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Description of the New York City Federal Procession *New York Daily Advertiser*, 2 August 1788

Noah Webster, editor of the *New York American Magazine*, was the principal author of the description of the procession of 23 July that first appeared in the *Daily Advertiser* on 2 August. On 26 July Webster noted in his diary that he was “Employed in arranging a general account of the procession for the public,” and two days later he commented that he was “Writing an account of the procession.” On 31 July a correspondent, identified only as “L. C.,” wrote Webster that “I was much pleased when I was informed that you were engaged in writing for the public, a particular account of the procession in this city on the 23rd instant.” The 2 August issue of the *Daily Advertiser* located at Yale University has this marginal note by Webster himself: “N Webster assisted in drawing up this account.” He also noted “I was one of this Society [the Philological Society in the ninth division] & walked in the procession.” Therefore, he could not have viewed the whole procession. The various groups of marchers along with Richard Platt, who as chairman of the Committee of Arrangements signed the account, probably supplied Webster with much specific information. Reflecting the fact that the description of the procession was incomplete, Platt described Webster’s effort as “a lame account.”

At the end of the description of the procession, immediately below “Richard Platt, Chairman,” some publications appended this statement: “As several gentlemen of some of the professions that appeared in procession on the 23d ult. have furnished us with complete descriptions of their respective exhibitions on that memorable day, we may, with propriety, pronounce the above account the most accurate of any, that has yet been offered to the public.”

Federal Procession,
In honor of the Constitution of the United States.

To testify the animated joy of the Citizens of New-York upon finding the Federal Constitution of Government ratified by a sufficient number of States to make it operative, it was determined that on the 23d ult. they should so appear in procession as to demonstrate to the world, the pleasure, that in consequence of this event, had pervaded all ranks and degrees of the community.

The day having been more than once postponed, in the interesting hope, that this State, then in Convention, would likewise accede to the union, the Committee of Arrangements found it impossible any longer to oppose the patriotic ardor of their fellow citizens. It was remembered

however that the great object of exultation was not the ratifying of the Constitution by any one particular State; but the already present existence of an æra in the history of man, great, glorious, and unparalleled—which opens a variety of new sources of happiness, and unbounded prospects of national prosperity!—The adoption of the Federal Plan by this State, tho' not then expected to be immediate, was however with certainty considered among those events, which time, encreasing light, and an over ruling Providence would bring to our view.

About ten o'clock 13 guns were fired from the Federal Ship Hamilton, being the signal for the Procession to move, the different bodies of which it was composed having already collected from their various places of meeting. It now set out from the Fields, proceeding down Broadway to Great-Dock-street, thence through Hanover-Square, Queen, Chatham, Division, and Arundel-streets; and from thence through Bullock-street to Bayard's house; in the following order:

Horsemen with trumpets.

Company of Artillery and field piece.

After these the whole Procession was marshalled into ten divisions, each of which was preceded by a white flag borne to the honor of the ten States that had then acceded to the New Constitution.

FIRST DIVISION.

Foresters with axes.

Columbus in his ancient dress, on horseback, represented by Captain Moore.¹

Foresters with axes, &c.

A plough drawn by 6 oxen, conducted by Nich's. Cruger, Esq. in a farmer's dress, supporting the farmers arms; a flag, with a wheat sheaf on the field, on the band of which was inscribed, "O *Fortunati Agricola*"² over which was a rising star.

Two men sowing grain.

A harrow drawn by 2 oxen and 2 horses, conducted by Mr. John Watts, in a farmer's dress.

A number of gentlemen farmers, with every implement of husbandry displayed in a pleasing manner.

A new invented threshing machine, (which will thresh and clean 72 bushels of grain in a day) conducted by Baron Poelnitz and other gentlemen farmers, in farmer's dresses, grinding and threshing grain.

United States' Arms, borne by Col. White, on horse back, supported by the Cincinnati—the horse beautifully caparisoned, and led by two boys in a white uniform.

A number of gardeners with aprons on, and various implements of husbandry.

A Band of Music.

Taylors.

A flag, 10 by 11 feet, field sky blue, a fine landscape—Adam and Eve represented naked, excepting fig leaves for aprons, nearly in full stature, in a sitting posture—motto, "*And they sewed fig leaves together.*" The United States forming a chain or links, upon a large circle, in order as they adopted the constitution, and the names of each state in the middle; in the centre of the circle "*Majority.*" The sun beaming forth its rays upon those states that have acceded to federal measures—Rhode-Island in mourning.³ General Washington nearly in full stature, holding a parchment in his hand, with this inscription—"The Federal Constitution." The federal

eagle, with its wings expanded, soaring towards the sun: The whole hung in a large frame, with golden knobs at the top of the poles; carried by two standard bearers, and supported by two men, one upon each side of the flag, with fine blue and white cord, and elegant tassels in their hands.

The flag preceded by a committee of 6, 3 and 3, joined together by white handkerchiefs, with buff and blue sashes, and blue and buff cockades.

Followed by Mr. John Elliot, president, with a blue and buff sash and cockade—two of the committee, with buff and blue sashes and cockades, on each side of the president; followed by the rest of their branch, all wearing blue and buff cockades: The order closed by Mr. John Banks, vice president, with a sash and cockade like the president's and 2 officers with buff and blue sashes and cockades; three flank officers as adjutants, dressed in sashes and cockades, with white rattans in their hands.

The sashes and cockades emblematical of the staff uniform of the American army.

Measurers of Grain.

An ensign with a flag, representing the head of General Washington in the centre, ornamented with 13 stripes and 13 stars; with this motto—*His Excellency General Washington*. On the opposite side, the head of Col. Hamilton, beautifully painted—in the centre, a device representing the measures used in the business, on one side of which was inscribed in capitals, “*equity*,” surrounded with these lines,

*“Federal measures, and measurers true,
Shall measure out justice to us and to you.”*

Two ships, one discharging salt, and the other taking in grain—a store, with a merchant in front, viewing, with a spy glass, a French ship entering the harbour under full sail—On the reverse, the same, except the Mayor of the city,⁴ in place of Col. Hamilton. The order headed by Mr. James Van Dyke.

Millers—No return.

Inspectors of Flour—No return.

Bakers.

Headed by two masters, Messrs. John Quackinbos and Frederick Stymes.

Ten boys dressed in white, with blue sashes, each of them carrying a large rose, decorated with various colored ribbons.

Ten journeymen dressed in white, with blue sashes, carrying implements of the craft.

A stage drawn by 2 bay horses, decorated.

Four masters with the federal loaf, 10 feet long, 27 inches in breadth, and 8 inches in height, with the names in full length of the ten states which have ratified the constitution, and the initial letters of the other three.

A flag, representing the declension of trade under the old confederation. Motto,

*“When in confusion, I was made,
Without foundation was I laid;
But hope the Federal Ovens may,
My sinking frame full well repay.”*

On the reverse, the representation of their trade in a flourishing situation, with two ovens.
Motto,

*“We are well built both sound and tight,
We hope to serve the ships in sight,
With the best bread, bak’d of good flour,
When Congress have the Federal power.”*

In the centre, the spread eagle and crown, holding on the left the old confederation,⁵ on the right the new constitution—Fame with a trumpet over it.—Followed by 80 masters, journeymen and apprentices, with white aprons.

Brewers.

A standard, carried by Mr. Sam. Boyer, ornamented with the brewers arms, proper, barley sheaves and porter casks, encircled with hop vines; crest—an eagle with extended wings, holding a thermometer in his beak. Motto, *“Home brewed.”* The federal brewery—a horse and dray loaded, in full speed to Bunker’s hill, and other devices suitable to the occasion.

Messrs. A. Lispenard, Appleby and [White] Matlack, with each an elegant gilt mashing oar in hand, and barley heads in their hats; followed by 2 horses and drays, ornamented with hop vines and barley.

