

MONSTROUS

BLOOD-STAINED MONSTER

From Phil[adelphi]a sounds the spreading din,
There toil my sons, and there my joys begin:
There tyranny first gave destruction birth,
To nations slavery and to freedom death,
From that fair clime, enroll'd in mystic guise,
I see unchain'd that blood-stain'd monster* rise.
As when old Vulcan on his fiery throne,
From Etna's top descends the flaming zone:

**Constitution.*

“Z,” Providence *United States Chronicle*
8 January 1789 (RCS SUPPL. R.I., #247, p. 196)

CREATURE

We would ask the disinterested part of the community just to look over the characters which are so fond of swallowing this creature, which exhibits all the pourtraits of an over-bearing aristocracy, and see if *they* are not chiefly composed of salary men and pensioners, and those who at least think themselves fair candidates for places of honour and emolument, whenever the aristocratick wheels of the federal chariot shall be set in motion.

“The Yeomanry of Massachusetts,” *Massachusetts Gazette*
25 January 1788 (RCS MASS., 803)

CREATURE OF THEIR OWN PRODUCTION

I was then fully convinced that we were surrounded by a mob, probably brought there for the occasion, by those who, being members of the House, had the address to get themselves elected members of the federal

convention, and those having exceeded the powers delegated to them, were intoxicated with such a fondness for the creature of their own production, or perhaps for the enjoyment of those offices which they had so liberally provided in the proposed plan.

“One of the Dissenting Assemblymen,” Philadelphia *Freeman’s Journal*
14 November 1787 (RCS SUPPL. PA., #224, p. 564)

CRIME OF THE BLACKEST DYE

It is a crime of the blackest dye, as it strike at the happiness of millions and the dignity of human nature.

“Centinel” XII (Samuel Bryan), Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*
23 January 1788 (CC 3, 449)

FATAL ACT OF POLITICAL SUICIDE

Should the citizens of America, in a fit of desperation, be induced to commit this fatal act of political suicide, to which by such arguments they are stimulated, the day will come when laboring under more than Egyptian bondage.

Luther Martin: Address No. IV, *Maryland Journal*
4 April 1788 (CC 5, 21)

HETEROGENEOUS MONSTER

And that he cannot find a precedent any where for the *Heterogeneous Monster*.

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

HIDEOUS MONSTER

These two clauses have been the sources of much virulent invective and petulant declamation against the proposed constitution, they have been held up to the people, in all the exaggerated colours of misrepresentation, as the pernicious engines by which their local governments were to be destroyed and their liberties exterminated—as the hideous monster whose devouring jaws would spare neither sex nor age, nor high nor low, nor sacred nor profane.

“Publius” (Alexander Hamilton): The Federalist 32–33
New York *Independent Journal*, 2 January 1788 (CC 3, 220)

HOME BRED MONSTER

O! tempora, O mores shall we who a few years ago so unanimously engaged in warding off British usurpation, now tamely submit to the home bred Monster of a form equally detestable if viewed when striped of its disguise.

Thomas Wilson to Archibald Stuart
4 November 1787 (RCS VA., 145)

THE ILLEGITIMATE AND MONSTROUS KIND

I observe we have our doubting, fearful, and procrastinating brethren; those who, in the profundity of their penetration, not from interested motives, but a laudable zeal to serve the public, have discovered, and pronounced the new proposed Fœderal Government to be of the illegitimate and monstrous kind, like Pandora's box, pregnant with every evil, full of design, a fatal tendency, and diametrically repugnant to the true interests, happiness, and safety of the United States.

"A Slave," *New York Journal*, 25 October 1787 (CC 1, 480)

A MANY-HEADED LEVIATHAN

Should the present system now proposed, pass without amendments, it would immediately constitute an aristocratic tyranny, a many-headed leviathan, an ungovernable monster, without constitutional checks, deplorable and to be deplored, dangerous and destructive, in proportion to the number of which it consists.

"A Citizen of the State of Maryland," *Remarks Relative to a Bill of Rights*
12 April 1788 1788 (CC 5, 92)

MANY-HEADED MONSTER

But the most sagacious advocates for the party have not by fair discussion, and rational argumentation, evinced the necessity of adopting this many-headed monster.

