

The act by which the deputies had been commissioned to participate in the Philadelphia Convention had recited: "Whereas the powers at present vested in the United States in Congress assembled, by the articles of confederation and perpetual union of the said States are found by experience greatly inadequate to the weighty purposes they were originally intended to answer, and it has become absolutely necessary to the welfare of the confederated States that other and more ample powers in certain cases should be vested in and exercised by the said United States in Congress assembled, etc. Be it therefore enacted . . . that five commissioners be forthwith appointed . . . duly authorized and empowered in devising and discussing all such alterations, clauses, articles and provisions as may be thought necessary to render the Federal Constitution entirely adequate to the actual situation and future good government of the confederated States. . . ." <sup>1</sup>

The vote to postpone and to refuse to ratify indicates, therefore, the dissatisfaction, in some quarters, with the result.

We have the statesman-like speech in which Charles Pinckney defended that work and confidently contemplated the ratification; but the efforts of General Sumter and Jehu Wilson, in opposition, have not been preserved. In the following burst of poetic frenzy, some of the views of the opposition may, however, appear: —

"In evil hour his pen Squire Adams drew,  
Claiming dominion to his well-born few.  
In the gay circle of St. James' plac'd  
He wrote, and, writing, has his work disgrac'd.  
Smit with the splendor of a British King  
The crown prevail'd, so once despis'd a thing.  
Shelbourne and Pitt approv'd of all he wrote;  
While Rush and Wilson echo back his note.

<sup>1</sup> Statutes at Large, So. Ca., Vol. 5, p. 4.