward the end and proved that the power they had given Congress, and even some more was entirely necessary. To avoid all suspicion of any collusion, I visited none of its members beforehand, nor was I aware of the least of their proceedings. I wrote as my words were, unasked, unadvised, unbiased. This work pleased the Public and I may have some profit by it during my sojourn here....

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