

what could be more appropriate upon his anniversary birthday than a brief review of that sublime valedictory he has bequeathed to the Nation, at a time when deep National distress has taught us what estimate to place upon his instruction.

Perhaps, the same sentiment which has so carefully guarded the spot, where his sacred remains repose in quiet, from the noise and tumult of actual conflict, may dispose the hearts of our misguided and erring brethren to war no more against his counsels, and to restore again the broken bonds of unity and peace. Perhaps, also, it may help to quiet that unfortunate agitation and rough handling, in high places, of an exceedingly delicate subject, so well calculated to irritate and madden, and so little fitted for constant abuse.

The circumstances under which this address was published were peculiar, and in exact keeping with the character of Washington. Having filled for two consecutive terms the highest office in the gift of his countrymen, against his inclination, and only in obedience to an exalted sense of duty, he determined to retire and devote himself to the quiet and secluded pursuit of his favorite occupation. For seven years he had maintained the honor of his country, through many hard campaigns, and at length wrung her independence from a tight and unwilling grasp; for eight years he had served her faithfully in administering the somewhat confused affairs of a nation just adapting itself to its Constitution, and taking its rank in the world; and now, as he had seen her through a war of bayonets, and then through a war of early legislation and party conflict, he was ready to relinquish the pen for the plough, as he had already relinquished the sword for the pen. But his countrymen again said no, and there can be no doubt but that it merely rested with his choice whether or not a third time he should be President of the United States. Even in districts where the most powerful opposition had been organized against his administration, and where the leading measures of it had been most violently opposed, the personal popularity of Washington was such, that none of his enemies, had he chosen to be a candidate, would have been returned to the electoral body. He had been roundly abused too by a certain party, and had every inducement therefore, to influence his acceptance of this renewed opportunity for a personal triumph. But with rare public virtue, never before exhibited perhaps to such an extent, Washington determined to withdraw from public life, and issued his "Farewell Address," to apprise his friends of that intention, and at the same time to fitly close, may we not term it, his perfect career? With what affectionate earnestness, he counsels them to preserve intact the only institutions which can secure and protect their liberty. How like old Pollonius to Laertes when about to leave for France