

Parable, *American Mercury*, 22 October 1787

Then shall the Council of C_____t be likened unto ten virgins which took their votes and went in to meet the Constitution. And five of them were wise and five foolish. And they that were foolish took their votes and took no sense with them. But the wise took sense in their noddles with their votes. While the Constitution tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midday there was a cry made, "behold the Constitution cometh; go ye in to pass it." Then all those virgins arose and offered their votes. And the foolish said unto the wise, "give us of your sense, for our votes are unpopular." But the wise answered, saying, "not so, lest there be not enough for us and you; but look ye rather to the situation of our country, and learn for yourselves." And while they went to learn, the Constitution came; and they that were ready supported it with their voice, and the question was carried. At the next election came also the other virgins, saying, "People, people, open to us." But the people answered and said, "verily we say unto you, we know you not." Watch therefore, or you will not discern which way the popular wind will blow.

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-02-03-02-0004-0007-0002-0007> [accessed 14 Aug 2012]

Original source: Ratification by the States, Volume III: Delaware, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut