

WASHINGTON CITY.

WEDNESDAY, March 4, 1861.

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

THIS DAY

AT 12 O'CLOCK.

THOMAS JEFFERSON,

President of the UNITED STATES.

Under the oath of office required by the Constitution, in the Senate Chamber, in the presence of the Senate, the members of the House of Representatives, the judges, officers, and a large concourse of citizens.

Personally to which he delivered the following ADDRESS:

FRIENDS & FELLOW CITIZENS,

Called upon to undertake the duties of the first Executive office of our country, I avail myself of the presence of this portion of my fellow citizens which is here assembled to express my grateful thanks for the favor with which they have been pleased to look towards me, to declare a sincere confidence that the task is above my talents, and that I associate it with their anxieties and ardent anticipations which the greatness of the charge, and the weakness of my powers to fully justify. A rising nation, spread over land and fruitful fields, crowded with a people who are yet prodigially ignorant, engaged in commerce with nations who feel power and energy, advancing rapidly to define the reach of her empire, to delineate the extent of her authority, to delineate the honors, the happiness, and the hopes of this beloved country committed to me and the auspices of this day, flourish from the contemplation of his humble self, and from the gratitude of his fellow citizens. Utterly indeed should I despair, did not be profess of many, whom I here see, remain steadfast, in the other high authorities provided by our constitution, I shall find resources of wisdom and vigor of soul, on which to rely under all difficulties. To you, then, gentlemen, who are charged with the sovereign functions of legislation, and to those associated with you, I look with encouragement for the aid and support which may enable us to bear with fidelity the vessel in which we are all embarked, amidst the conflicting currents of a troubled world.

During the course of opinion through which we have felt, the animation of discussions and of exertions has sometimes worn an aspect which might impose on strangers unacquainted to think freely, and to speak, and to write what they think, but this being done by the voice of the nation, named according to the rules of the constitution, all will of course arrange themselves under the will of the law, and unite in common efforts for the common good. As both the sacred and the sacred principles, that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will, to be rightful, must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal laws must protect, and to violate which would be oppression. Let us then, fellow citizens, unite with one heart and one mind, let us restore to our federal compact that harmony and affection without which liberty and even peace itself, are but dreary things. And let us reflect that having banished from our land that religious intolerance under which mankind to long bleed and suffered, we have yet gained little, if we continue a religious intolerance, as all too common to the wicked, and capable of as bitter and bloody persecutions. During the throes and convulsions of the ancient world, the raging agonies of infuriated nations, seeking liberty in blood and carnage, in all the lost liberty, it was not wonderful that the agitation of the billows should reach even this distant and peaceful shore to this point to be more felt and feared by some and left by others; but that it should be so wicked, and capable of as bitter and bloody persecutions. During the throes and convulsions of the ancient world, the raging agonies of infuriated nations, seeking liberty in blood and carnage, in all the lost liberty, it was not wonderful that the agitation of the billows should reach even this distant and peaceful shore to this point to be more felt and feared by some and left by others; but that it should be so wicked, and capable of as bitter and bloody persecutions. During the throes and convulsions of the ancient world, the raging agonies of infuriated nations, seeking liberty in blood and carnage, in all the lost liberty, it was not wonderful that the agitation of the billows should reach even this distant and peaceful shore to this point to be more felt and feared by some and left by others; but that it should be so wicked, and capable of as bitter and bloody persecutions.

it. I know indeed that some honest men fear that a republican government cannot flourish; that this government is not strong enough, that it is not sufficiently firm in the full tide of successful experiment. I abandon a government which has so far kept its feet and firm, on the theoretic and visionary fear; that this government, the people, both here, may by possibility, want energy to prefer a self-interest to the public good, or the contrary, the strongest government on earth. I believe it to be the only one, where every man, at the call of duty, would be ready to sacrifice his life, and would meet invasion of the public order as his own personal concern. Sometimes it is said that man cannot be trusted with the government of himself, but can then be trusted with the government of others? Or have we found angels in the form of kings, to govern him? Let history answer this question.

