

1 I am sure it can be said of you that you will so conduct
2 yourselves that it will be said of your work, as James
3 Madison said of the work of the Convention in Philadelphia
4 in 1787, whatever may be the judgment pronounced on the
5 competency of the architects of the Constitution, or whatever
6 may be the destiny of the edifice prepared by them, I feel
7 it a duty to express my profound and solemn conviction
8 derived from my intimate opportunity of observing and
9 appreciating the views of the Convention collectively and
10 individually there never was an assembly of men charged
11 with a greater and more arduous trust who were more pure
12 in their motives or more exclusively or more anxiously
13 devoted to the object committed to them to best secure
14 permanent liberty and the happiness of their country.

15 The rights you exercise were won in 1776 and
16 have been protected in memorable struggles through the
17 years. The fight for liberty, however, must be won anew
18 each day and the contest for good government waged during
19 the days of peace is no less important than the battle
20 waged in the heat of armed conflict.

21 In a way, I envy you. I wish I could join you.