

posed of intelligent individuals) to patronise this primary pursuit of society, are subjects which will readily engage our most serious attention.

A national university may be converted to the most useful purposes.—The science of legislation, being so essentially dependent on the endowments of the mind, the public interest must receive effectual aid from the general diffusion of knowledge; and the United States will assume a more dignified station, among the nations of the earth, by the successful cultivation of the higher branches of literature.

A military academy may be likewise rendered equally important. To aid and direct the physical force of the nation, by cherishing a military spirit, enforcing a proper sense of discipline, and inculcating a scientific system of tactics, is consonant to the soundest maxims of public policy; connected with, and supported by, such an establishment, a well regulated militia, constituting the national defence of the country, would prove the most effectual, as well as economical, preservative of peace.

We cannot but consider, with serious apprehensions, the inadequate compensations of the public officers, especially of those in the more important stations. It is not only a violation of the spirit of a public contract, but is an evil so extensive in its operation, and so destructive in its consequences, that we trust it will receive the most pointed legislative attention.

We sincerely lament, that whilst the conduct of the United States has been uniformly impressed with the character of equity, moderation, and love of peace, in the maintenance of all their foreign relationships, our trade should be so harassed by the cruisers and agents of the republic of France, throughout the extensive departments of the West-Indies.

Whilst we are confident that no cause of complaint exists, that could authorise an interruption of our tranquillity, or disengage that republic from the bonds of amity, cemented by the faith of treaties, we cannot but express our deepest regrets, that official communications have been made to you, indicating a more serious disturbance of our commerce. Although we cherish the expectation, that a sense of justice, and a consideration of our mutual interests will moderate their councils; we are not unmindful of the situation in which events may place us, nor unprepared to adopt that system of conduct, which, compatible with the dignity of a respectable nation, necessity may compel us to pursue.

We cordially acquiesce in the reflection, that the United States, under the operation of the federal government, have experienced a most rapid aggrandisement and prosperity, as well political as commercial.

Whilst contemplating the causes that produce this auspicious result, we much acknowledge the excellence of the constitutional system, and the wisdom of the legislative provisions;—but we should be deficient in gratitude and justice, did we not attribute a great portion of these advantages, to the virtue, firmness and talents of your administration; which have been conspicuously displayed in the most trying times, and on the most critical occasions. It is, therefore, with the sincerest regret, that we now receive an official notification of your intentions to retire from the public employments of your country.

When we review the various scenes of your public life, so long and so successfully, devoted to the most arduous services, civil and military,—as well, during the struggles of the American revolution, as the convulsive periods of a recent date, we cannot look forward to your retirement without our warmest affections and most anxious regards accompanying you; and without mingling with our fellow-citizens at large, the sincerest wishes for your personal happiness, that sensibility and attachment can express.

The most effectual consolation that can offer for the loss we are about to sustain, arises from the animating reflection, that the influence of your example will extend to your successors, and the United States thus continue to enjoy an able, upright, and energetic administration.

JOHN ADAMS, Vice-president of the United States and president of the senate.

The following is the REPLY of the PRESIDENT:

GENTLEMEN,

IT affords me great satisfaction, to find in your address, a concurrence in sentiment with me on the various topics which I presented for your information and deliberation; and that the latter will receive from you, an attention proportioned to their respective importance.

For the notice you take of my public services civil and military, and your kind wishes for my personal happiness, I beg you to accept my cordial thanks.—Those services, and greater, had I possessed ability to render them, were due to the unanimous calls of my country; and its approbation is my abundant reward.

When contemplating the period of my retirement, I saw virtuous and enlightened men, among whom I relied on the discernment and patriotism of my fellow-citizens, to make the proper choice of a successor: Men who would require no influential example to ensure to the United States an able, upright and energetic administration. To such men I shall cheerfully yield the palm of genius and talents, to serve our common country; but at the same time I hope I may be indulged in expressing the consoling reflection, (which consciousness suggests) and to bear it with me to my grave, that none can serve it with purer intentions than I have done, or with a more disinterested zeal.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

December 14.

