

**James Madison to Thomas Jefferson, New York, 23 May 1789 (excerpt)**

My last inclosed copies of the President's inaugural Speech and the answer of the House of the Representatives. I now add the answer of the Senate. It will not have escaped you that the former was addressed with a truly republican simplicity to G. W. Presidt. of the U. S. The latter follows the example, with the omission of the personal name, but without any other than the constitutional title. The proceeding on this point was in the House of Reps. spontaneous. The imitation by the Senate was extorted. The question became a serious **one** between the two houses. J. Adams espoused the cause of titles with great earnestness. His friend R. H. Lee tho elected as a republican enemy to an aristocratic constitution was a most zealous second. The projected title was—His Highness the President of the United States and Protector of Their Liberties. Had the project succeeded it would have subjected the president to a severe dilemma and given a deep wound to our infant government.