

Executive Speech
of
Thomas Chittenden
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The speech of his excellency governor CHITTENDEN, to the council and assembly

GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNCIL AND ASSEMBLY:

I have received official information of my appointment by the freemen of this state to be their governor for the year ensuing. My heart is imprest with a grateful sense of the singular respect shown and honor done me by this election.

This day witnesses the excellence and beauty of our glorious constitution; which by the blessing of heaven, the fortitude and perseverance of former conventions, councils, and assemblies, with the aid of the military force, we have obtained and supported, against the opposition of a potent foreign power, a haughty neighbouring government, and numerous domestic opposers. The constitution, gentlemen, grouped [groped] in the dark for days, months and years, but now it shines with purer lustre. By it our lives, properties, liberties and privileges, civil and religious, are protected: By it we retain a right to choose our own rulers and that from among ourselves; – by it we are rescued from submitting to the edicts of any foreign power, or neighboring government, while every civil officer is annually taught his dependence. The appearance of this day also evinces, that our government is well established, the minds of the people happily cemented, and every thing contributes to complete our political felicity, and prepare the way for the happy day when we shall add no small weight to the scale, and be under the protection of a new and glorious empire, which bids fair in a short time to vie in power and policy with any of the European States, which gives me more satisfaction than all the honors in the power of this or any other state to confer on me.

It is with some reluctance that I shall enter again into public service, all circumstances considered; yet the good of this people lies so near my heart, that when duty calls, nothing shall deter me from acting that part I judge will contribute most to the peace, happiness and prosperity of the people. Therefore with a firm reliance on receiving that kind aid and support from the Council and House of Representatives that the nature of my office requires, I shall accept the office to which I am elected, and am ready to take the qualifications pointed out by the constitution; and I pray God to grant me wisdom to conduct agreeable to his will, and then I trust it will be for the best good of his and my people.

The *Gazette* added: “His excellency was then duly qualified by chief justice Chipman in the presence of both houses, and a numerous body of spectators.”