

**Answer to the mayor recorder Alderman and Common Council of the city of Pennsylvania,  
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*[Draft Created by Crowdsourcing]*

Answer.

*To the mayor, recorder, aldermen, and common council of the city of Philadelphia.*

I consider myself particularly obliged to you, gentlemen, for your congratulatory address, on my appointment to the station of president of the united states.

Accustomed, as I have been, to pay a respectful regard to the opinion of my countrymen, I did not think myself at liberty to decline the acceptance of the high office, to which I had been called by their united suffrage.

When I contemplate the interposition of providence, as it was visibly manifested, in guiding us through the revolution, in preparing us for the reception of a general government, and in conciliating the good will of the people of America towards one another, after its adoption, I feel myself oppressed, and almost overwhelmed, with a sense of divine munificence. I feel that nothing is due to my personal agency in all those complicated and wonderful events, except what can simply be attributed to the exertions of an honest zeal, for the good of my country.

If I have distressing apprehensions that I shall never be able to justify the too exalted expectations of my countrymen, I am supported under the pressure of such uneasy reflexions, by a confidence, that the most gracious Being, who hath hitherto watched over the interests, and averted the perils of the united states, will never suffer so fair an inheritance to become a prey to anarchy and despotism, or any other species of oppression.

I thank you sincerely for your kind wishes, that my administration may be honourable and happy to myself and country.

I pray you, gentlemen, will accept, on your own behalf, as well as on behalf of the citizens you represent, my heartfelt acknowledgements for the polite welcome I have received upon my arrival in your city. In tendering these acknowledgements, I must also desire it may be fully understood, that I entertain the same reciprocal sensations of attachment for the good people of Philadelphia, which they have, on all occasions, evinced in my favour.

G. Washington.