



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

csac.history.wisc.edu > Document Collections > The Creation and Ratification of the Bill of Rights > Serial Essays Related to the Creation and Ratification of the Bill of Rights > Essays by “Solon”

Solon

Boston *Independent Chronicle*, 28 August 1788

Mess^{rs} ADAMS & NOURSE,

Please to give the following a place in your very useful paper.

To the respectable FREEMEN of the United States of America.

Fellow Countrymen and Citizens, Animated by those noble principles of *virtuous freedom*, which are the dignity of human nature, you spurned the idea of dependence and vassalage, asserted your rights, and, under the smiles of Heaven, to the wonder of an admiring world, established your *independence* and sovereignty.

Actuated by sentiments of wisdom, and fore-sight, you have generally adopted a Federal Constitution, which is ere long to be put in practice—and to an eye of reason, promises, if well administered, to *confirm* your independence and sovereignty—to render you prosperous and happy at home, and respected abroad. But it has been, and still is the opinion of many, that *certain amendments* are absolutely necessary to render the Constitution still more perfect, and to secure to you, and your posterity, under every administration, the blessings of that liberty, you have so dearly purchased, and which it is the duty of enlightened freemen ever to provide. These considerations have induced me to address you at this time, and with all deference to interest, that you do not loose sight of the important object so highly interesting to yourselves and posterity. The amendments which have been proposed by the different State Conventions, are not local, they equally concern all the States; but whether all that have been mentioned are absolutely necessary, is not for me to determine: But in some of them, there is such a general concurrence, that but little, if any doubt can remain of their eligibility. It is not improbable that there will be found some who do not wish for *any* amendments; or that any further *checks* should be provided, than are at present in the Constitution; but I assure myself, that a large majority of you think otherwise, and that you will not be diverted from proper and necessary endeavours to obtain the object, by any animadversion, cant, or ridicule, that may be thrown out on the subject; it is to be observed, that this is already beginning to discover itself.—The circular letter from the Convention of New-York, has had the epithets of *impertinent* and *impudent*, bestowed upon it, and probably more will be advanced, as the time draws near. If amendments are necessary, they *claim* an *early consideration*, and measures for the purpose merit your *first* attention. Will it be improper to hint, that in the choice of *Senators* and *Representatives*, this object among others naturally presents itself to your consideration, and that such *instructions* as may be necessary, be *seasonably*

prepared; you have hitherto been the peculiar care of a kind Providence, may you, and your posterity after you, be a name and a praise among the nations of the earth, is the ardent wish of
SOLON.

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. XXXIX: Bill of Rights [3] (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2023), 154–55.