

With gladness of the Senate and House of Representatives: To express gratitude to God, in the name of the People, for the preservation of the United States, in my first duty in addressing you. Our thoughts next revert to the death of the late President by an act of partial treason. The grief of the nation is still fresh; it finds some solace in the confidence of its confidence by entering on the renewed term of the Chief Magistracy, to which he had been elected; that he brought the civil war substantially to a close; that his loss was felt in all parts of the Union; that his memory, his re-remembered upon me a heavier weight of cares than ever devolved upon any one of his predecessors. To fulfil my trust I need the support and confidence of all who are associated with me in the various departments of Government, and the support and confidence of the people. There but one way in which I can hope to gain their necessary aid: it is, to state, with frankness, the principles which guide my conduct, and their application to the present state of affairs, will assure that the efficiency of my labors will, in a great measure, depend on your and their united approbation.

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ment would be wanting. And, if we look beyond the letter of the Constitution to the character of our country, its capacity for comprehending within its jurisdiction a vast continental empire is due to the system of existence. The best security for the perpetual existence of the Union is the "supreme authority" of the Constitution of the United States. The perpetuity of the Constitution brings with it the perpetuity of the States; their mutual relation makes what we are, and in our political system their connection is inseparable. The whole cannot exist without the parts, the parts cannot exist without the whole. So long as the Constitution of the United States endures, the States will endure; the destruction of the one is the destruction of the other; the preservation of the one is the preservation of the other.

of restoration shall proceed in conformity with the will of the people, and that, in the past, the evidence of sincerity in the future maintenance of the Union shall be put beyond any doubt by the ratification of the proposed amendment to the Constitution, forever within the limits of the amendment. So long as the adoption of this amendment is delayed, so long will doubt, and jealousy, and uncertainty prevail. This is the measure which will efface the sad memory of the past; this is the measure which will most certainly calm population, and capital, and industry. It is not too much to ask of the States which are now re-occupying their places in the family of the Union to give this pledge of perpetual loyalty and peace. Until it is done, the past, however much we may desire it, will not be forgotten. The adoption of the amendment unites us beyond all power of disruption. It heals the wound that is still imperfectly closed; it removes slavery, the element which has so long perplexed and divided the country; it makes of us once more a united people, renewed and strengthened, bound more than ever to mutual affection and support.

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cordance of religious rights to the National States was unprecedented, and that the National States were the only ones who had the right to do so. The British subjects, who were furnished, in a great measure, with the materials of war for the insurgent States, were furnished, in a great measure, with the materials of war for the insurgent States. The materials of war for the insurgent States were furnished, in a great measure, with the materials of war for the insurgent States. The materials of war for the insurgent States were furnished, in a great measure, with the materials of war for the insurgent States.