

Argus, Providence *United States Chronicle*, 8 November 1787

Rehoboth, November 1, 1787.

MR. WHEELER, The Liberty of the Press, or the Liberty which *every Person* in the United States *at present* enjoys, of exhibiting his Sentiments on all public Measures to his Fellow-Citizens, through the Medium of the News-Papers, is a Privilege of infinite Importance—a Privilege, for which (among others) we have fought and bled, and for which I would again shoulder my Musket. I confess the Attempt lately made in Boston, by some of our aristocratical Gentry, to have every Person's Name published who should write against the proposed Federal Constitution, has given many of us a just Alarm. Why, if the proposed Constitution is a good one are its Supporters afraid to have any Thing said against it? Why are they hurrying it down our Throats, before we have opened our Mouths? For what Purpose is it that the Names of its Opposers should be published? Why all this extraordinary Exertion? If it is *very good, very just, and wisely calculated* to make us respectable and happy, no Doubt it will be adopted—But pray, my good Friends, give us a Chance to read it once or twice over before we say whether we like it or not. I had written thus far, and intended to have gone on to state my Opinion on this important Subject, when my Son brought me in Mr. Powars' last Boston Paper—I laid down my Pen to read it, and I found a Piece, signed JOHN DE WITT, on the Subject I had proposed to write; who the Author is I know not, but his Sentiments so exactly coincide with mine, that I concluded to write no more, at present, but to request you, Mr. Printer, to publish that Piece in your next Chronicle: By so doing you'll oblige at least one of your Readers.

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-03-13-02-0135> [accessed 18 Jul 2011]

Original source: Commentaries on the Constitution, Volume XIII: Commentaries on the Constitution, No. 1