

1 on the last day of the Federal Convention of 1787 in
2 September.

3 "Thus I consent, sir, to this Constitution
4 because I expect no better and because I am not sure it
5 is not the best. The opinions I have had of its errors I
6 have sacrificed to the public good. I have never whispered
7 a syllable of them abroad. Within these walls they were
8 born and here they shall stay. If every one of us in return-
9 ing to our constituents were to report the objections he
10 has had to it and endeavor to gain partisans in support of
11 them, we might prevent its being generally received and
12 thereby lose all the salutary effects and great advantages
13 resulting naturally in our favor among foreign nations as
14 well as among ourselves from a real or apparent unanimity.
15 Much of the strength and efficiency of any government in
16 procuring and securing happiness to the people depends upon
17 opinion, upon the general opinion of the goodness of
18 government as well as the wisdom and integrity of its
19 governors. I hope, therefore, that for our own sakes as
20 a part of the people and for the sake of prosperity we shall
21 act heartily and unanimously in recommending this