

FABRIC

AUGUST AMERICAN FABRIC

When her virtuous and patriotic sons, now in Convention, will eternize their names, and again raise the sinking credit of their state, by raising the ninth pillar of the august American fabrick, dedicated to Virtue, Federalism and Independence.

New Hampshire Gazette, 19 June 1788 (RCS N.H., 349)

BASELESS FABRIC

Give it a fair discussion, and if it is a baseless fabric, in God's name let it vanish *in fumo*.

New Jersey Journal, 14 November 1787 (RCS N.J., 152)

BASELESS FABRIC OF A DREAM

The structure of despotism that has been reared in this state, upon deception and surprise, will vanish like the baseless fabric of a dream and leave not a trace behind.

“Centinel” IX (Samuel Bryan), Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*
8 January 1788 (CC 3, 309)

BEAUTIFUL FABRIC

And also because we sincerely believe that when the prejudices created by the many groundless objections started by those who took the lead in opposition shall subside, this state too will become a principal pillar to support the beautiful fabric.

From Philip Schuyler, c. 2 July 1788 (RCS N.Y., 1249)

BEAUTIFUL FABRIC OF HUMAN INGENUITY

Upon the whole,—notwithstanding this Writer’s attack upon this beautiful Fabrick of human ingenuity, I feel persuaded it will not be less the CHARM AND ADMIRATION OF THE WORLD.

“Harrington,” *Boston American Herald*
15 October 1787 (RCS MASS., 79)

THE BEST CONSTRUCTED FABRIC

Let every man examine the most perfect building by his *own* taste, and like some microscopic critics, condemn the *whole* for small deviations from the rules of architecture, and not a part of the *best* constructed fabric would escape.

“A Citizen of America” (Noah Webster):
An Examination into the Leading Principles of the Federal Constitution
17 October 1787 (RCS SUPPL. PA., #142, p. 414)

CONSOLIDATED FABRICK OF ARISTOCRATICK TYRANNY

They wish to see the Confederated States bound together by the most indissoluble union, but without renouncing their separate sovereignties and independence, and becoming tributaries to a consolidated fabrick of aristocratick tyranny.

“A Columbian Patriot” (Mercy Otis Warren):
Observations on the Constitution, Boston, February 1788 (CC 4, 285)

FABRIC

On the other hand, if the foundation is insecurely laid, and the main supports are wanting, or not properly fixed, however the fabric may be decorated and adorned, you ought to reject it.

“Brutus” III (Melancton Smith), *New York Journal*
15 November 1787 (RCS N.Y., 252; CC 2, 119)



Meanwhile they are unable to conceal that after having excited this general ferment there is no longer a means to stop it, that the old edifice

is almost destroyed, and that any fabric whatsoever must be substituted for it.

Louis Guillaume Otto to Comte de Montmorin, New York
26 November 1787 (CC 2, 229–30)



The main pillars of the fabric are bad, that the essential principles of liberty and safety are not to be found in it, that despotism will be the necessary and inevitable consequence of its establishment.

“Centinel” IV (Samuel Bryan), Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*
30 November 1787 (CC 2, 323)



Cannot we be a number of confederated states, confederated for the purpose of defence and commerce, without erecting a fabric, more like *an empire*, than *a republic*?

“Alfred,” Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*
13 December 1787 (CC 2, 434)



The fabric of American Empire ought to rest on the solid basis of THE CONSENT OF THE PEOPLE. The streams of national power ought to flow immediately from that pure original fountain of all legitimate authority.

“Publius” (Alexander Hamilton): The Federalist 22
New York Packet, 14 December 1787 (CC 2, 444)



In short, consolidation pervades the whole constitution. It begins with an annunciation that such was the intention. The main pillars of the fabric correspond with it, and the concluding paragraph is a confirmation of it. The preamble begins with the words, “We the people of the United States,” which is the style of a compact between individuals entering into a state of society, and not that of a confederation of states.

The Dissent of the Minority of the Pa. Convention
Pennsylvania Packet, 18 December 1787 (CC 3, 25)



Shall the man, who is entrusted with this important appointment *for the general good*, be so absorb’d in self, or blinded by local situation, as

to endeavour to destroy, or marr, a Fabrick designed for the happiness of Millions?

Joseph Barrell to Nathaniel Barrell, Boston
20 December 1787 (RCS MASS., 491; CC 3, 49)



That the *fabric* of the *Federal Republic!* ennobling idea! may be speedily established, on the basis of that UNION, which gave us Independence, and which, if *continued*, will give us, “devoutly to be wished,” the blessings of *National Government*.

“Honorius,” Boston *Independent Chronicle*
3 January 1788 (RCS MASS., 605)



Will not the spirit of calumny be employed in attempting to raze this fabrick? Yes, doubtless, all these things will be. What, then, is to be done? I’ll tell you—Let the opposition bark till they’re blind, rail till their mouths froth—who then will doubt their madness?

Massachusetts Gazette, 8 January 1788 (RCS MASS., 651)



I view the section to which we have at length arrived, as the cement of the fabrick, and this clause as the key-stone, or (if I may apply the metaphor) the magick talisman on which the fate of it depends.

