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A Citizen

New York *Hudson Weekly Gazette*, 31 January 1788

Mr. Stoddard, I thought the enemies of our new system of government, would have offered some substantial reasons for withholding their assent, and not have indulged us with visionary prospects in the regions of theory and hypothesis. It was presumed that the honourable and well informed body that offered the federal code for your consideration, would have escaped censure; but it was a vain presumption, it is now verified: they could not have avoided the envenomed shafts of these Antifederal Gentry. They have just preserved the same line of conduct, with regard to our political affairs, as they have in the common occurrences of life. After our glorious struggle in the cause of liberty, we devised a method of crowning our efforts with glory—that of appointing the late provincial convention; men whose names are synonymous with virtue and freedom; incapable of offering any thing for our adoption, that would be detrimental to our liberty. One of that body^(a) (let me not be understood to depreciate the rest by the distinction) demands every tribute that a grateful nation can bestow: the laurels that crowned his exertions during the war, have been augmenting since his return to private life: Is he not “The noblest work of God?” Can you, O ye ungrateful people, doubt the constitution you received at his hands? Can that breast harbour a single particle of alloy? Or, can any man be a villain possessed of so much perfidy, as to admit such an ungenerous sentiment a place in heart? We have found, sir, among the negatives to the constitution, a different set of objections; some have two sets, others more differing essentially from each other; full of falsehoods, absurdities and contradictions. They have certainly produced very indifferent pieces on the subject, but this cannot be wondered at—it is not so easy to write well, if men argue against truth and reason, as if they have both at their side. Let these men who are half made upon the subject, weigh this matter in their minds; read the pieces that have been written on both sides; and if candor and justice will decide, then they will say to those people, go, convene a meeting of your county—draw up your resolutions—subscribe them—send them to the press—go and be free.

(a) The President.¹

1. George Washington, the President of the Constitutional Convention.

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. XX: New York [2] (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2004), 679–80.