Yesterday Elijah Paine and Isaac Tichenor, Esq's, senators in congress from the state of Vermont, pursuant to a resolution of the council and general assembly of Vermont, presented to the president of the United States the following ADDRESS, passed by the unanimous voice of both branches of the legislature of Vermont, October 25th, 1796.

An address from the legislature of the state of Vermont, to the President of the United States.

SIR,

FROM the unrecognized situation of this state, the legislature had not an opportunity in common with her sister states, to anticipate, by an address, the blessings that were expected from your administration. Permit us now, with sincere satisfaction, to assure you, that the event has justified the most sanguine hopes of the legislature of Vermont, and their constituents.

When we contrast the gloomy aspect, both of our domestic and foreign affairs, a few years since, with the flattering prospect now before us, we at once appreciate the advantages which immediately result from our general government, and the justice, magnanimity and moderation which has marked your administration. Convinced of our true interest, you have successfully opposed faction, and maintained that neutrality, so necessary to our national honour and peace. Accept, Sir, the only acknowledgment in our power to make, or in yours to receive, the gratitude of a free people. Ardently wish your continuance in public office, yet, when we reflect on the years of anxiety you have spent in your country's service, we must reluctantly acquiesce in your wishes, and consent that you should pass the evening of your days, in reviewing a well spent life, and looking forward to scenes beyond the grave, where our prayers shall ascend, for a complete reward, for all your services in a happy immortality.

We receive your address to your fellow-citizens, as expressive of the highest zeal for their prosperity, and containing the best advice to ensure its continuance. We cannot Sir, close this address (probably the last public communication we may have occasion to make to you) without assuring you of our affection and respect—may the shade of private life be as grateful to you as the splendour of your public life has been useful to your country! We shall recollect you with filial affection—your advice as an estimable legacy; and shall pride ourselves, in teaching our children the importance of that advice, and an humble imitation of your example.

To which the President returned the following answer.

To Elijah Paine and Isaac Tichenor, Esq's, senators in Congress from the state of Vermont.

GENTLEMEN,

WITH particular pleasure I receive the unanimous address of the council and general assembly of the state of Vermont. Although but lately admitted into the union, yet the importance of your state, its love of liberty, and its energy, were manifested in the earliest periods of the revolution which established our independence. Unaffected in name only, but in reality united with the confederated States, these felt and acknowledged the benefits of your co-operation. Their mutual safety and advantage duly appreciated, will never permit this union to be dissolved.

I enjoy great happiness in the testimony you have presented, and in the other proofs exhibited from various parts of our country, that the operations of the general government have justified the hopes of our citizens at its formation, which is recognized as the era of national prosperity. The voluntary acknowledgements of my fellow-citizens, persuade me to believe, that my agency has contributed to produce this effect. This belief will be to me a source of permanent satisfaction, and those acknowledgements, a rich reward.

My sincere thanks are due, and I beg you, gentlemen, to make them acceptable to the council and general assembly of the state of Vermont, for the very obliging and affectionate terms in which they notice me and my public services. To such confidence and support, as I have experienced from councils, legislative assemblies, and the great body of American citizens, I owe the best exertions of every faculty I possessed: happy now in the reflection, that our joint labours have been crowned with success.—When withdrawn to the shade of private life, I shall view with growing pleasure, the increasing prosperity of the United States: in the perfect protection of their government, I trust to enjoy my retirement in tranquillity; and then while indulging a favourite wish of my heart in agricultural pursuits, I may hope to make even my private business and amusement of some use to my country.

G. WASHINGTON.

United States, 14th December, 1796.

SAVANNA, November 29.

Having suffered with others in the late calamity, we have made haste to collect the remains of our printing materials, and now present to the public, a few of the circumstances which accompanied this event—being ever their obedient servants.

The Printers of the Columbian Museum.

On Saturday 26th inst. this city exhibited a scene of desolation and distress, probably, more awfully calamitous than any, previously experienced in America.

Between six and seven o'clock in the evening, a small bake-house, belonging to a Mr. Gromet, in Market-square, was discovered to be on fire. The citizens, together with the officers and crews of the vessels in the harbour, were soon convened; but, unfortunately, no immediate and decisive measures

were adopted, by which the fire could be stopped at its beginning. The fortunate escape from this destructive element which the city for many years past experienced, had greatly lulled the vigilance of its inhabitants, and prevented suitable preparations for such a calamity.

