

Houses in the Representatives Chamber, at 12 o'clock to-morrow.

A message from the House of Representatives by Mr. Condy their clerk :

Mr. PRESIDENT,

The House of Representatives have resolved that two chaplains be appointed to Congress for the present session, one by each House, who shall interchange weekly; in which they desire the concurrence of the Senate. And he withdrew.

Whereupon,

The Senate proceeded to consider the said resolution, and

*Resolved*, that they do concur therein, and that the Right Reverend Bishop White, be the chaplain on the part of the Senate.

*Ordered*, that the Secretary communicate the concurrence of the Senate, in this resolution, together with their proceedings thereon to the House of Representatives.

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

TUESDAY, *May 16th*, 1797.

The Honorable William Blount, from the state of Tennessee, the Honorable Theodore Sedgwick, from the state of Massachusetts, and the Honorable John Vining, from the state of Delaware, severally attended.

A message from the House of Representatives by Mr. Condy their clerk :

Mr. PRESIDENT,

The House of Representatives are now ready

to meet the Senate in the chamber of that House, to receive such communications as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them. And he withdrew.

Whereupon,

The Senate repaired to the Chamber of the House of Representatives, for the purpose above expressed.

The Senate returned to their own chamber, and a copy of the speech of the President of the United States, this day addressed to both Houses of Congress, was read as follows :

*Gentlemen of the Senate and*

*Gentlemen of the House of Representatives.*

THE personal inconveniences to the members of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives, in leaving their families and private affairs, at this season of the year, are so obvious, that I the more regret the extraordinary occasion, which has rendered the convention of Congress indispensable.

It would have afforded me the, highest satisfaction, to have been able to congratulate you, on a restoration of peace to the nations of Europe, whose animosities have endangered our tranquility. But we have still abundant cause of gratitude, to the supreme dispenser of national blessings, for general health and promising seasons ; for domestic and social happiness ; for the rapid progress and ample acquisitions of industry, through extensive territories ; for civil, political and religious liberty. While other states are desolated with foreign war, or convulsed with intestine divisions, the United States present the pleasing prospect of a nation governed by mild and equal laws ; generally satisfied with the possession of their rights ; neither envying the advantages, nor fearing the power of other nations ; solicitous only for the maintenance of order and justice, and the preservation of liberty ; increasing daily in their attachment to a system of govern-

ment in proportion to their experience of its utility ; yielding a ready and general obedience to laws flowing from the reason, and resting on the only solid foundation, the affections of the people.

It is with extreme regret that I shall be obliged to turn your thoughts to other circumstances, which admonish us, that some of these felicities may not be lasting. But if the tide of our prosperity is full and a reflux commencing, a vigilant circumspection becomes us, that we may meet our reverses with fortitude, and extricate ourselves from their consequences, with all the skill we possess, and all the efforts in our power.

In giving to Congress, information of the state of the Union, and recommending to their consideration such measures, as appear to me, to be expedient, or necessary, according to my constitutional duty, the causes and the object of the present extraordinary session will be explained.

After the President of the United States, received information, that the French government had expressed serious discontents at some proceedings of the government of these states, said to affect the interests of France, he thought it expedient to send to that country, a new minister, fully instructed to enter on such amicable discussions, and to give such candid explanations, as might happily remove the discontents and suspicions of the French government, and vindicate the conduct of the United States. For this purpose he selected from among his fellow-citizens, a character whose integrity, talents, experience and services, had placed him in the rank of the most esteemed and respected in the nation. The direct object of his mission, was expressed in his letter of credence to the French Republic ; being " to maintain that good understanding which from the commencement of the alliance had subsisted between the " two nations ; and to efface unfavorable impressions, banish suspicions, " and restore that cordiality, which was at once the evidence and pledge of " a friendly union." And his instructions were to the same effect, " faithfully to represent the disposition of the government and people of the United States, their disposition

“ being one, to remove jealousies and obviate complaints,  
“ by shewing that they were groundless, to restore that mutual confidence, which had been so unfortunately and injuriously impaired, and to explain the relative interests of both countries and the “ real sentiments of his own.”

A minister thus specially commissioned, it was expected would have proved the instrument of restoring mutual confidence between the two Republics. The first step of the French government corresponded with that expectation. A few days before his arrival at Paris, the French minister of foreign relations, informed the American minister then resident at Paris of the formalities to be observed by himself in taking leave, and by his successor preparatory to his reception. These formalities they observed, and on the ninth of December presented officially to the minister of foreign relations, the one a copy of his letters of recall, the other a copy of his letters of credence.