Let us then, with courage and confidence, pursue our own federal and republican principles, our attachment to union and representative government. Kindly separated by nature and a wide ocean from the exterminating havoc of one quarter of the globe, too high-minded to endure the degradations of others, possessing a chosen country, with room enough for our descendants to the thousandth and thousandth generation, entering a day a full four equal rights in the common concerns of our kindred, to honor and confidence from our fellow citizens, refusing not from birth, but from our actions and their fruits of themselves, to be a peculiar religion, protected and secured by laws, and to what is left of them, imitating honestly, truth, temperance, gratitude and the love of man, a knowledge and adoring an overruling Providence, which is all in all, to which we look up with all the humble confidence of man here, and his greater happiness hereafter; with all these blessings, what more is necessary to make us a happy and a prosperous people? Still one thing more, fellow citizens, a still smaller government, which shall refrain from injuring one another, shall have them otherwise free to regulate their own affairs of industry and improvements, and shall not take from the laborer the fruits of his own hand. This is the form of good government; and this is necessary to close the circle of our duties.

About to enter, fellow citizens, on the duties of this office, which comprehend everything dear and valuable to you, it is proper you should understand what I deem the essential principles of our government; and consequently those which ought to guide us. Let us not forget that the rights of men here, the narrow compass they will bear, fixing the general principle, but not the limitations. — Equal and exact justice to all men of whatever land or persuasion, private and domestic, and foreign, and honest friendship with all nations, engaging alliances with none. — The support of the late government, in all their rights, as the most sacred administration for our country, and the preservation of the sacred and anti-republican tendencies. — the preservation of the general government in its whole constitutional vigor, as the sheet anchor of our peace and home, and safety abroad; a jealous care of the right of election by the people; a solid and safe corrective of abuses which are lapped by the flood of revolution where expedient remedies are approved. — the delicate acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the first principle of our government, to be applied but to force, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism. — a well disciplined militia, our best reliance in peace, and for the first moments of war, to support the public authority, the propriety of the civil over the military authority. — economy in the public expense, that labor may be lightly burdened. — honest payment of our debts and sacred regard to our contracts. — the encouragement of agriculture, and of commerce as its handmaid. — the diffusion of information, and arraignment of all abuses at the eye of the public reason. — freedom of religion.

Let us also bear in mind that the preservation of the Union, under the protection of the Habeas Corpus, and trial by jury, impartially selected. These principles form the bright constellation, which has gone before us, and which we should never lose sight of, in our deliberations on the subject of our future government. The wisdom of our fathers, and the blood of our heroes, have been devoted to their attainment. — they should be the cry of our political institutions. Let us be true to the constitution, by the text of civil liberties, the constitution, and to the service of those who are entrusted, and should we wander from them in moments of error or of alarm, let us hasten to retrace our steps, and to regain the road which alone leads to peace, liberty and safety.

I repair then, fellow citizens, to the position you have assigned me. With experience enough in subordinate offices to have seen the difficulties of this, the greatest of all offices, I have learnt to respect it, and to fall to the lot of imperfect man to retire from this station with the reputation, and the favor, which bring him into it. Without pretensions to that high confidence you reposed in me, I am glad of revolutionary character, whose pre-eminence has entitled him to the first place in his country's love, and defined for him the fair page in the volume of faithful history. I ask to merit confidence only as I may give firmness and effect to the legal administration of your affairs. I shall often go wrong through defect of judgment. When right, I shall often be thought wrong by those whose positions will not command a view of the whole ground. I ask your indulgence for my own errors, which will never be intentional; and your support against the errors of others who may condemn me, but who shall not be in my stead. The approbation implied by your suffrage, is a great consolation to me for the past; and my future fortitude will be, to retain the good opinion of those who have bestowed it. I shall be glad to make that of others by doing them all the good in my power, and to be instrumental to the happiness and freedom of all.

Relying then on the patronage of your good friends, and with obedience to your will, ready to retire from it whenever you come feasible how much better choices it is in your power to make. And may that infinite Power, which rules the destinies of the universe, and our counsels to what is best, and give them a favorable issue for your peace and prosperity.

The address of THOMAS JEFFERSON, President elect, to the Senate, in the presence of our first, was related to Messrs. Morris, Dayton, and J. Matton, who on Monday reported the form of a reply, which was agreed to, and presented by a committee to Mr. Jefferson on Tuesday. It follows: —

While we congratulate you on those exalted views of the public will which called you to the first office in the United States, we cannot but lament the loss of that intelligence, attention, and impartiality, which you have professed over our deliberations. The Senate feel themselves indebted to you, inasmuch as you have been pleased to express of their support in the performance of your late duties. We are pleased that it will never be withheld from a chief magistrate, who in the exercise of his office shall be influenced by a due regard to the honor and interest of our country. In the confidence that your official conduct will be directed to these great objects, a confidence derived from past events, we reiterate our expressions of our confidence in your future administration.

JAMES HILLHOUSE, President of the Senate pro tempore.

