[1805, Feb 28]

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Sir,

Baltimore
Feby 28th 1805

I should deem myself lost to the best Emotions of a human heart; lost indeed to every grateful and affectionate sentiment, before Heaven and Mankind,— did I not seize the present moment, with an enthusiasm of manly pleasure and inward satisfaction, to congratulate You, and felicitate the American Nation, on a peaceful, & dignified, re-election of their beloved first Magistrate.

Let long established and inveterate tyrants, across the Atlantic, in full silence gnash their teeth, when they read, or hear of, the wise, virtuous, economick, tranquil, and energetick Administration of the American Government during the last four years.—

While their bosoms throb with conscious guilt, and are torn with black passions, Yours will be calm and serene, uninjured and uninjurious, smooth as the stream wh. glides along its proper channel, diffusing beauty and fertility on every plant, which harmlessly vegitates near its margin.— We are well aware, that servile adulation and unmanly encomium, are only adapted to the taste and genius of mean transforming sycophants; feitame adulation we detest, for unmerited compliment is dead or bordering on satire in disguise.

Yet, when a virtuous, honorable man, possessing easy

ady independence, rises superior to the consideration of peaceful retirement and calm tranquillity, and is indefatigable in promoting public good, to withhold well earned approbation from such a Character, would be ungenerous, ungrateful, criminal — Should envious & jealous Spirits, should faultering tongues be silent in your praise, the National glory and political Independence of your dear Country, will immortalize you.

That you may long enjoy the smiles of an approving heart, of an approving Country, and of an approving God, shall be my Morning and evening Praises to high Heaven —

From some living voice communication which you lately held, with my beloved friend, Mr. J. Hollins of this City, I feel truly grateful, for the kindly interest you take, in all that nearly and dearly concerns my Ministerial respectability, and the happiness of a very promising, helpless, heart loved family —

It is indeed painful for me to relate, but unyielding facts constrain me to it; that altho' I have sacrificed so much, to accomodate the wishes of the first committee of my Church, yet they have egregiously disappointed me; have trifled with the most sacred engagements; and withheld from my Salary one thousand dollars of what I had every just reason to expect — Some two Years ago, I received an invitation

from the first Presbyterian Church in the City of Philadelphia, but indisposition at that time prevented my acceptance thereof — Now, that they are destitute of a stated pastor, the invitation has been indirectly renewed — I have learned, that Governor Mc Kean is a member of that Congregation, and has expressed a wish to Dr Rheynolds, that I should be invited to preach there — Truth and candor constrain me to acknowledge, that if an application was to come shortly thro' an honorable channel... I would not hesitate in yielding compliance for two or four Lord's days —

The first Saturday in April is appointed by... Presbty, for my induction in this Church — For no period of my life, was I ever more difficult how to act — Duty, interest, and honor, seem at Variance; In vain have I tried to reconcile them, in my present tone of feeling and Situation — I trust a benignant Providence will overrule it for the best.

You will have the goodness to pardon this intrusion on your time and patience.

All this in confidence to your faithful ear —

Believe me Sir, with most respectful Esteem,

Thos Jefferson Esquire, gratefully Yours &c. John Glendy

Clendy John. Balt. Feb. 28. 05. rec. Mar. 2.

FREE

BALT. MD. FEB 28

Hon Thos Jefferson
President
Washington City