

our untold gratitude. We sympathize with thee, President Johnson, in thy being unexpectedly called to the discharge of duties always of the gravest importance — but especially difficult and embarrassing in the peculiar situation of our country.

We rejoice that the people of our land, and the authorities of the States, have given unmistakable evidence, that thou hast their full confidence, and that they will give thee their hearty support as the Head of the Nation. Permit us to say, that the Religious Society we represent, has ever been loyal to Government — always engaged by every means, which they can conscientiously use to uphold it, & duly to respect and honor those placed in authority.

We tender to thee the assurance of our sincere regard. We pray for thee, that thou mayst receive Divine Grace to cheer & comfort thee — Divine guidance to lead and direct thee, Divine protection to sustain and keep thee. We crave that thy administration of the Government may be to the honor of God, & the welfare of the people, and that thou mayst be instrumental in restoring permanent peace. May the blessing of Heaven descend upon our beloved country, and May the Kingdom of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ, be extended therein and throughout the whole world.

Washington 5th Mo 4th 1865.

The President Replied — That he would say to us, what he had said to other delegations, that he felt greatly the weight of responsibility, that had suddenly come upon him, & that as one felt more deeply than himself the sad event which had occasioned it.

He desired to acknowledge his thanks for this expression of the Support of the Society of Friends. His administration of the

Government was rendered easier by such expressions of confidence — it would perhaps be impossible without them. That he appreciated the position of the Society of Friends; when they said that they rendered to Government, all the support they conscientiously could. That while he might differ with ^{them} on one point, he had heartily given his support to the Nation's vindicating its integrity by force of arms — he would take this occasion to say, that the constitution of his own mind was for peace rather than for war. He rejoiced in the proud position his country had won for herself — in the glorious deeds, which her brave soldiers and sailors had inscribed on her escutcheon, yet he would say — now that the bright bow of peace was arching the skies; without any disrespect to the Army and Navy, for he wished them to have the honour of it, that he would rather bear the mark of the cross on his hands, and the dust of the soil on his garments, than to wear the glistering plume of the laureled warrior. He repeated, the constitution of his mind, is for peace, rather than for war, and that he desired to promote amongst his fellow citizens, and amongst foreign Nations the cause of peace on earth and good will to men.

He wished to express again his thanks to the Society of Friends for this evidence of their interest & support.

A member of the Committee — then expressed much feeling & sympathy with the President in his responsible position, desiring, that he should look to the Lord, for direction, & ability to fulfil his duties — reminding him, that the prophet Daniel, when the weight of a great Nation was resting upon him, found time morning ^{noon} & evening, to put up his petitions to the Lord. He desired that he might carry forward the great work of the abolition of Slavery to its full & complete consummation — that the Lord might protect him on every hand.