To which the President Elect replied: —

Gentlemen, — I receive with due familiarity the congratulations of the Senate on being called to the first executive office of our government, and I accept with great satisfaction their assurances of support in the discharge of the honor and interest of our country. Knowing no other object in the discharge of my public duties, their confidence in my future conduct, derived from past events, shall not be disappointed, so far as my judgment may enable me to differ from those who are so good as to express my conduct in the chair of the Senate, is highly gratifying to me; and I pray them to accept my humble thanks for their declarations of it.

T. JEFFERSON, MARCH 3, 1861.

AARON BRYAN, Vice-President of the United States, in the presence of the Senate, as President of that body.

The two houses of Congress held yesterday two sessions, the first of which terminated at midnight.

During this session a vote of thanks was moved by Mr. PAGE to THEODORE SPAWICK, SPEAKER, with a guarded omission of many of the eulogatory expressions of approval, and was carried by yeas 100, and nays 36. The question was taken, without debate, by yeas 100, and nays 36. Had all the members in Washington been present, the division of the house would have been equal.

This day a new political era commences; the era of principle.

The people of the United States have done their duty; and it now devolves on guardianship of their rights, to do theirs. They will distinguish their duty by their dignity, justice and impartiality, that while it shall reflect honor on themselves, will confer lasting benefits upon their country, and have every other which experience can furnish, and every assurance that expectation can justify.

Men, selected for their virtues, no less than for their talents, are called to the highest, the noblest, and the most important of our nation's affairs; and the establishment of our national independence, and to the formation of those political institutions which have been its strength and life.

Under the administration of such men, who acknowledge their dependence upon, and their accountability to the people, we rationally expect the highest concentration of talent and virtue. Freedom of thought and discussion, so far from being repressed, will be encouraged by the general conviction that truth will be received from every quarter. Under such a conviction, men of intelligence and information will contribute their forces to the common stock, and will positively contribute, by the correct ideas disseminated among our citizens, to produce that harmony of view and unity of action, that will impart mildness and energy to the government, and render it an object beloved by our citizens, and respected by foreign powers.

The House of Representatives yesterday rejected the report of a Select Committee virtually approving of the official conduct of Washington Sargeant, governor of the Mississippi.

On Mr. Jefferson's taking leave of the Senate on Saturday they chose JAMES HILLHOUSE, President pro tempore.

In our last we stated erroneously that Mr. Symonds had nominated a Judge for this district. The gentleman nominated is Mr. Marshall.

On Monday, the late President of the United States sent a message to the Senate in relation to the FARRAGUT EXPEDITION.

He observed that it was his wish that the Convention should have been ratified quickly. But as a different opinion was entertained by the Senate, a request for the high authority of that body induced him to ratify it, under the conditions that had imposed; that he had nominated Mr. Bayard, Minister Plenipotentiary to France; and that Mr. Bayard had assigned to him the most satisfactory reasons for declining the embassy. — reasons which would operate to prevent him from nominating any other man for the office, and he would faithfully the duties of a minister. He therefore fulfilled the business to devolve on his successor.

To communicate to our subscribers the earliest account of the interesting proceedings of this morning, the National Intelligencer is published at an earlier hour than usual.

BY virtue of a decree of the High Court of Chancery, will be sold as public auction to the highest bidder on the 20th day of March next the premises, to be sold, situate in lot 744 in the City of Washington, with the Sugar House and materials, and the other buildings on the premises, and all the land thereon.

Such part of the purchase money as shall be sufficient to pay and satisfy the debt, interest and costs, by mortgage from James Pierce to John Thomas Law (the amount of which shall be made known on or before the day of Sale) is to be paid down the day of sale, or brought into the Court by the 20th day of the twenty fifth day of June next, at the option of the purchaser; and the residue of the purchase money, with interest thereon, to be given bond payable on the 20th day of June 1863 and upon the ratification of this sale by the chancellor (which ratification may be made on or before the 1st day of June next) and upon payment of the whole of the purchase money (and not hereof) a title will be made in the purchase of the premises by the said John Thomas Law and Pierce and their heirs.

JAMES D. BARRY, Trustee January 26, 1861.

IT is with the wish of the brother RICHARD D. DUMAS, to know who his best friends are, and where he resides. RICHARD DUMAS arrived in this country from Ireland in the company of ANTON, near Barrymanock about 9 years ago. His parents reside in the Western part of Pennsylvania. Information will be thankfully received by JOHN DUMAS, through the Office of the Universal Gazette, Washington, Feb. 28, 1861.