

A Citizen of the United States, *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 13 February 1787

A correspondent, under the signature of *A Citizen of the United States*, says—"It is curious to observe the difference and the contrariety of the objections made against the new constitution. His Excellency Governor Randolph urges the equality of suffrage in the senate as his principal objection—Mr. Martin of Maryland inveighs with great bitterness against the inequality of suffrage in the house of representatives—Mr. Mason appears much mortified that his constitutional council was not incorporated in the plan—Mr. Gerry complains that the rights of election are not properly secured, nor an adequate provision for the representation of the people—Mr. Lansing and Mr. Yates remonstrate against any system that has the most feeble trait of a consolidated Government—Mr. R. H. Lee and other gentlemen of the southern states object that commercial regulations will be under the undue controul of the eastern states—the inhabitants of the latter complain of the unequal burthen of an impost, of which the southern states must pay but very little from the nature of their population—In the middle states the clamor of opposition has been from the want of a bill of rights—Besides these, the commercial states object to parting with their commercial revenues; while the non-importing states complain of being tributary to the others.—Notwithstanding these various objections, all who urge them acknowledge the merit of the new system in other points, and frequently in those parts opposed by others. Does not all this tend to produce the most decided conviction of the difficulties that were encountered by the late fœderal convention, and the spirit of conciliation manifested in the plan they have proposed? Does it not equally demonstrate the utter impossibility of another general convention, chosen by a people so agitated, and so divided, agreeing upon any general system? And is it not doubtful, that, after such experience, characters of eminence and ability could be found to undertake the task? As such then must be the conclusion of every thinking man, he must deprecate the wretch with execrations of tenfold horror, who should dare to suggest means of violence to reconcile such jarring opinions, and to endeavor to involve this peaceful country in the horrors of intestine war."

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