

Philadelphia, April 12th 1832.

SIR,—A number of the citizens of this place intend partaking together on the evening of the 13th inst. in a public festival, in commemoration of the birth of Thomas Jefferson—the sage whose memory they delight to honor, because of his eminent public services—his hostility to the assumption of extensive powers, by implication, for the general government—his enlightened zeal for the abolition of an order of OFFICE FOR LIFE, invested with large authority, and liable to the temptation to assume more than the people have granted them, and because of his disposition to perpetuate our national union, by adhering to the same spirit of mutual compromise and respect for the interests and feelings of every section of the country, through which it was originally formed.

In their behalf, we respectfully invite you to join them on the above mentioned occasion. Be pleased to accept the assurances of our esteem and consideration.

THOMAS EARLE,  
CHEYNEY HICKMAN,  
J. SAUNDERS,  
THOMAS G. BIGNELL,  
Committee.

Col. Johnson answered, that his public duties prevented his attendance. After reading his letter, the following toast was drunk.

*By the Company*—Col. Richard M. Johnson. He has ever been true, he remains true, to the cause of the people. 3. cheers.

The following is the answer of Judge Clayton—

Philadelphia, April 13, 1832.

Thomas Earle, Cheyney Hickman, Jeremiah Saunders, Thomas G. Bignell, Committee.

GENTLEMEN,—I have had the pleasure of receiving your polite invitation to partake in a festival prepared by a number of your citizens, in the commemoration of the birth of Thomas Jefferson. I regret to say that an arrangement made by the committee to which I belong, to decline all the civilities offered by this hospitable city, because of the fear that they would interfere with the urgent object of our mission, and which, thus far, has been strictly adhered to; will prevent me from accepting your very kind request. And this regret is greatly increased, when I reflect that it compels me to deny myself the very great satisfaction of mingling my recollections, with those of the patriotic citizens that will surround your board, on a subject and in relation to a character that can never be forgotten, till democratic principles cease to be cherished by the advocates of free government. When that era arrives, may Thomas Jefferson no longer be remembered: but until it does, may his birth day be greeted by the same warm and generous feelings, which will doubtless flow from the celebration, in which I have been so kindly invited to join.

With sentiments of the very highest regard for yourselves, as well as the citizens you represent,

I am gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. S. CLAYTON.

*Toast by the Company.*—Hon. Augustin S. Clayton. His sound principles and eminent talents have won the confidence of his native State. His engaging manners and private

virtues have won the esteem of the citizens of

Philadelphia. 9. cheers.