

George Washington to Charles Carter , Mount Vernon, 12 January 1788

I find that an extract of my letter to you, is running through all the news papers; and published in that of Baltimore with the addition of my name.—

Altho' I have no dis-inclination to the promulgation of my Sentiments on the proposed Constitution (not having concealed them on any occasion) yet I must nevertheless confess, that it gives me pain to see the hasty, and indigested production of a private letter, handed to the public, to be animadverted upon by the adversaries of the new Government.—Could I have supposed that the contents of a private letter (marked with evident haste) would have composed a news paper paragraph, I certainly should have taken some pains to dress the Sentiments (to whom know[n] is indifferent to me) in less exceptionable language, and would have assigned some reasons in support of my opinion, and the charges against others.

I am persuaded your intentions were good, but I am not less persuaded, that you have provided food for strictures and criticisms.—be this however as it may, it shall pass of[f] unnoticed by me, as I have no inclination, and still less abilities for scribbling.—

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