

**A Georgian: To Demosthenes Minor, *Gazette of the State of Georgia*, 29 November 1787**

The Federal Constitution now recommended to the United States is of vast importance and an entire new model of government. Therefore every citizen who has the welfare of his country and the rights of the people at heart of necessity feels himself deeply interested in the event and has an indubitable right to speak or write his sentiments, unless you wish that we should be muffled as Demosthenes of old was. I will mention a circumstance, borrowed from the history of the ancient Demosthenes, whose name, conscious of your own inability, you have the vanity to borrow to dignify your abusive and scurrilous performance.

“When Alexander the Great conquered Persia, about the year of the world 3674, he appointed Harpalus Governor of Babylon, who abused his trust and, dreading the return of Alexander, amassed a large sum of money, withdrew into Attica, and landed at Athens. Immediately all such orators as made a trade of eloquence ran to him in crowds to receive bribes. Harpalus did not fail to distribute a part of this wealth among them. Demosthenes took a pleasure in viewing one of the golden cups; it was presented him with a large sum of money; being overcome by this present, and no longer master of himself, he joined on a sudden Harpalus’s party, and the next morning, wrapping his neck well in woolen cloths, he went to the assembly. The people there ordered him to rise and make a speech, but he refused, making signs that he had lost his voice.” But this by the bye. I would not wish to apply the story and suppose that Demosthenes Minor is copying his master and aiming at the golden cup.

Concerning the Constitution in question, in answer to the latter part of the refutation (copied, as I believe, from Mr. Wilson’s speech), I shall only refer the readers to the 2d clause in the 6th Article of the new Federal Constitution.

And now, one word more to you. You say “that we have dangerous characters amongst us,” “that it is assurance to point out means of relief,” “that the very position is absurd,” “obtruding on the public,” “consummate impudence,” “endeavored assiduously to disseminate the seeds of discontent,” “effrontery to dictate,” “rhapsody of nonsense,” “this demon of discord and faction,” and more such unbecoming language which never is calculated to make converts even to a good cause. My wish was to have given my sentiments on the subject, an inherent right of every citizen, and I am not the only one who did so; I wrote with decency, and, if answered or refuted, I expected it would have been with propriety; and until you write with better manners you will no longer deserve to be noticed by A GEORGIAN.

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