

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19th, 1799.

The following written message was received from the President of the United States by Mr. Shaw, his Secretary :

*Gentlemen of the Senate and  
Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,*

THE letter herewith transmitted, will inform you, that it has pleased Divine Providence to remove from this life our excellent Fellow-Citizen GEORGE WASHINGTON ; by the purity of his character and a long series of services to his country, rendered illustrious through the world. It remains for an affectionate and grateful people, in whose hearts he can never die, to pay suitable honors to his memory.

JOHN ADAMS.

*United States,* }  
*December 19th, 1799.* }

The message and letter were read.

*Ordered,* That they lie for consideration.

A message from the House of Representatives by Mr. Oswald, in the absence of their Clerk.

*Mr. President*—The House of Representatives having received intelligence of the death of their highly valued fellow-citizen General George Washington, and sharing the universal grief this distressing event must produce, have Resolved, That a joint Committee

be appointed, to report measures suitable to the occasion, and expressive of the profound sorrow with which Congress is penetrated, on the loss of a citizen, first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen; and having appointed a Committee on their part, desire the concurrence of the Senate. And he withdrew.

The Senate proceeded to consider the foregoing resolution of the House of Representatives.

Whereupon,

*Resolved*, That they do concur therein, and that Mr. Dayton, Mr. Bingham, Mr. Dexter, Mr. Gunn, Mr. Lawrance, Mr. Tracy and Mr. Read, be the Committee on the part of the Senate.

*Ordered*, That the Secretary acquaint the House of Representatives with the concurrence.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That the Senate will wait on the President of the United States, to condole with him on the distressing event of the death of General George Washington; and that a Committee be appointed to prepare, for that occasion, an Address to the President of the United States, expressive of the deep regret of the Senate; and that this Committee consist of Mr. Dexter, Mr. Ross and Mr. Read.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That the chairs in the Senate Chamber be covered, and the room hung

with black, and that each member, and the officers of the Senate, go into mourning, by the usual mode of wearing a crape round the left arm, during the session.

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock on Monday morning.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23d, 1799.

The Honorable Timothy Bloodworth, from the state of North-Carolina, and the Honorable John E. Howard, from the state of Maryland, severally attended.

Mr. Dexter, from the Committee appointed for the purpose on the 18th inst. reported the draft of an Address, to the President of the United States, on the death of General George Washington; which being read in paragraphs, was adopted as follows :

*To the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES,*

THE Senate of the United States, respectfully take leave, Sir, to express to you their deep regret for the loss their country sustains in the death of General George Washington.

This event, so distressing to all our fellow-citizens, must be peculiarly heavy to you, who have long been associated with him in deeds of patriotism. Permit us, Sir, to mingle our tears with yours; on this occasion, it is manly to weep. To lose such a man, at such a crisis, is no common calamity to the

world: our country mourns her Father. The Almighty disposer of human events, has taken from us our greatest benefactor and ornament. It becomes us to submit with reverence to him, who "maketh darkness his pavilion."

With patriotic pride, we review the life of our Washington, and compare him with those of other countries, who have been pre-eminent in fame. Ancient and modern names are diminished before him. Greatness and guilt, have too often been allied; but his fame is whiter than it is brilliant. The destroyers of nations stood abashed at the majesty of his virtue. It reprov'd the intemperance of their ambition, and darkened the splendour of victory. The scene is closed, and we are no longer anxious lest misfortune should sully his glory; he has travelled on to the end of his journey and carried with him an encreasing weight of honor; he has deposited it safely, where misfortune cannot tarnish it, where malice cannot blast it. Favoured of heaven, he departed without exhibiting the weakness of humanity. Magnanimous in death, the darkness of the grave could not obscure his brightness.

Such was the man whom we deplore. Thanks to God! his glory is consummated; Washington yet lives—on earth in his spotless example—his spirit is in Heaven.

