

*Learned Hebrew*

AN

*Librarian*

*Sept 27 1843*

A D D R E S S

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY

GOVERNOR TRUMBULL,

To the General Assembly and the Free-  
men of the State of CONNECTICUT;

Declining any further Election to public Office.

With the Resolution of the Legislature,  
In Consequence thereof.

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N E W • L O N D O N :

Printed by TIMOTHY GREEN, Printer to the Governor and Company.

M,DCC,LXXXIII.

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To the Honorable the Council and House  
of Representatives, in General Court  
assembled, October, 1783.

GENTLEMEN,

**A** FEW days will bring me to the anniversary of my birth; seventy three years of my life will then be compleated; and next May, fifty one years will have passed, since I was first honored with the confidence of the people in a public character. During this period, in different capacities, it has been my lot to be called to public service, almost without interruption. Fourteen years I have had the honor to fill the chief seat of government.—With what carefulness, with what zeal and attention to your welfare, I have discharged the duties of my several stations, some few of you, of equal age with myself, can witness for me from the beginning.—During the later period, none of you are ignorant of the manner in which my public life has been occupied!—The watchful cares and solicitude of an eight year's distressing and unusual war, have also fallen to my share, and have employed many anxious moments of my latest time; which have been chearfully devoted to the welfare of my country.—Happy am I to find, that all these cares, anxieties and solitudes are amply compensated by the noble prospect which now opens to my fellow citizens, of a happy establishment (if we are but wise to improve the precious opportunity) in peace, tranquility and national independence.—With sincere and lively gratitude to Almighty God,

God, our Great Protector and Deliverer, and with most hearty congratulations to all our citizens, I felicitate you, gentlemen, the other freemen, and all the good people of the State, in this glorious prospect.

Impressed with these sentiments of gratitude and felicitation,—reviewing the long course of years, in which, through various events, I have had the pleasure to serve the State,—contemplating, with pleasing wonder and satisfaction, at the close of an arduous contest, the noble and enlarged scenes, which now present themselves to my country's view,—and reflecting at the same time, on my advanced stage of life,—a life, worn out almost in the constant cares of office, I think it my duty to retire from the busy concerns of public affairs : that at the evening of my days, I may sweeten their decline, by devoting myself with less avocation, and more attention, to the duties of religion, the service of my God, and preparation for a future and happier state of existence ;—in which pleasing employment, I shall not cease to remember my country, and to make it my ardent prayer, that heaven will not fail to bless her with its choicest favors.

At this auspicious moment, therefore, of my country's happiness ;—when she has just reached the goal of her wishes, and obtained the object, for which she has so long contended, and so nobly struggled, I have to request the favor from you gentlemen, and through you, from all the freemen of the State, that, after May next, I may be excused from any further service in public life ; and that, from this time, I may be no longer considered as an object of your suffrages for any public employment in the State. The reasonableness of my request, I am persuaded, will be questioned by no one.—The length of time I have devoted to their service, with my declining state of vigor and activity, will, I please myself, form for me, a sufficient and unfailing excuse with my fellow citizens.

At this parting address, you will suffer me, gentlemen, to thank you, and all the worthy members of preceeding assemblies, with whom I have had the honor to act, for all that assistance, counsel, aid and support, which I have ever experienced during my administration

tration in government; and in the warmth of gratitude to assure you, that, till my latest moments, all your kindness to me shall be remembered;—and that my constant prayer shall be employed with Heaven, to invoke the Divine Guidance and Direction in your future councils and government.

Age and experience dictate to me,—and the zeal with which I have been known to serve the public, through a long course of years, will, I trust, recommend to the attention of the people, some few thoughts which I shall offer to their consideration on this occasion, as my last advisory legacy.

I would in the first place, entreat my countrymen, as they value their own internal welfare and the good of posterity, that they maintain inviolate, by a strict adherence to its original principles, the happy constitution under which we have so long subsisted as a corporation; that for the purposes of national happiness and glory, they will support and strengthen the federal union, by every constitutional mean in their power. The existence of a Congress, vested with powers competent to the great national purposes for which that body was instituted, is essential to our national security, establishment and independence. Whether Congress is already vested with such powers, is a question, worthy, in my opinion, of the most serious, candid and dispassionate consideration of this legislature, and those of all the other confederated States. For my own part, I do not hesitate to pronounce, that in my opinion, that body is not possessed of those powers which are fully adequate to the purposes of our general sovereignty; nor competent to that energy and exertion of government, which are absolutely necessary to the best management and direction of the general weal; or the fulfilment of our own expectations.—This defect in our federal constitution, I have already lamented as the cause of many inconveniencies which we have experienced; and unless wisely remedied, will, I foresee, be productive of evils, disastrous if not fatal, to our future union and confederation. In my idea, a Congress invested with full and sufficient authorities, is as absolutely  
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necessary for the great purposes of our confederated union, as your legislature is for the support of internal order, regulation and government, in the State. Both bodies should be intrusted with powers fully sufficient to answer the design of their several institutions.— Their powers should be distinct ; they should be clearly defined, ascertained and understood. They should be carefully adhered to ; they should be watched over with a wakeful and distinguishing attention of the people. But this watchfulness is far different from that excess of jealousy, which from a mistaken fear of abuse, withholds the necessary powers, and denies the means which are essential to the end expected.—Just as ridiculous is this latter disposition, as would be the practice of a farmer, who should deprive his labouring man of the tools necessary for his business, lest he should hurt himself, or injure his employer, and yet expects his work to be accomplished.— This kind of excessive jealousy is, in my view, too prevalent at this day ; and will, I fear, if not abated, prove a principal means of preventing the enjoyment of our national independence and glory, in that extent and perfection, which the aspect of our affairs (were we to be wise) so pleasingly promises to us.—My countrymen ! suffer me to ask, who are the objects of this jealousy ? who, my fellow-citizens, are the men we have to fear ?—not strangers, who have no connection with our welfare !—no !—they are the men of our own choice, from among ourselves ;—a choice (if we are faithful to ourselves) dictated by the most perfect freedom of election ; and that election repeated as often as you can wish, or is consistent with the good of the people. They are our brethren,—acting for themselves as well as for us,—and sharers with us in all the general burthens and benefits. They are men, who from interest, affection and every social tie, have the same attachment to our constitution and government as ourselves :—why therefore should we fear them, with this unreasonable jealousy ?—In our present temper of mind, are we not rather to fear ourselves ? to fear the propriety of our own elections ?—or rather to fear, that from this excess of jealousy and mistrust, each one cautious of his neighbour's love of power, and fearing lest if he be trusted, he would misuse it, we shall lose all confidence and government, and every