"A Columbian Patriot" (Mercy Otis Warren): *Observations on the Constitution*
Boston, February 1788 (CC 4, 278)

MISSHAPEN, HETEROGENEOUS MONSTER OF AMBITION AND INTEREST

And so anxious were its zealous promoters to hasten to a birth this misshapen, heterogeneous monster of ambition and interest, that, for

some time before the Convention rose, upon the least attempt to alter its form, or modify its powers, the most fretful impatience was shewn, such as would not have done much honour to a state assembly.

Luther Martin: Address No. II, *Maryland Journal*
21 March 1788 (RCS MD., 418–19; CC 4, 457)

MONSTER

But I trust, short as the time allowed you for consideration is, you will be so fully convinced of the truth of this, as to escape the impending danger: it is only necessary to strip the monster of its assumed garb, and to exhibit it in its native colours, to excite the universal abhorrence and rejection of every virtuous and patriotic mind.

“Centinel” III (Samuel Bryan), Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*
8 November 1787 (CC 2, 55–56)



Or is it not a monster in the political creation, which we ought to regard with horror?

“Cincinnatus” IV (Arthur Lee): To James Wilson, Esquire
New York Journal, 22 November 1787 (CC 2, 188)



What compensation then are you to receive in return for the liberties and privileges belonging to yourselves and posterity, that you are now about to sacrifice at the altar of this *monster*, this *Colossus of despotism*.

“Philadelphiansis” IV (Benjamin Workman), Philadelphia *Freeman’s Journal*
12 December 1787 (CC 2, 419)



I foresaw that this blind admiration would soon be succeeded by rational investigation, which, stripping the monster of its gilded covering, would discover its native deformity.

“Centinel” VII (Samuel Bryan), Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*
29 December 1787 (CC 3, 178–79)



That a set of men, endowed with great abilities, as those gentlemen who composed the Convention certainly were, should presume to present to

the great tribunal of the public such a monster, that far exceeds the description of the wonderful Colossus at Rhodes.

Providence *United States Chronicle*, 27 March 1788 (RCS R.I., 245)



I do not find many things in it which they told me were there. Truly sir, I do not see in it those features of a monster. I can rather see in its countenance the benevolence and wisdom of patriots.

“Agricola’s Opinion,” Poughkeepsie, N.Y., *Country Journal*
1 April 1788 (RCS N.Y., 885)



What compensation then are you to receive in return for the liberties and privileges belonging to yourselves and posterity, that you are about to sacrifice at the alter of this *monster*, this *Colossus of despotism*?

“A Retailer of Scraps,” Philadelphia *Federal Gazette*
1 April 1788 (RCS SUPPL. PA., #590, p. 1136)



You might here behold the honest, uninformed (or rather misinformed) peasantry almost ready to fight against that MONSTER, the CONSTITUTION;—but, happy event! their fears are daily vanishing.

Albany, N.Y., *Federal Herald*, 7 April 1788 (RCS N.Y., 902)

MONSTER-BRAT

That *Union* is the source of evil—
And *Constitution* is the Devil:—
Therefore they should not ratify
The Monster-Brat, but let it die.

Newburyport, Mass., *Essex Journal*
9 January 1788 (RCS MASS., 989)

A MONSTER IN ITS MERIDIAN GLORY

[Referring to the ransacking of the *New York Journal*, an Antifederalist newspaper] If these be *the dawnings* of the *new federal* government, good Lord deliver us from such a monster in its *meridian* glory!

Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*
30 July 1788 (RCS SUPPL. N.Y., #484, p. 344)

A MONSTER WITH OPEN MOUTH AND MONSTEROUS TEETH

It is now stared at as a Monster with open mouth and monstrous teeth ready to devour all before it—Peopel look at and numbers stand ready to strike.

Marinus Willett to John Tayler, New York
23 September 1787 (RCS N.Y., 50)

A MONSTER OF SUCH HORRID MIEN

Mr. *Gerry* applied to the system of government, as then under discussion, the words of *Pope* with respect to *vice*, “that it was a monster of such horrid mien, as to be hated need but to be seen.”

