

A Lunarian, *New York Daily Advertiser*, 20 December 1787

Mr. CHILDS, Please to insert in your paper the following extract of a letter, lately received from a correspondent in the Moon, and you will greatly oblige yours, &c.
A Speculator.

Dear Sir, As I take it for granted that you understand the laws of gravitation, you must know, that those bodies which contain the greatest quantity of matter in the smallest dimensions, are said to possess the greatest specific gravity, and are therefore entitled to the first place amongst solid bodies; and that those productions both of nature and art, which have but little substance in their composition, and are of huge dimensions, must acquire qualities similar to a Balloon, being easily buoyed up, and wafted into the æreal regions. Know then, that it is by means of this modification of matter, that we Lunarians, are furnished with the weekly productions of Brutus, Cato, Cincinnatus, Timoleon, &c. against the proposed Federal Constitution; I have perused the whole of their voluminous conscriptions, and think it clear beyond a doubt, that they have been inspired by the benign influences of our planet, otherwise it would have been impossible for sublunary beings to have created, and exposed so many defects, horrid blunders, and wicked designs in that iniquitous system of Government, fabricated by the late Convention, to enslave the people of the thirteen dis-united States.

The inhabitants of our planet are greatly concerned for the welfare of those worthy patriots, and wish them success in their opposition to the proposed Constitution; they are the first Statesmen in your lower world, who have discovered the true principles of our Lunarian mode of Legislation and Finance, which is an acquisition of more importance, than the discovery of the philosopher's stone. It is a God-like art, to create a circulating medium, almost out of nothing, and to annihilate it again at pleasure. We have our wars as well as you, and large tracts of public land beyond the mountains in the moon. When a war happens, with a neighbouring nation, which renders it necessary to raise an army, for the defence of the State, we create a paper currency to pay them, and purchase necessaries for their support; as long as this medium will answer, we deal it out liberally, and pledge the faith of the people to redeem it with gold and silver, when it fails in credit, we give large bounties in lands, in fine we promise every thing in the time of danger, but when the danger is over, and peace established, we reason thus: as it was dire necessity which compelled us to enter into these engagements, and make these solemn promises, certainly the obligation should cease with the necessity which compelled us to make them, for what person of common sense ever expected that effects should continue, after the cause which produced them was removed, or had ceased to act.

Besides, in these cases, the public debtors are far more numerous than the public creditors; it is therefore plain that it is for the interest of the majority to annul the public debt, and all good Representatives know, that the interests of the majority of their Constituents, should be preferred to that of the minority.

After having thus demonstrated the propriety of the measure (for justice you know

should never be permitted to interfere in politics) we proceed to repeal the grants of bounty lands that have been made during the war, and annihilate all the public securities, that we cannot conveniently get into our own hands. By this prudent method of conducting affairs, many of us are much more opulent at the termination of a war, than we were at its commencement. It is true that busy meddling people are apt to raise the cry of justice, conscience, public faith, and the support of public credit: but however well such puritannic nonsense may sound, when coming from the mouth of whining, canting Priests, such language would render a politician ridiculous indeed.

But even amongst the disturbers of the peace, with all their whining sanctified cants, where is the man to be found that would not purchase a public security from his neighbour for two shillings and six-pence per pound, and realize it in the purchase of a landed estate, rather than be taxed in his full proportion, to pay his said neighbour the full amount of such security, both principal and interest?

But even supposing that there may be some individuals who have no talents for speculation, where is the man that would not wish to avoid taxation?

And how is it possible to do this without adhering strictly to the present plan?

And depend upon it, if you are ever so foolish as to adopt the new Constitution, you will be obliged to pay the national debt, the annual interest of which, as Cincinnatus has demonstrated, (by saying so) amounts to 4,800,000 dollars; to which we may add, 1,200,000 for the expence of collecting it; It will then amount to six millions of dollars annually. Allowing 3,000,000 of inhabitants in the Thirteen United States, it will amount to the enormous sum of two dollars per man, which, if they pay their tax monthly, (which is probably the best mode) it will amount to the sum of one shilling and four-pence per month. If this is not sufficient to frighten you into a rejection of the new Constitution, the Lord have mercy on you, poor miserable bankrupts.

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-02-19-02-0002-0171> [accessed 17 Jan 2013]

Original source: Ratification by the States, Volume XIX: New York, No. 1