
Ratification Ballad

The 'Vention did in Boston meet,
The State House could not hold 'em,
So then they went to Fed'ral Street,
And there the truth was told 'em. . . .

And ev'ry morning went to prayer,
And then began disputing,
Till oppositions silenced were,
By arguments refuting.

Then 'Squire Hancock like a man,
Who dearly loved the nation,
By a conciliatory plan,
Prevented much vexation.

He made a woundy Fed'ral speech,
With sense and elocution;
And then the 'Vention did beseech
T'adopt the Constitution.

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Now politicians of all kinds,
Who are not yet decided,
May see how Yankees speak their minds,
And yet are not divided.

So here I end my Fed'ral song,
Composed of thirteen verses;
May agriculture flourish long
And commerce fill our purses!

Songs were a popular form of political comment in America in the late Eighteenth Century. This ballad, sung to the tune of "Yankee Doodle Dandy," was current in Boston in 1788. These six verses of the original thirteen were printed in Catherine Drinker Bowen's classic account of the drafting and ratification of the United States Constitution, *Miracle at Philadelphia*, Little Brown Co., Boston, 1966, p. 291-292. The adjective "woundy" in the fourth verse would be spelled "windy" today.