Luther Martin to the Printer, *Maryland Journal*
18 January 1788, (RCS MD., 194)

MONSTROUS BEAST

As our good Lord hath begun, by enlightening our minds, so may he perfect our deliverance from the power of this *monstrous beast*.

Portland, Maine, *Cumberland Gazette*
18 October 1787 (RCS SUPPL. MASS., #31, pp. 30–31)

MONSTROUS PLAN

The public will now no longer be at a loss to discover the origin of those numerous paragraphs, anecdotes, innuendos and falshoods, which have begun to flow afresh with greater rapidity from the press; it was necessary to inform them of the means by which the aristocrats intend to carry their monstrous plan into execution, and of the effect which the present disposition of the people has begun to have upon them.

“Tom Peep,” *Philadelphia Independent Gazetteer*
10 January 1788 (RCS SUPPL. PA., #320, p. 781)

THE NEW LEVIATHAN

I could wish there would be no more attempts to delude the people with the authority of names; for, if the favorers of the new leviathan persist in such a mode of reasoning, it will become necessary to inves-

tigate the characters of those who are thus held up as the greatest *patriarchs*, to the admiration of the public.

“An Old American,” *Philadelphia Independent Gazetteer*
11 February 1788 (RCS SUPPL. PA., #419, p. 875)



The present controversy, says a correspondent, respecting the *new Leviathan* or proposed constitution for the United States, has exhibited the talents of the Americans in a most exalted point of view.

Philadelphia Independent Gazetteer, 9 May 1788 (CC 5, 398)

A POLITICAL MONSTER

An *Officer in the late Continental Army*, in your paper of yesterday, has taken some pains, and made use of some ingenuity, to impress on the minds of the people, a distaste for that political monster (as he calls it) *the proposed constitution*.

“An Honest Man,” *Philadelphia Independent Gazetteer*
9 November 1787 (RCS SUPPL. PA., #212, p. 544)



This opposition chiefly arises from a few leading Party Men in the Towns & Cities, who have been very industrious in holding it up as a political Monster to the Multitude who know nothing of Government, & have gained many Proselytes in the back Counties.

Francis Hopkinson to Thomas Jefferson, Philadelphia
6 April 1788 (CC 5, 29)

A SHAPELESS MONSTER

Some talk about a *bill of rights*, others have given up that idea, honestly confessing that it would be a dangerous appendage to the system, in as much that volumes upon volumes, would be insufficient to enumerate those rights, and upon this plan whatever was not designated as a right, would be considered as relinquished—the truth is, the excellency of the federal Constitution consists in its *brevity* and *perspicuity*—it is *now* a complete system, but the proposed *alterations* would mar its beauty and render it a shapeless monster.

Massachusetts Centinel, 17 September 1788 (RCS SUPPL. MASS., #935, p. 431)

A STRANGE HOTCH-POTCH

A system which is an innovation in government of the most extraordinary kind;—a system neither wholly *federal*, nor wholly *national*—but a strange hotch-potch of both—just so much federal in appearance as to give its advocates, in some measure, an opportunity of passing it as such upon the unsuspecting multitude.

Luther Martin: Address No. II, *Maryland Journal*
21 March 1788 (CC 4, 457)

A THIRTEEN-HORNED MONSTER

Second, when we look back to the conduct of our legislature, at the birth of this 13 horned monster, how are we surprised to see a majority of them insidiously striving by the force of a deluded mob, (contrary to the rules of the house, and the oaths they had taken) to surprise their constituents into the adoption of a plan that will (if adopted) unhinge the constitution which they, (the members of said house) were then empowered to act under, and solemnly sworn to support.

Pa. *Carlisle Gazette*, 5 March 1788 (RCS SUPPL. PA., #484, p. 977)

AN UNGOVERNABLE MONSTER

Should the present system now proposed, pass without amendments, it would immediately constitute an aristocratic tyranny, a many-headed leviathan, an ungovernable monster, without constitutional checks, deplorable and to be deplored, dangerous and destructive, in proportion to the number of which it consists.

“A Citizen of the State of Maryland,” *Remarks Relative to a Bill of Rights*
12 April 1788 (CC 5, 92)