William Symmes, Speech in the Massachusetts Convention
22 January 1788 (RCS MASS., 1307)



Sent to revise your systems—not to change—
Sages have done what Reason deems most strange:
Some alterations in our fabric we
Calmly propos’d, and hoped at length to see—
Ah, how deceived!—these heroes in renown
Scheme for themselves—and pull the fabric down—
Bid in its place Columbia’s tomb-stone rise
Inscrib’d with these sad words—*Here Freedom lies!*

State Gazette of South Carolina, 28 January 1788 (CC 3, 486)



I have exercised my imagination to devise in what manner they, or any other men, supposing them to bear full sway in both houses, could erect this imaginary fabric of power.

“Aristides” (Alexander Contee Hanson): *Remarks on the Proposed Plan*
31 January 1788 (CC 3, 522; RCS MD., 230)



Should the enemies to the federal system be able to *croud* themselves into office, they may yet wreck the basis of the fabrick, and involve in chaos the wise plans which have recently been laid for securing your welfare and felicity.

“Federalissimo,” *Massachusetts Gazette*
7 March 1788 (RCS SUPPL. MASS., #795, p. 336)



Fair *Freedom!* lend thy gracious aid,
To sing our fabrick’s fame,
By patriots rais’d, celestial maid!
It boasts thy sacred name:
On thy broad basis may it be!
The pride and safeguard of the *free*.

“The Fabrick of Freedom” (Jonathan Williams, Jr.)
Philadelphia *Federal Gazette*, 8 March 1788 (CC 4, 360)



That while they were labouring to erect a fabrick by which they themselves might be exalted and benefited, they were rendered insensible to the sacrifice of the freedom and happiness of the states and their citizens, which must, inevitably, be the consequence.

Luther Martin: Address No. II, *Maryland Journal*
21 March 1788 (CC 4, 456–57)



The main pillars of the fabric are bad, that the essential principles of liberty and safety and are not to be found in it.

“Deliberator,” Philadelphia *Freeman’s Journal*
2 April 1788 (RCS SUPPL. PA., #594, pp. 1146–47)



This fabric is the work of patriotism and of wisdom: it is founded upon the firm and permanent basis of freedom: and has nought for its aim, but the glory of Columbia and the happiness of her citizens.

Philadelphia *Federal Gazette*, 8 April 1788 (RCS R.I., 252)



Permit me to congratulate you, on the accession of an eighth pillar to that Fabric, on which America is to build her prosperity.

William Mason to William Bentley, Charleston, S.C.
23–24 May 1788 (RCS S.C., 443)



Fear not the noisy, venal, worthless crew,
Who would this fabric, if they could, undo.

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



The same hands that laid the foundations of the Temple of Liberty, are again employed in this arduous task; may they be enabled to finish the fabrick, and bring forth the head stone with triumphant shoutings.

Baltimore *Maryland Gazette*, 12 June 1787 (RCS SUPPL. MD., #9, p. 6)



The nine pillars are now erected, upon which the new building will stand, even if there should be no more propp added; but we hope yet for all thirteen states in due time, which will add stability & beauty to the fabrick.

Paine Wingate to Hannah Wingate, New York
25 June 1788 (RCS N.H., 401)



I greet you all—ye sons of mirth,
New-Hampshire has compleated,
And brought the Fabrick into birth.
Which some would have defeated.

Exeter, N.H., *Freeman's Oracle*, 11 July 1788 (RCS N.H., 425)



We may now contemplate this Fabrick as erected, and permit me my dear Friend to congratulate you upon the event. so thorough a revolution was never before effected by Voluntary Convention, and it will stand as a lasting monument of a wisdom and congeniality peculiar to America.

Edward Carrington to William Short, New York
26 July 1788 (CC 6, 293)



Notwithstanding the ratification by New Hampshire was the Key-stone of the fabrick, they still trembled for the consequences if Virginia should reject it.

Tobias Lear to George Washington, Portsmouth, N.H.
31 July 1788 (RCS N.Y., 1351)



Representation, the great Pillar of the Fabric, & Palladium of liberty, is put upon true ground.

Edmund Pendleton to Nathaniel Pendleton, Jr., Edmundsbury
Caroline County, Va., 25 November 1788 (RCS SUPPL. VA., #353, p. 151)

A FABRIC, MORE LIKE AN EMPIRE, THAN A REPUBLIC

Cannot we be a number of confederated states, confederated for the purpose of defence and commerce, without erecting a fabric, more like *an empire*, than *a republic*?

“Alfred,” Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*
13 December 1787 (CC 2, 434)

FABRIC OF AMERICAN EMPIRE

The fabric of American Empire ought to rest on the solid basis of THE CONSENT OF THE PEOPLE. The streams of national power ought to flow immediately from that pure original fountain of all legitimate authority.

