

ANSWER

Of the Senate of Pennsylvania,
To the Address of the Governor.

To THOMAS M'KEAN,
Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Senate, sensible of the importance of your communication to both houses of the Legislature, have given it the most early attention.

The circumstance of no mode of electing electors of President and Vice-President of the United States being yet prescribed, is a subject of general regret.

We feel the influence of those occurrences which admonish us to rally round the constitution of our country, and permit us to add, the constitution of our particular state: we shall carefully advert to their respective provisions in all our deliberations on the important subject of choosing electors, and we confidently hope that the result will consist with the former, without infringing the political balance of the latter.

The day of election being so near at hand as to preclude our constituents from an immediate participation in the choice of electors, we shall endeavor to devise such a mode as, that while it conforms to the constitution, shall promise all the satisfaction to our fellow citizens that the emergency of present circumstances will possibly admit. Thus shall we become exonerated from responsibility, as far as depends on the Senate of this important state, to preserve its merited place in the great scale of the Union.

To which the Governor returned the following reply.

To the Senate of Pennsylvania.

GENTLEMEN,

It gives me great satisfaction to find that you concur in my opinion on the importance of the occasion, on which the Legislature has been convened; and be assured that I regret with you, the limited period that remains for deliberation and decision.

A variety of considerations occur, however, to justify the time that has been selected for an interposition of the executive authority. It will be observed, that the Legislature has a power over its own adjournments; and if you, gentlemen, had thought during the last session, that another meeting of the same General Assembly would probably furnish the means to reconcile the jarring opinions of the two houses, a proposition for that purpose would, I am persuaded, have been introduced. But the power which the constitution vests in the Executive Magistrate to convene the Legislature, points particularly to those emergencies which may occur during a recess, upon which the Legislature has had no opportunity to deliberate; and with respect to which, without his interposition, the season for deliberation would be lost.

From the silence of both houses on this point, therefore, I naturally inferred, that to assemble the same members again would be an abortive, as well as an expensive experiment; and I am sorry to add, that the transactions of the present session have only served to confirm the idea which I had formed. Though the nature of the question is changed, the inflexibility of opinion remains. The difference between a general and district election, while those modes of appointing electors could be contemplated, generated a contest with the same motives which now agitate the Legislature, on the difference between appointing by a joint vote of its branches, or by assigning a portion of the number of electors to the separate choice of each branch. If then an adherence to your new plans, threatens to disfranchise the state, when you must act, or surrender the power of acting, what hope could have been indulged of a more auspicious disposition, upon an earlier call of the Legislature? The existing majority of the Senate (consisting of all the remaining members who composed the majority of the last session) have not declared that, in that case, they would have yielded, any more than in the present case, to the opinion of the House of Representatives; and, taking the issue of the recent elections as a criterion, I can perceive no just reason to presume, that, after consulting our constituents, the House of Representatives could have yielded to the opinion of the Senate.

Hence, I think it is obvious, Gentlemen, that the Executive authority was interposed, to convene the Legislature, at the only time, which presented a prospect of success—and all the preparatory steps were taken, previously to the general election, without any possible influence from the event of that constitutional appeal to the

sentiments of the people. But, with you, after all, it remains to fix, in the course of a few days, the character of Pennsylvania, as a member of the confederation. In the name of our constituents, for the sake of ourselves, and our posterity, I implore you to consider well the consequences of your decision. Indulge not a predilection for forms, a spirit of innovation to the hazard of the peace, the happiness, and the stability of the union; but conforming to the precedents that have been judiciously established, to the public sentiment that has been universally expressed, deserve and receive the plaudits of your country.

THO. M'KEAN.

Lancaster, 18th Nov. 1800.

ALBANY.

At a numerous meeting of citizens from various parts of the state, held in the City of Albany, on the 8th day of November, 1800.

RICHARD HATFIELD, Chairman.
The following Address was agreed to, and a committee appointed to present the same:

Albany, 8th Nov. 1800.

