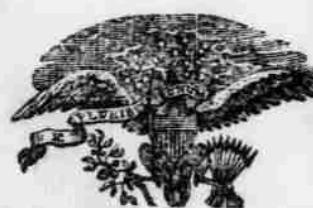


# FREE PRESS.



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## THE "FREE PRESS,"

By George Howard,

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## DOMESTIC.

Washington, March 5.

### THE INAUGURATION.

At an early hour yesterday morning the avenues to the Capitol presented an animated scene. Groups of Citizens hastening to the great theatre of expectation, were to be seen in all directions; carriages were rolling to and fro, and ever and anon the sound of the drum and trumpet at a distance gave notice that the military were in motion and repairing to their different parade grounds.

Towards 12 o'clock, the military, consisting of General and Staff Officers and the Volunteer Companies of the 1st and 2d Legion, received the PRESIDENT at his residence, with his predecessor, and several officers of the Government. The cavalry led the way, and the procession moved in very handsome array, with the music of the several corps, to the Capitol, attended by thousands of citizens. The PRESIDENT was attended on horseback by the Marshal, with his assistants for the day, distinguished by blue badges, &c.

At 20 minutes past 12, the Marshals made their appearance in blue scarfs, succeeded by the officers of both Houses of Congress, who introduced the PRESIDENT ELECT. He was followed by the venerable Ex-PRESIDENT and family, by the JUDGES of the Supreme Court, in their robes of office, and the Members of the SENATE preceded by the VICE PRESIDENT, with a number of Members of the House of Representatives. Mr. ADAMS, in a plain suit of black, ascended the steps to the Speaker's chair, and took his seat. The Chief Justice was placed in front of the Clerk's table, on the floor of the Hall, on the opposite side of which sat the remaining Judges, with their faces towards the Chair. Silence having been proclaimed, and the doors of the Hall closed Mr. ADAMS rose and read, with a clear and deliberate articulation, the address which will be found in another part of this paper. The time occupied by the delivery of this address, was about 40 minutes. As soon as the last sentence was pronounced, a general plaudit commencing in the galleries, but extending, in a degree, throughout the whole assembly, continued for some minutes. The President Elect then descended from the Chair, and placing himself on the right hand of the Judges' table, received from the Chief Justice, a volume of the Laws of the United States, from which he read, in a loud and clear voice, the oath of office; at the close of which, the plaudits were repeated mingled with cheers from the spectators who filled the

galleries, and immediately followed by the discharge of a salute of artillery.

The congratulations which then poured in from every side, occupied the hands, and could not but reach the heart of the President. The meeting between him and his venerated predecessor had in it something peculiarly affecting. General JACKSON, we were pleased to observe, was among the earliest of those who took the hand of their President; and their looks and deportment towards each other were a rebuke to that littleness of party spirit, which can see no merit in a rival, and feel no joy in the honor of a competitor. — Shortly after one o'clock, the procession commenced leaving the Hall; but it was nearly an hour before the clustering groups which had crowded every seat and avenue completely retired.

The President was then escorted back as he came, and, on his arrival at his residence, received the compliments and respects of a great number of gentlemen and ladies who called upon him, who generally paid their respects at the Mansion occupied by the Ex-President.

At 12 o'clock, the following Inaugural Address was delivered in the Hall of the House of Representatives, by JOHN Q. ADAMS, on his taking the oath as president of the United States of America:—

In compliance with an usage, coeval with the existence of our Federal constitution, and sanctioned by the example of my predecessors in the career upon which I am about to enter, I appear, my fellow-citizens, in your presence, and in that of Heaven, to bind myself by the solemnities of a religious obligation, to the faithful performance of the duties allotted to me, in the station to which I have been called.

In unfolding to my country the principles by which I shall be governed, in the fulfilment of those duties, my first resort will be to that constitution, which I shall swear, to the best of my ability, to preserve, protect and defend. That revered instrument enumerates the powers, and prescribes the duties of the Executive Magistrate; and, in its first words, declares the purpose to which these, and the whole action of the Government, instituted by it, should be invariably and sacredly devoted—to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to the people of this Union, in their successive generations.

Such is the unexaggerated picture of our condition, under a constitution founded upon the Republican principle of equal rights. To admit that picture has its shades, is but to say that it is still the condition of men upon earth. From evil, physical, moral and political, it is not our claim to be exempt. We suffered, sometimes by the visitation of Heaven, through disease; often by the wrongs and injustice of other nations, even to the extremities of war; and lastly, by dissensions among ourselves—dissensions perhaps

It has promoted the lasting welfare of that country, so dear to us all; it has, to an extent, far beyond the ordinary lot of humanity, secured the freedom and happiness of this People. We now receive it as a precious inheritance from those to whom we are indebted for its establishment, doubly bound by the examples which they have enjoyed, as the fruits of their labors, to transmit the same, unimpaired, to the succeeding generation.

In the compass of thirty-six years, since this great national covenant was instituted, a body of laws enacted under its authority, and in conformity with its provisions, has unfolded its powers, and carried into practical operation its effective energies. Subordinate departments have distributed the Executive functions in their various relations, to Foreign Affairs, to the Revenue and Expenditures, and to the military force of the Union by land and sea. A coordinate department of the Judiciary has expounded the Constitution and the Laws; settling, in harmonious coincidence with the Legislative will, numerous weighty questions of construction, which the imperfection of human language had rendered unavoidable. The year of Jubilee since the first formation of our Union has just elapsed; that of the Declaration of our Independence is at hand. The consummation of both was effected by this Constitution.

