Demosthenes Minor: To A Georgian
Gazette of the State of Georgia, 6 December 1787

Once to be wild is no such foul disgrace;
But 'tis so still to run the frantic race.
Creech's Translation of the
14th Epis. of Hor[ace]

Animated by a noble enthusiasm in the cause of freedom, which generous flame I trust will never be extinguished, I endeavored to frustrate your designing machinations and made the futility of your arguments equally conspicuous with your folly. To inform you of my own private sentiments, I do not imagine that I am addressing myself to a real Georgian. No! I will not be so disingenuous as to transform the most agreeable beauty into the most odious monster or to level the best of mankind with the worst; such methods would tend not only to destroy a man's good opinion of others, but to remove that reverence for himself which is the great guard of innocence and spring of virtue.

Your last spurious production, how worthy soever of silent indignity, shall receive notwithstanding a lash of reprobation. I hope I may call it spurious without imputation of immodesty, when it evidently was designed to do as much mischief to the political world as the Hessian bug[(a)] to the natural. Those who are profoundly read in material causes would attribute it to a noisome effluvia of the brain, produced by fermentation, the usual discharge of which is precluded by unusual repletion, and a passage is forced out at the fingers' end. You impeach me with writing with ill manners, but I feel a comfort from acting before an indulgent public, who no doubt will put a fair construction on my conduct and judge that I calculate my address to the object.

But to patriots, men of integrity, and friends to our glorious Revolution do I now address myself, and let me assure you that I feel my interest blended with your own.

After incessant toils, expense, and self-denials, we have now the prospect of seeing our virtuous struggle crowned with triumphant success. And, at such a period, shall men who have not a liberal portion of the ethereal spirit, who have enriched themselves and fattened on the spoils of your country, whose conduct will not bear the piercing eye of public examination, and whom charity induced [you?] to give an asylum in your hospitable land, I say, shall they, enjoying the well-earned fruits of your labor, endeavor to retard the rising grandeur of the state? Avert it Heaven! Thank God we are not destitute of honest men; our country is not in the deplorable situation of Sodom or Gomorrah. The original stock that furnished this goodly plant is now decaying in the Eastern World, but the tender slip taken from the parent tree flourishes in this

Western Hemisphere. Let your vigilance serve as a cherubim with a flaming sword to protect every avenue through which it may be attacked; it is planted in a luxuriant soil, you have watered it with your blood, and it will shoot up with redoubled strength, "so that the hills will be covered with the shadow of it, and its boughs be like unto the goodly cedar;" and may you and your posterity repose securely under its friendly and hospitable shade.

(a) *An animal extremely pernicious to wheat.*[1]

1. The Hessian fly, as it was more commonly called, wrought havoc throughout the United States during the 1780s and destroyed thousands of acres of wheat.

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. III: Delaware, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 1978), 251–52.