Mr. President,

The great events on which my resignation depended having at length taken place. I have now, from the honor of defending myself before Congress, to surrender into their hands, the trust committed to me, and to request the protection of the Union from the service of my Country.

Harry in the confirmation of our Independence and sovereignty, and as well as the happiness of our country Establishment of a perfect system of established justice, I accept with satisfaction the appointment I accepted with diffidence — a diffidence in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task, which however was superseded by a confidence in the multitude of our Cause, the support of the Supreme Power of the Union, and the patronage of Heaven.

The successful termination of the War has verified the just expectations and my gratitude for the interposition of Providence, and the assistance I have received from my Countrymen, increases with every year of the momentous contest.

While
While I repeat my obligations to the Army in general, I should do injustice to my own feelings and to acknowledge the peculiar services and distinguished merits of the Gentlemen who have been attached to my person during the war. It was impossible for the choice of confidential officers to comprehend my family. How could they have been more fortunate? Permit me, sir, to recommend in particular those who have continued in service to the present moment, as worthy of the favorable notice of Congress.

I consider it an indispensable duty to close this last and solemn act of my official life, by commanding the interest of our dearest Country to the protection of Almighty God, and those who have the charge of her, in his holy keep.

Having now finished the work assigned me, retire from the great theatre of action — and bid an affectionate farewell to this august body under whose care I have so long acted. Here end my Commission, and take my leave of all the employments of public life.