cealed. By the multitude, however, his acts were highly extolled, and he was flattered by the acknowledgment that to him alone were the citizens of the West indebted for opening that navigation, which Mr. Jay had offered to surrender, and of realizing that commerce which congress had failed to secure.

"But there was a new cause of excitement which promised to facilitate his design. The merits of the new constitution of the United States, which had been recently adopted by eleven states of the Union, was the subject of universal interest. The policy of its acceptance was daily discussed in bar-rooms, at the hustings, and in social assemblies. Many of its provisions were known to be unpopular with a majority of the citizens of Kentucky, yet it was hoped that the objections might all be obviated by subsequent amendment. The people of the Kentucky district had been called upon to send delegates to Richmond, to meet in convention in the month of June, at which time it was expected that Virginia would declare her sentiments upon the subject. The session was protracted for three weeks. At length a vote was taken on the twentieth of June, and the instrument ratified by a vote of eighty-eight to seventy-eight, but three of the Kentucky members voting for it, while eleven declared against it.

"While the preliminary elections were being held for members of the convention at Richmond, the people were also required to select delegates to a district convention, to assemble at Danville, charged with the important trust of framing a constitution for the new state. Wilkinson was chosen a member of that body. It convened on the twenty-eighth of July, and proceeded to organize. Its deliberations, however, were suddenly terminated by the announcement of its president that he had received a dispatch stating that congress had declined any further action on the subject of Kentucky; had in fact, adjourned without having passed an act for her admission into the confederation, and leaving the decision, on that important question, to the congress about to be formed under the recently adopted constitution.

"'From this proceeding of congress,' writes Wilkinson to Miro, 'it resulted that the convention was of the opinion that our proposed independence and separation from Virginia not being ratified, its mission and powers were at an end, and we found ourselves in the alternative, either of proceeding to declare our independence, or of waiting according to the recommendation of congress. This was the state of affairs when the Honorable Caleb Wallace, one of our supreme judges, the attorney-general, Innis, and Benjamin Sebastian, proposed a prompt separation from the American union, and advocated, with intrepidity, the necessity of the measure. The artifice of congress was exposed, its proceedings reprobated, the consequences of depending on a body whose interests were opposed to ours, were depicted in the most vivid colors, and the strongest motives were set forth to justify the separation. The arguments used were unan-