First dray loaded with a store cask containing 300 gals, ale, a porter cask and barrel: On the top of the large cask was fixed a tun, with a *living Bacchus*—a very handsome boy, of 8 years old, dressed in flesh colored silk, sewed tight round from his chin to his toes—a cap ornamented with hop vines and barley—a silver goblet in his hand, drinking and huzzaing the whole day with the greatest cheerfulness. Performing his part to admiration. Below him sat Silenus, attendant on Bacchus,⁶ on a porter hogshead. Motto *“Ale, proper drink for Americans.”*

Second dray, loaded with porter casks and hop bags, followed by brewers and maltsters, with mashing oars, malt shovels, &c. 20 in number, ornamented with barley and hop vines in their hats.

Distillers.—No return.

SECOND DIVISION.

Coopers.

Thirteen apprentice boys, 13 years of age, dressed in white shirts, trowsers and stockings the trowsers drawn at the ankle with a green ribband, their hats ornamented with 13 pillars, colored green & white, with ten branches springing from them, representing the 10 states that have adopted the new constitution, decorated with an oak branch and green ribbands—a keg carried under the left arm, slung with a broad green ribband, with a bow of the same, green and white, on their right shoulder—round their right arms a green and white ribband, with a bow; each boy carrying a white-oak branch in his right hand, and wearing white leather aprons. Headed by Mr. Peter Stoughtenburgh, carrying a small flag with the coopers coat of arms. Motto, *“Love as brethren.”*

Forty two apprentices dressed clean, with a green oak branch in their hats, and carrying a branch in their right hand.

The stage drawn by 4 bay horses, dressed with ribbands, and decorated with green oak boughs. On the stage was erected a standard, with a flag 10 feet square, representing trade and commerce—a federal cooperage—coopers at different kinds of work—the coopers coat of arms. Motto, *“Love as brethren.”* Workmen at work on the stage—Mr. John Post, master. On the stage

a cask that had been put up during the session of the convention at Philadelphia, and which wanted repair, but notwithstanding one of the best workmen belonging to the branch was industriously employed great part of the time of the procession, it was found impracticable: the branch considering this emblematical of the old confederation, determined to make a new cask, representing the new constitution, which was done accordingly while the procession was marching.

Next the stage was 138 masters and journeymen coopers, their hats decorated with green oak boughs, carrying an oak branch in their right hand, the rear brought up by Mr. Daniel Duncomb, carrying a small flag, the same as in front.

The order conducted by two masters, wearing green and white cockades, and each carrying a green hoop pole, with the leaves left on the upper end.

Butchers.

Headed by Mr. Jotham Post, Alexander Fink, Joseph Lovel, and Jacob J. Arden; a flag of fine linen, neatly painted, displayed; on the standard the coat of arms, viz. three bullocks' heads, two axes cross-ways, a boar's head, and two garbs, supported by an ox and a lamb; motto,

*"Skin me well, dress me neat,
And send me aboard the federal fleet."*

A slaughter-house, with cattle drest and killing; a market supported by ten pillars, one pillar partly up; under it was written, *Federal market, supported by ten*; in gold letters, *Federal Butchers*; a ship, with smaller vessels. The standard carried on a stage drawn by four bright bay horses, drest with ribbons; a boy drest in white rode and conducted each. On the stage, a stall, neatly finished; two butchers and two boys on the stage at work, splitting the lambs, &c. followed by one hundred of the branch, drest with clean white aprons, and steels on; a band of music; two banners with the proper coat of arms; motto, *Federal Butchers*; one in the front supported by William Wright; one in the rear supported by John Perin. A capital bullock, of a thousand weight in his quarters, roasted whole by the butchers for the honor of the day, was presented to the procession in general.

Tanners and Curriers.

Arms on the flag, Azure, a flesher and a currying knife; or, crest, a bull's head, horned; or, supporters, on the dexter side, a tanner in his frock and trowsers, holding in his dexter hand a tanner's skimmer, proper; on the sinister, a currier in his working dress, apron turned up, holding in his sinister hand a currying knife, proper—A sun rising from beneath the union flag. Motto. *"By union we rise to splendor."* Behind all, an oak tree.

Skinners, Breeches Makers and Glovers.

Headed by Messrs. Alsop Hunt, Benj. Gatfield, James Mathers, Leonard Rogers, and James Hays—a flag of cream-colored silk, borne by James Mott and John Peal, supported by Henry Frederick, and Jacob Grindlemeyer—coat of arms, a pair of breeches and 3 gloves, supported by 2 rampant bucks—crest, a buck's head—a green field with a ewe and two lambs, one lying down, the other standing. Motto, *"Americans encourage your own Manufactures."*—Followed by 31 of the trade, in buckskin waistcoats, faced with blue silk, breeches gloves and stockings, with a buck's tail in their hats.

To these Mr. W[illiam C.] Thomson, the parchment manufacturer, attached himself, with a standard of parchment, and the inscription *"American manufactured."*

THIRD DIVISION.

Cordwainers.

Headed by Mr. James M'Cready, who supported a small flag, representing the arms of the craft—the motto, "*Federal Cordwainers*"—followed by 12 masters, representing 12 states.

A stage drawn by 4 white horses, with 2 postillions in livery—a shop on the stage, with ten men diligently prosecuting their business, emblematical of the ten states that have adopted the constitution—with colors extended over the whole length of the shop, representing in front his excellency General Washington coming out of the State House at Philadelphia, and presenting the constitution to Fame, she receiving it standing in her temple, and ready to proclaim it to an astonished world! On the reverse, a full view of our own harbor, with the arrival of a ship with Crispin, who is joyfully received by St. Tammany.⁷

Then followed the main body, 340 men, Mr. Anthony Bolton in the rear, with a small flag as in the front.

FOURTH DIVISION.

Carpenters.

Four masters, with each a rule in their hand, Vice president, with a blue ribbon at his breast, with a scale and dividers, and a drawing square in his hand, secretary and treasurer, with a green sash and an architect book in their hands, the apprentices in sections, each bearing a white wand of 5 feet long in their hands. The standard borne by 8 journeymen, with red sashes.

Representing under the standard of the United States a portraiture of his Excellency General Washington, the motto, "*Freedom's favorite Son.*"—Two Corinthian pillars, supporting a pediment half finished, expressive of the yet unsettled state of the union;⁸ under this, 13 pillars gilt, united by one entablature with a purple ribbon; ten of them bearing the names of the states in the order of their adopting the New Constitution. A motto on the frieze "*The love of our Country prevails*"—in the pediment a shield, with the Carpenters arms, and motto—["*Honor God.*"]

The journeymen in sections. The masters in sections. The president with a blue ribbon at his breast, with scale and dividers, and a star of union on his left breast, and a drawing square in his hand. Four masters, with a two feet rule in their hands.—392 rank and file.

Furriers.

Messrs. Lot Merkel and John Siemon, carrying a white valuable fox skin, manufactured; followed by an Indian properly accoutred, with the dress and habiliments of his nation, as just coming out of the woods, loaded with various kinds of raw furs, as if bringing them for sale followed by journeymen, each of them carrying furs, and manufactures—the produce of this country. Likewise an horse with two bears, each sitting on a pack of furs, led by an Indian in a beaver blanket, and round hat with black feathers, followed by 2 journeymen furriers in their working habits, with master aprons, their coats trimmed with black martin's, their hats decorated with black feathers and white cockades.

A red flag, on which a tyger as large as life was displayed, and above it a large muff of real ermine, as an emblem of the craft; followed by 2 journeymen in like habits as the first. In the rear of these came Mr. Lyon Jonas, dressed in a superb scarlet blanket and an elegant cap, ornamented with a beautiful plumage, smoaking the Indian pipe and tomahawk.

Hatters.

