

**Answer to the citizens of Baltimore, printed in The American Museum Vol 5. pages 434,
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ANSWER.

Gentlemen, The tokens of regard and affection which I have often received from the citizens of this town, were always acceptable, because I believed them always sincere. Be pleased to receive my best acknowledgments for the renewal of them on the present occasion.

If the affectionate partiality of my fellow-citizens has prompted them to ascribe greater effects to my conduct and character, than were justly due, I trust the indulgent sentiment on their part, will not produce any presumption on mine.

I cannot now, gentlemen, resist my feelings so much as to withhold the communication of my ideas, respecting the actual situation and prospect of our national affairs. It appears to me that little more than common sense and common honesty in the transactions of the community at large, would be necessary to make us a great and a happy nation. For if the general government, lately adopted, shall be arranged and administered in such a manner as to acquire the full confidence of the American people, I sincerely believe they will have greater advantages, now from their natural, moral, and political circumstances, for public felicity, than any other people ever professed.

In the contemplation of those advantages, now soon to be realized, I have reconciled myself to the sacrifice of the fondest wishes, so far as to enter again upon the stage of public life. I know the delicate nature of the duties incident to the part which I am called to perform, and I feel my incompetence, without the singular assistance of providence, to discharge them in a satisfactory manner. But having undertaken the task, from a sense of duty, no fear of encountering difficulties, and no dread of losing popularity shall ever deter me from pursuing what I conceive to be the true interest of my country.

George. Washington.