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New Hampshire: The Ninth Pillar *Massachusetts Centinel*, 25 June 1788 (excerpt)

On 26 December 1787 Benjamin Russell, the printer of the *Massachusetts Centinel*, described Delaware's ratification of the Constitution as "*The FIRST PILLAR of a great FEDERAL SUPERSTRUCTURE raised.*" After Connecticut ratified, Russell revived his metaphor on 16 January by printing an illustration under the heading "*THE FEDERAL PILLARS.*" It showed five erected and named pillars with a sixth labeled "MASS." in the process of being raised. Russell updated his metaphor as more states accepted the Constitution. On 25 June, four days after New Hampshire ratified, thereby providing the requisite ninth state needed to put the Constitution into effect, Russell published the illustration and the announcement that appear below.

Other publishers and editors reproduced Russell's metaphoric illustration. On 24 and 26 June, the *New Hampshire Spy* and *New Hampshire Gazette*, respectively, printed identical illustrations showing New Hampshire as the ninth raised pillar.



NINTH and the SUFFICIENT PILLAR.

We felicitate our readers on the accession to confederation of the State of New Hampshire — not only because it completes (if Virginia hath not *previously*) the number of States necessary for the establishment of the Constitution; but because it is a *frontier*, a *neighbouring*, and really to us a *SISTER* State. Our predictions and wishes have been that the New-Hampshire PILLAR would rise—and we rejoice that we now have it in our power to RAISE it from the “STOOL of

repentence,” on which it hath done penance these four months, and to give it a place as one of the noble PILLARS of the GREAT NATIONAL DOME. . . .

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