

**George Washington to Sir Edward Newenham, Mount Vernon, 25  
December 1787 (excerpt)**

... The publick attention here is at present wholly employed in considering and animadverting upon the form of Government proposed by the late convention for these States. The inefficacy of our present general system is acknowledged on all hands, and the proposed one has its opponents but they bear so small a proportion to its friends that there is little or no doubt of its taking place,—Three States have already decided in its favor—two unanimously and the other by a majority of two to one;—these are the only States whose conventions have as yet determined upon the subject, but from every information, the others will be found pretty fully in sentiment with them.—The establishment of an energetic general Government will disappoint the hopes and expectations of those who are unfriendly to this Country—give us a national respectibility—and enable us to improve those commercial and political advantages which Nature and situation have placed within our reach....

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