These were laid before the executive directory. Two days afterwards the minister of foreign relations informed the recalled American minister, That the executive directory had determined not to receive another minister plenipotentiary from the United States, until after the redress of grievances demanded of the American government, and which the French Republic had a right to expect from it. The American minister immediately endeavored to ascertain, whether by refusing to receive him, it was intended, that he should retire from the territories of the French republic: and verbal answers were given that such was the intention of the directory. For his own justification he desired a written answer: but obtained none, until towards the last of January; when, receiving notice in writing to quit the territories of the republic, he proceeded to Amsterdam, where he proposed to wait for instruction from this government. During his residence at Paris, cards of hospitality were refused him, and he was threatened with being subjected to the jurisdiction of the minister of police: but with becoming firmness he insisted on the protection of the law of nations due to him as the known minister of a foreign power.

You will derive further information from his dispatches which will be laid before you.

As it is often necessary that nations should treat, for the mutual advantage of their affairs, and especially to accommodate and terminate differences; and as they can treat only by ministers, the right of embassy is well known and established, by the law and usage of nations. The refusal on the part of France to receive our minister, is then the denial of a right: but the refusal to receive him, until we have acceded to their demands, without discussion and without investigation, is to treat us neither as allies, nor as friends, nor as a sovereign state.

With this conduct of the French government, it will be proper to take into view, the public audience given to the late minister of the United States, on his taking leave of the executive directory. The speech of the President discloses sentiments more alarming than the refusal of a minister, because more dangerous to our independence and union; and at the same time studiously marked with indignities towards the government of the United States. It evinces a disposition to separate the people of the United States from the government: to persuade them that they have different affections, principles and interests from those of their fellow-citizens, whom they themselves have chosen to manage their common concerns; and thus to produce divisions fatal to our peace. Such attempts ought to be repelled, with a decision which shall convince France and the world, that we are not a degraded people; humiliated under a colonial spirit of fear and sense of inferiority, fitted to be the miserable instruments of foreign influence and regardless of national honour, character and interest.

I should have been happy to have thrown a veil over these transactions, if it had been possible to conceal them; but they have passed on the great theatre of the world, in the face of all Europe and America; and with such circumstances of publicity and solemnity that they cannot be disguised and will not soon be forgotten; they have inflicted

a wound in the American breast—it is my sincere desire however that it may be healed.

It is my sincere desire, and in this I presume I concur with you, and with our constituents, to preserve peace and friendship with all nations; and believing that neither the honour nor the interest of the United States, absolutely forbid the repetition of advances for securing these desirable objects with France, I shall institute a fresh attempt at negotiation, and shall not fail to promote and accelerate an accommodation, on terms compatible with the rights, duties, interests and honor of the nation. If we have committed errors, and these can be demonstrated, we shall be willing to correct them: If we have done injuries, we shall be willing on conviction to redress them. And equal measures of justice we have a right to expect from France and every other nation.

The diplomatic intercourse between the United States and France being at present suspended, the government has no means of obtaining official information from that country; nevertheless there is reason to believe that the executive directory passed a decree on the second of March last, contravening in part, the treaty of amity and commerce of one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, injurious to our lawful commerce and endangering the lives of our citizens—A copy of this decree will be laid before you.

While we are endeavoring to adjust all our differences with France, by amicable negotiation, the progress of the war in Europe, the depredations on our commerce, the personal injuries to our citizens and the general complexion of affairs, render it my indispensable duty to recommend to your consideration effectual measures of defence.

The commerce of the United States has become an interesting object of attention, whether we consider it in relation to the wealth and finances, or the strength and resources of the nation. With a sea coast of near two thousand miles in extent, opening a wide field for fisheries, navigation and commerce, a great portion of our citizens, naturally apply

their industry and enterprize to those objects. Any serious and permanent injury to commerce would not fail to produce the most embarrassing disorders : to prevent it from being undermined and destroyed, it is essential that it receive an adequate protection.

