

**Junius , Boston Massachusetts Gazette, 29 January 1788**

To the PUBLICK.

Can the citizens of this metropolis, or the well wishers to the establishment of good government throughout the state, be accused of deficiency in point of candour, should they resent, in the highest degree, the insults offered them by a band of harpies and knaves—by a set of beings, destitute of principle, of property, and decency? Can you, my countrymen, tamely submit to see the characters of men who have fought your battles, who have assisted in your councils, and braved danger in every shape, to rescue you from the devouring jaws of despotism, and establish your national honour and dignity on a permanent basis, now defamed, villainously defamed, by the most infamous scurrillity that ever blotted the newspaperial page. Defamed too by men whose only boast is treachery and injustice, and whose publications exhibit insurgency in its most glaring colours

I this morning took up the AMERICAN HERALD, and, after perusing it, with emotions of indignation and contempt, committed it to the flames. It was fraught (with some exceptions) with defamation and slander, and I was astonished to think that the editor of that publication should make it the vehicle of so much stupidity, finished impudence and complete puppyism, to the publick. The piece signed an “American,” is a composition of scandal and abuse, levelled at one of the first characters in the universe, and could proceed only from a mind capable of suggesting ideas that can be stiled nothing else but the mere filth and scum of the most finished rascality.

Let the red lightning wing its way, with double force,  
To blast the black'ning wretch who dares  
Traduce the fame of characters  
The height of whose ambition is their country's welfare.

The character of the illustrious Washington is too firmly established to be injured by the pitiful insinuations and misrepresentations of a paltry and insidious scribbler—the fame of the American Fabius can never be wounded by the shafts of wretches, however well skilled in ribaldry and defamation—nor by the aspersions of those who wish to bury their own crimes in the vale of publick iniquity. The fame of Washington will stand recorded on the brightest pages of the historian, while the deeds of his vile calumniators

Now do, and will in future ages, live  
“In all the glare which infamy can give.”

What true American can peruse the vile misconstructions which are put upon the sentiments of the president of the late federal convention, and not feel an honest indignation rising in his bosom against those nefarious, despicable, midnight croakers, who make it their business to squall from the pit of darkness, against characters whose patriotism darts rays of brightness that damps the feeble powers of their opticks, and forces them to retire to their gloomy cells, from whence they breath forth their noxious vapours with an intent to taint the clear atmosphere of truth and reason? But feeble will be the attempts of villainy, to sap the confidence which the citizens of America have in

men of tried and known integrity, firmness and patriotism. The citizens of America have too much knowledge and good sense to be led away by the arts of men who need only be known to be despised.

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-03-15-02-0036-0008>  
[accessed 12 Jan 2012]

Original source: Commentaries on the Constitution, Volume XV: Commentaries on the Constitution, No. 3