

EDIFICE

CONVENTIONAL EDIFICE

As these apprehensions are of a nature that do not readily subside, I beg, before the old kidnapper takes advantage of you, that you would be doing whatever you have not already done toward rearing the *Conventional Edifice*.

George Cabot to Theophilus Parsons, Beverly, Mass.
28 February 1788 (RCS MASS., 1658–59; CC 4, 248)

EDIFICE

Several additional reasons of considerable force, to fortify that probability, will occur when we come to survey with a more critic eye, the interior structure of the edifice, which we are invited to erect.

“Publius” (Alexander Hamilton): *The Federalist* 27
New York Packet, 25 December 1787 (CC 3, 96)



If then we prostitute this hallowed edifice, to purposes for which providence never designed it, our ruin is inevitable. Our national independence will probably not survive the loss of our liberties a single day. As darkness brings the night, so despotism will obliterate the very name of the American empire.

“Philadelphiensis” VI (Benjamin Workman), Philadelphia *Freeman’s Journal*
26 December 1787 (CC 3, 106)



As the artificers have hurried it through for their own present accommodation, without one solid heart of oak to support an edifice, whose

wings extend to embrace the territory from the Mississippi, to the chain of lakes, and from the inland seas to the eastern shore.

“Helvidius Priscus” II (James Warren?), Boston *Independent Chronicle*
10 January 1788 (RCS MASS., 684; CC 3, 333)



When he found that a gentleman of such acknowledged abilities, and of so great experience, was opposed to the constitution, he expected a train of reasoning and a power of argument that would have made the federal fabric totter to its foundation: but to him they rather appeared like those storms which shake the edifice to fix it more strongly on its basis.

Robert Barnwell, Speech in the S.C. House of Representatives
17 January 1788 (RCS S.C., 128–29; RCS SUPPL. S.C., #II, p. 32)



The several departments of power are distributed and blended in such a manner, as at once to destroy all symmetry and beauty of form; and to expose some of the essential parts of the edifice to the danger of being crushed by the disproportionate weight of other parts.

“Publius” (James Madison): *The Federalist* 47
New York *Independent Journal*, 30 January 1788 (CC 3, 499)



Yet much disputed was the plan
On which this edifice should stand;
Wheth’r by the DORIC order grac’d,
Or, in the simple TUSCAN taste;
Wheth’r in the fram’d CORINTHIAN style,
Or like the ancient GOTHIC pile.
Those various orders to unite
Most voted for the COMPOSITE.

Maryland Journal, 15 February 1788 (RCS MD., 320–21)



The refusal to ratify the new plan of Government on the part of such an important State [i.e., Massachusetts] could have entailed the ruin of the edifice.

Antoine de la Forest to Comte de la Luzerne, New York
18 February 1788 (CC 4, 137)



I might . . . have rendered my country much more important services, and not only assisted in raising some of the pillars, but have furnished the edifice with a new roof of my own construction.

Luther Martin: Address No. II, *Maryland Journal*
21 March 1788 (RCS MD., 416; CC 4, 455)



They saw that the edifice contained many valuable materials, judiciously combined, and tho' they were of opinion that it was not perfect, yet they thought it more easy and more safe *to attempt to complete this*, than to overturn the whole, and attempt to build one anew.

New York Packet, 8 April 1788 (RCS SUPPL. R.I., #143, p. 127)
Pennsylvania Gazette, 2 April 1788 (CC 5, 14)



If they are decisive and favourable, it will most assuredly raise the edifice.—Seven affirmatives without a negative carries weight with them, that would almost convert the unerring Sister.

George Washington to Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Mount Vernon
27 April 1788 (RCS MD., 524)



Tho' a friend & Advocate of the system (as a Step towards common sense & practicable Government) yet it fall so far short of what I know to be the situation to believe to be the character of this Country—that I despair at one of both the stability & convenience of the Edifice. The fact is my dear Gen. that my creed as to popular governments is very much chang'd under a little experience of their operation—& I suspect that shape them as you will you must find them on experiment both foolish & feeble.

John Armstrong to Horatio Gates, New York
30 May 1788 (RCS SUPPL. N.Y., #324, p. 282)



I have the pleasure of handing an account of the raising of the Eight[h] Pillar to this important edifice South Carolina has adopted the Constitution 149–73.

John Vaughan to John Langdon, Philadelphia
6 June 1788 (CC 6, 167)



It thus appears that either Virginia or New Hampshire is to [have?] the honor of establishing an edifice that is still in some manner [— —], or the Blame of plunging the Confederation into the most dangerous anarchy.

Antoine de la Forest to Comte de la Luzerne, New York
9 June 1788 (CC 6, 172)



Than their Brethren of Boston none could feel more happy had New-Hampshire had the honour to add the Ninth Pillar to the Edifice.