Preceded by ten men in their working dresses, ornamented with blue sashes, and carrying bows decorated with blue ribbons. The flag, displaying the emblems of the branch on a blue field, supported by two masters. Journeymen and apprentices followed by masters, being 60 in number, with blue cockades and blue aprons, headed by Walter Bicker.

Peruke makers and Hair dressers.

To the number of 45—standard and flag—the arms, a wig in quarters and 3 razors—on the top of the arms, "*The amicable Society of the Peruke Makers.*" Motto, "*May we succeed in our trade and the union protect us.*"

Two small flags on barber's poles, ten links in each, emblematical of the ten adopting states.

Artificial Florists.

Rear of the 4th division brought up by the artificial florists, carrying a white flag, ornamented on the edges with artificial flowers, with 13 blue stars, 3 of which drooping representing the 3 states that had not adopted the constitution; supported by 2 boys in white, with blue sashes, and their heads set off with feathers. Motto, "*Floreat America.*"⁹

FIFTH DIVISION.

White Smiths.

Carrying an elegant pedestal of open scroll work, supporting the arms of the trade, Vulcan's¹⁰ arm and hand hammer; motto in gold,

*"By hammer and hand
All arts do stand."*

Below, the name of the trade embellished with gold ornaments in swags of laurel; a highly polished finished lock was herein likewise exhibited, with a key at entrance. Over the same a bell rung continually during the procession, and at the top a finished jack, kept likewise in motion by the wind, followed by the masters singly, then two wardens, masters, journeymen and apprentices, all with blue cockades.

Cutlers.

Two master cutlers, wearing breast-plates and drill bows in their hands, and green silk aprons, embellished with the company's arms, richly painted, bound with red ribbon.

Four journeymen with green baize aprons bound with red ribbon and the company's arms.

Four apprentices, with green baize aprons bound with red ribbon.

Confectioners.

Bacchus's cup made of sugar, richly ornamented, four feet six inches in circumference; round the goblet's edge, the inscription "*the Federal Confectioner.*" The letters of different colors; sugar plumbs in the cup; the Federal cake ornamented with preserved fruit, made and carried by Mr. [Adam] Pryor.

Stone Masons.

Flag: On the front, an elegant plan of the President (of Congress's) house,¹¹ at a distance was displayed a remote view of the Temple of Fame,¹² supported with Thirteen Pillars, ten finished and three unfinished; over the temple these words inscribed;

*"The foundation is firm, the materials are good,
Each Pillar cemented with Patriot's blood."*

Over the centre of the flag a Spread Eagle; below the temple a gentleman, and a stone mason shewing him a draught of the Temple; between the President's house and the Temple, a grove of trees and an elegant walk.

On the reverse, an elegant Figure of the Master Mason; over his head was displayed the American flag, with the Mason's coat of arms; at a distance a Mason's shop in a shade of trees, a man at work in it, at a little distance two men cutting stone; near the bottom of the flag, a man sawing marble, with a number of blocks and tools of all kinds lying around.

The order, consisting of 32, headed by Mr. George Lindsay and William M'Kinney.
Brick Layers.

Preceded by John M'Comb, 120 in number, supporting a flag representing, under the colors of the United States, a medallion of his Excellency Gen. Washington, encircled with laurel. In the centre, the bricklayers arms—motto—“*In God is all our trust.*” Over the arms in a ribbon, written, “the amicable society of bricklayers,” all in gold letters. On the lower part of the flag, a building with scaffolding and men at work, attended with laborers. The whole painted on white silk.

Painters and Glaziers Flag.

A view of a street with a number of buildings, one nearly painted, and a man in the attitude of painting, on a ladder, the front of a house, a ship, and a man painting the stern, a pillar with ten stripes circular, above the pillar the union flag, standing on a platform, supported by ten pillars, three pillars lying down underneath—in the two upper corners, two men in each at different work, painting and glazing—in the centre of the two, the arms of the painters and glaziers. Arms, or, three shields gules, on the first a hammer, proper—in the second a diamond—in the third a lederkin—on the two upper shields a rule, in the centre of the field a paint pot and brush—crest, a glass cap—supporters, on the dexter side a man holding a pillar and pencil—on the sinister, a man holding a sash frame. Motto, “*May we succeed.*” Over the two poles that supported the banner, a scrawl, surmounted of a star—this motto, “*May trade flourish and industry be rewarded.*”

Cabinet-makers.

Headed by Messrs. [Nicholas] Carmer, Rucker, and [Alexander] Anderson.

Robert Carter, bearing the arms of the profession, followed by 30 apprentices, four abreast; 20 journeymen in the same order.

Stage drawn by horses, on which, during the march, a cradle and table were compleated;—on the stage, colours fixed, representing a furniture ware-house, where the different species of their craft were displayed. Motto.—“*Unity with Fortitude.*” 16 master workmen, four and four, closed the order.

Windsor and Rush Chair-makers.

Headed by Messrs. Thomas and William Ash, of the windsor chair manufactory, and Jacob Smith and Mr. [Udrian] Dow, of the rush ditto, followed by 60 men with green and red cockades in their hats, emblematical of their business: The standard borne by two men, representing a large manufactory shop, with a number of workmen at work;—in front of the shop a view of the river, several vessels bound to different parts, taking in chairs, boys carrying them down to the wharfs; in one corner, the American Union, in the other, the chair-makers arms, a turning lath, and two windsor chairs properly emblazoned. Motto.—“*Free Trade.*”

The fed'ral states in union bound,
O'er all the world our chairs are found.

Ivory Turners, and Musical Instrument makers.

Headed by Mr. Ahasuerus Turk, and other masters of the above business, two and two. They bore a most beautiful standard, in the upper part was the figure of Apollo, (the God of Music) sitting in the clouds, playing on a lyre; round his head were brilliant rays of gold.—In a festoon, from Apollo to the corners, and down the sides, hung the different instruments of music, in the manner of trophies. Underneath Apollo was America, standing hand in hand with Europe, Asia, and Africa, emblematical of love and friendship with all the world.

Divine Apollo strikes his sacred lyre,
Our breath he fills with true federal fire;
All nature smiles on this auspicious day,
When love and friendship joins the New Æra.

Motto, "*Federal Musical Instrument Makers.*"

Drum Makers.

A flag; drum makers arms; two drums in the two corners; a sheaf of flax in the centre at top; a lamb underneath; on the left of the arms an oak tree; on the right a man leaning on the arms, representing the drum maker; motto—"Federal drum makers."

"Tho' peaceably inclin'd we are,
Let us prepare, least there be war.
Our enemies may overcome,
Should we neglect the Federal drum."

Upholsterers.

Accompanying the Federal Chair of State, a most elegant exhibition.—Each carrying a banner ornamented with fringe, painted to represent the different articles of their business. Ten of these were topped with brilliant stars, and three with stars obscured in different degrees. The Federal Chair was carried upon a handsome stage, covered with the richest carpet—over it stood a magnificent canopy, 19 feet high, overlaid with blue sattin, decorated with beautiful festoons, fringe, &c. and various emblematical figures. On the right, stood a comely lad, in the character of liberty, suitably dressed, and bearing her staff and cap, with a roll of parchment, inscribed *Federal Constitution*, 1788.—On the left, another, in the character of Justice, carrying the sword and balance. On the back of the chair, were seen two angels elevating a laurel wreath, with this motto—*The Reward of Virtue*; and on its top stood the bird sacred to Minerva.¹³ On the highest part of its beautiful canopy, stood the American eagle, with expanded wings, supported by a globe representing the United States—a variety of other emblematical circumstances might be noted, such as two watchful tygers, in a recumbant posture, intimating the necessary union of strength and prudence. On the front of the stage, a banner representing Fame, in a flying posture, carrying the Constitution, was supported by one, in the habit of a native American, but richly decorated with feathers, plumes, &c.—The motto—"May the Federal Constitution be supported by Liberty and Justice."

