

## **Comte de Moustier to the Comte de Montmorin New York, 25 July 1788**

The delay that affects the arrival of the packet that has long been expected here induces me to profit from the departure of a Dutch ship that is taking the Crew of a French ship wrecked on these shores to Amsterdam, to have the honor to inform you of the Situation of public affairs.

I have had the honor to inform you on the 2nd of this month by way of England of Virginia's accession to the new System of Government. The minority has succeeded in having various modifications recommended that must be proposed to the new Congress. The number of recommendations of this type seems to plant the germ of very lively discussions that could perhaps even lead further than is advisable for the tranquility of the American union.

Only since yesterday has there been hope of seeing the State of New York also consent to the new constitution. The opposition has been very lively for the five weeks that the convention of this State has been assembled in Poughkeepsie. The leaders still do not seem persuaded, but as the votes are being counted and pondered, the accession of the State of New York to the union in its new form will probably not take place this month. There is no news here of what is happening in North Carolina.

Congress now occupies itself with deciding at what time it is advisable to appoint the new Congress. It will determine later the place where it will assemble. It appears to have taken this step only in order to allow time for the New York State convention to declare its sentiments definitively. Because if it has rejected the new constitution, the State will be outside the union, and in that case it will not be too practicable nor advisable to assemble the Congress in a city that has become Foreign. It is presumed that when the state of New York accedes, the present Congress will convoke the new one in this city, which will necessitate many special arrangements for its establishment, which will be more considerable than that of the present Congress. The adoption by the State of New York will surely not take place without being accompanied by recommendations, by modifications that the opposing party has contrived to propose as conditional, which is equivalent to a refusal, which would color it in the people's eyes.

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