Let his countrymen consecrate the memory of the heroic General, the patriotic Statesman and the virtuous Sage; let them teach their Children never to forget that the fruit of his labours and his example, are their inheritance.

SAMUEL LIVERMORE,

*President of the Senate pro-tempore.*

*Ordered,* That the Committee who prepared the Address wait on the President of the United States, and desire him to acquaint the Senate, at what time and place, it will be most convenient for him that it should be presented.

Mr. Dexter, reported from the Committee, that they had waited on the President of the United States, and that he had acquainted them, that he would receive the Address of the Senate, immediately, at his own house.

Whereupon, the Senate waited on the President of the United States, and the President of the Senate, in their name, presented the Address, this day agreed to.

To which the President of the United States was pleased to make the following Reply :

*Gentlemen of the Senate,*

I RECEIVE, with the most respectful and affectionate sentiments, in this impressive address, the obliging expressions of your regard, for the loss our country has sustained, in the death of her most esteemed, beloved and admired citizen.

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In the multitude of my thoughts and recollections, on this melancholy event, you will permit me only to say, that I have seen him in the days of adversity, in some of the scenes of his deepest distress and most trying perplexities ; I have also attended him in his highest elevation and most prosperous felicity ; with uniform admiration of his wisdom, moderation and constancy.

Among all our original Associates in that memorable league of the continent in 1774, which first expressed the sovereign will of a free nation in America, he was the only one remaining in the general government. Although, with a constitution more enfeebled than his, at an age when he thought it necessary to prepare for retirement, I feel myself alone, bereaved of my last brother ; yet I derive a strong consolation from the unanimous disposition, which appears in all ages and classes, to mingle their sorrows with mine, on this common calamity to the world.

The life of our Washington cannot suffer by a comparison with those of other countries, who have been most celebrated and exalted by fame. The attributes and decorations of royalty, could have only served to eclipse the majesty of those virtues, which made him, from being a modest citizen, a more resplendent luminary. Misfortune, had he lived, could hereafter have sullied his glory only with those superficial minds, who, believing that characters and actions are marked by suc-

cess alone, rarely deserve to enjoy it. Malice could never blast his honour, and envy made him a singular exception to her universal rule. For himself he had lived enough, to life and to glory. For his fellow-citizens, if their prayers could have been answered, he would have been immortal. For me his departure is at a most unfortunate moment. Trusting, however, in the wise and righteous dominion of Providence over the passions of men, and the results of their councils and actions, as well as over their lives, nothing remains for me but humble resignation.

His example is now complete, and it will teach wisdom and virtue to magistrates, citizens and men, not only in the present age, but in future generations, as long as our history shall be read. If a Trajan found a Pliny, a Marcus Aurelius can never want Biographers, Eulogists or Historians.

JOHN ADAMS.

*United States,* }  
*December 23d, 1799.* }

The Senate returned to their own Chamber.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Condy their Clerk.

*Mr. President*—The joint Committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives, on the 19th inst. on the receipt of the intelligence of the death of General George Washington, having made report to that House, they have agreed to sundry reso-

lutions thereupon, in which they desire the concurrence of the Senate. And he withdrew.

Mr. Dayton, from the joint committee appointed the 19th instant, on the part of the Senate, on the receipt of the intelligence of the death of General George Washington, reported in part, and the report was agreed to ;

Whereupon—

The Senate took into consideration the resolutions of the House of Representatives, of this day, on the report of the joint committee on the subject above-mentioned, and which Resolutions are as follows :

*Resolved*, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a Marble Monument be erected by the United States in the capitol, at the City of Washington, and that the family of General Washington be requested to permit his body to be deposited under it, and that the monument be so designed as to commemorate the great events of his military and political life.

*And be it further resolved*, That there be a funeral procession from Congress Hall to the German Lutheran Church, in honor of the memory of General George Washington, on Thursday the 26th instant, and that an Oration be prepared at the request of Congress, to be delivered before both Houses on that day, and that the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, be de-