

## Francis Hopkinson to Thomas Jefferson, Philadelphia, 6 April 1787 (excerpt)

We are in a high political Fermentation about our new proposed federal Constitution. There are in every State People who have Debts to pay, Interests to support, or Fortunes to make—these wish for scrambling Times, paper Money Speculations, or partial Commercial advantages—An effective general Government will not suit their Views, & of Course there are great oppositions made to the new Constitution—but this opposition chiefly arises from a few leading Party Men in the Towns & Cities, who have been very industrious in holding it up as a political Monster to the Multitude who know nothing of Government, & have gained many Proselytes in the back Counties.—The Lees & Mr. Mason have so exerted themselves in Virginia as to make the Determination of that State doubtful—Maryland is infected with a Mr Martin—but I am told the Constitution will be adopted there We shall know in a few Weeks—The Convention met in New Hampshire & adjourn'd to sometime in June—The City of New York is federal, but the State Country much opposed, under the Influence of Govr. Clinton.—Altho' Pennsylvania has long since adopted the proposed System, yet in no State have the People behaved so scandalously as here—George Bryan & his Party (formerly called the Constitutional Party) have been moving Heaven & Earth against the Establishment of a federal Government—Our Papers teem with the most opprob[r]ious Revilings against the System & against all who befriend it—These Scriblers began with Arguments against the proposed Plan, such Arguments as would stand with equal Force against every or any Government that can be devised—they were Arguments against Government in general, as an Infringement upon natural Liberty—they then poured forth a torrent of abuse against the Members of the late general Convention personally & individually—You will be surprized when I tell you that our public news Papers have announced General Washington to be a Fool influenced & lead by that Knave Dr. Franklin, who is a public Defaulter for Millions of Dollars, that Mr. Morris has defrauded the Public out of as many Millions as you please & that they are to cover their frauds by this new Government—What think you of this.—Some of the Authors of these inflammatory Publications have been traced, & found to be Men of desperate Circumstances...

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-03-17-02-0012> [accessed 18 Jan 2013]

Original source: Commentaries on the Constitution, Volume XVII: Commentaries on the Constitution, No. 5