“Publius” (Alexander Hamilton): The Federalist 22
New York Packet, 14 December 1787 (CC 2, 444)

FABRIC OF AMERICAN GREATNESS

That our toils have reared the fabric of American greatness, and that our habits of industry and virtue must preserve American liberty; it is

surely not unreasonable for us to wish for such establishments, as may best enable us to grow great by peaceable and regular means and acquire property by directing the exertions of our industry to the best advantage.

“New England: To the Honorable Richard Henry Lee, Esquire”
Connecticut Courant, 24 December 1787 (CC 3, 83)

THE FABRIC OF COLUMBIA

[At a celebration in Winchester, Va., the militia] discharged nine vollies, in honor of the NINE PILLARS thus gloriously raised to support the fabric of Columbia.

Virginia Centinel, 2 July 1788 (RCS SUPPL. VA., #290, p. III)

FABRIC OF FREEDOM AND UNION

We have the satisfaction of announcing to the public, the erection of the NINTH PILLAR in the fabric of FREEDOM and UNION, by the adoption of the New Federal Constitution by the State of New-Hampshire, on Saturday last.

Pittsfield, Mass., *Berkshire Chronicle*, 26 June 1788 (RCS N.H., 404)

FABRICK AND THE HEADSTONE

The same hands that laid the foundations of the Temple of Liberty, are again employed in this arduous task; may they be enabled to finish the fabrick, and bring forth the head stone with triumphant shoutings.

Baltimore *Maryland Gazette*, 12 June 1787 (RCS SUPPL. MD., #9, p. 6)

FABRIC OF LIBERTY

When the intelligence of the ratification of the new constitution by the convention of the state of New-York, was received in this town, the citizens, to testify their joy on the happy acquisition of the *eleventh pillar* to the *Fabric of Liberty*, assembled, and with three *Huzzas* hailed the “NEW ÆRA OR ÆPOCHA OF LIBERTY.”

N.C. *Wilmington Centinel*, 20 August 1788 (RCS N.C., 521)

FABRIC OF ORDER, JUSTICE, AND LIBERTY

Insidious men have been incited to circulate falsehood after falsehood to destroy this fabric of order, justice and liberty, and flushed with their

apparent success, they have presumed so far on our ignorance as to declare, that the Federal Constitution is more despotic than the British.

“A Freeman,” *Newport Herald*, 20 March 1788 (RCS R.I., 143)

FAIR AND WISE FABRIC

A customer of your’s would beg leave to remark, that every federal soul must feel at this moment, a persuasive impulse to congratulate his Countrymen on that fair and wise fabric of government which is now presented for the consideration of America.

Poughkeepsie, N.Y., *Country Journal*, 3 October 1787 (CC I, 309)

FABRICK OF AMERICAN LIBERTY

I shall therefore leave Cato to the wicked influences of his own heart, in the fullest persuasion that all good men, and good citizens, will combine their influence to establish the fair fabrick of American liberty, beyond the reach of suspicion, violence, anarchy, and tyranny.

“Cæsar” II (Alexander Hamilton?), *New York Daily Advertiser*
17 October 1787 (RCS N.Y., 95; CC I, 399)



No accounts were received from N. Carolina by the mail last night. We expect, however, in a little time to add the pillar of that State to the newly erected fabrick of American liberty.

Massachusetts Gazette, 8 August 1788 (RCS SUPPL. N.Y., #523, p. 354)

FAIREST FABRIC OF LIBERTY

The fairest fabric of liberty that ever blessed mankind, immovably founded on a solid rock, whose mighty base is laid at the center of the earth.

“A Democratic Federalist” (Tench Coxe)
Philadelphia Independent Gazetteer, 26 November 1787 (RCS PA., 298)

FAIREST OF HUMAN FABRICS

Let us, Sir, embrace this, the brightest prospect of erecting an empire of justice and morality, which has ever been exhibited on the political

theatre of the world—in receiving the fairest of human fabrics, pregnant with principles to expand as well as perpetuate liberty.

Virginia *Norfolk and Portsmouth Journal*
16 July 1788 (RCS VA., 1738)

FEDERAL FABRIC

Several among those whom You and Mr Jefferson esteem residents in Grosvenor Square have endeavour'd to raise even the ghost of a republican objection to the fœderal fabric; but the effort was fruitless.

John Brown Cutting to William Short, London
3 November 1787 (CC 2, 461)



That citizen who feels and avows such a maxim, need not apologize for collecting the following observations on the fœderal fabric.

“Tamony,” *Virginia Independent Chronicle*
9 January 1788 (RCS VA., 287; CC 3, 323)



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., #11, p. 32)



Yesterday, in consequence of the news of the ratification of the New Constitution by the State of Massachusetts, two flags were displayed on the Coffee-House, in honor of the Federal Convention and that of Massachusetts—Thirteen cannon were fired on Murray’s wharf, in honor of each of the six States who have adopted it, and the Jenny Indiaman fired a Federal Salute. The vessels in the harbor were ornamented with colors; and every demonstration of joy testified by the

citizens, on account of a sixth, and FIRM, PILLAR being added to the FEDERAL FABRIC.

