Friends, & Fellow-Citizens.

The period for a new election of a citizen to administer the executive government of the United States, being not far distant, and the time actually arrived, when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person, who is to be clothed with that important trust: for as it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduct to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered and the number of those, out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you, at the same time, to do me the justice to assure that this resolution has not been taken without a strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation, which binds a dutiful citizen to his country—such as that in us, drawing the gratitude of service, which, were it in my situation, might empty, is influenced by no sense of real, for your future interest, no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness, but a sense of a full convic-