Massachusetts Centinel, 21 June 1788 (RCS N.H., 335)



He hoped it was not purely to gratify an indigested opinion; but in every part where they retouched the edifice, it was with an intention of improving the structure; they certainly could not think of making alterations for the worse.

Fisher Ames, Speech in the U.S. House of Representatives
14 August 1789 (RCS BOR I, 369)



The Twelve States of America, convened in Federal Convention, which proposed the Constitution, have now all adopted, ratified and confirmed it. The Edifice may now be declared complete—and on its completion we most cordially felicitate our country.

Massachusetts Centinel, 16 December 1789
(RCS N.C., 797–98; RCS SUPPL. R.I., #383, p. 266)

EMINENT EDIFICE

Without either the heat of prophesy or the hallelujahs of enthusiasm, one may venture to predict that the suffrages and approving sanction of nine states must make the architects of such an eminent Edifice at least memorable if not immortal.

John Brown Cutting to John Rutledge, Jr., London
1 November 1787 (CC 2, 460)

FEDERAL EDIFICE

The Convention of the State of New-Hampshire meet this day at Exeter, for the important purpose of deliberating on the late proposed plan of

government, when, no doubt, another pillar will be erected to the support of the Federal Edifice.

Mass. *Salem Mercury*, 12 February 1788 (RCS N.H., 122)



From this statement—we may venture to assert, that the cause of federalism, in New-Hampshire, will not suffer a diminution—and that their Pillar of the Federal Edifice, THOUGH IT NOW RESTETH, WILL MOST ASSUREDLY RISE.

Massachusetts Centinel, 27 February 1788 (RCS N.H., 244; CC 4, 185)



Virginia will shortly become one of the brightest pillars of the federal edifice.

Philadelphia *Federal Gazette*, 12 April 1788 (CC 5, 403)



Surely we should be wanting on our part, and justly be numbered among the nays, if we did not manifest our hearty approbation and cordial wish, that not only six but the whole thirteen States may follow; and form the thirteen pillars of the Federal Edifice, supported with unity and concord, which no domestic faction or foreign power on earth, may ever be able to destroy.

Boston *Independent Chronicle*, 1 May 1788 (RCS MASS., 1638)



By a gentleman directly from Virginia, who arrived in town last evening, we are informed that the Federal Edifice is the reigning toast there.

New Hampshire Spy, 27 May 1788 (RCS VA., 885)



But we expect this day to hear that Virginia or New Hampshire have erected the ninth Pillar of that federal Edifice which is the Envy of the European Powers but wh[ic]h you think resembles nothing in heaven Earth or Hell.

Samuel Parker to Samuel Peters, Boston
21, 23 June 1788 (RCS N.H., 394)



It is with pleasure that I Inform you that the Convention of this State on the 21st Instant ratified the Constitution and for any thing we know of, have the *hono'r* to be the State that puts the Corner or top Stone to the Federal Edifice.

Jeremiah Libbey to Jeremy Belknap, Portsmouth, N.H.
23 June 1788 (RCS N.H., 398–99)



However it is presumed that the “federal lenity” of our brethren of New-Hampshire, will overlook the indignity offered them in the paragraph alluded to; when they consider that notwithstanding the vindictive arm of a R—I [i.e., Benjamin Russell, printer of the *Massachusetts Centinel*] was *nearly uplifted* to RAZE the pillar of New-Hampshire from the federal edifice, yet their brethren of Massachusetts, anticipated the pleasing idea, of soon placing it in a conspicuous station, among the venerable columns which unite and adorn our National Building.

“Vox Populi,” *Boston Gazette*, 23 June 1788 (RCS N.H., 335)



The Structure of the national Government was completed, and the Federal Edifice firmly established on NINE GLORIOUS PILLARS.

Providence *United States Chronicle*
26 June 1788 (RCS N.H., 454)



Since the Adoption of New Hampshire, the Virginia Politics are not so interesting—the federal Edifice is now compleat, altho the Support of the other States will greatly strengthen it.

William Bingham to Tench Coxe, New York
27 June 1788 (RCS SUPPL. VA., #264, p. 103)



The Procession at Dover, in consequence of having the most important Pillar in the Federal Edifice erected in New Hampshire.

New Hampshire Spy, 1 July 1788 (RCS N.H., 411)



The ratification of New-Hampshire has at length completed the Federal Edifice, which will prove a refuge from the storms and tempests of anarchy and divided empire.

New York Daily Advertiser, 1 July 1788 (RCS N.H., 407)



The Members of the Society [of the Cincinnati] repaired to Mr. Dagget's Tavern, where the following Toasts were drank: . . . The Nine Pillars of the Federal Edifice.

Toast, *Providence Gazette*, 5 July 1788 (RCS R.I., 347)



The Eleventh Pillar in the Federal Edifice.

