

Evacuation Day - New York City - Nov. 25, 1783



“The numberless blessings which an indulgent Providence hath placed within our reach ... While we regard with inviolable gratitude and affection all who have aided us by their counsel or their arms, let us not be unmindful of that Almighty Being, whose gracious Providence has been manifestly interposed for our deliverance and protection; and let us shew by our virtues, that we deserve to partake of the freedom, sovereignty, and independence, which are so happily established throughout these United States.”

General George Clinton

GENTLEMEN,

“Accept my most sincere thanks for your very affectionate and respectful address. Citizens who, like you, to vindicate the sacred cause of freedom, quitted their native city, their fortunes and professions, and sustained with manly fortitude the rigors of a long and painful exile, superadded to the grievous calamities of a vengeful war, merit, in an eminent degree, the title of patriots and the esteem of mankind, and your confidence and approbation are honours which cannot be received without the utmost sensibility, or contemplated without gratitude and satisfaction.

To your sufferings and to the invincible spirit with which they were surmounted, I have been witness; and while I sympathized in your distresses, I have deeply lamented that I had not means to alleviate them equal to my inclinations. The assurances of your firm support in the administration of government, give me singular pleasure. A reverence for the laws is peculiarly essential to public safety and prosperity under our free constitution: should we suffer the authority of the magistrate to be violated for the sake of private vengeance, we should be unworthy of the numberless blessings which an indulgent Providence hath placed within our reach. I shall endeavour steadily to discharge my duty, and I flatter myself that this state will become no less distinguished for justice and public tranquility in peace, than it has hitherto been marked in war, for rigor, fortitude and perseverance.

Gentlemen—Your kind congratulations on my arrival at this metropolis, after so long an absence, are highly acceptable; and I most cordially felicitate you on the joyful events which have restored us

to the free and uncontrollable enjoyment of our rights. While we regard with inviolable gratitude and affection all who have aided us by their counsel or their arms, let us not be unmindful of that Almighty Being, whose gracious Providence has been manifestly interposed for our deliverance and protection; and let us shew by our virtues, that we deserve to partake of the freedom, sovereignty, and independence, which are so happily established throughout these United States.

GEORGE CLINTON.

President George Washington

GENTLEMEN,

“I thank you sincerely for your affectionate address, and entreat you to be persuaded that nothing could be more agreeable to me than your polite congratulations. Permit me in turn to felicitate you on the happy re-possession of your city.

Great as your joy must be on this pleasing occasion, it can scarcely exceed that which I feel at seeing you, gentlemen, who from the noblest motives have suffered a voluntary exile of many years, return again in peace and triumph to enjoy the fruits of your virtuous conduct. The fortitude and perseverance which you and your suffering brethren have exhibited in the course of the war, have not only endeared you to your countrymen, but will be remembered with admiration and applause to the latest posterity.

May the tranquility of your city be perpetual—May the ruins soon be repaired, commerce flourish, science be fostered, and all the civil and social virtues be cherished in the same illustrious manner which formerly reflected so much credit on the inhabitants of New-York. In fine, may every species of felicity attend you, gentlemen, and your worthy fellow citizens.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.¹

Endnotes:

1. J. Soule and T. Mason, The Methodist Magazine, Page 14-15, By Methodist Episcopal Church, 1822
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