

A Federalist, *Independent Gazetteer*, 10 October 1787

The CENTINEL, in your paper of last Friday, compliments the citizens of Philadelphia, when he says, "A frenzy of enthusiasm has actuated them, in their approbation of the proposed Federal Constitution, before it was possible that it could be the result of a rational investigation." This, however, is trivial compared with the sequel, wherein he charges the worthy and very patriotic characters, of whom the late Convention was composed, with a conspiracy against the liberty of their country; not even the *immortal* WASHINGTON, nor the *venerable* FRANKLIN escapes his satire; but both of them, says this insidious enemy to his country, were *non compos mentis*, when they concurred in framing the new Federal Constitution. When he ventured to make these assertions against characters so very respectable, he should have been able to support the charge. One of his objections to this Constitution is that each state is to have two Senators and not a number proportioned to its inhabitants; here, he has fallen into a terrible inconsistency, not recollecting that such is the mode of electing members of the Supreme Executive Council, in this state, where every county appoints one, and only one, without any regard had to the number of taxable inhabitants in the respective counties. Yet, he has gone so far in panegyrics upon the constitution of this state, as to maintain that a similar one would be the best that could be devised for the United States.

Had the different members of the Convention entertained sentiments thus *narrow, local, contracted* and *selfish*, each would have proposed the constitution of his own state, and they would never have united in forming that *incomparable* one which is now exhibited to our view, and which, *without partiality to any particular state, is adapted to the general circumstances of all.*

I am happy to find the distinction of *Republican* and *Constitutionalist* in this city has given way to the more important one of *Federalist* and *Antifederalist*; such a worthy example will, I trust, be imitated through every part of this state.

To conclude, sir, if some person of better abilities should not step forth in defense of the form of government proposed by the Convention, I shall hold myself bound, in duty to the welfare of my country, to expose, upon a future occasion, the *weakness* and *futility* of CENTINEL'S arguments, together with the motives which urged him to undertake the infamous job. I shall not, however, resort [to] his torrents of personal invective, but shall take notice of the *sophistry* he has made use of, so far as it is calculated to *mislead* the citizens of Pennsylvania, or of the adjacent states.

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