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Constitution as an Instrument of National Salvation

## A Connecticut Farmer *Connecticut Courant*, 28 January 1788

I am a man of a considerable landed property. During the whole war, I have paid as large rates as almost any man. None have paid more cheerfully or punctually; and, though I believe taxes have not been so equally laid as they might have been, and through the delinquency of others I have frequently paid mine twice over, yet have never murmured. I have done everything in the power of my might to push on the late war to a happy conclusion, and happy was I to see it close with the prospect of so great advantages to these United States. I therefore may claim the appellation of a patriot; however, I have lamented the want of an efficient federal government which many among us, under the pretense of patriotism, have done all in their power to prevent. Where such were men of sense and influence, the mischief they have done is too great for them ever to atone, and for such still to persist in their opposition is unpardonable; and I am persuaded the honest and unlearned in politics among the yeomanry never will forgive them, for now their eyes are opened and they see every man clearly. The wonderful interpositions of Divine Providence in our favor from our first opposition to Great Britain are too numerous to be reckoned up; but appears to me the hand of God was as visible in our behalf as it was in bringing the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt through the Red Sea and wilderness into Canaan; and though for our sins, our murmuring and opposition to government, etc., God has punished us in some degree as He did them, yet He has not left us nor Himself without a witness that He is still our God and will protect and finally deliver us from unreasonable and wicked men, and make of us a great and happy nation. We are greatly indebted to those true and worthy patriots who have been our constant guard and guide, in Congress and out, by their exertions to enlighten us by their writings, to guard us against the stratagems designed to ensnare us by false or pretended patriots. How much do we owe, under God, to the late worthy Federal Convention composed of the greatest and most virtuous characters of the United States? And how manifest is it that God was in the midst of them, which appears by their wonderful unanimity—so that (I am told) there was but three dissenting voices among them. Surely, He who has the hearts of all in His hands and can turn them as the rivers of water are turned did fashion their hearts alike. But when we come nearer home and consider our state Convention, composed of the greatest characters for wisdom, virtue, and piety among us, and the candor with which they treated each other, and their final determination, for so great a majority of more than three-fourths for ratifying the Federal Convention, I am convinced this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes. By the list we received in the papers of the yeas and nays, that is, for and against ratifying the doings of the Federal Convention, it stands nearly or quite thus: for ratifying were two governors, one

lieutenant governor, six assistants, four of the honorable judges of the Superior Court, two ministers of the Gospel, eight generals, eighteen colonels, seven majors, thirteen captains, the rest to the number of sixty-seven were composed of judges of the county courts, justices of the peace, and gentlemen in private character, their additions not being given in the printed list.

Against ratifying were one assistant, two generals, four colonels, one major, three captains, one lieutenant, and to the number of twenty-nine composed of judges of the county, justices of the peace, and private characters as aforesaid. Now, after all this, if any are so weak or wicked, ignorant or obstinate, as still to resist, oppose, or try to delude others, all that I shall say, they shall have my pity and prayers, but never my vote for any public office whatever if I know them, because they will in my humble opinion be found to fight even against God. Too much praise cannot be given to our great and good men in our late state Convention, who took so much pains to convince the unconvinced and to withstand gainsayers. Their speeches are equal to any of the Roman senators and will deserve as famous a place in modern history as theirs did among the ancients. And the gentleman who has lately so much enlightened our minds with nine numbers under the signature of Landholder merits greatly of all good men. I render him hearty and public thanks, and should be happy in an acquaintance and correspondence with him. Why one of the honorable judges of the Superior Court, whose patriotism is equal to the rest, was not named on either side, as we hear he was delegated, the public are at a loss and wish to be informed.<sup>(a)</sup> I am, Messieurs printers, yours and the public's real friend and humble servant.

(a) *The honorable gentleman* [William Pitkin of East Hartford] *alluded to in the close of the foregoing piece was confined by sickness and not able to take his seat in the Convention.*

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