The naval establishment must occur to every man who considers the injuries committed on our commerce, and the insults offered to our citizens, and the description of the vessels by which these abuses have been practised. As the sufferings of our mercantile and seafaring citizens cannot be ascribed to the omission of duties demandable, considering the neutral situation of our country, they are to be attributed to the hope of impunity, arising from a supposed inability on our part to afford protection. To resist the consequences of such impressions on the minds of foreign nations, and to guard against the degradation and servility, which they must finally stamp on the American character, is an important duty of government.

A naval power next to the militia, is the natural defence of the United States. The experience of the last war, would be sufficient to shew, that a moderate naval force, such as would be easily within the present abilities of the union, would have been sufficient to have baffled many formidable transportations of troops from one state to another, which were then practised. Our sea coasts from their great extent are more easily annoyed, and more easily defended by a naval force than any other. With all the materials our country abounds : In skill, our naval architects and navigators, are equal to any ; and commanders and seamen will not be wanting.

But although the establishment of a permanent system of naval defence, appears to be requisite, I am sensible it cannot be formed so speedily and extensively, as the present crisis demands. Hitherto, I have thought proper to prevent the sailing of armed vessels, except on voyages to the East Indies, where general usage and the danger from pirates appeared to render the permission proper : Yet the restriction has

originated solely from a wish to prevent collusions with the powers at war, contravening the act of Congress of June, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four, and not from any doubt entertained by me of the policy and propriety of permitting our vessels to employ means of defence, while engaged in a lawful foreign commerce. It remains for Congress to prescribe such regulations, as will enable our seafaring citizens, to defend themselves against violations of the law of nations, and at the same time restrain them, from committing acts of hostility against the powers at war. In addition to this voluntary provision for defence by individual citizens, it appears to me, necessary to equip the frigates, and provide other vessels of inferior force, to take under convoy such merchant vessels as shall remain unarmed.

The greater part of the cruisers, whose depredations have been most injurious, have been built, and some of them partially equipped in the United States. Although an effectual remedy may be attended with difficulty, yet, I have thought it my duty to present the subject generally to your consideration. If a mode can be devised, by the wisdom of Congress to prevent the resources of the United States, from being converted into the means of annoying our trade, a great evil will be prevented. With the same view I think it proper to mention that some of our citizens resident abroad, have fitted out privateers, and others have voluntarily taken the command, or entered on board of them, and committed spoliations on the commerce of the United States: Such unnatural and iniquitous practices can be restrained only by severe punishments.

But besides, a protection of our commerce on the seas, I think it highly necessary to protect it at home, where it is collected in our most important ports. The distance of the United States from Europe, and the well known promptitude, ardour and courage of the people, in defence of their country happily diminish the probability of invasion; nevertheless, to guard against sudden and predatory incursions, the situation of some of our principal seaports demands your

consideration ; and as our country is vulnerable in other interests besides those of its commerce, you will seriously deliberate, whether the means of general defence ought not to be increased, by an addition to the regular artillery and cavalry, and by arrangements for forming a provisional army.

With the same view, and as a measure, which even in a time of universal peace, ought not to be neglected, I recommend to your consideration a revision of the laws, for organizing, arming and disciplining the militia, to render that natural and safe defence of the country efficacious.

Although it is very true that we ought not to involve ourselves in the political system of Europe, but to keep ourselves always distinct and separate from it, if we can ; yet to effect this separation, early, punctual and continual information of the current chain of events and of the political projects in contemplation is no less necessary than if we were directly concerned in them ; It is necessary in order to the discovery of the efforts made to draw us into the vortex, in season to make preparations against them. However we may consider ourselves, the maritime and commercial powers of the world will consider the United States of America as forming a weight in that balance of power in Europe, which never can be forgotten or neglected. It would not only be against our interest, but it would be doing wrong to one half of Europe at least, if we should voluntarily throw ourselves into either scale. It is a natural policy for a nation that studies to be neutral, to consult with other nations engaged in the same studies and pursuits. At the same time that measures might be pursued with this view, our treaties with Prussia and Sweden, one of which is expired, and the other near expiring, might be renewed.

*Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,*

It is particularly your province to consider, the state of the public finances : and to adopt such measures respecting them as exigences shall be found to require. The preservation of public credit, the regular extinguishment of the public debt, and a provision of funds, to defray any extraordinary expen-

ces, will of course call for your serious attention. Although the imposition of new burthens cannot be, in itself, agreeable, yet there is no ground to doubt that the American people will expect from you, such measures, as their actual engagements, their present security, and future interests demand.