Toast after the Albany Federal Procession, 8 August 1788
New York Packet, 9 September 1788 (RCS N.Y., 2390)



They [i.e., Rhode Islanders] will add strength to the foundation of the Federal Edifice, so that the assaults of united nations shall not shake the noble Fabrick.

Newport Herald, 18 September 1788 (RCS SUPPL. R.I., #215, p. 173)



The Federal Edifice; may the two remaining Props be speedily raised to its Support.

New York Independent Journal, 12 November 1788 (RCS N.C., 577)



[On the expected Vermont statehood] May . . . their return announce the dawn of the rise of Vermont as the fourteenth pillar of the federal edifice.

Vermont Journal, 24 August 1790 (RCS SUPPL. VT., #50, p. 23)

GRAND EDIFICE

Nor have we allowed the *populace* the right to elect their representatives annually, as usual, lest this body should be too much under the influence and controul of their constituents, and thereby prove the “weatherboard of our grand edefice, to shew the shiftings of every fashionable gale,” for we have not yet to learn that little else is wanting, to aristocratize

the most democratical representative than to make him somewhat independent of his *political creators*.

“Montezuma,” Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*
17 October 1787 (RCS SUPPL. PA., #140, p. 316)

GRAND FEDERAL EDIFICE

The amiable conduct of the minority of the Massachusetts Convention has had a very pleasing effect upon the minds of many people opposed to the new constitution in these states, and there is little doubt but the Grand Federal Edifice will be happily completed.

New Hampshire Spy, 21 March 1788 (RCS VA., 1781)



It is recommended to the Ladies who lead the fashions, that instead of the *Wind-mill-Hats*, they introduce one under the name of the “*Federal Hat*.” The form of this Hat may be pretty, neat and genteel; the thirteen States may be represented by thirteen rings; these may be constructed in such a manner as will answer for the ream; the poll and crown may represent the GRAND FEDERAL EDIFICE.

New Hampshire Spy, 15 April 1788 (RCS N.H., 288)



The GRAND FEDERAL EDIFICE—may its spires reach the zenith of fame—justice compose its pillars, and virtue support its base. . . .

The citizens of *Rhode-Island*—may the scales be removed from off their eyes, & may they join the Federal Edifice under the banners of *truth* and *justice*.

New Hampshire Spy, 10 May 1788 (RCS N.H., 304)



The principals in the opposition are indefatigable in their exertions—but from the united wisdom and abilities of our federal patriots, we cannot, nay we must not doubt, but New-Hampshire will add the ninth pillar to the Grand Federal Edifice.

New Hampshire Spy, 21 June 1788 (RCS N.H., 350)



On Sunday morning last, we received the agreeable and interesting intelligence of the Ratification of the NEW CONSTITUTION by the Con-

vention of this state, whereby we have, in effect, laid the top-stone to the grand FEDERAL EDIFICE, and happily raised the NINTH pillar. The joy which this event diffused through all ranks of citizens in this metropolis, is hardly conceivable.

New Hampshire Spy, 24 June 1788 (RCS N.H., 379)



Upon the arrival of the post yesterday, it was announced to the inhabitants of this town, that the Ninth Pillar of the Grand Federal Edifice was erected last Saturday by the State of Newhampshire.

Portland, Maine, *Cumberland Gazette*
26 June 1788 (RCS N.H., 452)



This auspicious day, and every *independent* soul who enjoys it. . . . The Grand Federal Edifice.

Toast, Mass. *Salem Mercury*
8 July 1788 (RCS SUPPL. VA., #309, p. 118)



In the evening, the joy of the inhabitants was demonstrated by the firing of rockets, bonfires, &c. in the midst of which, the glorious intelligence arrived, that Virginia had erected the Tenth Pillar of the Grand Federal Edifice; on which, repeated and animated shouts of joy burst from the throng, the curling flames more boldly climb'd the heavens, and the blazing rocket ascended with accelerated velocity.

Mass. *Salem Mercury*, 8 July 1788 (RCS SUPPL. VA., #309, p. 119)



Shall this state, which was among the first to defend the glorious cause of liberty, shrink from its patriotism, and not be concerned in strengthening the GRAND FEDERAL EDIFICE.

"A Rhode-Islander," *Newport Herald*
10 July 1788 (RCS R.I., 351)



Every countenance seemed to glow with joy, on the erection of the Eleventh Pillar to the Grand Federal Edifice.

N.J. *Brunswick Gazette*, 29 July 1788 (RCS N.Y., 2421)



We have the pleasing satisfaction of announcing to the public, the erection of the ELEVENTH PILLAR of the GRAND FEDERAL EDIFICE, by the Convention of the State of New-York.

Boston *Independent Chronicle*, 31 July 1788 (RCS N.Y., 2436)



We received the pleasing intelligence of the *unconditional* ratification of the New-Constitution by the state of New York, by which the ELEVENTH PILLAR of the *Grand Federal Edifice* is happily erected.