SIR,

At a large and respectable meeting of citizens from various parts of the state now assembled, I am instructed to address your excellency on their behalf and to state, that strongly impressed with the conviction that the same uniform propriety of conduct, zeal and assiduity to promote the public weal and interest of your country, which have so eminently distinguished you in your various public functions before the administration of the government of this state was conferred to you, have unremittingly been exerted during your administration, they feel themselves impelled by a wish for the felicity of their fellow citizens and a sense of gratitude to you, to entreat you once more to suffer yourself to be held up as a candidate for the chair of government, assuring you, Sir, that their best exertions will be extended to procure the accomplishment of their wishes; which they are persuaded, are in coincidence with all such of their fellow citizens, who duly appreciate the important results of a wise, impartial and virtuous chief magistrate of the state. With these, and every other sentiment of esteem and respect,

I am, Sir,

Your excellency's obedient servant.

RICHARD HATFIELD, Chairman.
His Excellency JOHN JAY, Esq.

The committee reported that they had waited on his excellency the governor, who expressed his grateful sentiments for the attentions of the meeting; and stated his long determination to retire to private life; and that from engagements he was unable immediately to return a written answer to the application and address.

The following answer to the foregoing address was afterwards received:

Albany, 8th November, 1800.

SIR,

Being engaged with company this evening, when the committee appointed by the respectable meeting of citizens from various parts of the state, of which you was chairman, presented me their address, I could only return them a verbal answer. But it appears to me proper to answer it in writing, as well to evince my respect, as that my sentiments on the subject may be the better ascertained.

In the sincerity of the assurance with which they honor me, I have perfect confidence; they have heretofore been verified by uniform manifestations of esteem and attachment, which I shall always remember with grateful sensibility.

The period is now nearly arrived, at which I have for many years intended to retire from the cares of public life, and for which I have been for more than two years preparing. Not perceiving, after mature consideration, that any duties require me to postpone it, I shall retire accordingly; but I shall retain and cherish the warmest affection for my country, as well as the esteem which I entertain for many, and the good will which I bear to all my fellow citizens.

On this occasion, various reflections crowd into my mind, but I don't the utility, under existing circumstances, of expressing them. Time and experience will correct many errors which ought not to have been introduced into public opinion. What the price of that experience may be, cannot be foreseen. They who are convinced that our constitutions ought to be maintained inviolate, and that the rights of persons and of property cannot be preserved with-

out government constituted with power, and administered with determination to secure them, will steadfastly oppose whatever may have a contrary tendency.

It ought not to be expected, that parties will never be intemperate, but over-bearing intemperance, or violence, in individual leaders ought neither to appal nor inflame good citizens. On the contrary, such violations of propriety should be met with temper and moderation, as well as with increased union and firmness.

I declare to you explicitly, that in my opinion we ought to resist innovations, to adhere to our constitutions and governments, to give them a fair trial, and to amend them from time to time, according to the dictates of experience, and not according to the views of demagogues, or to the visions of theorists.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect, Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

JOHN JAY.

The hon. Richard Hatfield, Esq.
Chairman.

ANSWER of the SENATE of Massachusetts to the GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

May it please your excellency,

It having been generally understood, that the object of the Legislature, in assembling at this season of the year, is the appointment of Electors of President and Vice-President of the United States, the Senate do not contemplate being engaged in any other business which can conveniently be deferred to another session. And sincerely do we accord with you in the prayer, that our suffrages may be bestowed on the friends of order and good Government, and that the result may promote the best interests of our country.

It is matter of regret, that any of our fellow citizens should be so lost to a sense of their duty and interest, as to set the power of government at defiance, and oppose their individual strength to that of the Community. So far as may depend on us your Excellency may be assured that proper means will be adopted to suppress such pernicious evils.

We are gratified with the information, which your Excellency has communicated with respect to the improved state of our Militia. We feel confident, that so much dependence is to be placed on their discipline, courage and patriotism, that their Country has more to fear from the arts than from the arms of her enemies.

ANSWER of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts to the Governor.

May it please your excellency,

The House of Representatives concur with your excellency in the sentiment, that the object of their present session is highly interesting, not only to our immediate constituents, but to the whole people of the United States, since the welfare, and prosperity of a nation essentially depend on the character of their magistrates; and the wisdom with which their government is administered. Seriously impressed with this sentiment, it shall be our zealous endeavour to select those who are to give their suffrages in this state, in the ensuing important election from the best informed citizens, and who have afforded proofs of their attachment to order and good government—And may that wise and gracious Providence, which has hitherto directed the counsels, and prospered the exertions of the American people, overrule and direct our deliberations upon this occasion for the public good!

While we learn with satisfaction that tranquility generally prevails throughout the Commonwealth, we receive with regret the painful information, that in one county some misguided and deluded citizens have been guilty of violent infractions of the peace of the Commonwealth, and have manifested a spirit of resistance to the law.

