

At a meeting of the Young Men of the City of Augusta, on the 2d of July, 1798, the committee which had been previously appointed, consisting of Messrs. W. H. Crawford, Nathaniel Cocke, Samuel Barnett, John M^r Kinne and Itham Malone, reported the following address, which was unanimously agreed to, and ordered to be transmitted by their Chairman to the President of the United States.

Augusta, 2d July, 1798.

To JOHN ADAMS, President of the United States.

SIR,

WHILST clouds darken our political horizon; whilst the ferocious frenzy of the "Terrible Republic" - threatens the United States with bloodshed, massacres and desolation, we the young men of the city of Augusta, deem it a duty in common with our fellow citizens, to assure the chief executive magistrate of our unalterable attachment to our country and its government.

At the commencement of their revolution we regarded the French nation as engaged in a glorious and just cause; the support of that political liberty, which, unless the soul debased by oppression, or corrupted by avarice, neither nations, or individuals will resign, but with their lives.

Viewing them in this light, we were proud of calling France a sister republic; we gloried in calling Frenchmen by the endearing appellation of brothers.

Unwilling to form a hasty conclusion against a nation in whose favor, we were thus prepossessed, we long wished to view the injuries and insults offered by them to the United States, their contempt of our government, thro' the medium of their ambassador; their unrighteous and piratical attacks upon our commerce, as the usurped and nefarious acts of individuals, unsanctioned by their government.

But by the absolute rejection of all conciliatory measures, the French government has avowed the flagrant violations of our rights as a neutral nation and total disregard of their most solemn compacts, that have been authorized by them; that discriminate rapine and universal empire, instead of peace and justice are their objects; and that no nation can secure the friendship, without sacrificing its natural independence.

Altho' we are attached to the blessings of peace, and deprecate the horrors of war, yet as we are sensible, that self preservation now points out a firm and energetic conduct to our government; we view with the highest degree of approbation, those measures which have been pursued by the executive, for the preservation of our national honor.

As we enjoy the supreme sovereignty of a being citizens, of perhaps, the only genuine and well balanced republic, now existing in the world, we feel a just contempt for a nation, who can brand us with the imputation of being a divided people, and who presuming on our disunion, have left us only the awful alternative, disgraceful peace, or war.

With the most unlimited confidence, in the firmness, justice and wisdom of your administration, we pledge ourselves to you and our fellow citizens, that we will be ready at the call of our country to defend what is dearer to us than our lives - her liberty and laws.

By order of the meeting,

GEO. WALKINS, Chairman.

A N S W E R.

to the Young Men of the city of Augusta in the state of Georgia.

Gentlemen,

AN address from the youth of Augusta, so remote from the seat of government, and where I am personally wholly unknown, is a very high gratification to my feelings.

Threats of bloodshed, massacres and desolation, from the frenzy of any nation, however great, or any republic however *terrible*, at the distance of a thousand marine leagues, need not intimidate the American people, if they really feel like you an unalterable attachment to their country and government.

It has been my destiny to differ from my fellow citizens in general, in opinions concerning the French revolution: As a dispensation of providence, I have ever beheld it with reverence, unable however to comprehend any good principles sufficient to produce it, to see its tendency, or in what it would terminate—but the warm zeal, the violent attachment to it manifested by Americans I have ever believed it to be an error of the public opinion—it was none of our business—we had or ought to have had nothing to do with it, and I always believed we were making work for severe repentance—To me little time remains to live, and less I hope to have any thing to do with public affairs; but I could neither die or retire in peace, if at such a time as this, and in the station I now hold, I should conceal my sentiments from my fellow citizens.

Self preservation now points out a firm conduct to government, and your satisfaction in those measures, which have been pursued for the preservation of our national honor, is much esteemed—may you long live to rejoice in them and enjoy their happy effects.

It is a gratification to my pride to see you boast of a well balanced republic; the essence of a free republic is in this balance—the security of liberty, property, character and life depends every moment on its preservation, and France and America will be scourged by the rods of vengeance if they will not study and preserve that balance as the only ark of safety.

The expression of your confidence in my administration, is the more precious as it was unexpected.

JOHN ADAMS.

Philadelphia, July 20, 1798.