

**Louis Guillaume Otto to Comte de Montmorin, New York, 5 December 1789 (excerpts)**

In the shadow of the authority of the President of the United States this new government makes progress which even the most zealous Federalists had not dared to hope for. Tranquility and confidence, generally reestablished, leave not a trace of the convulsions which this land was prey to for almost two years. To complete the new confederation, nothing was lacking but the accession of Rhode Island and North Carolina. . . . As for Rhode Island, this tiny state is so contemptible that one does not trouble oneself with the determination it might make. It is already known that they [i.e., Congress] can subdue it as soon as circumstances will require it. Meanwhile, the majority of this state are beginning to show themselves to be favorable to a change in principle, they have suspended the Tender Act, by virtue of which the creditors had been forced to take some depreciated paper money in place of gold or silver money; they have distributed in the state the amendments proposed for the federal Constitution, finally they seem to be aware that the duties fixed by Congress on foreign navigation will singularly affect its commerce because Rhode Islanders are actually treated as foreigners in the ports of the Union. The great objection in this state to the new Constitution is that it too much resembles England's and that Congress has provided too high of salaries for its employees. It is felt that this objection is only a pretext to get out of a bad scrape. . . .