WASHINGTON CITY.

MONDAY, MARCH 6.

ON SATURDAY last, at 12 o'clock, *JAMES MADISON* took the oath of office as PRESIDENT *of the* UNITED STATES, and delivered, in the Chamber of the House of Representatives, in the presence of the Senate, most of the late Representatives, and a large concourse of Citizens, the following

SPEECH.

UNWILLING to depart from examples, of the most revered authority, I avail myself of the occasion now presented, to express the profound impression made on me, by the call of my country to the station, to the duties of which I am about to pledge myself, by the most solemn of sanctions. So distinguished a mark of confidence, proceeding from the deliberate and tranquil suffrage of a free and virtuous nation, would, under any circumstances, have commanded my gratitude and devotion; as well as filled me with an awful sense of the trust to be assumed. Under the various circumstances which give peculiar solemnity to the existing period, I feel that both the honor and the responsibility allotted to me are inexpressibly enhanced.

The present situation of the world is indeed without a parallel: & that of our own country full of difficulties. The pressure of these too is the more severely felt, because they have fallen upon us at a moment, when the national prosperity being at a height not before attained, the contrast resulting from the change has been rendered the more striking. Under the benign influence of our Republican institutions and the maintenance of peace with all nations, whilst so many of them were engaged in bloody and wasteful wars, the fruits of a just policy were enjoyed in an unrivalled growth of our faculties and resources. Proofs of this were seen in the improvements of agriculture; in the successful enterprizes of commerce; in the progress of manufactures and useful arts; in the increase of the public revenue and the use made of it in reducing the public debt, and in the valuable works and establishments every where multiplying over the face of our land.

It is a precious reflection that the transition from this prosperous condition of our country, to the scene which has for some time been distressing us, is not chargeable on any unwarrantable views nor, as I trust, on any involuntary errors, in the public councils. Indulging no passions which trespass on the rights, or the repose of other nations, it has been the true glory of the United States to cultivate peace, by observing justice; and to entitle themselves to the respect of the nations at war, by fulfilling their neutral obligations, with the most scrupulous impartiality. If there be candor in the world, the truth of these assertions will not be questioned; posterity, at least, will do justice to them.

This unexceptionable course could not avail against the injustice and violence of the belligerent powers. In their rage against each other, or impelled by more direct motives, principles of retaliation have been introduced, equally contrary to universal reason, and acknowledged law. How long their arbitrary edicts will be continued, in spite of the demonstrations that not even a pretext for them has been given by the United States, and of the fair and liberal attempt to induce a revocation of them, cannot be anticipated. Assuring myself, that under every vicissitude, the determined spirit and united councils of the nation will be safe-guards to its honor and its essential interests, I repair to the post assigned me, with no other discouragement than what springs from my own inadequacy to its high duties. If I do not sink under the weight of this deep conviction, it is because I find some support in a consciousness of the purposes, and a confidence in the principles which I bring with me, into this arduous service.

To cherish peace and friendly intercourse with all nations having correspondent dispositions; to maintain sincere neutrality towards belligerent nations; to prefer, in all cases, amicable discussion and reasonable accommodation of differences, to a decision of them by an appeal to arms; to exclude foreign intrigues and foreign partialities, so degrading to all countries, and so baneful to free ones; to foster a spirit of independence, too just to invade the rights of others, too proud to surrender our own; too liberal to indulge unworthy prejudices ourselves, and too elevated not to look down upon them in others; to hold the union of the states as the basis of their peace and happiness; to support the constitution, which is the cement of the union, as well in its limitations as in its authorities; to respect the rights and authorities reserved to the states and to the people, as equally incorporated with, and essential to the success of, the general system; to avoid the slightest interference with the rights of conscience or the functions of religion, so wisely exempted from civil jurisdiction; to preserve in their full energy the other salutary provisions in behalf of private & personal rights, and of the freedom of the press; to observe economy in public expenditures; to liberate the public resources by an honorable discharge of the public debts; to keep within the requisite limits a standing military force, always remembering that an armed and trained militia is the firmest bulwark of Republics; that without standing armies their liberty can never be in danger; nor, with large ones safe; to promote by authorised means improvements friendly to agriculture, to manufactures and to external as well as internal commerce; to favor in like manner, the advancement of science, and the diffusion of information, as the best aliment to true liberty; to carry on the benevolent plans, which have been so meritoriously applied to the conversion of our aboriginal neighbors from the degradation and wretchedness of savage life, to a participation of the improvements of which the human mind and manners are susceptible in a civilised state: As far as sentiments and intentions, such as these, can aid the fulfilment of my duty, they will be a resource which cannot fail me.