Lace and Fringe Weavers.

Bearing orange colors, elevated on a gilt standard, ornamented by their own manufactory, the device.—An Angel holding out a scroll with the words *Federal Constitution*; and underneath,

O never let it perish in your hands,
But piously transmit it to your children.

Paper Stainers.

A flag displayed, representing a piece of paper of a verditer blue ground, printed with a figure of Gen. Washington, with the words, "*New-York Manufacture,*" in blue letters, on a gold ground, borne by Mr. John Colles, attended by an apprentice in a coat and cap of paper laced with bordering, and others carrying decorated tools. In the centre of the flag, an oval figure, including ten golden stars, for the ten ratifying States; and on the exterior, three stars in silver, representing the States that have not acceded to the Constitution. On the borders of the flag—"*Under this Constitution we hope to flourish.*"

Civil Engineers

Carrying a design for erecting a dock for building and repairing men of war and other large vessels.

SIXTH DIVISION.

Ship Wrights Flag.

In front, a large oak tree, a ship in frame, with pieces of timber lying promiscuously. Noah's ark above, with the motto—"*The Bulwark of a Nation.*"—On the extended corner, an eye.

Black Smiths and Nailors.

A flag, with two smiths shops represented, in one, a number of men forging an anchor, in the other, men shoeing a horse and making nails. Their coat of arms, three hammers crowned; over which was seen an eagle, under, the words—"*The New Constitution.*" Between the two shops, a large anchor, motto,

"Forge me strong, finish me neat,
I soon shall moor a *Federal* fleet."

A man with his arm extended, with a hammer in it, with this motto.

"By hammer in hand
All arts do stand."

The number, 120 in order, headed by Mr. John M'Bain.

During the march, the blacksmiths exerted themselves in the federal cause. They began and almost completed, an anchor upon the stage—besides making a number of other articles, as hooks and thimbles, horse shoes, nails, &c. &c.

Ship Joiners.

A flag, with their arms; in the field various instruments of the craft displayed—crested with a ship, and ornamented. Motto,

"*Our merchants may venture to ship without fear,
For pilots of skill shall the Hamilton steer.
This federal ship will our commerce revive,
And merchants and shipwrights and joiners shall thrive.
On the ocean of time she's about to set sail,
Fair freedom her compass and concord the gale.*"

Boat Builders.

Headed by two masters. Barge rowed by proper bargemen in proper dress—flag, field—13 stars and stripes—a print of his excellency General Washington, and under him a boat a building—axe and adze, a cross and drawing knife and plane. Motto,

*“Accept great Chief that share of honor’s praise,
A grateful people to your merit pays.
Verse is too mean your virtues to display,
And words too weak our meaning to convey.”*

Block and Pump makers,

Finished a pump, turned 3 doz. sheaves and pins—made 13 blocks, sheaved and pinned complete, on the stage, during the procession.

A flag, with 13 different kinds of blocks painted in an oval form—a pump boreing in the centre. Motto, *“May our industry ever recommend us to employment under the federal government.”*—A ship off the stocks, with only her lower masts in.—Motto,

*“Block me well, my spars sheave neat,
And join me to our federal fleet.”*

Sail makers.

A stage drawn by 4 horses, on which was displayed their flag, representing the flag of the United States—directly below, the ship New-Constitution, under full sail—in the centre of the flag, col. Hamilton, the new constitution in his right hand, and the confederation¹⁴ in his left—Fame with a trumpet and laurels to crown him: under, this motto,

*“Let steadiness our steps pursue,
May justice be our guide—
The federal plan we keep in view,
We fall if we divide.”*

Below this on the left, the inside of a sail loft—the master workmen cutting out sails, with men at work. On the right of this, a view of a river, a ship at anchor, representing commerce—a boat taking in sails to carry on board—the out-side of a sail loft, at which men are reefing sails. During the procession, was finished on the stage, a ship’s fore topmast stay-sail, a steering sail cut out, on which was sewed about 56 yards, which was performed by four men in white shirts and trowsers, their sleeves tied up with blue ribbon. The remainder of the branch (37 in number) followed the stage—carrying in their hands yard and measure lines, &c. &c.—the boys dressed in canvas vest and trowsers, a blue sash tied round their waists, and a pine branch in their hats, with blue ribbons—in the branch ten stars, in honor of the 10 states that have adopted the constitution. Headed by Mr. Geo. Warner.

Riggers.

The whole number 41, with blue ribbands in their hats, two drummers and fifers, a flag with thirteen stripes and thirteen stars, and a ship just from the carpenters, with men heaving her foremast in with the windlass, and a rigging loft on the wharf with seven men at work; three of them serving a rope; one with a bowl of punch, drinking success to the New Constitution. A cartman with a cart load of rope at the loft door. Fame with a trumpet, sounding *Federal Riggers*; the motto,

*“Fit me well and rig me neat,
And join me to the Federal Fleet.”*

On the other side, a ship almost finished, with men at work aloft; likewise, a rigging loft with men at work. A cartman taking out a gang of rigging from the loft; the motto,

*“Now I am rigg’d both neat and strong,
And joined to the Federal Throng.”*

The standard borne by Mr. Richard Clark.

SEVENTH DIVISION.
FEDERAL [ship woodcut] SHIP
HAMILTON,

A frigate of thirty-two guns, twenty-seven feet keel, and ten feet beam, with galleries and every thing complete and in proportion, both in hull and rigging; manned with upwards of thirty seamen and marines, in their different uniforms;

Commanded by Commodore Nicholson,
and drawn by ten horses.

At the hour appointed for the procession to move, thirteen guns were fired from the ship, as a signal for marching. She then got under way, with her top-sails a-trip, and courses in the brails, proceeding in the centre of the procession. When abreast of Beaver-street, she made the proper signal for a pilot, by hoisting a jack at the fore top-mast head, and firing a gun. The pilot-boat appearing upon her weather quarter, the frigate threw her main top-sail to the mast; the boat hailed, and asked the necessary questions; the pilot was received aboard, and the boat dismissed. The frigate then filled and moved abreast of the fort, where the crew discovered the President and Members of Congress.¹⁵ She immediately brought to, and fired a salute of thirteen guns, which was followed by three cheers, and politely answered by the gentlemen of Congress. The procession then moved; when the ship came opposite to Mr. Constable’s, the crew discovered at the window Mrs. Edgar, who had generously honored the ship with the present of a suit of silk colors; immediately they manned ship and gave three cheers. When she arrived abreast of the Old Slip, she was saluted by thirteen guns from his Most Catholic Majesty’s Packet, then in the harbor, which was politely returned.¹⁶ She then made sail, and proceeded thro’ Queen-street to the fields, when squalls came on, and the wind ahead, she beat to windward by short tacks, in which the pilot displayed his skill in navigation, heaving the lead, getting ready for stays, putting the helm a-lee, by bracing and counter-bracing the yards, &c. In the fields, she had to descend several hills, in rising which she afforded a delightful prospect to the spectators, her top-sails appearing first, and then her hull, in imitation of a ship at sea; exhibiting an appearance beyond description splendid and majestic. When she arrived at her station abreast of the dining tables, she clued up her top-sails and came to, in close order with the rest of the procession, the officers going ashore to dine. At four o’clock she gave the signal for marching, by a discharge of thirteen guns, when the procession moved by the lower road. The manner in which the ship made her passage thro’ the narrow parts of the road, was highly interesting and satisfactory, being obliged to run under her fore-top sail, in a squall, and keep in the line of procession; this was accomplished with great hazard, by the good conduct of the commander and the assiduity of the seamen and pilot; she arrived at her moorings abreast of the Bowling-Green at half past five,

amidst the acclamations of thousands; and the different orders in procession, as soon as they were dismissed, honored her with three cheers, as a mark of approbation for the good conduct of the Commodore and his crew.

