

Pennsylvania Gazette, 16 July 1788

The United States of America, says a correspondent, present a most comfortable prospect to the European world, since the adoption of the new fœderal constitution. In every nation of the *old* world religious liberty is denied to some of their subjects or citizens. The *established* church in each is the favorite of their respective governments. The most virtuous, the most learned, and the most judicious dissenter, in Great Britain or Ireland, is excluded from a share in the government, unless he will sacrifice his virtue by complying with tests and ceremonies, which he considers as impious or unmeaning. Numberless attempts have been made to unshackle that numerous, learned and pious body of people, *the British dissenters*, but in vain. This, then, is their country. Over the face of this country settlements were scattered, in the last and present century, by the forefathers and relations of these very dissenters. The Presbyterians, the Quakers, the Congregationalists, the Anabaptists, the Roman Catholics, and several other churches, all of whom now enjoy the most perfect religious liberty, free from the jealousy and oppression of an established church; and all of whom have the freest access to places of honor or profit in the government. The new fœderal constitution confirms and secures to all for ever these great blessings, by providing, in the most clear and positive terms, that no religious test shall ever be required of any officer of the United States. In addition to this most comfortable fact, all manufacturers in Europe, who find themselves distressed for want of employment, will find certain and great profit from introducing their various branches here. The distance of America from any manufacturing country holds out to all, who may incline to come hither, one great and certain advantage which cannot be taken from them. The expences of importing, and the duty on importation, amounts to one fifth or twenty per cent, on the whole value or first cost in Great-Britain or Ireland. Suppose a piece of goods to be worth five pounds sterling in Great-Britain, and that the raw materials cost two pounds ten shillings, then the labor and profit of making is two pounds ten shillings; but as it costs one fifth to bring and sell it here, the manufacturers have three pounds ten shillings *here* for the labor and profit on fifty shillings worth of raw materials, instead of two pounds ten shillings only in Europe. If these facts are properly considered by men of sense in Europe, there can be no doubt but that we shall see numbers of new branches introduced from thence.

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-03-18-02-0072>

[accessed 04 Aug 2011]

Original source: Commentaries on the Constitution, Volume XVIII: Commentaries on the Constitution, No. 6