

Independent Journal, March 11, 1784

To his Excellency GEORGE CLINTON, Esq; Governor of the State of New-York, General and Commander in Chief of all the Militia, and Admiral of the Navy of the same.

The respectful ADDRESS of the Assembly of the State of New-York, in answer to his Excellency's Speech, at the opening of the Session.

WE, the Representatives of the people of the State of New-York, in Assembly convened, regret with your Excellency the unavoidable circumstances which have so long prevented us from discharging those important trusts committed to us by our constituents, and delayed the pleasure we experience in receiving and reciprocating the congratulations of your Excellency on the momentous events which have recently been accomplished.

While we trace the directing hand of a gracious Providence, so singularly displayed in our favour in every stage of the late arduous conflict; whilst we are surrounded by objects which momently remind us of the inveteracy and barbarity wherewith it has been conducted by our enemies, and while the distresses to which so many of our worthy fellow-citizens have been exposed, excite our warmest sympathy, and an anxious desire to repair the ravages of war, we bend with grateful humility to the Almighty Ruler of the Universe, through whose benign dispensations we enjoy the inestimable blessings of peace, and an uncontroled exercise of the rights of sovereignty.

Men actuated by the genuine spirit of freedom, are as incapable of licentious excesses as they are of slavish submission.--That our fellow-citizens, as well those who have for their patriotism, been subjected to a long and distressing exile, as those who their country's wrongs impelled to take the field, were possessed of that spirit, in a very eminent degree, we with the most sincere approbation declare is evident, from the conduct which they have uniformly observed--a conduct which affords us the more pleasing reflections, as it is fraught with disappointment to those who retain inimical dispositions to our country: And we beg leave to assure your Excellency, that such measures as may tend to convince those of our fellow-citizens whose arms have conduced to the establishment of our liberties, that their country cannot be inattentive to their meritorious services, will be ranked among the first objects of our attention.

The communications of Congress, and the Circular Letter of his Excellency General Washington, we also beg leave to assure your Excellency, will receive that early and serious consideration, which the importance of their subjects, and the deference we entertain of the Grand Council of the Union, and the virtues and sentiments of the man who has been so conspicuously instrumental in establishing

who has been so conspicuously instrumental in establishing our independence, cannot fail to command.

The designs of Britain, to affect a monopoly, or to enable its avowed undisguised subjects amongst us, to engross a large portion of our West-India trade, we confidently hope, will, by the unanimity and firmness of the Councils of the confederated States, be effectually defeated. And we are happy to observe, that a measure which had for its object, the monopolizing a particular branch of trade, will have a tendency more generally to divert it into channels, promotive of the interests of those Powers who have aided the United States in the late war, but more especially that nation whose illustrious Monarch has, by a series of generous exertions, so essentially contributed to the attainment of that happiness we now enjoy. Your Excellency may be assured, that our aid will be most cheerfully afforded, to deprive the British nation of those advantages she expected to derive from restraints on our commerce.

Impressed with the necessity of establishing commercial regulations, extending credit, making provision for funding the principal, and the payment of the interest of public debts, establishing, reviving and encouraging seminaries of learning, improving our revenues; promoting the speedy settlement of the uncultivated territory of the State, revising the laws, procuring magazines and military stores, garrisoning the Western posts, and providing a liberal support for the Officers of Government, we shall sedulously apply ourselves to advance those important measures, convinced that they are intimately blended with the most essential interests of the State.

The election of Delegates to represent this State in Congress of the United States of America, has already been a subject of our consideration, and will, we hope, be perfected at an early day.—That of Members to compose a Council of Appointment, in compliance with your Excellency's recommendation, has also been attended to.

It is with the most painful emotions we observe that the settlement of accounts between the United States and the inhabitants of this State, has been so long and so unnecessarily protracted—A circumstance which is the more distressing as the citizens of this State have peculiarly experienced the calamities of the late war, and from their distinguished exertions in the common cause, had at least an equal claim to relief with that extended to the other confederated States.

We shall be happy by our attention to the important concerns, which must necessarily become subjects of our deliberation in the present session, to evince, that the promotion of the public weal is our primary object.

Permit us to assure your Excellency, of the high sense we entertain of that unremitting application to the duties of your station, which has invariably marked your conduct through the whole of your administration in the government of this State, and that we cannot harbour a doubt, but that you will continue to exert yourself for the advancement of the happiness of a people, in the defence of whose rights, your Excellency has been distinguished among their first patriots in the field, and who have by their suffrages, given you the most honourable testimonial of their approbation and confidence, by repeatedly re-electing your Excellency to the Chief Magistracy of the State.

Assembly Chamber, Jan. 28, 1784.

By Order of the Assembly,
JOHN HATHORN, *Speaker.*