

James Madison to George Washington, February 1, 1788. Transcription: The Writings of James Madison, ed. Gaillard Hunt. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1900-1910.

TO GEORGE WASHINGTON. WASH. MSS.

N. York, Feby. 1788.

Dear Sir,

The Eastern mail which arrived yesterday brought me a letter from Mr. King, of which a copy follows: "Our prospects are gloomy, but hope is not entirely extinguished. Gerry has not returned to the Convention, and I think will not again be invited. We are now thinking of amendments to be submitted not as a condition of our assent & ratification, but as the opinion of the Convention subjoined to their ratification. This scheme may gain a few members but the issue is doubtful."

In this case as in the last Mr. King's information is accompanied with letters from other persons on the spot, which dwell more on the favorable side of the prospect. His anxiety on the subject may give a greater activity to his fears than to his hopes; and he would naturally lean to the cautious side. These circumstances encourage me to put as favorable a construction on his letter as it will bear.

A vessel is arrived here from Charleston, which brings letters that speak with confidence of an adoption of the fed Government in that State; and make it very probable that Georgia had actually adopted it. Some letters from N. Carolina speak a very equivocal language as to the prospect there.

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The French Packet arrived yesterday. As she has been out since early in November little news can be expected by her. I

have not yet got my letters if there be any for me and I have heard the contents of no others.

I remain Dr. Sir, with the utmost respect & attachment, Yr. Affet. Servt.