"Should the office of President of the U. States be awarded to an individual preeminent for skill in civil affairs, or to one distinguished for military service?"

Mr. President,

The American People present to an admiring world a more sublime and magnificent spectacle than has ever been exhibited by any preceding nation. But a few brief years have passed away since the ancestors of those who now compose this widely extended confederation, were wandering Pilgrims upon the shores of America, deviated from each other by the intervention of wide extents of country exposed to the depredations of wild beast and savage tribes, destitute of many requisites indispensable for the sustenance of life and subjected to the dominioning power of a Government from which they were delivered by the broad expansion of the ocean. A Government claiming the exclusive privilege of regulating their affairs with a view to their own interest, a Government which had before succeeded in crushing the wretched remnants of Poland, and disgraced under the pretext of humanity was then attempting the subjugation of every soil that bore a germ of liberty—yet little more than half a century has intervened since that period—how different the aspect that was showing presents to the world—A population of fourteen millions now occupy the soil once inhabited by a few despising deserters from the land of Tyranny and oppression—Wealth, peace and plenty prevails everywhere; every cottage, every hamlet, the commercial relations extend over every sea; the legislative councils..."