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csac.history.wisc.edu > Document Collections > Popular Culture and Ratification >
Illustrations Appearing in Newspapers During the Ratification Debates > Domes

North Carolina *Wilmington Centinel*, 9 July 1788¹



On Saturday the 5th instant, in consequence of the *important* and interesting intelligence being received from our respectable sister state, the commonwealth of Virginia, that the Convention of Delegates appointed to take into consideration the proposed confederated Constitution, had *unequivocally* adopted the same, the inhabitants of this town, with a *virtuous* and *patriotic* warmth, testified their satisfaction with illuminations, bonfires, and other demonstrations of joy.

It would be difficult to convey an adequate idea of the general enthusiastic happiness this fortunate event diffused. The acquisition of Virginia to the new confederated system, would of itself, have been highly important; but, at this crisis, when it was considered, that her accession, by being the ninth approving state, has *established* the *liberty*, independence, and public credit

of this rising Western Union, their joy was not to be described. A general sympathy united all—Hope, *rational hope*, animated every rank and profession. The prospect of justice, parent of liberty and support of virtue, being speedily and impartially administered—public faith and dignity supported—a consistent productive commerce, disseminating its happy consequences through every rank of citizens, arrested the attention and feelings of every lover of liberty and mankind.

Shortly shall we begin to reap the blessings of the *glorious revolution*, purchased with difficulties and anxieties which none but a sufferer can truly comprehend. No longer shall the useful artizan be paid with procrastinated promises, but, being worthy, shall receive his hire—no longer shall the planter sweat for a hard-earned, narrow, uncertain competence, but receive the just reward of his labours—no longer shall we be *insulted* with the tantalizing name of wealth, depreciation to a shadow, even while we contemplate its nominal amount—specie (that valuable *quid pro quo*) attendant on all well regulated efficient governments, will again circulate—the price of imports and exports will be regulated—in short, it is to be expected, as a natural consequence, that industry and ingenuity will be rewarded with peace, plenty, and content, under this well-digested, approved confederation, framed by some of the wisest and most virtuous men now existing, and by the most strenuous supporters of liberty, through the mazes of the late war.

1. Viewing the illustration from left to right (south to north), the missing pillars represent the states of North Carolina, New York, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. The idea for this domed structure was probably taken from the *Charleston City Gazette*, 28 May, which first used it to announce South Carolina's ratification.

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. X: Virginia [3] (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 1993), 1750–52.