Your excellency, and the good citizens of the State, may be assured, that this House will co-operate in all proper measures to detect and punish all such enormities already committed; and to prevent, as far as possible, the commission of them in future. For they are fully convinced with your excellency, that indifference on the part of the government, will serve to embolden the offenders, and to invite, by a hope of impunity, the repetition of similar outrages.

The annual improved state of the Militia, which your excellency has noticed, must be highly gratifying to every friend to the rights and dignity of our country; for a militia thus trained, and animated with patriotic and military ardor, America will not hesitate to assert, or be unable to defend her national rights, against any invader.

The important object of a national election having been the sole occasion of the present extraordinary session, and the habits and convenience of the citizens requiring a meeting of the legislature at a later season, we shall endeavor to make the present session as short, and as little burdensome to the people as possible.

BOSTON, Nov. 13.

CHOICE OF ELECTORS.

At half-past eleven o'clock, agreeably to previous assignment, the two Branches of the Legislature met in convention for the choice of Electors of President and Vice-President. The Hon. Messrs. Bridge and Bigelow, of the Senate, and Messrs. Montague, Tillinghast and Prescott, of the House, were appointed the Committee to count the votes. When the following gentlemen were chosen by distinct ballot, except the first:

<i>At large—Whole No. of Votes 233.</i>	
Samuel Phillips, Esq. had 166 votes.	
Edward H. Robbins, Esq.	210.
<i>First Western District—Whole No. 241.</i>	
David Rolfe, Esq.	190.
<i>Second Western—Whole No. 240.</i>	
Ebenezer Hunt, Esq.	191.
<i>Third Western—Whole No. 229.</i>	
John Hooker, Esq.	162.
<i>Fourth Western—Whole No. 239.</i>	
Joseph Allen, Esq.	211.
<i>First Southern—Whole No. 240.</i>	
Walter Spooner, Esq.	197.
<i>Second Southern—Whole No. 229.</i>	
William Sever, Esq.	200.
<i>Third Southern—Whole No. 227.</i>	
William Baylies, Esq.	176.
<i>First Middle—Whole No. 232.</i>	
Thomas Dawes, Esq.	188.
<i>Second Middle—Whole No. 236.</i>	
Francis Dana, Esq.	148.
<i>Third Middle—Whole No. 229.</i>	
Samuel Sewall, Esq.	187.
<i>Fourth Middle—Whole No. 221.</i>	
Theophilus Bradbury, Esq.	162.
<i>First Eastern—Whole No. 232.</i>	
Samuel Sumner Wilde, Esq.	155.
<i>Second Eastern—Whole No. 227.</i>	
Lemuel Weeks, Esq.	186.
<i>Third Eastern—Whole No. 222.</i>	
Andrew P. Fernald, Esq.	222.

NOVEMBER, 14.

Federal Representatives

First Western District. [36 towns.]	
<i>Williams. Bacon. Scat.</i>	
From 33 towns, 1288	1460 13
Third Eastern District. [24 towns.]	
<i>Thatcher. Cutis. Scat.</i>	
From 16 towns, 504	393 16
First Southern District. [21 towns.]	
<i>Williams. Greene. Scat.</i>	
From 13 towns 403	181 103.
Second Southern District. [21 towns.]	
<i>Mitchel. Smith. Scat.</i>	
From 11 towns, 475	272 379

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

FOR SALE,

Lot No. 9, in Square 122.

THE above is inferior to few lots in this city, being but two squares west of the President's Square, commanding an extensive view of the Potomac, it is a corner lot, and fronts 155 feet 10 inches on F. Street, and 59 feet and a half inch on 20th Street.—An indisputable title will be given on receiving the amount of the purchase money. For terms apply to the subscriber a few doors east of the Little Hotel.

JOHN KEARNEY.

N. B. I will also sell Lot No. 4, in Square No. 491, fronting 55 feet 3 inches on the Pennsylvania Avenue, and extending back 150 feet to an alley of 30 feet wide, with the advantage of a 15 feet alley along side of it; and Lot No. 24, in Square No. 378, fronting 51 feet 5 inches on Ninth Street, and running back 107 feet 2 inches to a 30 feet alley. West India goods will be taken in payment for a considerable part of the above property.

L. 16.

November 17, 1800.