

Suggestions as reflection and experience may have dictated, it may be permitted to us
to offer you individually and collectively our sincere congratulations upon your safe
arrival, in good health, at the seat of Government, and to felicitate both you and
ourselves upon the generally prosperous and happy condition of our fellow citizens thro-
ugh-out the State.

Although there is much to admire in the Annual Accounting of those who
are entrusted with the Chief Executive power, with them or immediate representatives
of the people, and through them with the people themselves, as a beautiful practical
commentary upon the theory and principles of our happy form of Government, yet
confined as we are, chiefly to the circle of our domestic relations, it is not to be
expected, nor indeed desired, that there should often be much that is new, or of
awakening interest in this or similar communications.

Based as our Government is upon written Constitutions and Laws,
carefully protecting the rights of every citizen, and wisely distributing and clearly
defining the powers, rights and duties of the several public functionaries to whom
the sovereign people have confided the management of their affairs, it would seem
that peace, order, and harmonious accord, in all its internal operations, should
ever attend its progress. Such has hitherto been eminently the case within our
own State, and, with few exceptions, is has, so far, been no less the happy
fortune of our sister States, and of the Union. Time may now be said to have
demonstrated to these United States, the incalculable value of the form of
Government devised by the enlightened patriotism, and brought into successful
operation by patriarchal virtues of our ancestors, but it has equally shown
that human wisdom can devise nothing, however excellent, which is not
by human ingenuity, be perverted. It is in vain to hope to be entirely freed,
by any form of Government from the workings of those adverse principles,
between the governing and the governed, which have marked the history
of mankind through all time: and whilst our admirable Constitution may
be found to have done, and be still capable of doing, much towards
preserving the just balance of our political system, it must ultimately
prove but a weak barrier against the inroads of power, unless strengthened
by the constant devotion, and guarded by the wakeful vigilance of a
free people, to whom it is the sheet anchor of hope. Whenever the people
of this Country shall become indifferent to this subject, whenever they shall
fail to rally with alacrity and zeal to the repair of any breach which may
have been made in the palladium of their liberties, then shall we have
passed our meridian as a confederated Republic, and be rapidly descending
to servility and despotism.

We transmitted, (as was made our duty) to His Excellency
the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, two Reports of a Joint
Committee of the Senate and House of Delegates, and sundry Resolutions
of the General Assembly, at its last Session, on the subject of our Southern
and Western boundaries, and the long pending controversy with Virginia
in relation thereto. And, in further compliance with the directions of
General Assembly, we selected and engaged the services of two
Counsel, Genl. S. P. F. and Joseph J. Herrick, Esq.