New York *Daily Advertiser*
15 February 1788 (RCS SUPPL. MASS., #725, p. 291)



In the convention of New-Hampshire we find the same praiseworthy conduct—many of their members were instructed in a manner similar to those of Massachusetts; but, upon a fair and candid examination, their prejudices were removed, and they wished for an opportunity of consulting their constituents, that they might be enabled to give a helping hand to the erection of the federal fabric.

Philadelphia *Federal Gazette*
8 March 1788 (RCS SUPPL. PA., #499, p. 999)



The agreeable news of the tenth pillar being added to the federal fabric, yesterday the glorious era of American independence, the respectable inhabitants of the country, in union with those of the town [Havre de Grace, Md.], convened here, to testify their reciprocal joy on this decided and important occasion.

Baltimore *Maryland Gazette*, 8 July 1788
(RCS MD., 754; RCS SUPPL. VA., #310, p. 119)

FEDERAL FABRIC

You tell me that some of my friends in Grosvenor square “have endeavoured to raise even the ghost of a republican objection to the foederal fabric”—&c you desire me to do the same.

William Short to John Brown Cutting, Paris
15 November 1787 (CC 2, 465)

FEDERAL FABRICK OF AMERICAN LIBERTY

We received no news from North Carolina by the last mail—we hope, however, to be able in a short time to add that Pillar to the Federal Fabrck of American Liberty.

Springfield, Mass., *Hampshire Chronicle*
6 August 1788 (RCS SUPPL. N.C., #63, p. 43)

THE GLORIOUS AMERICAN FABRICK

To counteract the *insurgent* and *antifederal* interest, and to complete the organization of the Constitution, by ensuring a majority of federal characters, and to bring forth the top stone of the glorious American fabrick with shouting, it seems absolutely necessary that this metropolis should (as the neighbouring sea-ports undoubtedly will) elect the full compliment of members which they can constitutionally chuse.

“A Federalist,” *Massachusetts Centinel*
10 May 1788 (RCS SUPPL. MASS., #862, p. 372)

THE GLORIOUS FABRICK

It must be the wish of every *good man* that it may be immediately improved—that the several bodies through which the glorious fabrick, the American Constitution, *must pass*, would not by unnecessary delays lose the crucial moment, and precipitate the empire into those “shoals and miseries” which must be the inevitable consequences of missing the tide.

Massachusetts Centinel, 6 October 1787 (RCS MASS., 55)



No, my fellow countrymen, let it never be said, that the names of a HANCOCK, a Bowdoin and an Adams, who, in emancipating their country from oppression, and in erecting her independence, were indissolubly united—in an act which is to give permanence and stability to the glorious fabrick, should be divided.

“C,” *Massachusetts Gazette*, 4 December 1787 (RCS MASS., 922)



We are about to erect a *glorious fabrick* on the ruins of tyranny, that we may realize the blessings of “*Peace, Liberty and Safety*.”

“Honorius,” Boston *Independent Chronicle*
3 January 1788 (RCS MASS., 605)



Thus is a FIFTH PILLAR added to the glorious fabrick. May Massachusetts add the SIXTH.

Massachusetts Gazette, 15 January 1788 (RCS MASS., 727)



We are informed, by a vessel arrived at Cape-Ann, after a short passage from Georgia, that that state have ratified the Federal Constitution. Thus is a FIFTH PILLAR added to the glorious fabrick. May Massachusetts add the SIXTH.

Massachusetts Gazette, 15 January 1788 (CC 3, 565)



If we may judge from the contrast in the debates, between the supporters and opposers of the new Constitution, we are in hopes in our next, to add the eighth PILLAR to the GLORIOUS FABRICK.

Exeter, N.H., *Freeman's Oracle*, 22 February 1788 (RCS N.H., 233)



The PILLARS of the glorious Fabrick, rising from the Anarchial gulph to the zenith of political glory and fame—how bless'd our hopes! how great our joys!

Massachusetts Gazette, 1 August 1788 (RCS N.Y., 2437)

GLORIOUS FABRIC OF AMERICAN GREATNESS

Maryland . . . has opened her Bosom to the Embraces of her Sister States, has erected the SEVENTH PILLAR, upon which will be reared the glorious Fabric of American Greatness; and, in which Fabric, the Rights of Mankind will be centered as to their native Home!

Maryland Journal, 29 April 1788 (RCS MD., 693)

THE GLORIOUS FABRIC OF AMERICAN LIBERTY AND GOVERNMENT

No mention was made of *negroes* or *slaves* in this constitution, only because it was thought the very words would contaminate the glorious fabric of American liberty and government. Thus you see the cloud which a few years ago was no larger than a man's hand, has descended in plentiful dews and at last cover'd every part of our land.

Benjamin Rush to John Coakley Lettson, Philadelphia
28 September 1787 (CC I, 262)

GLORIOUS FABRIC OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLICK

And may the guardian God of our "dear country" inspire the Convention of this Commonwealth with *wisdom*, *disinterestedness* and *patriot-*

ism equal to the display of those virtues in our sister States who have already erected Three Pillars of the glorious Fabrick of the Federal Republick.

