ADDRESS,
Delivered by Mr. Reed, at the Public Dinner, given to him at Fayette, on occasion of a toast drunk, in reference to him; and to be published immediately after that toast, in the proceedings of the day.

The occasion of this Festival, and the sentiment just drunk, in reference to myself, have excited in my bosom, the liveliest sentiments of gratitude and the deepest emotions of my heart. Glad would I was, if I could think, I merited this testimonial of public approbation from you, gentlemen, and the citizens of Jefferson county, for my humble public services, in the Senate of the United States. But I am not such a stranger to human nature, nor as blinded by vanity, as to believe, for a moment, that this expression of public confidence, has reference, so much to the past, as to the future services, which I may have in my power, to render to the state, in the term, which yet remains for me, in the councils of the nation. I know, gentlemen, well, that this testimonial was intended by you, to encourage an inexperienced public servant, in the career of usefulness which every man, who claims that honor of the people, must mark out for himself, in the true basis, of the people's approbation and of his own self-respect. Received in this light, this expression of the public feeling, has a much higher aim, than to gratify the feelings, or even honor the services of an individual. Its object is, to heighten the known, that Mr. Adams was not my choice, as President of the United States, nor was he the choice of a majority of our people. And at the next election, they will exercise their right, of giving their suffrages, to the man of their choice. But I cannot believe, that the people of the state, are disposed of frustrating the wisest measures, and plunging the country into anarchy and confusion, because a President is elected by the nation, not of their particular choice. The charge, then, of a desertion of my principles, is a delusion, which justice requires me to refute. My subscription of General Jackson, remains unchanged, and I defy any man, to designate me, by word or deed, in which I have opposed him. But I will at the same time say, that, for Mr. Adams has administered the government in a spirit of moderation, equity and impartiality, which meets my approbation—and that I will not consent, to infringe his term of office, upon the country, by paralyzing his wisest measures, because he was not the choice of a majority of our people. A principle, is fraught with the direct evils, and infected upon and sanctioned by public opinion, will poison the fountain of public liberty, and the verbal contests of party, in the Senate, will end in the subversion of public liberty, amidst the din of arms, upon the field of battle. It is for the people, the only rightful arbiters, to decide between my principles, dictated alike, by a love of order and the spirit of liberty, and the ones of my opponents, who seek their justification, by thriving the wisest measures, in their devotion to an individual, justly dear to the nation and prized as much by me as by them.

I have detained you, gentlemen, too long upon this occasion. But it seemed to me, that in addressing this respectable portion of my constituents, something more than a mere speech of ceremony was necessary, and I have taken this occasion, to advert to some principles which have guided my public conduct, in the high stations to which the favor of the state, not my merits, has called me. I know full well, I have done but little to merit this grateful tribute, you have been pleased to bestow. I know full well, too, I have many faults and many errors. Time and experience, hope will correct them. And yet I have been charged by my enemies, with faults I never had, and errors I never committed. That I am ambitious to distinguish myself, in the service of the country, I willingly avow. That I will not get credit from every one, for good acts, is an injustice, incident to human nature. Of this, it would be folly to complain, and I do not speak the language of discontent. But as enlightened people will easily distinguish, between private malvolence, which dips its pen in poison, to destroy the peace of individuals; and fair discussion, which never fails to correct the wanderings of the public servant. I was born of respectable parents, and an indelible stamp of birth and good education, everything else, I owe to the people of this state, and my own exertions. I cannot express the fullness of my heart upon this occasion, and I will conclude by giving you the toasts, gentleman, which I trust you will all approve of.

The toast of Fayette, and the illustrious man whose name it bears—May the one continue to be honored as he deserves, and the other to flourish according to the wishes of his friends.