

**THE FEDERAL  
CONSTITUTION:  
AN ESSAY**

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The Federal Constitution: An Essay by John F. Baker

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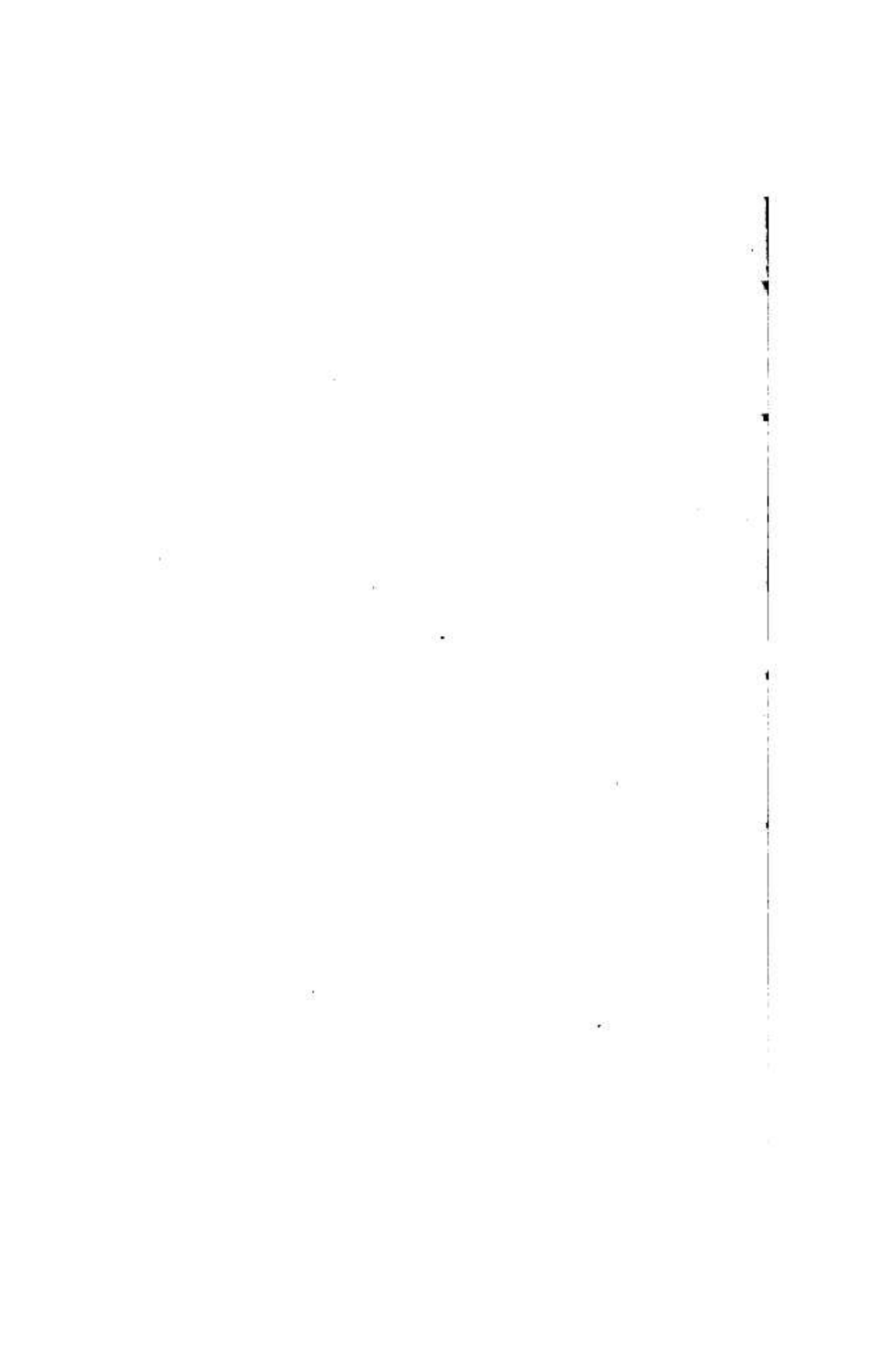
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**JOHN F. BAKER**

**THE FEDERAL  
CONSTITUTION:  
AN ESSAY**





# ✓ THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION

AN ESSAY

By <sup>Reeman</sup> JOHN F. BAKER, LL.B.

OF THE NEW YORK BAR

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"All the powers of government, in free countries, emanate from the people; all organized and operative power exists by delegation from the people. Upon these two pillars is erected the whole fabric of our freedom."—JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.  
"It is, sir, the People's Constitution, the People's Government; made for the People; made by the People; and answerable to the People."—WEBSTER.

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NEW YORK & LONDON

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1887

TO  
M. L. BAKER  
THE  
FOLLOWING ESSAY  
IS  
AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED  
BY  
THE AUTHOR





## PREFACE.

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AT this time, the one hundredth anniversary of the adoption of the Federal Constitution, it seems peculiarly fitting that we pause a while, to take a retrospective view, of the interesting scenes which were enacted in that eventful drama, and to contemplate the masterful structure then reared by the wise and inspired men of that remarkable epoch.

During the past century, under the benign influence and polity embodied in that beautiful organism, a mighty nation has been established to give the world assurance of the stability and grandeur of the representative system.

It is not my aim, in the following Essay, to attempt or even propose any innovations upon the system thus established, nor to strike out any new path, with any hope, the most visionary, of improvement, but rather to present in a small compass, and in as clear a light as

possible, an outline of the origin, growth, and principles of constitutional liberty as enunciated by the Federal Constitution.

If the reader shall find aught in the Essay from which he may discern a clearer vision of the circumstances which led to the development and consummation of the system, or be inspired thereby with a loftier admiration of the representative principle, and shall reap the benefit that for his reading he deserveth, my labors and hopes will have been amply rewarded.

JOHN F. BAKER.

NEW YORK, April, 1837.

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