The period when such precautions and the united efforts of active exertion could have been useful, was however, of very short duration.

The season for two months previous to this incident, had been dry: The night was cold, and a light breeze from N. N. W. was soon increased by the effects of the fire. The covering of the buildings being of wood, were from the above circumstances rendered highly combustible. Several of the adjoining houses were soon affected, and then almost instantly in flames; the wind now became strong, and whirled into the air, with agitated violence, large flakes of burning shingles, boards and other light substances, which alighted at a distance, added comfort to the other terrors of the conflagration.

The use of water was now rendered totally vain, its common extinguishing power seemed to be lost. Torrents of flames rolled from house to house, with a destructive rapidity, which bid defiance to all human exertion, and individual exertions were, from this time, principally pointed towards the securing of private property.

The direction of the fire, being now committed to the wind, its rage was abated when, by its extending to the commons, it found no further object wherewith to feed its fury.

On the north side of Market-square, and thence in a south-easterly direction, the inhabitants were enabled, by favour of the wind, to save their houses, and limit the conflagration. On the other hand, by the time it had extended on the Bay, nearly to Abercorn-street, the prodigious quantity of heat already produced in the centre of the city, began to draw in a current of air from the east, and enabled some of the most active inhabitants and seamen to save a few houses in that quarter, after having been in imminent danger.

Between 12 and 1, the rage of the fire abated, and few other houses from this time took fire. The exhausted sufferers of both sexes, lay now to remain exposed to the inclemency of a cold frosty night, and to witness the distressing spectacle of their numerous dwellings, covered with volumes of smoke and flame, tumbling into ruins.

Thus was this little city, soon after emerging from the ravages of our revolutionary war, and which had lately promised a considerable figure among the commercial cities of our sister States, almost destroyed in a single night. The number of houses, (exclusive of other buildings) which are burnt, is said to be nearly 300; but of this (together with an estimate of property destroyed) a more particular statement than we can now furnish, is expected shortly to be offered to the public. We can now only say, that two thirds of the city appears in ruins; in a direction from the corner of Market-square, along the Bay, to Abercorn-street, thence in a south-east direction, taking the whole centre of the city to the south and east commons—a few houses quite in the south-east part only excepted. It is said, three or four white men, and two of three negroes, lost their lives, in rendering assistance during the fire; and whether any more, is not yet ascertained.

The morning after the catastrophe, a most interesting and melancholy picture presented itself, in the dejected countenances of its inhabitants—the smoking ruins, the forest of naked chimneys, the various kinds of destruction of goods and furniture, and the crowds of houseless inhabitants. The hospitality of the few, whose houses remain, has been general and unrestrained; their tenements are shared with the others, but they are insufficient. The buildings of the city were before wholly occupied; what remains can not now contain the inhabitants. Every thing which an affecting sympathy, which an active benevolence among their fellow-citizens can perform, will undoubtedly be done.—A timely interference of the state legislature, may also be expected. But we presume to hope, that the prospect of relief will not be limited to these resources alone—the truly humane are not confined in their benevolence to objects that are near them; and many instances have occurred of misfortunes far inferior to this, which have evinced the justice by which the Americans can claim the honour of being human.

The anxious eyes of immediate distress, must however, be turned to the planters of the neighbouring counties; and we should be sorry to do them the injustice to suppose that they will not feel a satisfaction in affording the necessary relief. We persuade ourselves that we shall be sincerely joined, by our readers, in fervent wishes, that Providence may avert from others, so severe and afflicting a calamity.

The following statement is just handed, as this paper goes to press:

During the conflagration on Saturday night last, in four hours, 229 houses besides out-houses, &c. were burnt, amounting to one million of dollars, exclusive of loose property—375 chimneys are standing bare, and form a dismal appearance—771 houses only, of the compact part of the city are standing—upwards of 400 families are destitute of houses.—Charities are solicited.

NORFOLK, December 6.

Extract of a letter from Fort Royal, Martinique, dated October 12.

The mortality that prevails here among the army, navy, and inhabitants, is almost beyond conception. It appears from the returns, that there have died in