

Executive Speech  
of  
Isaac Tichenor  
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*Speech of Gov. Tichenor – 1800*

*Gentlemen of the Council & Gentlemen of the house of Representatives.*

In obedience to the voice of the people, it is again become my duty to meet you in General Assembly.

The affairs of Government will always be attended with difficulty, and will require much application, prudence and firmness in those on whom is devolved the arduous task of conducting its interests. It is in confidence that I shall be favored with your cordial assistance and support, that I enter upon the office and duties which the Constitution has assigned to the Chief Magistrate of this State. Collected from the different parts of the Commonwealth, you must be intimately acquainted with the various situations and circumstances of your Constituents, and with such information, it will be in your power to pursue the public welfare with candor and success, in all the consultations and measures of the present session.

The business particularly entrusted to me, by the legislature at their last Session, has been strictly attended to, and will be the subject of a future message. – [The claim of Indians to land in Vermont.]

The Auditor will lay before you a general statement of the accounts of the Treasury department; a review of the accounts of that department for several years past, when contrasted with those of former years, will show an increase of wealth in our state, and a degree of economy in the management of our finances that must be pleasing to my fellow citizens. I however consider it to be my duty once more to submit to your consideration the propriety and necessity of redeeming the public securities now in circulation, upon which, without any benefit to our Government, we are annually incurring an accumulated interest. Without adopting a measure of this kind, no complete adjustment of the Treasurer's account can be effected.

The Constitution and Laws of our Country have made it the duty of the Legislature, at this Session, to choose Electors of President and Vice President of the United States. This consideration gives a peculiar importance to the business of this Session. Those men, who are to be immediately instrumental in the appointment of persons who are to fill the highest offices our Country can bestow, ought to be selected from the most worthy of our fellow Citizens. It is sincerely to be hoped, that the importance of the crisis may induce such electors, when chosen, to unite their suffrages on men who are attached to the interests of their country, and who are the friends of order and good government. Should the Chief magistrate of the Union be destitute of the virtues of a *Real* patriot; should a predilection for foreign principles, or an ardor for foreign theories, influence him to depart from the sober maxims of our ancestors, and from those principles of national interest which WASHINGTON recommended, in his last legacy to the people, and which ADAMS has so happily pursued in his Executive administration of the general government; in a word, should our first magistrate be other than an Independent American, the most injurious consequences to us and our posterity are justly to be apprehended.

From the situation of this State, agriculture must be a primary and essential object of attention; separated from harbours of commerce, the inhabitants of Vermont must, at all times, look for support from the labors and productions of the field. And it is with much gratitude to the benevolent author of nature, that we have to remark, that our prospects in this respect are highly encouraging. Not only have the harvests of the present year been greatly productive, but the general spirit of agriculture is much improving in every part of this State, and the happy effects of it are every where to be seen in the improvements of our farmers, in the rapid increase of our buildings, and in the produce of our fields.

But while we observe, with pleasure, the improved state of our agriculture, it is of importance that we bear in mind that agriculture, in all its interests, is most intimately connected with those of commerce and manufactures, and cannot be carried on to any considerable extent, but in connection with them. If the farmer finds no demand for the produce of his land, a great part of it becomes useless; thus the various interests of every state in the union become mutually dependent and connected; and that, which is a benefit to the one, is an advantage to the whole.

All our interests, whether public or private, are so inseparably connected with the principles that regulate the conduct of mankind, the principles of morality and religion, that there cannot be any permanent prosperity in

the one, without a steady cultivation of the other; what can restrain the passions of men, regulate their views and pursuits, confine them to the bounds of reason, duty and integrity, produce industry, economy and regularity, or a steady obedience to the laws of our country, but substantial and permanent principles of action? And can those be expected, or will they be found, in any other principles but those of morality and religion.

If anything can be wanting to convince us of the importance of moral and Christian principles, the fatal and horrid consequences, that have arisen in modern times, from treating them with neglect and contempt, must carry conviction to the mind of every person who has heard or read of the revolution in Europe. In every attempt, therefore, to promote the interests of science, the education of youth, or to render respectable the institutions and precepts of Christianity, we shall be in the discharge of a duty, highly useful in a Christian Country, and every way interesting to a free people.

While the concerns of our state government more immediately engaged our attention, they are so essentially connected with the government of the United States, that we cannot discharge our duty to the former, without taking into view the interests of the latter.

The wisdom, the firmness, the prudence and success with which our late President, the great, the good, the immortal Washington, administered the affairs of the Federal Government, can never be forgotten by us, and will ever be remembered with admiration and gratitude by all succeeding generations. It was never given to any man to render more important services to his country, than was done by him to the States of America; and were the wishes of mankind ever allowed to control the laws of nature, that most worthy and excellent man had never died. But altho' removed to an higher sphere of action, we, and I trust all future generations of men in the United States, will share largely in the benefits he procured for his grateful Country.

The same measures of government have been pursued, by his worthy successor. The effect has been peace, prosperity, increasing wealth and population, in every part of the United States; while the rest of the world are involved in the miseries and calamities of civil war, slaughter and destruction, that have not a parallel in history.

If anything could silence the voices of calumny, or terminate the mischievous effects of misrepresentation as to men and measures, so dangerous to a free government, and so much regretted by all good men, it would be the singular happiness, this country has enjoyed amidst the scenes of general distress, which has afflicted other nations. But whatever may be the language or the attempt of the opposers of our government, the wise and virtuous cannot but find, in the prosperity of our country, abundant reasons for an undeviating attachment to the federal constitution and laws, and to those measures of government that have tended so much to produce public tranquility and happiness.

Our commerce, and with it, our national resources have been extended; our manufactures have increased; our agriculture has flourished; our national government has, by its laws, supported our citizens at home, and by its energy protected them abroad, and a neutral and happily beneficial attitude has been maintained with dignified perseverance: and those among us who have thought that an efficient Treaty with France would add to our political prosperity, must have found great satisfaction in the recent mission of envoys, to that power; indeed it is ardently hoped, that they may honorably accommodate existing disagreements. But should these envoys, like our former messengers of peace, return to their Country, without effecting the desirable object of their mission, it is charitably expected that every mouth will be stopped, and every eye turned to our national courage and patriotism, that sure and only foundation of national prosperity.

That all your wise deliberations may tend to this great and good end, I ardently pray the great disposer of all human events.

ISAAC TICHENOR.