

From the Committee of the citizens of the  
village of Utica - 115.

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 prowess in war and virtue in  
peace, have secured to us the rights of men and  
the blessings of liberty.

Nor can we, 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 those actions  
& 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 wilderness  
state, covered with the savages of the forest. These  
have but recently given way to the enterprise & industry  
of freemen, in whose train 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, needed 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 government.

Well may the people of this country rejoice at the approach of one, who, with his great & glorious 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 freshness in the bosoms of American sons.

Permit us, sir, to congratulate you on your personal safety in your progress thus far, 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 happiness & glory.