Massachusetts Centinel, 9 January 1788 (CC 3, 565)

GLORIOUS FABRICK OF OUR INDEPENDENCY AND NATIONAL CHARACTER

[Quoting Washington Circular Letter to the States, June 1783] These are the *pillars* on which the glorious *fabrick* of our independency and national character must be supported—*Liberty* is the *basis*—and whoever shall dare to *sap* the foundation, or overturn the *structure*, under whatever specious pretext he may attempt it, will merit the bitterest execrations, and the severest punishment which can be inflicted by his injured country.

“A Federalist,” *Massachusetts Centinel*
24 May 1788 (RCS SUPPL. MASS., #875, p. 380)

GLORIOUS FABRICK OF REPUBLICANISM

A correspondent observes, that the source of opposition, at present, in this place, to that glorious fabrick of republicanism, the FEDERAL CONSTITUTION, is derived from two characters, who, if they had their just desserts, would be carted about and hooted at, as the effigies of the devil and the pretender formerly were, in this town.

Massachusetts Gazette, 23 November 1787 (RCS MASS., 314)

GRAND AMERICAN FABRICK OF LIBERTY

This power, which is so dreaded by some, is, therefore, one of the greatest excellencies of the new federal government, and what must center in some head, or the grand American fabrick of liberty, which has cost us so much blood and treasure, tumble to pieces, to the eternal disgrace of this new and free world.

“Common Sense,” *Massachusetts Gazette*
11 January 1788 (RCS MASS., 694)

GRAND FABRIC

And depend on a sure retribution;
For all hell will exert

Its whole force to subvert
This grand fabric, the new constitution.

“The New Constitution: A Song,” *Virginia Herald*
10 January 1788 (RCS VA., 301)



New York seems to put herself last on the List—the Risque of the Loaves and Fishes has I imagine more Weight with the Opponents to the Constitution in that State than any pretended Objections against the Plan, however she must at length become one of the Pillars of the Grand Fabric.

Thomas Hartley to Tench Coxe, York, Pa.
3 March 1788 (CC 4, 301)



This fifth article ought to be wrote in Letters of Gold the corner Stone of the grand fabrick here are oport[un]ity pointed For am[en]dmen[en]ts.

William Barton, Speech in the Rhode Island Convention
4 March 1790 (RCS R.I., 937)



The proposed constitution may prove a harbinger, and the fourth section of the first article is a proper foundation to erect the grand fabric.

“Extract of a letter from a gentleman of distinction in North-Carolina, dated, March 3,” *New York Journal*, 3 April 1788 (RCS N.C., 86)



From unquestionable authority we can assure our Readers, that the Legislature [i.e., the Convention] of the State of Maryland have closed in with the Fœderal Union, by a considerable majority, This forms the seventh pillar to support the grand fabric of the American permanent constitution.

Virginia Norfolk and Portsmouth Journal, 7 May 1788 (RCS MD., 723)



This day will form a memorable ÆRA in the United States of America: On *this day* was perfected the Arch on which rests the grand fabric, A FREE AND EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT.

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



Between each volley a federal toast was drank on this happy occasion, in the pleasing anticipation that the remaining three States would complete the grand *fabric*, by following the example of their sister States.

Winchester *Virginia Gazette*, 23 July 1788 (RCS N.H., 458)

GRAND FABRIC OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

The heroic WASHINGTON holds in his hand the grand FABRICK of AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE, the FEDERAL CONSTITUTION, offering it with paternal affection to his *freeborn Brethren* the SONS of COLUMBIA.

The Federal Chariot, *Bickerstaff's Boston Almanack for 1788*
(RCS MASS., 570)

GRAND FABRIC OF AMERICAN LIBERTY

Should we continue to be refractory, and not lend a hand to rear the Grand Fabric of American Liberty, we shall be despised by the other States, and fall into unavoidable confusion.

Newport Herald, 21 February 1788 (RCS R.I., 101)

THE GRAND FEDERAL FABRICK

We are informed, and we believe from authority, that the Convention of the State of South-Carolina, did, on the 23d ultimo, at five o'clock in the afternoon, Adopt, Ratify and Confirm the proposed Constitution of Federal Government. . . . Thus stand erected and united, eight pillars of the Grand Federal Fabricken.

Springfield, Mass., *Hampshire Chronicle*
11 June 1788 (RCS SUPPL. S.C., #74, p. 100)

GRAND NATIONAL FABRIC

The very agreeable intelligence of the ratification of the FEDERAL CONSTITUTION by this State, which completes the NINTH PILLAR of the GRAND NATIONAL FABRIC, was received in this town on Sunday evening last.

Virginia Centinel, 2 July 1788 (RCS VA., 1721)

GRAND REPUBLICAN FABRICK

But who are they that are supporters of that grand republican fabricken, the FEDERAL CONSTITUTION?—Are they not the men who were among

the first to assert the rights of freemen, and put a check to the invasions of tyranny?