Pilot Boat.

Eighteen feet in length, and four feet in breadth, commanded by Mr. Edward Wilkinson, with four lads;—embellished with two flags, representing the light-house, High-lands, Staten-Island and the sea—ships going in and out, the pilot boats attending them:—drawn on a waggon by two horses.

Pilots.

Marine Society.

President [James Farquhar] with a gold anchor at his left breast, suspended by a blue ribbon, and two Vice-Presidents [Augustine Lawrence and Paschal N. Smith].

Treasurer [William Heyer], Secretary [William Newton] and Attorney.

Standard-bearer with a white silk flag, representing a ship cast on shore; a dead body floating near her; a woman and children in great distress, lamenting the sad catastrophe, are consoled by HOPE, leaning with one hand on a large anchor, and pointing with the other to CHARITY, who holds a chart inscribed, *New-York Marine Society*; in the upper part, handsomely ornamented, is written, *Marine Society, State of New-York*; in the lower, in gold letters, the Society's motto, "*To Charity add Knowledge.*"

Former officers.

Standing committee.

Society and strangers, masters of vessels, four a-breast.

Printers, Book-Binders and Stationers.

Preceded by Messrs. Hugh Gainé and Samuel Loudon, on horseback.

The Standard, supported by Messrs. [George] Carroll and Bryce.

A stage, drawn by four horses. Upon the stage the *Federal Printing-Press*, complete; cases, and other typographical implements, with pressmen and compositors at work—During the procession, many hundred copies of a Song, and an Ode, adapted to the occasion, were struck off, and distributed by Mr. A. M'Lean among the multitude.

A small flag on the top of the press, on which was inscribed the word "*Publius*"¹⁷ in gold letters.

Mr. John Loudon, representing a herald mounted on the back of the *Federal Printing-Press*, dressed in a flowing robe, and a cap, on which were written the words, "*The Liberty of the Press*;" with a brazen trumpet in the right hand, proclaiming "*The epocha of Liberty and Justice*," the words "*Epocha of Liberty and Justice*" pending from the mouth of the trumpet. In the left hand, a parchment scroll representing the New Constitution.

The Master Printers, Booksellers and Bookbinders, with their Journeymen and Apprentices, four a-breast, following the stage.

Description of the Standard.

Fame blowing her trumpet, and supporting the medallion of His Excellency Doctor Franklin, the venerable Printer; Liberty attending, holding her cap over his head—the electric fluid darting

from below. On the upper corners, the Union flag, and Stationers' Arms; and below, the Bible, and Federal Constitution, representing the religious and civil Constitution of our country.

Mottos.

1st. *Ars Artium omnium conservatrix.*¹⁸

2d. May the Liberty of the Press be inviolably preserved as the *Palladium* of the Constitution, and the Centinel of Freedom.¹⁹

And surrounding the Medallion of His Excellency Dr. Franklin, the following words—
“Where Liberty dwells, there is my Country.[”]

EIGHTH DIVISION.

Cartmen.

A cart painted red, with the words “*Federal Cart,*” in white letters—ornamented with green boughs, and drawn by an elegant bright bay horse, neatly caparisoned, and “*Union*” inscribed under each ear; driven by Mr. Edward Fowler, dressed in a white frock and overalls, with a blue sash and white bow.

On the cart was erected a standard, with a broad flag, one side representing Murray's wharf, Stewart and Jones' store, and three vessels discharging and taking in cargoes—carts passing and repassing—the harbor, a view of Long-Island—the rising sun—a vessel under sail, named the “*Federal Ship Hamilton*”; and a coat of arms. Motto, “*By this we live,*” in yellow letters. On the reverse, Jones' wharf and store houses, with a view of the river,—Long-Island—horses and carts—the rising sun—the federal ship; over which on both sides were these lines,

*“Behold the federal ship of fame,
The Hamilton we call her name;
To every craft she gives employ,
Sure Cartmen have their share of joy.”*

Followed by 300 cartmen, each wearing a laurel in his hat, and conducted by T. Amerman, A. Mattiny, J. Demeroy, and W. Furman.

Horse Doctors.

Walter Gibbons, Horse Doctor, dressed in an elegant half shirt with a painted horse on his breast; a balling iron in the horse's mouth, and the doctor putting a ball of physic down his throat, with implements of farierry ready for use. Over the horse, written Federal horse doctor, at bottom physic. On his back a horse skeleton, the doctor examining the head; over his head, *Federal Horse Doctor*, at bottom dissection.

Mathematical Instrument makers.

In an oval compartment, encircled with ten stars, a Hadley's Quadrant, Telescope, Azimuth Compass and Time Glass, with suitable decorations. Motto, “*Trade and Navigation.*” Supported by Thomas Biggs.

Carvers and Engravers.

The Carvers and Engravers (united) were led by Messrs. Richard Davis and Peter Maverick; the banner supported by R. B. Davis.

On the banner, which was of silk bordered with an elegant fringe of American manufacture, were displayed the arms of the United States, viz. a chief, azure, on 13 pieces argent and gules. In the centre was placed an escutcheon parted proper, pale. Argent a Chevron, Or, between two

Gravers in chief proper, a copper-plate on a sand bag in base proper, for Engravers. Argent a Mallet and Gouge proper, for Carvers. Motto, "*Arte & Labore.*"²⁰ This banner was suspended by the two upper ends to a gilt staff, which was crowned by a circle (two feet diameter) of thirteen stars, ten of which were gilt, three ungilt; in the centre the American eagle soaring. On a carved ribband, between the banner and the stars, this motto, "*Nous brillerons tous bientot.*"²¹

Coach and Coach Harness makers.

A stage in front, drawn by ten black horses, three postillions, dressed in yellow, and jockey caps trimmed yellow. Four workmen on the stage at work, in the different branches. The flag extended on the stage, representing a coach maker's shop, with doors open, hands at work; a coach finished. At the door, a vessel lying at a wharf, taking aboard carriages for exportation. Over the shop, the union flag; over the ship, the nine federal members from this County. In the centre, the coach and coach harness makers arms, on a blue field, three golden coaches, supported by Liberty, on one side, holding in her left hand the cap of Liberty—on the other side, by peace, holding in her right hand a cornucopia of plenty—Fame blowing her trumpet over their heads.—Motto—"The Federal Star shall guide our Car."—A genteel green monument, supported by ten pillars, with an union in centre, Crest on the top of the arms, an eagle, soaring from a globe.

Copper Smiths.

Headed by Messrs. Asher Myers and Charles White. A standard, emblematical of the branch.—Motto—"May the labor of the industrious be crowned with success."

Founders Colours.

Furnace, sand trough, two pillars, an urn, cannon, 2 moulds. Motto—"May the Founders through principles of Amity, agree in Unity."

