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Expositor I

New York Journal, 7 February 1788 (excerpts)

. . . But if we take a comparative view of the southern right of virtual representation with our own real representation, I am afraid, that we shall not have quite so much reason for exultation as Publius and some others have asserted. As one hundred planters, in those states, each having five hundred slaves, will have a right of representation, when it will require five thousand of our northern farmers, supposing their families each to average six persons, to entitle them to the same right. This, I confess, is rather a disagreeable comparison; but it certainly was made in and by the convention, and the delegate from this state acceded to it *alone*, on the part of the state. With what right they know best who deputed him, and, as the legislature are now convened, to them I refer him, for the present, only observing, that if he had not the most full and ample powers for what he did (and I never heard it pretended that he had) I cannot help thinking it *a most daring insult* offered to the free men and freeholders of this state, besides being an *unparalleled departure* from his duty to this state, as well as to the United States. . . .

Must there not have been something in prospect, from the new government, exceedingly fascinating, to induce the delegate of the state, in the very delicate situation which he was, *singly and alone*, to make such an invidious and degrading concession, on the part of an unrepresented people? I venerate the defenders of this country in every state, but what more has been done by the southern states than by the northern, especially this, which was the seat of the war, to the last of the contest, I shall be glad to learn? Has any one of them as a state, or have they all, made greater exertions than this? Have they shed their blood more liberally or nobly than we have? Or is it richer or more prolific? The concession demanded and made, gives the negative to the latter; but, without any reflection on the others, I believe them *equally brave*.

To be continued by

THE EXPOSITOR.

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