

Paris November 5th 1795

Sir,

On the twentyseventh ultimo the Convention ended its career by declaring that its powers ceased, and immediately afterwards the installation of the new government began, in the same hall, by a verification of the powers of its deputies and their distribution into two branches according to the mode prescribed in the Convention¹ and which was completed on that and the succeeding day. It was found upon inspection that the decrees heretofore noticed were universally obeyed, and that of the two thirds its legislative branches, who were to be taken from among the members of the Convention, more than a majority were elected by the departments, so that in the duty imposed on those who were elected of supplying the deficiency by their own suffrage became proportionally more easy and less objectionable. There therefore was immediately executed by ballot, and after which the interior organization of each branch followed and which took up a day or two only: then the members of the directoire or executive were chosen, and which was done on the 31st ultimo and whereby the new government was completely installed.

When I observe that the scene which was exhibited upon this great occasion, resembled in many respects, what we see daily acted on our side of the Atlantic, in our rational and state assembled, you will have a better idea of the tranquility and serenity which reigned throughout, than I can otherwise describe. Nor shall I be accused of an unbecoming partiality, if I draw from this increasing similitude in theirs and our political institutions, the most favourable hopes of the future prosperity and welfare of this Republic.

The adoption of a new constitution founded upon the equality of human rights, with its legislative powers distributed into two branches, and other improvements in the executive and judiciary departments, though still perhaps imperfect yet certainly far beyond what past experiments here gave² us reason to expect, is an event of great importance not only to France, but perhaps to mankind in general. Its complete inauguration too assures us that its merits will be tried, though indeed under the existing circumstances of a war with the neighboring powers who are interested in its overthrow, of a strong party within incessantly labouring to promote the same object, together with the derangement of the finances and other embarrassments which were inseparable from the difficulties they had to encounter, the experiment to be made, ought not to be called a fair one. If however it does not succeed and the republican system is preserved here, notwithstanding the various and complicated difficulties which opposed its establishment, and still shake its foundation, it will certainly furnish a complete reputation of all those arguments which have in all ages and nations been urged against the practicability of such a government, and especially in old countries.

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La Reveillè Lepaux, Reubell, Sieyes, Le Tourneur and Barras are elected into the Directoire, and who are all distinguished for their talents and integrity, as likewise for their devotion to the revolution; a circumstance which not only furnishes reasonable ground whereon to estimate the principles of those who chose them, but which likewise tends essentially to give stability to the revolution itself.

I write you at present only to communicate this important event, and will hereafter as heretofore keep you regularly apprized of what shall appear to me to merit communication. I have the honour to be with great respect and esteem, Sir your very obedient Ser^t

Ja^s Monroe.