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and Songs

New York Journal, 28 June 1788

A SONG.

What means their wisdoms roving to Poughkeepsie,
Their heads with politics are surely tipsey!
Why to the Druids ancient haunts be trotting,
Where naught but acorns on the ground lie rotting?
The oracles long since have left their oaks,
And minded now no more than pigs in pokes,
And laugh'd to scorn by every John a Nokes;¹
Unmask your faces then, and one and all
Sing *falderal* and *anti-falderal*.

CHORUS.

Federal, falderal, federalist,
Your thumb to your mouth, and your nose to your fist,
Federal, falderal, federal tit,
Beware of the dainty, the savory bit,
Keep fast all behind or you're surely b—t
Sing falderal, federal, anti's and yeomen,
Beware of the snare as you're truemen and freemen,
Federal, falderal, fiddle de day,
Falderal tit, and tit falderay.

1. "John-a-Nokes" was a fictitious name for one of the parties in a legal action, hence sometimes used indefinitely for any individual person. It was also used as a term for a simpleton.

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), 1233–34.