It is my good fortune, moreover, to have the path, in which I am to tread, lighted by examples of illustrious services, successfully rendered in the most trying difficulties by those who have marched before me. Of those of my immediate predecessor, it might least become me here to speak. I may however be pardoned for not suppressing the sympathy with which my heart is full, in the rich reward he enjoys in the benedictions of a beloved country, gratefully bestowed for exalted talents, zealously devoted through a long career, to the advancement of its highest interest and happiness.

But the source to which I look for the aids which alone can supply my deficiencies, is in the well tried intelligence and virtue of my fellow citizens, and in the councils of those representing them, in the other departments associated in the care of the national interests. In these my confidence will under every difficulty be best placed, next to that which we have all been encouraged to feel in the guardianship and guidance of that almighty Being, whose power regulates the destiny of nations, whose blessings have been so conspicuously dispensed to this rising Republic, and to whom we are bound to address our devout gratitude for the past, as well as our fervent supplications and best hopes for the future.

On Saturday, James Madison, in obedience to the voice of his country, assumed the duties of President of the U. States The day, from its commencement to its close, was marked by the liveliest demonstrations of joy. It appeared as if the *people*, actuated by a general and spontaneous impulse, determined to manifest, in the strongest manner, the interest excited by this great event, and their conviction of the close connection between it and their happiness. For many days before citizens from the adjacent, and even remote states had been pouring into the city, until its capacity of accommodation was strained to the utmost.

The dawn of day was announced by a federal salute from the Navy Yard and Fort Warburton; and at an early hour the volunteer corps of militia began to assemble. Such was the interest to be present at the Inauguration that the whole area allotted to citizens in the Representative Hall was filled, and overflowing several hours before noon, the time assigned for that purpose, and it is computed that the number of persons surrounding the Capitol, unable to obtain admittance, exceeded ten thousand. The Senate convened at 11 o'clock in the Chamber of the Representatives, *Governor Milledge*, the President pro tempore, in the chair. Agreeably to arrangement the Senators were placed next to the chair, the late President of the U. S. on the right of the chair, foreign ministers and suite on the left, judges of the Supreme Court in front, Heads of Department on the right of the President of the Senate, members of the House of Representatives on the floor, and various other places assigned for other public characters and for ladies.

Mr. Jefferson arrived about 12 o'clock. A short time before that hour, Mr. Madison left his own house, escorted by the troops of cavalry of the City and George Town, commanded by Capt. Brent; and at twelve entered the Representative Hall, attended by the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of the Navy, the Attorney General and Mr. Coles, Secretary to the late President, and introduced by a committee of the Senate; when Mr. Milledge left the central chair and conducted Mr. Madison to it, seating himself on the right. Mr. Madison then rose and delivered the speech given above.

The oath of office was then administered to him by Chief Justice Marshall; on which, and as the President retired, two rounds of minute guns were fired. On leaving the capitol he found the volunteer militia companies of the district, nine in number and in complete uniform, under the command of Col. M'Kinney, drawn up, whose line he passed in review, when he entered his carriage and was escorted home in the same way he came.

A large concourse of ladies and gentlemen, and Mr. Jefferson among the number, immediately waited upon him; among whom refreshments were liberally distributed. The company generally, after calling on the President, waited on Mr. Jefferson to take a last farewel before his departure.

In the Evening there was a grand Inauguration ball, at Long's Hotel, the most brilliant and crouded ever known in Washington, at which the late and present President of the U. States and foreign ministers were present by invitation. The company is supposed to have exceeded four hundred.

Thus terminated a day memorable for an important event, and which, we trust, will prove the harbinger of much good in store for our country.

Of the Inaugural Address, without attempting a critique, we may be permitted to say, that in point of stile it is chaste and nervous, and in point of principle worthy of the man so honorably called upon to preside over the affairs of a free and enlightened people.

