

A Rhode-Islander, *Newport Herald*, 10 July 1788

In the day of general joy—in the hour of political happiness, when the CONSTITUTION proposed to the people of these United States is ratified by nine of them, which ratification is sufficient for the establishment of the Constitution;—Shall this state, which was among the first to defend the glorious cause of liberty, shrink from its patriotism, and not be concerned in strengthening the GRAND FEDERAL EDIFICE.

Although we have forfeited in some respects our character as a state, by party-prejudices, yet we can retrieve our departed glory.—To effect this, it becomes his Excellency the Governor, as he is federal, to call *immediately* the General Assembly, and for them to appoint a Convention to take into consideration the proposed Constitution—Does not every part of the state severely feel the want of an energetic government?—Does not the present languishing prospect of all branches of business call aloud for speedy attention, point out the absolute necessity of a FEDERAL UNION, and that a determination to stand out against reason, and every noble principle, will involve us in irretrievable infamy and ruin?

Think not, ye LEGISLATORS, the idea overcharged: would to Heaven I held the trumpet of an arch-angel, and could rouze you from the slumbers of *political* death!—but remember I HAVE WARNED YOU.

Assemble then, unanimously assemble, and determine to act wisely for yourselves and posterity.—Let it not be said that the GENIUS of RHODE-ISLAND sleeps on his post, or that the GUARDIANS of the state have deserted their charge.

On your *immediate exertions all depend*,—our morals—our reputation—our commerce—our agriculture and mechanic arts.—What further stimulus can you need to arouse you from your lethargy?—Let not passion, prejudice, and *party-spirit* any longer sway your minds!—May Heaven inspire you with wisdom, and lead you into those measures which shall redound to the honor and prosperity of the state.

Published in Volume XXIV of *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution, Rhode Island*, Vol. 1, edited by John P. Kaminski, Charles H. Schoenleber, Gaspare J. Saladino, Richard Leffler, Jonathan M. Reid, Margaret R. Flamingo, Patrick T. Conley, Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2011.