Since that period, a population of four millions has multiplied to twelve. A territory bounded by the Mississippi, has been extended from sea to sea. New states have been admitted to the Union, in numbers nearly equal to those of the first confederation.—Treaties of Peace, Amity and Commerce, have been concluded with the principal dominions of the earth. The people of other nations, inhabitants of regions acquired, not by conquest, but by compact, have been united with us in the participation of our rights and duties, of our burdens and blessings. The forest has fallen by the axe of woodsmen—the soil has been made to teem by the tillage of our farmers; our commerce has whitened every ocean. The dominion of man over physical nature, has been extended by the invention of our artists. Liberty and Law have marched hand in hand. All the purposes of human association have been accomplished as effectively as under any other government on the globe; and at a cost little exceeding, in a whole generation, the expenditures of other nations in a single year.

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inseparable from the enjoyment of freedom, but which have more than once appeared to threaten the dissolution of the union, and, with it, the overthrow of all the enjoyments of our present lot, & all our earthly hopes of the future.—The causes of these dissensions have been various, founded upon differences of speculation in the theory of Republican government; upon conflicting views of policy, in our relations with foreign nations; upon jealousies of partial and sectional interests, aggravated by prejudices and prepossessions, which strangers to each other, are ever apt to entertain.

It is a source of gratification and of encouragement to me, to observe, that the great result of this experiment, upon the theory of human rights, has, at the close of that generation, by which it was formed, been crowned with success, equal to the most sanguine expectations of its founders. Union, Justice, tranquility, the common defence, the general welfare, and the blessings of liberty—all have been promoted by the government under which we have lived. Standing at this point of time; looking back to that generation which has gone by, and forward to that which is advancing, we may, at once, indulge in grateful exultation, and in cheering hope. From the experience of the past, we derive instructive lessons for the future. Of the two great political parties which have divided the opinions and feelings of our country, the candid and the just will now admit that both have contributed

splendid talents, spotless integrity, ardent patriotism, & disinterested sacrifices, to the formation and administration of this government; and that both have required a liberal indulgence for a portion of human infirmity and error. The Revolutionary Wars of Europe, commencing precisely at the moment when the government of the United States first went into operation, under this Constitution, excited a collision of sentiments and sympathies, which kindled all the passions, and embittered the conflict of parties, till the Nation was involved in War, and the Union was shaken to its centre. This time of trial embraced a period of five and twenty years, during which the policy of the Union, in its relations with Europe, constituted the principal basis of our political divisions, and the most arduous part of the action of our Federal Government.

With the catastrophe, in which the wars of the French Revolution terminated; and our own subsequent peace with Great Britain, this baneful weed of party strife was uprooted. From that time no difference of principle, connected either with the theory of Government, or with our intercourse with Foreign Nations, has existed, or been called forth, in force sufficient to sustain a continued combination of parties, or to give more than wholesome animation to public sentiment, or legislative debate. Our political creed is, without a dissenting voice, that can be heard, that the will of the people is the source and the happiness of the people, the end of all legitimate government

upon earth.—That the best security for the beneficence, and the best guaranty against the abuse of power, consists in the freedom, the purity and the frequency of popular elections.—That the general government of the Union and the separate governments of the States, are all sovereignties of limited powers, fellow servants of the same masters, uncontrolled within their respective spheres, uncontrollable by encroachments upon each other.—That the firmest security for peace, is the preparation, during peace, of the defences of war.—That a rigorous economy and accountability of public expenditures, should guard against the aggravation, and alleviate, when possible, the burden of taxation.—That the military should be kept in strict subordination to the civil power.—That the freedom of the press and of religious opinion should be inviolate.—That the policy of our country is peace, and the ark of our salvation, union, are articles of faith, upon which we are all agreed. If there have been those who doubted whether a confederate Representative Democracy, were a government, competent to the wise and orderly management of the common concerns of a mighty nation, those doubts have been dispelled. If there have been project of partial confederacies, to be erected upon the ruins of the Union, they have been scattered to the winds. If there have been dangerous attachment to one foreign nation, and antipathies against another, they have been extinguished.

Ten years of peace, at home and abroad, have assuaged the animosities of political contention, and blended into harmony the most discordant elements, of public opinion. There still remains one effort of magnanimity, one sacrifice of prejudice and passion, to be made by the individuals throughout the Nation, who have heretofore followed the standards of political party. It is that of discarding every remnant of rancour against each other; of embracing, as countrymen and friends, and of yielding to talents and virtue alone, that confidence which, in times of contention for principle, was bestowed only upon those who bore the badge of party communion.

The collisions of party spirit, which originate in speculative opinions, or in different views of administrative policy, are, in their nature, transitory.—Those which are founded on Geographical divisions, adverse interests of soil, climate and modes of domestic life, are more permanent, and therefore, perhaps, more dangerous. It is this which gives inestimable value to the character of our Government, at once Federal and National. It holds out to us a perpetual admonition to preserve, alike, and with equal anxiety, the rights of each individual state in its own Government, and the rights of the whole Nation, in that of the Union. Whatsoever of domestic concernment, unconnected with the other members of the Union, or with foreign lands, belongs exclusively to the administration of the State Governments. Whatsoever di-

(continued on the last page.)