every thing tend to anarchy and confusion ? from whose horrid womb, should we plunge into it, will spring a government, that may justly make us all to tremble.

I would also beg, that, for the support of national faith and honor, as well as domestic tranquility, they would pay the strictest attention to all the sacred rules of justice and equity, by a faithful observance and fulfilment of all public as well as private engagements. Public expences are unavoidable ;—and those of the late war, altho' they fall far short of what might have been expected, when compared with the magnitude of the object for which we have contended, the length of the contest, with our unprepared situation and peculiarity of circumstances, yet could not fail to be great ;—but great as they may appear to be, when, for the defence of our invaluable rights and liberties, the support of our government, and our national existence, they have been incurred and allowed by those to whom, by your own choice, you have delegated the power, and assigned the duty, of watching over the common weal, and guarding your interests, their public engagements are as binding on the people, as your own private contracts ; and are to be discharged with the same good faith and punctuality.

I most earnestly request my fellow-citizens, that they revere and practice virtue in all its lovely forms :—this being the surest and best establishment of national, as well as private felicity and prosperity.—That, dismissing as well all local and confined prejudices, as unreasonable and excessive jealousies and suspicions, they study peace and harmony with each other, and with the several parts of the confederated Republic.—That they pay an orderly and respectful regard to the laws and regulations of government ; and that, making a judicious use of that freedom and frequency of election, which is the great security and palladium of their rights, they will place confidence in their public officers, and submit their public concerns, with cheerfulness and readiness, to the decisions and determinations of Congress and their own Legislatures ; whose collected and united wisdom,

wisdom, the people will find to be a much more sure dependence, than the uncertain voice of popular clamour, which most frequently, is excited and blown about by the artful and designing part of the community, to effect particular, and often times, sinister purposes.—At such times, the steady good sense of the virtuous public, wisely exercised in a judicious choice of their representatives, and a punctual observance of their collected counsels, is the surest guide to national interest, happiness and security.

Finally, my fellow-citizens ! I exhort you to love one another : let each one study the good of his neighbour and of the community, as his own :—hate strifes, contentions, jealousies, envy, avarice, and every evil work, and ground yourselves in this faithful and sure axiom, that virtue exalteth a nation, but that sin and evil workings, are the destruction of a people.

I commend you, gentlemen, and the good people of the State, with earnestness and ardor, to the blessing, the protection, the counsel and direction of the great Counsellor and director ; whose wisdom and power is sufficient to establish you as a great and happy people : —and wishing you the favour of this divine benediction, in my public character,—I bid you a long—a happy adieu.

I am, gentlemen,

your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed)

JON<sup>TH</sup>. TRUMBULL.

A true Copy,

Examin'd by

GEORGE WYLLYS, Secr'y.

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## STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

At a General Assembly of the Governor and Company of the State of *Connecticut*, in *America*; holden at *New-Haven*, on the second Thursday of *October*, A. D. 1783.

**W** H E R E A S his Excellency JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Esquire, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the State of Connecticut, has signified in an Address to the General Assembly, to be communicated to their Constituents, his Desire that he might not, considering his advanced Age, be considered by the Freemen of this State as an object of their Choice at the next General Election; as the Governor has declared his Wish to retire, after the expiration of his present Appointment, from the Cares and Business of Government.

**R** E S O L V E D by this ASSEMBLY, That they consider it as their Duty in behalf of their Constituents, to express in Terms of the most sincere Gratitude, their highest Respect for his Excellency Governor TRUMBULL, for the great and eminent Services which he has rendered this State during his long and prosperous Administration; more especially for that display of Wisdom, Justice, Fortitude and Magnanimity, joined with the most unremitting Attention and Perseverance which he has manifested during the late successful though distressing War; which must place the Chief Magistrate of this State in the rank of those great and worthy Patriots, who have eminently distinguished themselves as the Defenders of the Rights of Mankind.

And that this Assembly consider it as a most gracious dispensation of Divine Providence, that a Life of so much Usefulness has been prolonged to such an advanced Age, with an unimpaired Vigour and activity of Mind.

But if the Freemen of this State shall think proper to comply with his Excellency's Request, it will be the Wish of this Assembly, that

his Successor in Office may possess those eminent public and private Virtues, which give so much Lustre to the Character of Him who has in the most honorable Manner so long presided over this State.

It is further RESOLVED, That the Secretary present to the Governor *Trumbull*, an authenticated Copy of this Act, as a Testimonial of the Respect and Esteem of the Legislature of this State. And the Secretary is further directed, that as soon as he shall be furnished with such Copy, he cause the same to be printed, together with this Act.

A true Copy of Record,

Examined by

GEORGE WYLLYS, Secr'y.

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