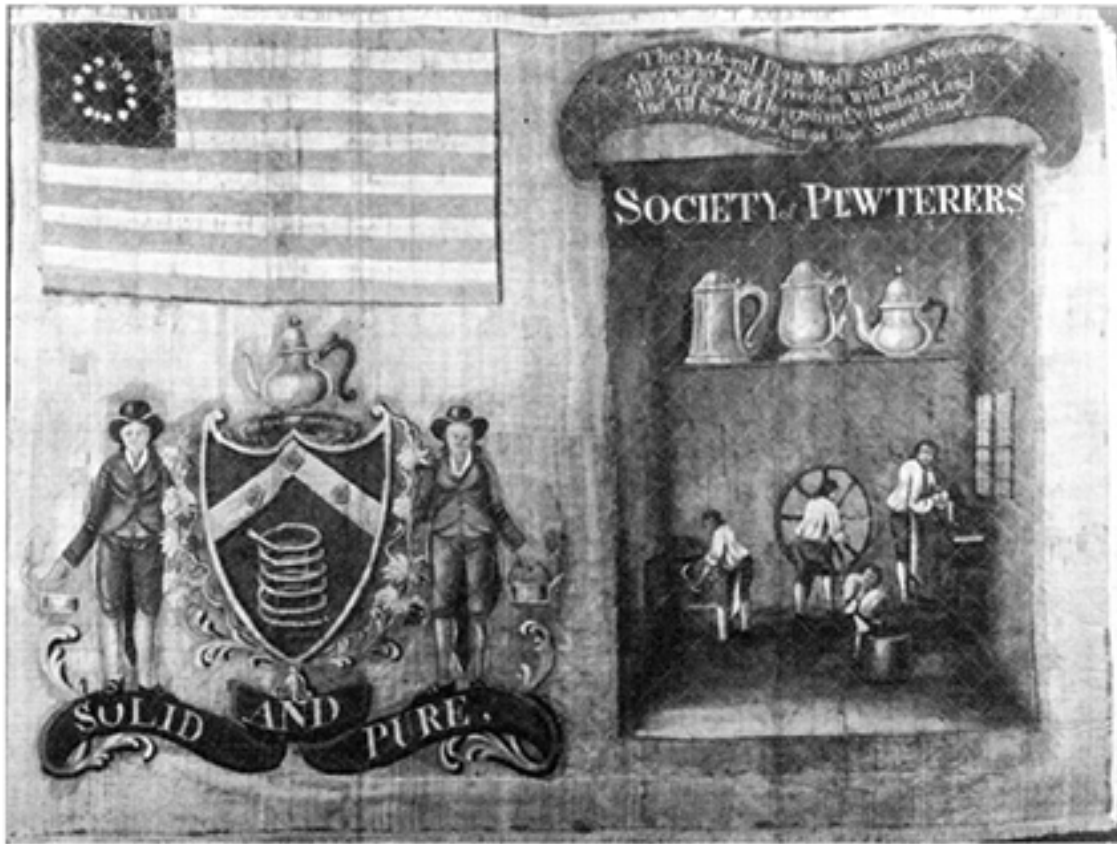
Tin Plate Workers.

Headed by Messrs. [Samuel] Kempton, [William] Hardenbrook and other masters, followed by their journeymen and apprentices, with white cockades, emblematical of their business; their standard borne by two of the profession, exhibiting a square; on one side, *the Federal Tin Manufactory*; on the other, *the Federal Tin Warehouse*; in the square are raised ten pillars, with lamps to each lighted; three more were gradually raising, the lamps half lighted, emblematical of the ten States that have adopted the Constitution, and the three that have not; on each of the ten pillars is a different article of tin manufactory; in front is a view of the river; the Federal man of war appears, and shews the poop lantern; at a great distance appears a light house and a ship in the offing. The ship of war shews the Federal flag of ten stripes. On the manufactory are inscribed, the words, *Federal Constitution*; and

*"When three more Pillars rise,
Our Union will the world surprise."*

Pewterers.

Bearing an orange colored silk flag, on which was elegantly painted, the United States colors; underneath which, the Pewterers arms, supported by two miners, holding burning lamps in their hands; motto, "*Solid and pure*" in gold letters; on the front part of the flag, the words, *Society of Pewterers*, with the representation of a pewterers workshop, in which the different branches were at work, and some of their work finished. Above this were the following lines, viz.



Flag of the Society of Pewterers carried in the Federal Procession.
Silk and paint. Accession No. 1903.12. Collection of The New-York Historical Society.

*“The Federal plan most solid and secure,
Americans their freedom will ensure;
All arts shall flourish in Columbia’s land,
And all her Sons join as one social band.”*

Gold and Silver Smiths.

A gold Federal Eagle on the top of the standard. The Goldsmiths emblematical arms on white silk emblazoned, the crest representing justice sitting on a helmet, holding in one hand the balance, in the other the touch stone; the arms supported by two savages, the field quarterly, or, two eagles heads erass’d azure, two cups inverted between two gold buckles; the motto,

“Justice is the Queen of Virtues.”

The supporters resting on a globe representing the United States, Standard supported by the four senior gold smiths, followed by twenty-five.

Potters.

A flag, on which were represented specimens of stone and earthenware. A stone ware kiln in full flame, with different parts of both branches.—A stage drawn by two horses—three hands at work, turning a number of vessels of different forms.—Motto on the flag.—*“The Potter hath power over the clay.”*

The Chocolate Makers Device.

The old Constitution,²² represented by the naked body of a man, denoting Congress without power, with 13 heads, looking different ways, shewing the clashing interest of the States in Union, with these lines,

“When each head thus directing,
The body naught pursues;
But when in one uniting,
Then energy ensues.”

The ten men well dressed, representing the ten states, supporting the head of a man, representing the New Constitution united in a Federal Head.

Across the loins of the naked man, in a circle, a scroll from the right hand to the left, pointing with the forefinger to a rising sun and the federal head, with these lines in it.

“In all creation my like is not,
Adopt the New and let me be forgot.
Behold how beams yon bright and rising sun,
O, happy *Æra!* tyranny is fled;
Since federal government is now begun,
United in one presidential head.”

On the pedestal on which it stands are these words, *The Old Constitution*. Beneath a hand chocolate mill, with two men grinding chocolate.

On the opposite side of the flag, 13 stripes, representing that no alteration can dissolve the federal compact, entered into by the first Congress, when they declared independence.

Tobacconists.

Headed by Mr. Dennis M'Ready, displaying a white silk flag, on which was elegantly painted and gilt, (encompassed by thirteen tobacco plants) their arms, on a superb shield.—Motto.—“*Let Brotherly Love continue.* [”]—Their flag was preceded by 13 boys, dressed in white, with blue ribbons, each carrying a hand of tobacco with eleven leaves, bound close together. Then followed the masters and journeymen, to the number of forty-five.

Dyers.

Headed by John Morrison, Robert Dodds. Journeymen, apprentices, arms, three madder bags; motto—

“*Give Glory to God.*”

Brush Makers.

Headed by Messrs. [Cornelius] Cooper and Watson, carrying a white flag, decorated with ribbands, representing the brush makers arms; motto—

“May love and unity support our trade,
And keep out those who would our rights invade.”

Joined by journeymen and apprentices, each wearing their aprons, and carrying upright, a large brush, called a Turk's head, on staffs twelve feet long.

Tallow Chandlers.

A flag with thirteen stripes—Under these the figure of Gen. Washington, with these words placed over him; “THE ILLUSTRIOUS WASHINGTON, may he be the first President of the United States.” At the opposite end was placed the figure of “col. *Hamilton.*” Between the two, the coat

of arms of the branch, over which were placed thirteen candles, with the name of the state each represents—those representing the ratifying states were all burning, and united in one common flame. At the top of the flag, New-York and North-Carolina were lighted, but not joining the rest.

Sadlers, Harness and Whip Makers.

Sadlers, to the number of 24.—Mr. J[ohn] Young, Mr. Henry Broadwell, (and Mr. J. Amory, the principal whip maker.)

Then followed their emblematical figure of their profession, an elegant horse, decked with a burr hunter saddle and rich scarlet furniture, with broad gold lace round the whole, and ornamented with embroidered tassels, making a very brilliant appearance: the bridle was grand, and displayed much taste in the ornaments.

The horse was led by a groom, dressed in character, carrying an elegant whip, and attended by two black boys, as hostlers.

The other masters and journeymen following in the rear.

NINTH DIVISION.

The Gentlemen of the Bar in their robes, two and two, preceded by the sheriff [Robert Boyd] and coroner [Ephraim Brasher].

