

## ***Pennsylvania Packet, 22 September 1787***

*From a Correspondent.*

I was walking the other day in Second street and observed a child, of five or six years old, with a paper in his hand, and lisping, with a smile, "*here's what the convention have done.*" Last evening I was walking down Arch street and was struck with the appearance of an old man, whose head was covered with hoary locks, and whose knees bent beneath the weight of his body, stepping to his seat by the door, with a crutch in one hand and his spectacles and the *new federal constitution* in the other. These incidents renewed in my mind the importance of the present æra to one half the world! I was pleased to see all ages anxious to know the result of the deliberations of that illustrious council, whose *constitutions* are designed to govern *a world of freemen!* The unthinking youth, who cannot realize the importance of government seems to be impressed with a sense of our want of union and system; and the venerable sire, who is tottering to the grave, feels new life at the prospect of having everything valuable secured to posterity.

Ye Spirits of ancient legislators! Ye Ghosts of Solon, Lycurgus and Alfred! Of the members of the grand Amphyctionic Council of Greece! and of the illustrious Senate of Rome! attend and bear testimony, how important the task of making laws for governing empires? Attend, ye Ghosts of Warren, Montgomery, Mercer and other heroes who offered your lives upon the altar of freedom! Bear witness, with what solicitude the great council of America, headed by a *Franklin* and a *Washington*, the fathers of their country, have deliberated upon the dearest interests of men, and laboured to frame a system of laws and constitutions that shall perpetuate the blessings of that independence, which you obtained by your swords!

"These are the fathers of this western clime!

Nor names more noble grac'd the rolls of fame.

When Spartan firmness braved the wrecks of time,

Or Rome's bold virtues fanned the heroic flame.

Not deeper thought the immortal sage inspired

On Solon's lips when Grecian senates hung;

Nor manlier eloquence the bosom fired

When genius thundered from the ATHENIAN tongue."

Away ye spirits of discord! ye narrow views! ye local policies! ye selfish patriots, who would damn your country for a sixpenny duty! In the present state of America, *local views are general*

*ruin! Unanimity alone is our last resort. Every other expedient has been tried; and unanimity now will certainly secure freedom, national faith and prosperity.*

Cite as: The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution Digital Edition, ed. John P. Kaminski, Gaspare J. Saladino, Richard Leffler, Charles H. Schoenleber and Margaret A. Hogan. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2009.

Canonic URL: <http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/RNCN-03-13-02-0091> [accessed 31 Aug 2012]

Original source: Commentaries on the Constitution, Volume XIII: Commentaries on the Constitution, No. 1