*Gentlemen of the Senate and*

*Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,*

The present situation of our country, imposes an obligation on all the departments of government, to adopt an explicit and decided conduct. In my situation, an exposition of the principles, by which my administration will be governed, ought not to be omitted.

It is impossible to conceal from ourselves or the world, what has been before observed, that endeavors have been employed to foster and establish a division between the government and people of the United States. To investigate the causes which have encouraged this attempt, is not necessary. But to repel by decided and united councils, insinuations so derogatory to the honor, and aggressions so dangerous to the constitution, union, and even independence of the nation, is an indispensable duty.

It must not be permitted to be doubted, whether the people of the United States will support the government, established by their voluntary consent, and appointed by their free choice; or whether, by surrendering themselves to the direction of foreign and domestic factions, in opposition to their own government, they will forfeit the honorable station they have hitherto maintained.

For myself, having never been indifferent to what concerned the interests of my country; devoted the best part of my life to obtain and support its independence; and constantly witnessed, the patriotism, fidelity and perseverance of my fellow-citizens, on the most trying occasions, it is not for me to hesitate, or abandon a cause in which my heart has been so long engaged.

Convinced that the conduct of the government has been just and impartial to foreign nations; that those internal re-

gulations, which have been established by law for the preservation of peace, are in their nature proper, and that they have been fairly executed; nothing will ever be done by me to impair the national engagements; to innovate upon principles, which have been so deliberately and uprightly established, or to surrender in any manner the rights of the government. To enable me to maintain this declaration, I rely, under God, with entire confidence, on the firm and enlightened support of the National Legislature, and upon the virtue and patriotism of my Fellow-Citizens.

JOHN ADAMS.

On motion,

*Ordered*, that Mr. Tracy, Mr. Laurance and Mr. Livermore, be a committee to report the draft of an address to the President of the United States, in answer to his speech this day to both Houses of Congress.

On motion,

*Ordered*, that the speech of the President of the United States, this day communicated to both houses of Congress, be printed for the use of the Senate.

On motion,

*Resolved*, that each Senator be supplied, during the present session, with copies of three such newspapers, printed in any of the states, as he may choose, provided that the same are furnished at the rate of the usual, annual charge for such papers.

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

WEDNESDAY, *May 17th*, 1797.

The Honorable Richard Stockton, from the state of New-Jersey, attended.

MONDAY, *May 22d*, 1797.

The Honorable John Brown, from the state of Kentucky, and the Honorable Jacob Read, from the state of South-Carolina, severally attended.

The Honorable John Rutherford, appointed a Senator, by the state of New-Jersey, produced his credentials, which were read, and the oath required by law, being administered to him, he took his seat in the Senate.

The Senate took into consideration the draft reported by the committee, of an address to the President of the United States, in answer to his speech, at the opening of the session; and having agreed to fundry amendments,

On motion,

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

TUESDAY, *May 23d*, 1797.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the report of the committee, of the draft of an address in answer to the speech of the President of the United States, to both Houses of Congress, at the opening of the session.

On motion to expunge the following paragraph, to wit:

“We are happy, since our sentiments on the subject are in perfect unison with yours, in this public manner to declare, that the conduct of the government has been just and impartial to foreign nations, and that those internal regulations which have been established for the pre-

servation of peace, are in their nature proper, and have been fairly executed ; and

It was determined in the negative,  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Yeas, 11.} \\ \text{Nays, 15.} \end{array} \right.$

The yeas and nays being required by one fifth of the Senators present,

Those who voted in the affirmative, are,

Mr. Bloodworth,	Mr. Langdon,
Mr. Blount,	Mr. Martin,
Mr. Brown,	Mr. Mason,
Mr. Cocke,	Mr. Tazewell, and
Mr. Henry,	Mr. Tattnall.
Mr. Hunter,	

Those who voted in the negative, are,

Mr. Bingham,	Mr. Livermore,
Mr. Bradford,	Mr. Read,
Mr. Foster,	Mr. Rutherford,
Mr. Goodhue,	Mr. Sedgwick,
Mr. Hillhouse,	Mr. Stockton,
Mr. Howard,	Mr. Tichenor, and
Mr. Laurance,	Mr. Tracy.
Mr. Latimer,	

And the report being further amended, was adopted as follows :

SIR,

THE Senate of the United States request you to accept their acknowledgments for the comprehensive and interesting detail you have given, in your speech to both Houses of Congress, on the existing state of the Union.

