

CHAINS

CHAIN OF CONNECTION WITH THE PEOPLE

When you examine all its parts, they will invariably be found to preserve that essential mark of free governments—a chain of connection with the people.

James Wilson, Speech in the Pa. Convention
11 December 1787 (RCS PA., 580)

CHAIN OF CONNEXION

State representation and government is the very basis of the congressional power proposed. This is the most valuable link in the chain of connexion, and affords double security for the rights of the people.

“A Landholder” IV (Oliver Ellsworth), *Connecticut Courant*
26 November 1787 (CC 2, 234)

CHAINS

Happy, thrice happy, would it have been for my country, if the whole of that time had been devoted to sleep, or been a blank in our lives, rather than employed in forging its chains!

Luther Martin: Address No. II, *Maryland Journal*
21 March 1788 (CC 4, 458)

THE CHAINS YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR THEM

When the people are fully apprized of the chains you have prepared for them, if they choose to put them on, you have nothing to answer for.

“Cincinnatus” I (Arthur Lee): To James Wilson, Esquire
New York Journal, 1 November 1787 (CC 1, 533)

THE CHAINS OF DESPOTISM

The indignity offered to the people and their petitions, by the haughty lordlings of the convention, proclaims the chains of despotism already firmly riveted; like a herald it cries aloud, hush ye slaves, how dare you interrupt your *mighty rulers*, who alone have a divine right to establish constitutions and governments calculated to promote their own agranzement and honor.

“Philadelphiensis” V (Benjamin Workman)
Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*, 19 December 1787 (CC 3, 45)

CHAIN WHICH UNITES THIRTEEN STATES

On *this day* was closed the link of that chain which unites Thirteen States.

Newport Herald, 3 June 1790 (RCS R.I., 1028)

FEDERAL CHAIN

Were you [i.e., Rhode Island] an extreme link of the federal chain, we might without disadvantage permit your separation, though even then your folly would cost us many a pang. But placed as you are in the midst of our political body, you must be *one of us*; we cannot suffer you to be a *viper in our bosom*.

Philadelphia *Federal Gazette*, 1 January 1790 (RCS R.I., 656)

FEDERAL CHAINS

I have no objection to their trying on the federal Chains, for such I am persuaded they will find the bonds of this constitution eventually to be.

Elbridge Gerry to John Wendell, Cambridge, Mass.
16 November 1787 (CC 2, 128)

GILDED CHAINS

Whilst the gilded chains were forging in the secret conclave, the meaner instruments of despotism without, were busily employed in alarming the fears of the people with dangers which did not exist, and exciting their hopes of greater advantages from the expected plan than even the best government on earth could produce.

The Dissent of the Minority of the Pa. Convention
Pennsylvania *Packet*, 18 December (RCS PA., 620; CC 3, 15)