

The society, on July 4, 1798, transmitted to his Excellency, George Washington, the following address :

“ To the President of the United States.

“ The respectful Address of the Officers of the late American Army and Navy, assembled in the Society of the Cincinnati of the State of New York.

“ Convened to celebrate the Anniversary of our National Independence, our attention is naturally drawn to the interesting circumstances which characterize the present situation of our country. Threatened, as it is, by a very powerful foreign nation, we cannot but view that situation as critical, and in a time of imminent public danger, our late profession of soldiers seems to render the expression of our sentiments peculiarly proper. Whatever difference of opinion may at any time have existed among us, as among other classes of citizens, concerning particular measures, we conceive that no difference of opinion can, or ought to exist as to any of these cardinal points: that our essential rights, as a free and independent nation, are at every hazard to be maintained—that the Constitution of our country, as established by the choice of the people, is in every event to be defended against all foreign control or influence—that invasion from abroad, from whatever quarter, is to be repelled by united and vigorous exertions—that our Government ought never to subscribe to national degradation—that, however desirable peace certainly is, the evils of war can bear no comparison with sacrifice, or abandonment of those great principles. Making this declaration of our principles, the same with those which led us to assist in fighting the Battles of our Revolution, we cheerfully dedicate the remnant of our lives to the maintenance of them; and we pledge ourselves to stand ready to seal our sincerity with our blood.

“ By unanimous order,

“ Nichs. Fish, president.

“ Attest,

“ B. Swartwout, jr.”<sup>1</sup>

As the terms of the re-enlistment of the rank and file of the first and second New York regiments had been “ ‘for the war,’ the two regiments were furloughed on the eighth of June, 1783, and the men proceeded to their homes, and on the third of November, 1783, they were honorably discharged the service. Colonels Van Schaick and Van Cortlandt were each brevetted brigadier-generals on the thirtieth of September, 1783. The musical instruments of the band of the second New York and the colors of the two regiments were

<sup>1</sup> The Institution of the Society of the Cincinnati, and some of the proceedings of the General Society and of the New York State Society. 1851, pp. 57, 58, 90.