New Hampshire Spy, 2 August 1788 (RCS N.Y., 2424)

THE GREAT FEDERAL EDIFICE

The state Convention of Connecticut have been in session several days. From the information we have been able to collect, we have good reason to expect that the bells of this town [Boston] will soon announce the erection of the FIFTH PILLAR of the GREAT FEDERAL EDIFICE in the ratification of the Constitution by that state.

Massachusetts Centinel, 12 January 1788 (RCS SUPPL. CONN., #23, pp. 35–36)



We heartily congratulate our readers on this auspicious event, rendered peculiarly happy in the prospect it affords that our sister State of New-Hampshire, whose interests and whose dispositions are so similar to our own, will have an additional inducement to add a Seventh PILLAR to the great Federal Edifice already so far advanced.

Newburyport, Mass., *Essex Journal*
13 February 1788 (RCS MASS., 1633–34)

MOST MAGNIFICENT EDIFICE

Yesterday at eight o'clock A.M. intelligence was received from the State of New-Hampshire, of the adoption of the Federal Constitution, by their convention, which raises the *ninth Pillar* and completes the most magnificent edifice of government and liberty that was ever erected.

Connecticut Gazette, 4 July 1788 (RCS N.H., 458)

THE NEW EDDIFICE

How are you disposed in Virginia I hope well in the present instance
& that all the federal pillars will join the support of the new Eddifice.

Thomas Fitch Oliver to Benjamin Lynde Oliver, Marblehead, Mass.
11 February 1788 (RCS SUPPL. MASS., #695, p. 280; RCS SUPPL. VA., #376, p. 173)



New-Hampshire ratified the Constitution the 21st ultimo. Majority
eleven.

Tenth Prop to the New Edifice.

New Jersey Journal, 2 July 1788 (RCS SUPPL. VA., #288, p. 110)

NEW-ERECTED EDIFICE

May virtue be the basis, justice the support, and union the defence of
the new-erected edifice.

Toast, Lansingburgh, N.Y., *Federal Herald*
7 July 1788 (RCS N.Y., 1284)

NEW FEDERAL EDIFICE

It is nevertheless hoped that this State [South Carolina] will be the
eighth column that will support the new federal edifice.

Comte de Moustier to Comte de Montmorin, New York
29 May 1788 (RCS S.C., 450; CC 6, 144)

NEW IMPORTANT EDIFICE

May all the muses join your deeds to praise;
Nor only your's;
Thy PATRIOTS, ALBANY, have join'd their pow'rs,
The NEW IMPORTANT EDIFICE to raise.

Lansingburgh, N.Y., *Federal Herald*, 11 August 1788 (RCS N.Y., 2393)

NOBLE EDIFICE

The Pillar of Massachusetts is Raised, upon which Glorious Occasion I
sincerely congratulate you, hoping that the State of South Carolina, will

not be the last amongst the Sons of America to raise this Noble Edifice, for I sincerely believe upon the Issue the fate of America is Suspended.

Samuel Cotesworthy, Jr., to Tilly Merrick, Boston
19 February 1788 (RCS SUPPL. MASS., #743, p. 246)



North-carolina and Rhode island are yet to follow, we hope, the example of the others. Congress are now deliberating on the subject of putting the Federal Constitution into operation; and in all probability this state will very soon be called on to raise a Pillar to the Noble Edifice.

Vermont Journal, 11 August 1788 (CC 6, 400)

NOBLE PLAN OF A FEDERAL EDIFICE

That noble plan of a political edifice which the convention have drawn, merits in my opinion, the praise of every citizen.

“Tullius,” Philadelphia *Freeman’s Journal*
10 October 1787 (RCS SUPPL. PA., 293)

THE SACRED EDIFICE

So well cemented, that no hostile foe
Shall e’er the sacred edifice o’erthrow.

“Ludlow,” Annapolis *Maryland Gazette*
5 June 1788 (RCS SUPPL. MD., #132, p. 76)

STATELY EDIFICE OF LIBERTY

I view this fair, this stately edifice of liberty, as rising under the forming hand of Heaven to render America the blissful seat of human glory and perfection.

“Curtius” III, New York *Daily Advertiser*
3 November 1787 (supplement) (RCS N.Y., 179)

SUPERB EDIFICE

Take shelter in the superb edifice which has been projected by the collected wisdom of the continent. . . and which, if received will be reared as an undecaying monument of the united wisdom of the United States.

“Juvenis,” *New Hampshire Spy*, 20 October 1787 (RCS N.H., 18)

SUPERB FEDERAL EDIFICE

Concurring circumstances assist in brightening the belief, that speedily we shall add another pillar—and shortly, another still, to render the whole a superb Federal Edifice.

Mass. *Salem Mercury*, 13 May 1788 (RCS MD., 722n)