“Cassius” V, *Massachusetts Gazette*, 30 November 1787 (RCS MASS., 341)
 “A Qualified Elector,” *New Hampshire Recorder*, 1 January 1788 (RCS N.H., 69)

GREAT FABRIC

It affords me the greatest pleasure that I can Congratulate your Excellency on the accession of the State of Rhode-Island to the Federal Union, more especially as it compleats the great Fabrick, and that it has been effected without the sheading of Blood.

Jabez Bowen to George Washington, Newport, R.I.
 13 June 1790 (RCS R.I., 1049)

GREAT FABRIC OF GOVERNMENT

The interesting Intelligence that the State of Virginia had ratified the New Federal Constitution arrived in this Town last Saturday, about Two o’Clock, p. M. by Capt. George Allen, in the Polly Packet, from New-York. As that State raised the Tenth Pillar in the great Fabric of Government, the Event was announced to the Town by a Discharge of Ten Cannon from Col. Tillinghast’s Artillery, and the Ringing of all the Bells.

Providence Gazette, 12 July 1788 (RCS SUPPL. R.I., #183, p. 149)



I confess I have always attributed to you the Glory of laying the Foundation of this great Fabric of government.

John Page to James Madison, Williamsburg, Va.
 6 August 1788 (RCS VA., 1760)

GREAT FEDERAL FABRIC

The Exports of our State exceeded the Imports, last Year, by two hundred & thirty thousand Pounds and upwards. And we have now rose to be the third exporting State in the Confederacy. The Town of Boston alone, that Year, exported twelve hundred & thirteen thousand Pounds. And it has been considered, in another Point of View, as being still more beneficial, from aiding the Erection of the great federal Fabric, which

was so boldly conceived in the general Convention at Philadelphia, & which now, it is beyond a Doubt, will be ratified by the People.

William Tudor to George Washington, Boston
26 July 1788 (RCS SUPPL. MASS., #911, p. 403)

MAIN PILLARS OF THE FABRIC ARE BAD

Their objections, too, are not local, are not confined to the interest of any one particular state, to the prejudice of the rest; but, with a philanthropy and liberality that reflects lustre on humanity, that dignifies the character of America, they embrace the interests and happiness of the whole Union; they do not even condescend to minute blemishes, but shew that the main pillars of the fabric are bad.

Philadelphia *Freeman's Journal*
26 March 1788 (RCS SUPPL. PA., #570, pp. 1105–6)

MIGHTY FABRIC

This mighty fabric will not give us an efficient Government for many years; the Supporters of it allow it; what will it do? It will be shut up in the ten Miles Square with very little Knowledge of its Operations, until by Bribery and Corruption, & an undue Use of the public Monies, Nabobs are created in each State; & then the Scenery will be changed; the Mask will be laid aside.

Samuel Osgood to Samuel Adams, New York
5 January 1788 (CC 3, 266)



We want but one Pillar more to complet the mighty FABRICK, and let New-Hampshire have the glory of finishing it.

“Senex,” *New Hampshire Gazette*, 19 June 1788 (RCS N.H., 349)



Virginia, we anxiously hope, will give that Stability to the mighty fabric that the opposition of New York cannot shake it, or the villainy of Rh Island molest.

Tristram Dalton to John Langdon, Newbury, Mass.
26 June 1788 (RCS SUPPL. MASS., #889, p. 386)

**MOST STUPENDOUS FABRIC OF LEGISLATIVE CONTRIVANCE
THAT THE WIT OF MAN HAS EVER DEVISED**

It appears to me the most stupendous fabric of legislative contrivance that the wit of man has ever devised—Every advantage of this Constitution seems transplanted into that with increase. The people here extol as the master piece of policy, and the Convention as a Roman Senate—We stand six inches higher at least than we did.

Thomas Lee Shippen to William Shippen, Jr., London
6 November 1787 (CC 2, 462)

MOST STUPENDOUS FABRIC OF REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT

Before I seal this scrawl let me not forget to congratulate You upon the noble and just architecture of the new federal constitution of our country: the most stupendous Fabric of republican government that ever was invented to defend, or constructed to adorn or promulgated to perpetuate political freedom, civil happiness and national renown.

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

NEW FABRIC

I should like to hear Your sentiments on the new Fabric raised in Your City with so much care, Ability and deliberation.

Henry Chapman to Stephen Collins, New York
26 September 1787 (RCS N.Y., 54)



I note your observations on the new Fabrick. I am beyond every thing clear if it is fully & properly established it will relieve this nation from the present Distressed & contemptuous situation which it is reduced to and I heartily pray for its adoption.

Steven Collins to Henry Chapman, Philadelphia
6 October 1787 (RCS SUPPL. PA., #105, p. 271)



The Convention have certainly acted wisely in throwing the Confederation totally aside, and erecting in its place an entire new fabric.

“Americanus” II, New York *Daily Advertiser*
23 November 1787 (RCS N.Y., 288)



I will confess to you without a blush, that I was in the Minority, and opposed this new fabric, from a jealousy of its ultimate consequences: this jealousy my friend, is the soul of Republican Governments.

