

### **Alexander McCaul to Thomas Jefferson, Glasgow, 14 August 1788 (excerpt)**

You will no doubt be informed from Virginia that the new constitution was adopted in that state on the 25th of June by a small majority of ten & after a severe contest, I hope ere long to see the Government of that Country in the hands of Men of real property & integrity for sure I am they never can rise to be a great people unless Industry frugality & integrity become their prevailing character, when I first knew that Country I don't beleive there was in general an honest sett of people on the face of the Earth, but wonderfully have they changed of late years, & you will be amazed when I tell you that among the great number of respectable names that owed money to my Partners & myself<sup>2</sup> that not one amongst them have said they would pay their debts except yourself Mr John Rose & Mr John Nicholas, It will serve no good purpose for me to complain, but I have been hardly used, my Property confiscated & withheld from me, & instead of its being allowed to go at least to the discharge of Virginia debts these very debts sent to this Country agt me to a very considerable amo. & which I have been obliged to pay I would hope this new constitution will be productive of good, establish an effective Government in all the states & make the debtors think seriously of paying....

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-03-18-02-0093> [accessed 08 Mar 2011]

Original source: Commentaries on the Constitution, Volume XVIII: Commentaries on the Constitution, No. 6