While we regret the necessity of the present meeting of the Legislature, we wish to express our entire approbation of your conduct in convening it, on this momentous occasion.

The superintendance of our national faith, honor and dignity, being, in a great measure, constitutionally deposited with the Executive, we observe, with singular satisfaction, the

The committee appointed yesterday, not being ready to report,

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

THURSDAY, *May 18th*, 1797.

The Honorable Henry Tazewell, from the state of Virginia, attended.

A message from the House of Representatives by Mr. Condy their clerk:

Mr. PRESIDENT,

The House of Representatives have proceeded to the choice of a chaplain to Congress on their part, and the Reverend Ashbel Green is duly elected. And he withdrew.

Mr. Tracy, from the committee, reported the draft of an address to the President of the United States, in answer to his speech to both Houses of Congress, at the opening of the session; which was read.

*Ordered*, that it lie for consideration.

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

FRIDAY, *May 19th*, 1797.

The Honorable John Henry, from the state of Maryland, attended.

On motion, by Mr. Tracy,

*Ordered*, that the report of the committee appointed to draft an address, in answer to the speech of the President of the United States, at the opening of the session be recommitted.

And on motion, it was agreed that Mr. Henry and Mr. Tazewell, be added to the committee.

The Vice-President laid before the Senate, a letter from the Secretary for the Department of State, communicating, by order of the President of the United States, fundry papers, No. 1 to 18, respecting the situation of the affairs of the United States, with France, Spain and Holland; which papers were read.

*Ordered*, that they lie for consideration.

After the consideration of the executive business,

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

SATURDAY, *May 20th*, 1797.

Mr. Tracy, from the committee to whom was recommitted the report of an address in answer to the speech of the President of the United States, to both Houses of Congress, at the opening of the session, reported fundry amendments; which were read.

On motion, that the report as amended be printed for the use of the Senate,

It passed in the negative.

*Ordered*, that the consideration thereof be postponed until Monday next.

After the consideration of the executive business,

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

engagements, and not to impair the rights of our government, contains principles which cannot fail to secure to your administration the support of the National Legislature, to render abortive every attempt to excite dangerous jealousies among us, and to convince the world that our government and your administration of it, cannot be separated from the affectionate support of every good citizen.—And the Senate cannot suffer the present occasion to pass, without thus publicly and solemnly expressing their attachment to the constitution and government of their country, and as they hold themselves responsible to their constituents, their consciences and their God, it is their determination by all their exertions to repel every attempt to alienate the affections of the people from the government, so highly injurious to the honor, safety and independence of the United States.

We are happy, since our sentiments on the subject are in perfect unison with yours, in this public manner to declare, that we believe the conduct of the government has been just and impartial to foreign nations, and that those internal regulations which have been established for the preservation of peace, are in their nature proper, and have been fairly executed.

And we are equally happy, in possessing an entire confidence in your abilities and exertions in your station, to maintain untarnished, the honor, preserve the peace, and support the independence of our country; to acquire and establish which, in connection with your fellow-citizens, has been the virtuous effort of a principal part of your life.

To aid you in the honorable and arduous exertions, as it is our duty, so it shall be our faithful endeavor.—And we flatter ourselves, Sir, that the proceedings of the present session of Congress will manifest to the world, that although the United States love peace, they will be independent.—That they are sincere in their declarations to be just to the French, and all other nations, and expect the same in return.

If a sense of justice, a love of moderation and peace, shall influence their councils, which we sincerely hope, we shall

have just grounds to expect, peace and amity between the United States and all nations will be preserved.

But if we are so unfortunate, as to experience injuries from any foreign power, and the ordinary methods by which differences are amicably adjusted between nations shall be rejected, the *determination*, "not to surrender in any manner the rights of the government," being so inseparably connected with the dignity, interest and independence of our country, shall, by us, be steadily and inviolably supported.

THOMAS JEFFERSON, } Vice-President of the United  
States and President of the  
Senate.

*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. Tracy reported from the committee, that they had waited on the President of the United States, and that he would receive the address of the Senate, to-morrow at 12 o'clock at his own house.

Whereupon,

*Resolved*, that the Senate will to-morrow at 12 o'clock, wait on the President of the United States accordingly.

After the consideration of the executive business,

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

WEDNESDAY, *May 24th*, 1797.