“Extract of a letter from a Gentleman of Massachusetts, Feb. 20”
N.C. *Edenton Intelligencer*, 9 April 1788 (RCS N.C., 142)

NEW FABRIC OF AMERICAN POLICY

The nature of the subject, the diversity of human opinion, and the collision of local interests, and of the pretensions of the large & small States, will not only account for the length of time consumed in the work, but for the irregularities which may be discovered in its structure and form. I shall learn with much solicitude the comments of the philosophical Statesmen of Europe, on this new fabric of American policy.

James Madison to William Short, New York
24 October 1787 (CC I, 454)

NEW FEDERAL FABRIC OF AMERICAN GLORY

Tuesday Evening last arrived here the very important and interesting Intelligence, that the State of New-Hampshire had reared the ninth PILLAR of the new federal Fabric of American Glory.

Newport Mercury, 30 June 1788 (RCS R.I., 283)

A NEW POLITICAL FABRIC

This Convention have exceeded the authority given to them, and have transmitted to Congress a new political fabric, essentially and fundamentally distinct and different from it, in which the different states do not retain separately their sovereignty and independency, united by a confederated league—but one entire sovereignty—a consolidation of them into one government.

“Cato” II (George Clinton?), *New York Journal*
11 October 1787 (CC I, 371)



“The Convention,” says Cato. “have exceeded the authority given to them”—“they have transmitted *a new political fabric* to Congress, fundamentally different from the old.”

“Curtius” II, *New York Daily Advertiser*
18 October 1787 (RCS N.Y., 100)

NOBLE FABRICK

A correspondent observes, that the proceedings of the continental convention . . . must receive the approbation of every man of independent sentiments . . . and the happiness and glory of *independent America*, but for those EMPIRES OF REPUBLICAN FREEDOM, which that NOBLE FABRICK, THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION.

Massachusetts Centinel, 29 September 1787 (RCS MASS., 24)



Upon a rejection then of this noble Fabrick we may say, “Sweet Hope farewell”—for as to our future Prospect, “*Shadows, Clouds and Darkness* rest upon it.”

“Union,” *Boston Gazette*
12 November 1787 (RCS MASS., 221)



Indeed, the beauties of that excellent system of government, which the federal convention have planned, are daily seen in a more conspicuous point of view; every just comment upon its various parts, adds new lustre to the noble fabrick.

Massachusetts Gazette, 25 January 1788 (RCS MASS., 802)



I am apprehensive will prevent the noble fabrick from being erected. The constitution is beautiful in Theory—I wish the experiment to be made—in my opinion it would be found a government of sufficient energy *only*.

Cyrus Griffin to James Madison, New York
24 March 1788 (CC 4, 471)



Yet this noble fabric rises as it were from the marshy ground? Instabilis terra, Inabilis [nada?]; soil on which you cannot stand; fluid in which you cannot swim; amidst popular opinions and the discord of states, it ascends and acquires a solid foundation by its own weight.

Pittsburgh Gazette, 28 June 1788 (RCS SUPPL. PA., #696, p. 1310)



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)



It may not be amiss, at this time, to make a few general observations on this subject . . . For their encouragement to persevere in completing this noble fabric as a temple to the goddess of Liberty—a relief from the scourge of tyranny—the ill directed zeal of superstition and bigotry—and an asylum to the oppressed of all mankind.

Philadelphia Federal Gazette, 2 July 1789 (RCS N.C., 656–57)

THE NOBLE FABRICK, THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

A correspondent observes, that the proceedings of the continental convention, as published in our last, must receive the approbation of every man of independent sentiments; of every man who calculates not only for the honour of *individual States*, and the happiness and glory of *independent America*, but for those EMPIRES OF REPUBLICAN FREEDOM, which that NOBLE FABRICK, THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION, may usher into existence.

Massachusetts Centinel, 29 September 1787 (CC I, 266)

NOBLEST FABRIC OF POLICY

This State, if it be wise, may yet be admitted to increase and adorn the collonade,—may participate in the honors, the emoluments, and the protection of the noblest fabric of policy that ever was framed by the wit of man.

“Rhodiensis,” *Newport Herald*, 23 October 1788 (RCS R.I., 421)

POLITICAL FABRIC

And here I cannot help remarking, that inexplicitness seems to pervade this whole political fabric: certainty in political compacts which Mr. Coke *calls the mother and nurse of repose and quietness*, the want of which

induced men to engage in political society, has ever been held by a wise and free people as essential to their security.

“Cato” V (George Clinton?), *New York Journal*
22 November 1787 (CC 2, 182)



They considered them as the great *massy pillars* on which this political fabric was to be extended and supported, and were fully persuaded, that when they were removed or should moulder down by time, the general government must tumble into ruins.

William Davie, Speech in the First North Carolina Convention
25 July 1788 (RCS N.C., 279)

RISING FABRIC

How to rescue these materials from the splendid ruins of government, and give stability to the rising fabric with the greatest rapidity and least difficulty, is a question which hath nonplussed all the philosophers, lawgivers and politicians of the world.