In the centre of their body, the constitution of the United States, elegantly engrossed on vellum, and decorated with ribbon, emblematical of the union, was borne by John Lawrence, Esq. counsellor at law, supported by John Cozine, and Robert Troup, Esqrs. counsellors at law.

Ten students at law followed, singly, bearing in order the ratifications of the constitution by the several states as they came into the union. The rest two and two.

The Philological Society.²³

The secretary, bearing a scroll, containing the principles of a *Federal Language*.

Vice-president and librarian—the latter carrying Mr. Horne Tooke's treatise on language; as a mark of respect for the Book which contains a new discovery, and as a mark of respect for the author, whose zeal for the American cause, during the late war, subjected him to a prosecution.²⁴

Josiah Ogden Hoffman, Esq. the president of the society, with a sash of white and blue ribbons—The standard bearer, Mr. William Dunlap, with the arms of the society, viz.—Argent, three tongues, gules, in chief; emblematical of *language*; the improvement of which is the object of the institution. Chevron, or; indicating firmness and support—an *eye*, emblematical of *discernment* over a pyramid, or rude monument, sculptured with Gothic, Hebrew, and Greek letters. The Gothic on the *light* side, indicating the *obvious* origin of the American language from the Gothic—The Hebrew and Greek, upon the reverse or *shade*, of the monument, expressing the remoteness and *obscurity* of the connection between those languages and the modern. The *crest*, a cluster of cohering magnets, attracted by a key in the centre;—emblematic of *union* among the members of the society, in acquiring *language*, the *key* of knowledge; and clinging to their *native* tongue, in preference to a *foreign* one. The *shield*, ornamented with a branch of the oak, from which is collected the *gall*, used in making ink—and a sprig of *flax*, from which *paper* is made; supported on the dexter side, by CADMUS,²⁵ in a robe of Tyrian purple, bearing in his right hand, leaves of the rush or flag, *papyrus*, marked with Phœnician characters; representing the introduction of letters into Greece, and the origin of writing. On the sinister side, by Hermes, or

Taaut, the inventor of letters, and god of eloquence, grasping his caduceus or wand.²⁶ Motto—*Concedat Laurea Linguae*²⁷—expressive of the superiority of *civil* over *military* honors. The flag, embellished with the Genius of America, crowned with a wreath of 13 purple plumes, ten of them starred, representing the ten States which have ratified the Constitution.—Her right hand pointing to the Philological Society, and in her left, a standard, with a pendant, inscribed with the word, CONSTITUTION. The members of the society in order, clothed in black.

[Columbia] University.

A flag, emblematic of science. Motto, “*Science and liberty mutually support and adorn each other.*”

Supported by a standard bearer, preceding two large globes. The president and professors in their academical habits, followed by the students, bearing different kinds of mathematical and astronomical instruments: after these moved the medical students, and the instructors of schools.

Merchants and Traders.

The merchants and traders were preceded by John Broome, Esq. President of the Chamber of Commerce, and William Maxwell, Esq. Vice-President of the Bank, in a chariot, together with William Laight, Esq. Secretary to the Chamber, on horseback, bearing a standard with an oval field, surrounded by 13 stars. The field, a Mercury,²⁸ standing on the shore, holding in his hand the arms of the city, surrounded by the emblems of commerce; motto—“*Non nobis nati solum*”—Not born for ourselves alone. The spear terminating in an American Eagle gilt, bearing on his breast the arms of the United States, proper.

TENTH DIVISION.

Physicians, Strangers and Gentlemen.

Porters.

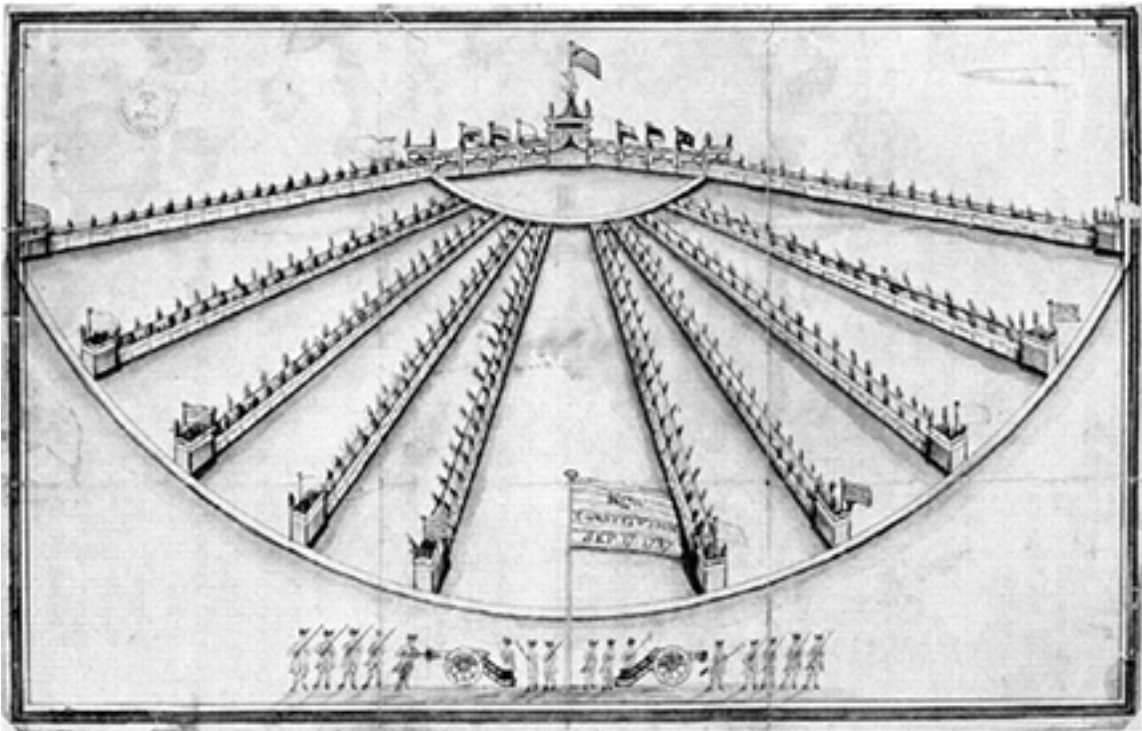
A blue flag, with 13 stripes, on one of which was inscribed, “*September 17, 1787,*” thirteen stars on the field, on a standard supported by two porters with the words “*ten to three, we carry it.*” Under the stripes, “*Stands, we stand—falls, we fall.*”

Artillery and Field Piece.

The line of procession, containing nearly 5000 people, extended upwards of a mile and a half. The march was slow and majestic, and the general appearance of the scene as far surpassed every one’s expectation, as mere description must fall short of it. While numberless crowds were pressing on every side, the doors and windows of houses were thronged by the fair daughters of Columbia, whose animated smiles and satisfaction contributed not a little to complete the general joy.

As this splendid, novel and interesting exhibition moved along, an unexpected silence reigned throughout the city, which gave a solemnity to the whole transaction suited to the singular importance of its cause. No noise was heard but the deep rumbling of carriage wheels, with the necessary salutes and signals. A glad serenity enlivened every countenance, while the joyous expectation of national prosperity triumphed in every bosom.

The whole body having arrived at Bayard’s house, was disposed in a line and reviewed; after which the various insignia of the procession being left upon the fields, the citizens were conducted to their several dining tables. Here they were honored by the company of Congress, of many foreigners of distinction, and the patriotic and respectable clergy of this city.



Federal Banquet Pavillion by David Grim.

Watercolor on paper. Accession No. 1864.17. Collection of The New-York Historical Society.

