

## Lambert Cadwalader to George Mitchell, New York, 8 October (excerpt)

You have no doubt seen the proposed new Federal Constitution. It is, in my opinion and that of almost all those with whom I have conversed, a very excellent one and will make us if adopted happy at home and respectable abroad; and when I reflect that the smaller states are admitted to an equal representation in the Senate with the larger, it appears to me a circumstance much more favorable than I could have expected and ought to satisfy your state in particular. New England from the accounts received from thence will readily adopt it. Even the insurgents in Massachusetts are for it and all parties there are pleased with it. New York will be divided but it is thought will come into it. New Jersey I expect will be unanimous. Pennsylvania, notwithstanding the late fracas, will adopt it. There may be some difficulty in Maryland and Virginia, but the three Southern States, I am assured from very good authority, will come into the measure.

I cannot help flattering myself with the prospect of better times which will certainly happen if we are wise enough to take the boon that is offered us. The immense sums that may be raised by duties upon our imports will ease the farmer and landholder and make the burthen light—particularly when we consider that immense sums will be sunk of our domestic debts by the sales of the Western Territory. A company from New England has purchased a tract on the Ohio p[aya]ble in public securities. It is supposed that 3 or 4 mill[ion]s of dollars will be sunk in this way. Another is forming for the purchase of a second tract. These in addition to the lands already surveyed and now selling at vendue must lessen our domestic debt considerably. It is said a third company will come forward ere long.

Added to these expectations we shall derive prodigious advantages from the regulation of our trade with foreign powers who have taken the opportunity of our feeble state to turn everything to their own benefit. By playing off one nation against another we may bring them one after the other to some consideration for us, which they have not had for some years past. They have sacrificed our interest in every instance to their own in full expectation of our inability to counteract them.

You have heard that there were three members of the Convention who did not sign the Constitution: Randolph, Mason, and Geary. It is said and believed here that the county of Fairfax in Virginia, which Mason represents in the legislature of that state, will instruct him to vote for the calling of a convention in Virginia to take into their consideration the new Constitution; and I make no doubt, as General Washington lives in the same county, that Mason will either not be chosen a member of the state convention or, if he is, that he will be instructed to agree to the adoption of it.

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