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Tobias Lear to William Prescott, Jr.

Mount Vernon, Fairfax Co., Va., 4 March 1788 (excerpt)

. . . I was not in the convention, but I suppose no person, who was not a member of that body, has had a better opportunity of knowing what were the sentiments & doings of almost every man there than myself. — The Constitution and its circumstances have been almost the sole topics of conversation here for some months past, and as we are visited by few Characters but the first & best informed I have had more LIGHT thrown upon the subject than Mr Gerry could have diffused had he possessed ten-times the abilities, knowledge & information than he does. — The report that General Washington was *drawn in* to sign it is as false as it is artful;—he looks up to it as the rock of our political salvation—he knows it is not perfect, but he knows, at the same time that it approaches much nearer to perfection than any person, who knew the variety of views, interēts & prejudices which were to conciliate, could have expected.—Thus much for great & political matters. . . .

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