Enos Hitchcock, Oration, Providence, R.I.
4 July 1788 (RCS R.I., 292)

RISING FABRICK OF ORDER, JUSTICE AND LIBERTY

Citizens of America, KNOW YE, That a certain J. L. [John Lamb] a place-man, pensioner, and noted antifederalist, in the city of New-York, stimulated with a prospect of gain, and a lust of power, hath lately had the audacity to transmit to the Governour of a *little* State, and some others, a large and fresh packet of pamphlets against the proposed Constitution of the United States, accompanied with anonymous letters, insidiously calculated to excite jealousies, to disturb the peace of the union, and subvert the rising FABRICK of order, justice and liberty.

Massachusetts Centinel, 7 June 1788 (RCS SUPPL. R.I., #167, p. 143)



EXULT therefore, *ye citizens of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*, at the prospect of the rising fabrick of Order, Justice and Liberty! Let us once more HARMONISE our political machine, and adopt the *Constitution of the United States*, thereby we shall retrieve our much

injured character, restore our expiring commerce, cause justice to flourish in our land, and render permanent the happiness and prosperity of this State.

Massachusetts Gazette, 1 July 1788 (RCS R.I., 283n)

THE SOLID FABRIC

From the anxiety that lately vibrated through the breasts of every honest American, and from the warmth and congratulation that now attend the new system in its progress to every quarter, I will almost venture to say that *rubicun is passed*, and that the public reputation of America will be impressed for ages on the solid fabric.

Poughkeepsie, N.Y., *Country Journal*
3 October 1787 (RCS N.Y., 73; CC I, 310)



The Constitution—may it prove the solid fabric of American Liberty, Prosperity and Glory.

Toast, New York *Daily Advertiser*, 18 February 1788 (RCS MASS., 1643)

THE SOLID FABRICK OF AMERICAN LIBERTY, PROSPERITY AND GLORY

On Monday the Grand Jury for the United States of this district, gave a very elegant entertainment to the Chief, Associate, and District Judges, The Attorney General and the officers of the Supreme and District Courts, at Fraunce's Tavern in Courtlandt-Street. The liberality displayed on this occasion and the good order and harmony which presided gave particular satisfaction to the respectable guests. After dinner the following toasts were drank.

7. The Constitution of our Country: may it prove the solid Fabrick of American liberty, Prosperity and Glory.

Toast, New York *Gazette of the United States*
10 February 1790 (RCS SUPPL. R.I., #495, p. 313)

SPLENDID FABRIC

FORBID IT HEAVEN! and may the people awake from a kind of apathy which seems to pervade them, before they are aroused by the thunder

of arms, or the insolence of dragooning parties, to arrest from the peasant, and the mechanic, the last farthing of their hard earnings, to support the splendid fabrick of *Mr. Wilson's* FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

“Helvidius Priscus” I (James Warren?), *Boston Independent Chronicle*
27 December 1787 (RCS MASS., 537)

SUPERSTRUCTURE OF ALL FABRICS

For it is a rule with artists, that in rearing the superstructure of all fabrics, to have as good a foundation and as firm supporters as possible; but when they cannot support the edifice by strength of braces, they naturally have recourse to [a] number of posts; and when they far exceed the number, which if found, would answer, it does not require much reasoning to prove that they themselves have but little confidence in any.

“The State Soldier” IV (George Nicholas?), *Virginia Independent Chronicle*
19 March 1788 (RCS VA., 514)

WHOLE FABRIC

It was manifest from a bare inspection of the plan, that the strength of each contributed to the strength of the whole, and that the existence of each and all were essentially necessary to the existence of the whole fabric as a roof.

“The New Roof” (Francis Hopkinson), *Pennsylvania Packet*
29 December 1787 (CC 3, 185)



The very appearance of it [a bill of rights] might raise more clamour than its omission,—I mean from those, who study pretexts for condemning the whole fabric of the constitution.

“Aristides” (Alexander Contee Hanson):
Remarks on the Proposed Plan of a Federal Government
31 January 1788 (CC 3, 537)



I wish with all my soul that the nine first Conventions may accept the new Constitution, because this will secure to us the good it contains, which I think great & important. but I equally wish that the four latest conventions, whichever they be, may refuse to accede to it till a declaration of rights be annexed. this would probably command the offer of

such a declaration, & thus give to the whole fabric, perhaps as much perfection as any one of that kind ever had.

Thomas Jefferson to Alexander Donald, Paris
7 February 1788 (CC 6, 288n)

THE WHOLE FABRIC IS TRULY REPUBLICAN

The house of representatives will especially resemble the great body of the people; and the senate will also in a great measure speak popular sentiments; the whole fabric is truly republican, and depends on virtue, the vital principle of republics.

“Foreign Spectator” (Nicholas Collin), Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*
2 October 1787 (CC 1, 291)

WHOLE POLITICAL FABRIC

And here I cannot help remarking, that inexplicitness seems to pervade this whole political fabric.

“Cato” V (George Clinton?), *New York Journal*
22 November 1787 (RCS N.Y., 277)