

## NATURALISTIC

### CENTRAL POINT OF GRAVITY

I have frequently been diverted to hear the very trifling & yet very different objections which are made to it by different peasants of this State—for you know that in this State the farmers are all politicians—many will condemn—the same Articles which others with zeal recommend. none of them agree in their objections—even this Circumstance must convince an unbiassed mind that the wisdom of that venerable Body who framed the Constitution has led them thro' that central point of Gravity which must support the interest of all.

Simeon Baldwin to James Kent, New Haven, Conn.  
8 March 1788 (RCS SUPPL. CONN., #89, p. III)

### A FIRM AND STRONG WEB

The New Constitution knits and weaves the States together by a firm and Strong Web but it leaves them so much of Seperate Independency as that they Serve as a Controuling Balance.

Theodore Foster to Dwight Foster, Providence, R.I.  
17 June 1790 (RCS R.I., 1050)

### FRUIT

If you wish for amendments to the New Constitution, you ought to accede to it; for then you would have an opportunity to propose, and to assist in effecting amendments.—Yes;—but the fruit is not ripe. It will fall when it is ripe.—I replied it is rotten ripe.

William Ellery to Benjamin Huntington, Newport, R.I.  
15 June 1789 (RCS R.I., 542)

### **GOLD MINE OF EXTRAORDINARY RICHES**

I have the pleasure to inform you, that a gold mine of extraordinary richness has been lately discovered, one hundred miles west of the city, by a gentleman of the faculty.

Charleston, S.C., *Columbian Herald*, 3 December 1787 (RCS S.C., 50–51)

### **A HOT BED OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIMENTS**

Can it be possible that the Cold Climate of New-England, & Religious Independancy can so assimilate, as to make a Hot-Bed of Governmental Experiments?

Matthew Ridley to John Jay, Baltimore  
6 December 1787 (RCS MD., 110)

### **A MERIDIAN RADIANCE ASTONISHING TO THE WORLD**

So far from thinking that the sun of this country was obscured by this new constitution, he did not doubt but that whenever it was adopted, the sun of this state, united with twelve other suns, would exhibit a meridian radiance astonishing to the world.

John Rutledge, Speech in the S.C. House of Representatives  
18 January 1788 (RCS S.C., 154–55; RCS SUPPL. S.C., #II, p. 45)

### **A MINE OF WEALTH AND PROSPERITY EQUAL TO EVERY WANT**

The new constitution would prove a mine of wealth and prosperity equal to every want, or the most sanguine desire.

“Centinel” XII (Samuel Bryan), Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*  
23 January 1788 (CC 3, 447)

### **A RAGING TORRENT**

Fearful apprehensions has frequently exercised my troubled mind, when I discovered the rapid progress of the proposed System, lest similar to a raging torrent, it should burst over all bounds of opposition and restraint, and consign to oblivion the boasted priviledges of this once happy Country.

Timothy Bloodworth to John Lamb, North Carolina  
23 June 1788 (RCS N.C., 163; CC 6, 54)

## A ROCK

A change in our system is unavoidable—every countenance indicates the strongest symptoms of a new birth—and nothing but our own folly and madness can prevent our growing up to manhood, and establishing our empire as on a rock.

Northampton, Mass., *Hampshire Gazette*, 31 October 1787 (RCS MASS., 176)



Fix'd on a rock, it must for ever stand,  
And from its foes, respect, at last command.

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

## TOUCH-STONE OF NATIONAL LIBERTY

To test this new constitution then, by this principle, is of the last importance—It is to bring it to the touch-stone of national liberty, and I hope I shall be excused, if, in this paper, I pursue the subject commenced in my last number, to wit, the necessity of an equal and full representation in the legislature.

“Brutus” IV (Melancton Smith), *New York Journal*  
29 November 1787 (CC 2, 298)

## THE TREE

The plan of incorporating the amendments being given up [i.e., putting the amendments into the body of the Constitution], the identity of the system remains; and if the amendments in any future time should be found to be unnecessary, superfluous, or absurd, they may be lopped off as a useless branch of the tree.

*New Hampshire Spy*, 1 September 1789 (RCS BoR I, 432n)

## THE TREE OF LIFE

It has been reared to Maturity by Men, who give Dignity to human Nature;—that it is *the Tree of Life*, whose Fruit will enthrone this western Empire high among the Nations, and raise the firmest and fairest Temple to LIBERTY, that has ever yet dignified this Globe.

*Virginia Independent Chronicle*, 26 September 1787 (RCS VA., 19)

**WHIRLWIND OF TYRANNY**

The eyes of the world are upon us; the patriots and friends of America, in Europe, are now anxiously concerned, lest the whirlwind of tyranny should raze from its tender root the hallowed plant of Columbian liberty.

“Philadelphiensis” II (Benjamin Workman), Philadelphia *Freeman's Journal*  
28 November 1787 (CC 2, 254)