

Mr John Tanno

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CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Dec. 17.

The Speaker informed the House, that the hour was nearly at hand, which the President had appointed for receiving the address of that House in answer to his speech. The members in a body accordingly waited upon the President, at his house, and the speaker pronounced the following address.

SIR,
THE House of Representatives have attended to your communication respecting the state of our country, with all the sensibility that the contemplation of the subject, and a sense of duty, can inspire.

We are gratified by the information that measures calculated to ensure a continuance of the friendship of the Indians, and to maintain the tranquility of the western frontier, have been adopted: and we indulge the hope that these, by impressing the Indian tribes with more correct conceptions of the justice, as well as power of the United States, will be attended with success.

While we notice with satisfaction, the steps that you have taken in pursuance of the late treaties with several foreign nations, the liberation of our citizens who were prisoners at Algiers, is a subject of peculiar felicitation. We shall cheerfully cooperate in any further measure that shall appear, on consideration, to be requisite.

We have ever concurred with you in the most sincere and uniform disposition to preserve our neutral relations inviolate, and it is, of course, with anxiety and deep regret we hear that any interruption of our harmony with the French has occurred; for we feel with you and our constituents, the cordial and unabated wish to maintain a friendly understanding with that nation. Your endeavours to fulfil that wish, and by all honourable means to preserve peace and to restore that harmony and affection which have heretofore so happily subsisted between the French Republic and the United States, cannot fail, therefore, to interest our attention. — And while we participate in the full reliance you have expressed on the patriotism, self respect and fortitude of our countrymen, we cherish the pleasing hope, that a mutual spirit of justice and moderation will ensure the success of your perseverance.

The various subjects of your communication will, respectively, meet with the attention that is due to their importance.

When we advert to the internal situation of the United States, we deem it equally natural and becoming to compare the present period with that immediately antecedent to the operation of the government, and to contrast it with the calamities in which the state of war still involves several of the European nations, as the reflections deduced from both tend to justify, as well as to excite, a warmer admiration of our free constitution, and to exalt our minds to a more fervent and grateful sense of piety towards Almighty God for the beneficence of his providence, by which its administration has been hitherto so remarkably distinguished.

And while we entertain a grateful conviction that your wife, firm and patriotic administration has been signally conducive to the success of the present form of government, we cannot forbear to express the deep sensations of regret with which we contemplate your intended retirement from office.

As no other suitable occasion may occur, we cannot suffer the present to pass without attempting to disclose some of the emotions which it cannot fail to awaken.

The gratitude and admiration of your countrymen are still drawn to the recollection of those resplendent virtues and talents which were so eminently instrumental to the achievement of the revolution, and of which that glorious event will ever be the memorial. Your obedience to the voice of duty and your country, when you quitted reluctantly a second time, the retreat you had chosen, and first accepted the presidency, afforded a new proof of the devotedness of your zeal in its service, and an earnest of the patriotism and success which have characterized your administration. As the grateful confidence of the citizens in the virtues of the chief magistrate, has essentially contributed to the success, perhaps ourselves that the millions whom we represent, participate with us in the anxious solicitude of the present occasion.

Yet we cannot be unmindful that your moderation and magnanimity, twice displayed by retiring from your exalted stations, afford examples no less rare and instructive to mankind, than valuable to a republic.

Although we are sensible that the event of itself, completes the lustre of a character already conspicuously arrived by the coincidence of virtue, ta-

lents, success and public estimation; yet we conceive we owe it to you, Sir, and still more emphatically to ourselves and to our nation (of the language of whose hearts we presume to think ourselves at this moment the faithful interpreters) to express the sentiments with which it is contemplated.

The spectacle of a free and enlightened nation offering by its representatives the tribute of unfeigned approbation to its first citizen, however novel and interesting it may be, derives all its lustre (lustre which accident or enthusiasm could not bestow, and which adulation would tarnish) from the transcendent merit of which it is the voluntary testimony.

May you long enjoy that liberty which is so dear to you, and to which your name will ever be so dear — May your own virtues and a nation's prayers obtain the happiest sunshine for the decline of your days, and the choicest of future blessings. For our country's sake, for the sake of Republican liberty, it is our earnest wish that your example may be the guide of your successors, and thus after being the ornament and safeguard of the present age, become the patrimony of our descendants.

To which the President returned the following answer.

GENTLEMEN,
To a citizen whose views were unambitious, who preferred the shade and tranquility of private life, to the splendor and solicitude of elevated stations; and whom the voice of duty and his country could alone have drawn from his chosen retreat; no reward for his public services can be so grateful as public approbation, accompanied by a consciousness that to render those services useful to that country, was his single aim; and when this approbation is expressed by the representatives of a free and enlightened nation, the reward will admit of no addition. Receive, Gentlemen, my sincere and affectionate thanks for this signal testimony that my services have been acceptable and useful to my country. The strong confidence of my fellow citizens, while it animated all my actions, ensured their zealous co-operations which rendered those services successful. The virtue and wisdom of my successors, joined with the patriotism and intelligence of the citizens who compose the other branches of government, I firmly trust will lead them in the adoption of measures, which by the beneficence of Providence, will give a stability to our system of government, add to its success, and secure to ourselves and to posterity that liberty which is so dear to all of us so dear.

