George Washington to Sir Edward Newenham, Mount Vernon, 29 August 1788 (excerpt)

Although there were some few things in the Constitution recommended by the Fœderal Convention to the determination of the People, which did not fully accord with my wishes; yet, having taken every circumstance seriously into consideration, I was convinced it approached nearer to perfection than any government hitherto instituted among men.—I was also convinced, that nothing but a genuine spirit of amity & accomodation could have induced the members to make those mutual concessions & to sacrafice (at the shrine of enlightened liberty) those local prejudices, which seemed to oppose an insurmountable barrier, to prevent them from harmonising in any system whatsoever. . . .

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