



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

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

Boston *American Herald*, 19 November 1787

On DR. FRANKLIN'S shedding a TEAR at signing the DEATH-WARRANT of his COUNTRY'S LIBERTIES.

The worn-out SAGE too full his joy to speak,
The puerile tear stole down his wrinkl'd cheek;
He paused a moment—but alas, too late,
He lent his Signet to his Country's fate,
He grasped the trembling quill and signed his name,
And damn'd the Laurels of his former fame.

Boston, 12th Nov. 1787.

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), 273.