While I acknowledge with pleasure the sincere and uniform disposition of the House of Representatives to preserve our neutral relations inviolate, and with them deeply regret any degree of interruption of our good understanding with the French republic. I beg you, gentlemen, to rest assured that my endeavours will be earnest and unceasing by all honourable means to preserve peace, and to restore that harmony and affection which have heretofore so happily subsisted between our two nations; and with you, I cherish the pleasing hope that a mutual spirit of justice and moderation, will crown those endeavours with success.

I shall cheerfully concur in the beneficial measures which your deliberations shall mature on the various subjects demanding your attention. And while directing your labours advance the real interests of our country, you receive its blessings; with perfect sincerity my individual wishes will be offered for your present and future felicity.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

GENTLEMEN,
The calamity, by which the greater part of the city of Savannah, in the state of Georgia, has been recently destroyed, excites in the bosoms of our constituents, the purest sentiments of sympathy and sorrow; and, from its magnitude, emphatically claims an intervention of the public bounty and benevolence. Permit me, therefore, to submit to your consideration, a letter which I have received from the mayor of Savannah on this interesting subject; and to recommend a prompt and liberal contribution, for the relief of the afflicted inhabitants of that unfortunate city.

The pleasure of indulging those generous and humane dispositions, which you have often before manifested, will, in itself, yield an abundant reward, for any pecuniary aid, which you shall be pleased to bestow, on the present occasion; but, we may be confident, gentlemen, that the cordial approbation of all the citizens of Pennsylvania, will,

likewise, give an honourable sanction to the assistance it must equally serve to display the philanthropy of the state, and to cement the feelings, affections and interests of the Union.

THOMAS MIFFLIN.

Philadelphia, 21st Dec. 1796.

COMMUNICATIONS.

From the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.
In France they have demi or half regiments, who fight like heroes for their country—in America we have demi or half-Americans, that is half American and half French, who fight like devils against their Country—and some of this mongrel breed have so little shame of this character, as to announce it in their speeches in public places.

Who ever saw any among the brute kind of the mongrel breed that was good or useful, except mules, and they are a cursed obstinate animal—yet full as willing to serve one master as another: just so it is with the mongrel or demi-Americans, who have two sides of the Atlantic for attachment and service—and who now are, and always have been, as obdurate as their foreign masters could wish them to be, in opposing our government—our administration—our peace, our happiness, our tranquility and our prosperity, by lies the most vile, and by slanders the most unprincipled.

It seems as if those acknowledged truths or axioms, which guide men in other sciences, mislead our democrats in their politics. The proneness of liberty to licentiousness no one denies—and the termination of licentiousness in despotism, is no less agreeable to fact and sound theory. Yet the democrats say, and say to a man, the French are in a revolutionary state. their excesses and worse were to be expected—that is impossible; but they will establish liberty. Now pray what right has a friend of anarchy to affirm that liberty will come next. After licentiousness comes what? Despotism—liberty is the daughter of honest parents, not of vice and violence.

This inference is plain, those who look for the loss of liberty as the probable consequence of confusion, are wiser, safer, and more watchful keepers of it, than those who can believe that licentiousness only brings more liberty; even such of our democrats as are honest, as some of those who pin their faith on the sleeves of wicked leaders, may be dangerous in their principles, and unfit to be intrusted with federal authority. They censure, fear and hate our constitution, or, as they will acknowledge, several very important parts of it, and almost all its administration: its entire overthrow to far from dangerous, much less fatal, is only a new shuffling of the pack of cards, a new chance for the people to chuse a form of government, more pure, free and amiable.

This idea is characteristic of the party, and it is not unfair, nor exaggerated in the least, for those now charged with it, maintain with the zeal of sectaries that fact and experiment, no one can say how many times repeated in France, have proved—nay, more have made it an article of the political gospel, that revolution and liberty are synonymous terms. The question is seriously repeated, are such men proper to be chosen to office, at any time, when their electors do not wish for a revolution.

"You are mad!! You have not sense enough."
(Diggory, in All the World's a Stage.)

GRATITUDE.

It is with this virtue as with most others, those who have it most in their mouths have it least in their hearts.

Gratitude!! The French, and the press devoted to them, have made a constant din about this sacred debt. When our peace, our government, and our independence, were nearly sacrificed, these deceivers demanded the sacrifice as a token that the sin of ingratitude should not lie at the door of our nation.

To whom is this obligation due? Not to Washington, you tell us, because he did no more than his duty, and it would be dangerous to be grateful to him.

Is it due to the King of France, the very man who did the favour—the man to whom we raised statues and sung anthems? O no, we owe nothing to a King; and if we did, the guillotine has cut off the score.

Shall we thank the late Queen? O no, 'tis just as bad as to thank a king. It is true she was the first mover in the whole affair; but no matter: she is as cold in her grave as the sentiment of gratitude in Jacobin hearts.

Shall we thank the La Fayette, the Castlins, the