



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

csac.history.wisc.edu > Document Collections > The Constitutional Convention >
Assessments of Individual Delegates > Benjamin Franklin

Nathaniel Gorham to Benjamin Franklin Boston, 30 October 1787

Respected & Hond Sir

The speech you made in Convention just before the close of the business & I think the last day of our sit[t]ing was in the opinion of every one who heard you—exceedingly well calculated to correct that possitive attachment which men are too apt to have for their own ideas—I am sure that it is a temper such as that speach inculcates which prevents war & bloodshed—the one I allude to is that where you observe on the French Lady who thought herself allways in the right—

The request I would therefore with all respectfull deference make Sir is that you would be so kind as to furnish me with a copy of it for the purpose of publishing it provided you do not think it improper The People of this State are so far as I can learn generally much in favour of the report of the Convention—there are however some few honest men who are not in that way of thinking—it is for such men I want to publish your speach—& you can have no idea of the weight & influence it would have in N England & I verily beli[e]ve throughout America—

I will take care to do it in such manner as not to wound you[r] delicacy of sentiments—

on the whole I submit the matter to your superior judgment—being anxious[ly?] desirous that you may be of the same mind with me on this subject—if you think proper to send it I will thank you to inclose it under cover to General Knox at N York, who will forward it to me without expence—

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. IV: Massachusetts [1] (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 1997), 371.