

* after a brief silence Dr Thomas Knell - the Secy kneeling beside him - when prayer was offered up that the blessing of the Lord might rest upon this opportunity & that the sentiments which had ^{just} been expressed might prevail in the Councils of the nation.

(Not to be copied in whole or in part.) VI 1

74-1865

Johnson

The Pres^t rec^d the delegation, standing, in his room in the Treasury Building, his private Secretaries being present & ~~Dr~~ Lewis & Isaac Austin, who had kindly introduced us. After our introduction ^{one of the Secs} Knell read the following Address to which the Pres^t listened respectfully. ~~said~~ - (see Address on 4th page)

He 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 been thrown upon him & that no one felt more deeply than himself the sad event which had occasioned it.

He desired to acknowledge his thanks for the expressions of the support of the Society we represented. 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, whom they said that they rendered to Government all the support they conscientiously could. That while he might differ with them on one point & had heartily given his support to the Nation 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 of his Country had won for herself - in the glorious deeds which her brave soldiers & 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 & navy for he wished them to have ~~also~~ the honor of it, that he would rather bear the mark of the ship on his hands & the dust of the soil on his garments than to wear the glittering plume of the laurelled warrior. He repeated that the constitution of his mind is for Peace rather than for War, & that he desired to promote amongst his fellow citizens & amongst foreign nations, the cause of peace on earth & goodwill to men.

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