

## St. John de Crevecoeur to William Short New York, 10 June 1788 (excerpt)

... Good news from Charles Town are Just now arrived by Mr. Keane a Member of the Convention & a delegate in Congress; spite of the most Extraordinary efforts made in S: Carolina by the partisance of your nefarious & highly Criminal P. Henry, to Form a Confederation of the Southern States, the Constitution has Triumphed over its Numerouse Ennemys, Inclosed I send you the Charles town Papers the Perusal of which will please you & Mr. Jefferson I am persuaded; you'll see that the Proccessional Idea of Boston has been adopted & Followd in Maryland as well as in South Carolina; there are Eight States; Now for Virginia the Convention of which is now Setting; & from its decision depends the Success of or the destruction of this Great Improvement in the union of These States—the most powerfull opposition will be made, & all the Talents of Mr. Henry made use of To breake & split the union; if Virginia accepts it, you may Look on the adoption To be Genral. Neither New York Nor New Hampshire will dare refuse it; but if on the other hand, shd. Henry Triumph be assured that this highly anti-federal State, will refuse it also; our Govr. has declared himself, & we Know that 2/3 of the chosen delegates are obstinate anti-federalists on whom No arguments No Conviction can make the Least Impression; Now is the Critical hour & which in Virg remarkable from the opinion of Mr. Henry the fate of America seems now to depend, the First post will bring us some Letters from Richmond which will Enable us to form some Jugement, of the Temper of that assembly which Sat last Monday [— — —] Eight days; if it MisCarries, The Flames of Civil War I am persuaded will be first Kindled in your Country, for both Pa[r]ties are & will be still more Encensed agt. Each other—Emigration to ye West Ward are Still going on: & God know how far the Maritime States will be depopulated by it,—they begin already to quit Kentucky to go more Westerly, for never Satisfyed with what they have Your countrymen are allways pursuing the desire of being better....

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