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## Lachlan McIntosh to John Wereat, Skidoway Island, 17 December 1787 (excerpt)

...as I had a wish to be in this Convention, I drew up the enclosed compromise as a memorandum for myself, which I hold some hopes might meet with the wishes of all parties, either with or without the annexed conditions, and be adopted not only by our own but some other states, especially the Southern States, who are more particularly interested as they are, and ever will continue from their extent and other circumstances, the minority in Congress. Therefore it may be thought prudent, at least for them at this time, to avoid the rocks on both sides of the question instead of binding ourselves and posterity forever to adopt the Constitution only for a certain period of time during which they will have a fair trial of its effects, and at the expiration of that time be at liberty and have it in their own power to adopt it again if they please for another period, either without or with any amendments they may find necessary, which probably will hereafter be done by conventions, as the precedent is now set which is a new and far better method of settling public differences than the old way of cutting one another's throats. If we bind ourselves and our posterity now, by adopting this Constitution without any conditions or limitation of time, any efforts made thereafter for redress of grievances must be termed rebellion, as it will be impossible to obtain amendments in the mode proposed when the majority, which is observed will ever be against the Southern States, find it their interest to continue them, and men of influence are once fixed in their saddles.

It is known to have been the intention of the Eastern and Northern States to abolish slavery altogether when in their power, which, however just, may not be convenient for us so soon as for them, especially in a new country and hot climate such as Georgia. Let us therefore keep the proper time for it in our own power while we have it. This Constitution prolongs the time for 20 years more, which is one reason for fixing upon that period in the enclosed limits, as well as to pay off our national incumbrances, which it is conceived may be done in that time when we have given up all our purse strings for that purpose without regard to our own particular engagements.

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