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## A Real Federalist

*Maryland Journal*, 21 March 1788 (excerpts)

To the PEOPLE of MARYLAND.

If the opponents to the new system are not silenced . . . they must be incorrigibly stupid, or more profligate than the most abandoned of mankind. After these publications, and the pamphlet by Aristides, are read and fully understood, I do not expect that any one will be so rash as to hazard a syllable in opposition to the new government; and I entertain the most sanguine hopes, that it will be ratified by the universal voice of Maryland, without any attempt to propose the least amendment to it. . . . The truth is, that all the wise and virtuous characters in America, of independent fortunes, are in favour of the new government; and only a few men of desperate or embarrassed circumstances are opposed to it. . . .

But, alas! my dear countrymen, “there are a number of factious and turbulent spirits, and disappointed incendiaries, who are endeavouring to sow discord in the state, by opposing the new constitution with every artifice and devise that can create anarchy and confusion.”—If any of these malignant spirits should be elected, it may require some men of knowledge and information to enforce their insidious, interested and wicked designs. . . .

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