The two principal sides of the building provided for this entertainment, consisted of three large pavillions, connected by a colonnade of about one hundred and fifty feet front, and forming two sides of an obtuse angle; the middle pavillion majestically rising above the whole terminated with a dome, on the top of which was a figure of Fame with her trumpet, proclaiming a *New Æra*, and holding in her left hand the standard of the United States, and a roll of parchment, on which was inscribed in large characters, the three remarkable epochas of the late war; *Independence, Alliance with France, Peace*. At her side was the American Eagle, with wings extended, resting on a crown of laurel placed on the top of the pedestal.

Over six of the principal pillars of this colonnade were placed small escutcheons, inscribed with the cyphers of the several powers in alliance with the United States, viz. *France, Spain, Sweden, Prussia, Holland, Morocco* and over these were displayed the colors of these respective nations, which added greatly to the brilliancy of the entablature, already beautifully decorated with festoons and branches of laurel. The extremities of this angle were joined by a table forming part of a circle, and from this ten more colonnades were extended, each 440 feet in length as the rays of a circle, the whole having one common centre, viz. the centre of the middle pavillion, where sat *the President of Congress*. At the extremity of each colonnade, was a pavillion nearly similar to the three before mentioned, having their outside terminated in a pediment crowned with escutcheons, on which was inscribed the names of the ten States which had then ratified the Constitution. The whole of the colonnades were adorned with curtains elegantly folded, and with wreaths and festoons of laurel every where interspersed.

In the Area contained within the angle first described, was placed the music, but so disposed as not to intercept the prospect from the seat of the president, thro' the whole length of the ten colonnades above-mentioned. This noble and beautiful edifice, erected in less than five days, covered a surface of ground of 880 feet by 600, and was calculated to accommodate six thousand persons.

The taste and genius of Major L'Enfant (so often displayed on other public occasions) and to whom the city is indebted for the design and execution, appeared in the present instance, to have derived additional brilliancy from the dignity of the object, on which it was employed.

Dinner being ended, the following toasts were drank:—

1. The United States.
2. The States which have ratified the New Constitution.
3. The Convention of the State of New-York; may they soon add an eleventh pillar to the Federal Edifice.
4. General WASHINGTON.
5. His Most Christian Majesty.²⁹
6. His Catholic Majesty.³⁰
7. The States General of the United Netherlands.
8. The friendly powers in Europe.
9. The patriotic framers of the present national Constitution.
10. The memory of those heroes who have fallen in defence of American Liberty.
11. Success to agriculture, manufactures and the sciences.
12. May trade and navigation flourish.
13. The DAY; may the Union of the States be perpetual.

After each of which, ten cannon were fired; and

In order to diffuse the joy to all classes of citizens, an ample proportion of the entertainment was detached to the prisoners in goal.

The repast ended, the procession returned in the same manner, to its place of setting out; and the citizens were dismissed by half past 5 o'clock.

In the transactions of this day, a variety of circumstances might be noted, upon which the reflections of the patriot, the politician, or the philosopher might dwell with pleasure.—A procession inexpressibly magnificent—formed not to gratify the pride or ambition of an individual—but to manifest to the world, the attachment of a people to a government, calculated to secure and perpetuate their civil and religious liberties.—The mutual confidence and joy of the various orders of the community—all narrow and bigotted distinctions lost, and absorbed in that noblest of all passions, “the love of country.”—The glorious hope—the emulous and patriotic zeal—the dignified and unsullied harmony of the day:—And it may be added the uninstructed ingenuity of the American mechanic, unfolding itself in the invention of his emblems and motto.

But what most excited surprize, in persons unacquainted with the character of American yeomanry, was, to see a numberless multitude, in view of a tempting collation, not only adhering to every rule of decorum, unawed by a single bayonet or espartoon.—But tho' under the influence of public passions, verging to enthusiasm, peaceably, at an early hour, retiring without a single instance of rudeness or intemperance.

To conclude this account of a transaction, which will long be remembered, and which reflects infinite honor upon the mild genius of our governments, and the inhabitants of this City. Instead of the trophies of war, and of captives in chains, which graced the triumphs of antiquity, we here beheld the plough, the ship and all the implements of useful arts. The wreath of martial glory was exchanged for the garland of peace; and instead of the painful sensations, which in a humane and liberal mind, would be excited by the triumphal entry of a conqueror, reeking from the blood and slaughter of thousands of his fellow men, the hearts of all the spectators anticipated with rapture the return of concord, of public and private justice, of individual happiness and national glory; the constant attendants of a wise, free and efficient system of government.

By order of the Committee of Arrangements,
RICHARD PLATT, Chairman.

1. William Alexander Duer claimed that Captain Moore “was selected for the part [of Christopher Columbus] from the striking resemblance he bore to the portraits of the Great Navigator.”
2. Latin: O successful, fortunate, or happy farmer.
3. Rhode Island had not called a convention to consider the Constitution. At the time of the procession the conventions of New York and North Carolina were still in session.
4. Mayor James Duane was attending the New York Convention in Poughkeepsie as a delegate.
5. The Articles of Confederation.
6. Silenus was foster father, teacher, and companion to Bacchus, the god of wine.
7. St. Crispin, the patron saint of shoemakers or cordwainers. St. Tammany refers to the seventeenth-century Delaware Indian chief known for his friendliness toward white men and thus humorously referred to as the patron saint of America.
8. Probably a reference to New York and North Carolina, whose conventions were meeting at the time of the procession but who had not yet ratified the Constitution. Rhode Island had not called a convention.
9. Latin: Blossoming or flourishing America.
10. Vulcan, god of fire and metalworking.
11. Cyrus Griffin of Virginia was the President of Congress.
12. The notion of a temple of fame was in the consciousness of eighteenth-century Americans since it had been a favorite topic (along with the concept of fame) of authors since the Renaissance. In 1715 Alexander Pope, taking advantage of the popularity of these concepts, published in London an allegorical poem entitled *The Temple of Fame: A Vision*. Pope peopled his temple with such accomplished, erudite, and heroic ancients as Homer, Virgil, and Cicero, all much admired figures in eighteenth-century America.
13. The favorite bird of Minerva, the goddess of wisdom, was the owl.
14. The Articles of Confederation.
15. Three days after the procession Hugh Williamson, a North Carolina delegate to the Confederation Congress, noted that the delegates from Congress viewed the procession and that they dined with the marchers. The North Carolina delegates, however, “staid at Home. We conceived it was a Respect we owed the State not to celebrate an Event in our public Characters which the State we represent has not hitherto sanctioned by her approbation.”
16. A reference to the Spanish frigate-packet *Pinzon*.
17. A reference to the pseudonym used by the authors of *The Federalist*.
18. Latin: The art (i.e., printing) preservative of all arts.
19. “Ubi libertas ibi patria,” the Latin for the motto, was often used instead of the English.
20. Latin: Art and Labor.
21. French: We will all sparkle before long.
22. The Articles of Confederation.
23. Noah Webster, the principal author of this description of the procession, was a member of this society and marched in this division.
24. John Horne Tooke (1736–1812), an English politician and philologist, supported (for a time) English radical John Wilkes, in the latter’s fight against royal authority. Tooke founded the “Society of Supporters of the Bill of

Rights” and the “Constitutional Society.” During the American Revolution, he was fined and imprisoned for printing a resolution to raise a subscription for the American colonists. His reputation as a philologist was established when in 1786 he published the first part of *Epea Pteroenta*, or, *The Diversions of Purley*, which theorized that Saxon was the source of English.

25. In classical mythology, Cadmus was a Phoenician prince who introduced writing to the Greeks.

26. Taaut was the Phoenician god of letters, the inventor of the alphabet. His Greek equivalent was Hermes (Roman Mercury). The caduceus is a staff with two snakes wrapped around it carried by Hermes.

27. Latin: concede to language the laurel crown.

28. The ancient Roman god, who among other things, was the god of commerce.

29. The King of France, Louis XVI.

30. The King of Spain, Charles III.

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. XXI: New York [3] (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2005), 1630–61.