BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND.

NOVEMBER SESSION, 1799.

ESOLVED, That William Kilty include in the edition of the laws which he is now compiling under the resolutions of the last general assembly, and agreeably thereto, the acts passed during the present session.

RESOLVED, That William Kilty preface the second volume of his compilation of the laws of Maryland, by inserting the address of President George Washington to the people of the United States, bearing date the seventeenth day of September, seventeen hundred and ninety-six,

To THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS,

HE period for a new election of a citizen to administer the executive government of the United States being not far distant, and the time actually arrived when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be cloathed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you, at the same time, to do me the justice to be assured, that this resolution has not been taken without a strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation which binds a dutiful citizen to his country; and that, in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my situation might imply, I am insuenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest; no desiciency of grateful respect for your past kindness; but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in, the office to which your suffrages have twice called me, have been a uniform facrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty, and to a deference for what appeared to be your defire. I constantly hoped, that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistently with motives which I was not at liberty to disregard, to return to that retirement from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature resection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my considence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

I rejoice that the state of your concerns, external as well as internal, no longer renders the purfuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty or propriety; and am persuaded, whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that in the present circumstances of our country you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

The impressions with which I sirst undertook the ardnous trust, were explained on the proper occasion. In the discharge of this trust, I will only say, that I have, with good intentions, contributed
towards the organization and administration of the government the best exertions of which a very
fallible judgment was capable. Not unconscious, in the outset, of the inferiority of my qualifications, experience in my own eyes, perhaps still more in the eyes of others, has strengthened the motives to dissidence of myself; and every day the increasing weight of years admonishes me more and
more, that the shade of retirement is as necessary to me as it will be welcome. Satisfied that if any

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