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Assessments of the Constitutional Convention > Amity and Compromise at the Convention

George Washington to Sir Edward Newenham Mount Vernon, Fairfax Co., Va., 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. . . .

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