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Civis Rusticus, Virginia Independent Chronicle, 30 January 1788 (excerpts)

The following “objections to the Constitution of Government formed by the Convention,” are stated to be Col. Mason’s.

I shall remark on them with that freedom which every person has a right to exercise on publications, but, with that deference, which is due to this respectable and worthy gentleman; to whose great and eminent talents, profound judgment, and strength of mind, no man gives a larger credit, than he, who presumes to criticise his objections—these, falling from so great a height, from one of such authority, may be supposed, if not taken notice of, to contain arguments unanswerable—not obtruding themselves on my mind in that forcible manner, I submit to the decision of the public, whether, what is now offered, contain declamation or reason; cavil, or refutation. . . .

12th. Not restraining for twenty years the importation of Africans will not effect us—This gives South-Carolina and Georgia that privilege, if it be their pleasure to avail themselves of it—Is not this objection, the excess of criticism? . . .

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. VIII: Virginia [1] (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 1988), 332, 338.