

To the Bag

A small addendum will show that the prevailing plural style in the pre-Civil War period did not turn merely on any idiosyncrasies of the verbs “are” versus “is.” Thus, taken from a random sampling, in Chief Justice Marshall’s opinion in the notable case of *Cohens v. Virginia*, 6 Wheat. (19 U.S.) 264, 413 (1821), we find The Great Chief Justice writing “That the United States form, for many, and for most important purposes, a single nation, has not yet been denied.” Not “the United States forms.” Or in a nearby opinion, *The Gran Para*, 7 Wheat. (20 U.S.) 471, 486 (1822), Marshall writes “against a nation with whom the United States were at peace.” Not “the United States was at peace.” It might also be noted that Marshall and some of his brethren had a habit of often writing about “the Union” where they might have said “the United States,” so to that extent this grammatical nicety would not even arise.

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WHERE ARE THE BOBBLEAPPERS?

To the *Bag*:

I looked long and hard in my copy of the Summer 2008 *Green Bag* for the *Ex Post* article “Bobblenapping” by the BLA. Ok, not that long or that hard, but I did look for it. It’s mentioned on the cover, but not in the table of contents inside. And I can’t find it at the end of the issue. Editing problem with the cover, perhaps?

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To the *Bag*:

I received my copy of the Summer 2008 *Green Bag*, and after a quick perusal, I am having it preserved in acid-free, temperature- and light-controlled storage because of its obvious value: It seems that instead of the *Ex Post* article, *Bobblenapping*, by the BLA, listed on the front cover, in my copy there were printed four “Subscription Information” pages, not counting the inside back cover. I’m