

Alexander McCaul to Thomas Jefferson Glasgow, 14 August 1788 (excerpt)

You will no doubt be informed from Virginia that the new constitution was adopted in that state on the 25th of June by a small majority of ten & after a severe contest, I hope ere long to see the Government of that Country in the hands of Men of real property & integrity for sure I am they never can rise to be a great people unless Industry frugality & integrity become their prevailing character, when I first knew that Country I don't beleive there was in general an honest sett of people on the face of the Earth, but wonderfully have they changed of late years, & you will be amazed when I tell you that among the great number of respectable names that owed money to my Partners & myself² that not one amongst them have said they would pay their debts except yourself Mr John Rose & Mr John Nicholas, It will serve no good purpose for me to complain, but I have been hardly used, my Property confiscated & withheld from me, & instead of its being allowed to go at least to the discharge of Virginia debts these very debts sent to this Country agt me to a very considerable amo. & which I have been obliged to pay I would hope this new constitution will be productive of good, establish an effective Government in all the states & make the debtors think seriously of paying....

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