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Northwest Territory. General Assembly.

Address of the legislature to the citizens of the Territory of the United States, North-West of the River Ohio. -- [Cincinnati, Ohio? : Printed by Carpenter & Findlay?, 1799?] -- 1 sheet ([1] p.) ; 39 x 21 cm.

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A D D R E S S
OF THE
L E G I S L A T U R E
TO THE
C I T I Z E N S
OF THE
TERRITORY OF THE UNITED STATES, NORTH-WEST OF THE RIVER OHIO.

FELLOW-CITIZENS;

WE are not insensible of the honor conferred on us in selecting us to the honorable, though arduous task of framing laws to protect and secure the personal rights and the property of so numerous and respectable a class of men, settled over an extensive tract of country. How far we have succeeded in the execution of our duty to effect so desirable and important an object, can only be known when those laws shall come into operation;—but if good intentions can entitle us to your approbation, we shall receive it from a brave and generous people, with pleasing sensations.

It must have been easily foreseen that the expences arising on our entering upon the present stage of government would be considerable. To provide for these expences, a Land tax presents itself as the principal, if not the only object of which we could avail ourselves for this purpose—we conceive this the least burdensome to the greatest class of citizens, as no small proportion will be paid by persons living without the Territory owning large tracts of land therein. Our soil, climate, and navigable waters, present to the mind of observation and contemplation, the most pleasing views and prospects of the future greatness, and importance of this part of the American Empire, but to realize these advantages, exertions must be made, which are within the power of an industrious, enterprising and enlightened people. Let the present generation set the example by discountenancing idleness and dissipation; and, on the other hand, by encouraging industry, frugality, temperance and every moral virtue, and in a few years the desert will disappear before the hand of industry, the fields will be covered with flocks, and the face of nature will blossom like the rose.—Religion, morality and knowledge, are necessary to all good governments, say the venerable framers of our Constitution, and to this great truth, every man of liberal information will subscribe. The liberal grants of land from the United States, for the purpose of erecting and endowing a University, and other Seminaries of Learning, for private schools, and for the support of Religion, are advantages superior in these respects, perhaps, to those which any other country can boast of, and no time will be lost in bringing these advantages into actual operation; to these advantages let us contribute as far as we are able, that wisdom, knowledge and virtue, may be widely diffused. Let us inculcate the principles of humanity, benevolence, honesty and punctuality in dealing; sincerity, charity, and all the social affections.

LET it be remembered, that the foundation of public prosperity and happiness, must be laid in private families;—every well ordered family is a little amiable community; and a great community made up of such families, must be prosperous and happy at home, and respectable abroad.

EDWARD TIFFIN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
H. VANDER BURGH,
President of the Council.

ATTEST,

JOHN REILY,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

18th December, 1799.