Mr. Madison was dressed in a full suit of cloth of American manufacture, made of the wool of Merinos raised in this country; his coat from the manufactory of Col Humphreys, and his west-coat and small clothes from that of Chancellor Livingston, the clothes being, we understand, severally presented by those gentlemen.

We published the *Inaugural Speech* in an Extra paper, immediately after its delivery; but it is republished for preservation.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of respectability, residing at Fort Stoddert, Feb. 17th, to a member of Congress.

"Three vessels for Orleans are now detained at Mobile. Two of them contain supplies for the troops stationed here, and are detained, it is said, on account of the duties. The third is principally loaded for the Chactaw trading houses, and is detained because among the articles destined for that factory are one hundred barrels of gun-powder.

On Saturday, a Committee, appointed by the Citizens of Washington, delivered to Mr. JEFFERSON the following *Address*, who returned the subjoined *Answer*.

TO THOMAS JEFFERSON.

SIR,

The citizens of Washington cannot forego the last opportunity, which may, perhaps, ever occur, to bid you a respectful and affectionate farewell. As members of the great and flourishing nation, over which you have so illustriously presided, your virtues, talents, and services command their esteem, admiration and gratitude. Embarked in the fate of this solitary republic of the world, they have, in common with their fellow citizens, rejoiced in its prosperous and sympathised in its adverse fortunes, as involving every thing dear to freemen. They have marked, with exultation, the firm column of its glory, laid on imperishable foundations, rising as a monument of the reign of principle in this quarter of the globe. To you they have been instructed to ascribe the memorable act, which, by declaring a gallant people free and independent, in a tone that appalled tyranny, instilled those sentiments and principles, which, inspiring every virtue, and urging every sacrifice, led them to triumph and empire.

We have since beheld you, with parental solicitude, and with a vigilence that never sleeps, watching over the fairest offspring of liberty, and by your unremitted labors, in upholding, explaining and vindicating our system of government, rendering it the object of love at home, and respect abroad.

It would be a pleasing task for us, as citizens of the United States, to fill up and extend the outlines we have sketched. But it is, as citizens of the national metropolis, that we now appear before you. In addition to every patriotic feeling that can warm our breasts, we have still further inducements to open our hearts to you on this proud, yet painful occasion.

The world knows you as a philosopher and philantropist; the American people know you as a patriot and statesman;—we know you, in addition to all this, as a *man*. And, however your talents have extorted our respect, there is not one among us, whose predominant feeling at this moment is not that of affection for the mild and indearing virtues, that have made every one here your friend, and you his. We should be lost to gratitude, did we not acknowledge that it is to you, we owe much, very much of that harmony of intercourse and tolerance of opinion, which characterise our state of society—of that improvement, which, amidst unpropitious circumstances, has progressed with sure & steady steps, & above all, of that spirit of enterprise, which your beneficence and liberality have invariably aided, and which promises in a few years to render this place the fairest seat of wealth and science.

Deeply as we feel your retirement, we approve, nay applaud it. Personal considerations aside, it was to be expected from the friend and protector of republican institutions, that he would follow, and by his co-operation strengthen, the example of the illustrious hero of the revolution.

May you in the retirement, to which you go, be happy! As your fellow citizens will still look towards you with interest, and pray for your felicity, so will you find it impossible to lose sight of the arduous scenes through which we have passed, as well as those in store for our country. Your heart will still beat with patriotism, and the energies of your mind continue to be engaged on rational objects. In your retreat, may every anxious thought be softened by the mild and tender occupations of private life! Happy, thrice happy retreat! Where patriotism and philosophy, friendship and affection, will animate, direct and soften the purest feelings of the heart! With a grateful nation, we pray that you may be happy, and if the just Being, that presides over the universe, insure to you but a portion of that felicity you have conferred on others, our prayers will be fulfilled!

ROBERT BRENT, *Chairman*,
NICHOLAS KING, *Secretary*.

TO THE CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON.

I receive with peculiar gratification the affectionate address of the citizens of Washington, and in the patriotic sentiments it expresses, I see the true character of the national metropolis. The station which we occupy among the nations of the earth is honorable, but awful. Trusted with the destinies of this solitary republic of the world, the only monument of human rights, and the sole depository of the sacred fire of freedom and self-government, from hence it is to be lighted up in other regions of the