

Answer to the president and supreme executive council of Pennsylvania, printed in The American Museum Vol 5. pages 329 January 1789-June 1789.

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Answer.

To the president and supreme executive council of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

I receive with great satisfaction on the affectionate congratulations of the president and supreme executive council, of Pennsylvania, on my appointment to the presidency of the united states.

If, under favour of the divine providence, and with the assistance of my fellow citizens, it was my fortune to have been in any degree instrumental in vindicating the liberty and confirming the independence of my country, I now find a full compensation for my services, in a belief that those blessings will be permanently secured by the establishment of a free and efficient government. And you will permit me to say, on this occasion, that as nothing could add to the evidence I have formerly received, of the invariable attachment of your commonwealth to the interest and honour of the union, so nothing could have been more agreeable to me at this time, than the assurances you have given me of the zealous co-operation of its executive authority in facilitating the accomplishment of the great objects which are committed to my charge.

While I feel my sensibility strongly excited by the expressions of affection and the promises of support, which I everywhere meet with from my countrymen, I entertain a consolatory hope, that the purity of my intentions, and the perseverance of my endeavours to promote the happiness of my country, will atone for any of the slighter defects which may be discovered in my administration. For, whatever may be the issue of our public measures, or however I may err in opinion, I trust it will be believed, that I could not have been actuated by any interest separate from those of my country.

Suffer me, gentlemen, to conclude, by assuring you that I am well pleased with the justice you have done to the motives from which I have acted, and by thanking you for the tender concern you have been pleased to manifest for my personal felicity.

George Washington.

Philadelphia. April 20, 1789.