

# TRAP

## GILDED TRAP

In New-York it goes by the name of the *gilded trap*, and very properly, for when we find men of the first abilities and best intentions at first taken with it, how very artfully must it be drawn up and glossed over.

Philadelphia *Independent Gazetteer*  
24 November 1787 (RCS N.Y., 308; CC 2, 209)



Considering the recent struggle we have made to shake off the yoke of tyranny and oppression that a gilded trap should be laid for us by men we had reason to expect better things of is really to be wondered at.

“Extract of a Letter from New York,” *Connecticut Courant*  
21 January 1788 (RCS SUPPL. CONN., #77, p. 104)



Your oppressors will laugh that the *gilded trap* has caught the gudgeons in its net. And when the thin vizard that has been cast before your injured opticks shall fall from your lids, you may find the men, who have lured you to the snare are the least disposed to meliorate your sufferings.

“Helvidius Priscus” IV (James Warren?), *Massachusetts Gazette*  
5 February 1788 (RCS MASS., 859)



We hear that the Hon. John Jay Esq. has openly declared the new constitution a *gilded trap*, and that is daily becoming more and more unpopular in the city of New York.

“A Traveller,” York *Pennsylvania Chronicle*  
6 February 1788 (RCS SUPPL. PA., #407, p. 864)



They have insidiously attempted to confine and cramp by palming this “*gilded trap*” the new breeches on me.

“Peter Prejudice” (Francis Hopkinson): *The New Breeches Philadelphia Federal Gazette*, 15 April 1788 (CC 5, 128)

### IRON TRAP

You have varnished over the iron trap that is prepared, and *ba[i]ted with some illustrious names, to catch the liberties of the people.*

“Cincinnatus” I (Arthur Lee): To James Wilson, Esquire  
*New York Journal*, 1 November 1787 (RCS N.Y., 165; CC 1, 533)



SIR, Your speech has varnished an iron trap, *ba[i]ted with some illustrious names, to catch the liberties of the people.* And this you are pleased to call a constitution.

“Cincinnatus” III (Arthur Lee): To James Wilson, Esquire  
*New York Journal*, 15 November 1787 (RCS N.Y., 257)

### THE MOST ARTFUL TRAP

It has been published, that Mr. *Jay* had changed his opinion, and affirmed the new constitution to be the most artful *trap* that had ever been laid to *catch* the liberties of mankind.

“One of the People”: Antifederal Arguments, *Maryland Journal*  
25 December 1787 (RCS MD., 120; CC 3, 92)

### THE SNARE

Your oppressors will laugh that the *gilded trap* has caught the gudgeons in its net. And when the thin vizard that has been cast before your injured opticks shall fall from your lids, you may find the men, who have lured you to the snare are the least disposed to meliorate your sufferings.

“Helvidius Priscus” IV (James Warren?), *Massachusetts Gazette*  
5 February 1788 (RCS MASS., 859)

### THE TRAP

Much more might be said to shew the bitterness and mischief contained in this *gilded pill*, but being fond of brevity, I shall rely on the good sense of the public to keep themselves out of the trap.

“A Newport Man,” *Newport Mercury*, 17 March 1788 (RCS R.I., 118)