To the Committee of the Citizens of the Village of Utica.

General La Fayette,—

In behalf of our fellow citizens, we come with open arms, and hearts filled with gratitude, to welcome the man who was the companion of our fathers in the glorious struggle which achieved their independence; and whose united prayers in war and victory in peace, have secured to us the rights of men and the blessings of liberty.

We can see, Sir, while your actions, and the principles which have guided you in your career through an eventful life, are constantly in our minds, allow ourselves to forget, that the good of mankind has been your great object; and that these actions of principles, which the tongue of fame has told throughout the world, have tended to enlighten and invigorate the people of all nations in their advance to rational freedom.

We reside on a spot, which, but a little more than forty years ago, you visited in its wildest state, covered with the savages of the forest. These have but recently given way to the enterprise and industry of freemen, in whose trains have followed all the blessings of agriculture, commerce and the arts. And what is most gratifying to us all, and not
a little wonderful in the eyes of strangers, the present generation will witness the commencement, progress & completion of the most stupendous work, erected for the accommodation of internal commerce, that America, or perhaps the world, has yet seen. Such improvements can flow only from the energies of enlightened men, acting under the auspices of a wise & vigorous govern-
ment.

Well may the people of this country rejoin at the approach of one, who, with his great sägionous brothers in arms, laid the foundation of all our prosperity & happiness. The ordinary events of ages may pass away and be forgotten — But the name & services of La Fayette, will forever maintain their place in the bosoms of Americans sons.

Permit us, sir, to congratulate you on your personal safety in your expected tour for, in visiting the new and remote parts of this Republic; and to add our fervent prayers to Almighty Providence, for his protection of you in all your steps, and for the perpetuation of your labours & glory.