The Honorable Elijah Paine, from the state of Vermont, attended.

vigilance, firmness and promptitude exhibited by you, in this critical state of our public affairs, and from thence derive an evidence and pledge of the rectitude and integrity of your administration. And we are sensible, it is an object of primary importance, that each branch of the government should adopt a language and system of conduct, which shall be cool, just and dispassionate; but firm, explicit and decided.

We are equally desirous, with you, to preserve peace and friendship with all nations, and are happy to be informed, that neither the honor or interests of the United States forbid advances for securing those desirable objects, by amicable negotiation, with the French republic.—This method of adjusting national differences, is not only the most mild, but the most rational and humane, and with governments disposed to be just, can seldom fail of success, when fairly, candidly and sincerely used. If we have committed errors, and can be made sensible of them, we agree with you, in opinion, that we ought to correct them, and compensate the injuries, which may have been consequent thereon, and we trust the French republic will be actuated by the same just and benevolent principles of national policy.

We do therefore most sincerely approve of your determination to promote and accelerate an accommodation of our existing differences with that republic by negotiation, on terms compatible with the rights, duties, interests and honor of our nation. And you may rest assured of our most cordial co-operation so far as it may become necessary, in this pursuit.

Peace and harmony with all nations is our sincere wish; but such being the lot of humanity that nations will not always reciprocate peaceable dispositions: it is our firm belief that, effectual measures of defence, will tend to inspire that national self-respect and confidence at *home*, which is the unfailing source of respectability *abroad*, to check aggression, and prevent war.

While we are endeavoring to adjust our differences with the French republic by amicable negotiation, the progress

of the war in Europe, the depredations on our commerce, the personal injuries to our citizens and the general complexion of affairs, prove to us your vigilant care, in recommending to our attention, effectual measures of defence.

Those which you recommend, whether they relate to external defence, by permitting our citizens to arm for the purpose of repelling aggressions on their commercial rights, and by providing sea convoys, or to internal defence, by encreasing the establishments of artillery and cavalry, by forming a provisional army, by reviving the militia laws and fortifying, more completely, our ports and harbours, will meet our consideration under the influence of the same just regard for the security, interest and honor of our country, which dictated your recommendation.

Practices so unnatural and iniquitous, as those you state, of our own citizens, converting their property and personal exertions into the means of annoying our trade, and injuring their fellow-citizens, deserve legal severity commensurate with their turpitude.

Although the Senate believe, that the prosperity and happiness of our country does not depend on general and extensive political connections with European nations, yet we can never lose sight of the propriety as well as necessity of enabling the Executive, by sufficient and liberal supplies, to maintain, and even extend our foreign intercourse, as exigencies may require, reposing full confidence in the Executive, in whom the constitution has placed the powers of negotiation.

We learn with sincere concern, that attempts are in operation to alienate the affections of our fellow-citizens from their government. Attempts so wicked, wherever they exist, cannot fail to excite our utmost abhorrence. A government chosen by the people for their own safety and happiness, and calculated to secure both, cannot lose their affections, so long as its administration pursues the principles upon which it was erected.—And your resolution to observe a conduct just and impartial to all nations, a sacred regard to our national

Agreeably to the resolution of yesterday, the Senate waited on the President of the United States, and the Vice-President, in their name, presented the address then agreed to.

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

*Mr. Vice-President and  
Gentlemen of the Senate,*

IT would be an affectation in me, to dissemble, the pleasure I feel, on receiving this kind address.

My long experience of the wisdom, fortitude, and patriotism, of the Senate of the United States, enhances in my estimation, the value of those obliging expressions of your approbation of my conduct, which are a generous reward for the past, and an affecting encouragement, to constancy and perseverance, in future.

Our sentiments appear to be so entirely in unison, that I cannot but believe them to be, the rational result of the understandings, and the natural feelings of the hearts, of Americans in general, on contemplating the present state of the nation.

While such principles and affections prevail, they will form an indissoluble bond of union, and a sure pledge, that our country has no essential injury to apprehend from any portentous appearances abroad.—In a humble reliance on Divine Providence, we may rest assured, that while we reiterate with sincerity, our endeavors to accommodate all our differences with France, the independence of our country cannot be diminished, its dignity degraded, or its glory tarnished, by any nation or combination of nations, whether friends or enemies.

JOHN ADAMS.

The Senate returned to their own chamber.

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

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