

**St. Jean de Crevecoeur to Comte de la Luzerne, New York, 16 May 1788  
(excerpt)**

... As for Virginia, North Carolina New Hampshire, & New York, no definite opinion can yet be formed, since their conventions will not be held until the months of June & July. Federalists & Antis (as they are called here) spare no means to have the choice of the people fall on the persons whose principles are similar to those of their parties. The Election of the Town of Alexandria had been kept open for three days, in order to give the partisans of the new Constitution, & General Washington's friends, the time to be able to make him agree to be elected as one of the members of the *State Convention* but ever restrained by his modesty, he steadfastly refused to do it. It is said that he fears that if he appears to be too zealous a federalist, that he would be accused of working for himself, since he cannot ignore the fact that if the new Constitution takes place, he is destined to become the first *great President*, this conduct does nothing to assure those who maintain that his presence alone in the Convention, would have carried [more than?] twenty votes....

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