

Dear Sir,

As well from report, as from the ideas expressed in your letter to me in December last I am led to conclude that you are disposed (circumstances as our public affairs are at present) to ratify the Constitution which has been submitted by the general Convention to the People, and under this impression I take the liberty of expressing a simple sentiment on the occasion. -

It is, that an adjournment (if attempted), of your Convention to a later period than the decision of the question in this State, will be tantamount to the rejection of the Constitution. - I have good ground for this opinion - and am told it is the blow which the leading characters of the opposition in the State have been expecting if it shall be found that a direct attack is not likely to succeed in years. - If this be true, it cannot be too much deprecated, & guarded against. -

The postponement in New Hampshire, altho' made without any reference to the Convention of this State, & altogether from the local circumstances of its own, is ascribed by the opposition here to complaisance towards Virginia; and great use is made of it. - An event similar to this in Maryland, would have the worst consequences imaginable, for no doubt it will have considerable influence upon South Carolina, the only other State which is to precede Virginia, and submit the question almost wholly to the determination of the latter. - The pride of the State is already touched upon this strip, & will be raised much higher if there is an opening for it.

The sentiments of Kentucky are not yet known here. - Independent of these, the party with

with us, from the known, or presumed opinions  
of the members, are pretty equally balanced. There  
is favor of the Constitution preponderates at pre-  
sent, but a small matter cast into the opposite scale  
may make it the heaviest. -

If in suggesting this matter, I have exceed-  
ed the proper limit, my motive must excuse me.  
I have but one public wish remaining. - That  
that in peace and retirement, I may see this  
Country rescued from the danger which is pend-  
ing, & rise into respectability, manage the Intrigue  
of its public & private enemies. - With very  
great esteem & regard

I am, Dear Sir

Y<sup>r</sup> Most Obed<sup>t</sup> & Aff<sup>l</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

J. Washington

Thos. Johnson Esq<sup>r</sup>