A Cribute to the Illustrious Dead

MR. DALLAS' EVLOGIUM

JAMES KNOX POLK, LATE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Delivered at the Chinese Museum, in Philadelphia, July 16, 1840.

FELLOW-Citizens:-It is but a short time since, immediately after the administration of the Oath of Office to Gen. Taylor by the Chief Justice of the United States, in the presence of some forty or fifty thousand attentive spectators, a citizen was seen to advance upon the platform towards the freshly inaugurated President-to shake frankness of spirit, as he wished him success and prosperity in discharging the arduous duties of the high post he had then assumed. That citizen was James K. POLE. He had himself just finished his allotted public task-and thus, with manly grace and unaffected generosity, closed his connexion with the American Chief Magistracy, by cheering the earliest advent of his successor. Such scenes can be witnessed in no country but our own; and are beautiful results of a well-poised system of social and political institutions; but as they have seldom, if ever before, been witnessed even here, the ment the messager of death had, with his cold finger, distinctions. touched the unconscious statesman: -his physical existonce was insensibly but fatally sapped, by the wasting labors imposed upon him, amid the whirling succession of great measures of domestic and foreign policy; -and his own wonderful success, he seemed to glide through fident and elastic; confident of progress, and elastic from extended avonues of approving and applauding country- dejection. He had felt a peculiar aptitude for the exac men, just fast enough to secure at his home, an unostentations and tranquil grave. It is around that grave, fel- while at the same time, he delighted in classical relow citizens, that I wish you to stand with me for a while, suffering me to rocall him whom it conceals, and to deand gratitude of America.

The permanent fame of eminent men, rests undoubtso conspicuosly characterized by intellectual and moral admission to practice at the Bar. dustrial pursuits, he has taught no lesson? Where are avowal of his fundamental an appreciate the master of that wand of annexation or ex- fulness and eminence. tension, which secured the boundless and exhaustless | Nor was this expectation slow in being realized. Per-_ predccessor.

interesting facts, that he was descended from an Irish on the 5th December, 1825. stock of sturdy and determined republicans, whose setyear 1700, and a branch of whom came first into Pennsylvania in 1772, and thence went into the Wastern districts of North Carolina: that he was born on the 2d of enterprising farmer; and that he was the grandson of brothers who hvere among the first signers of that first ly received such interesting and irresistible authentication by the rescarches of Mr. Bancroft.

There would, indeed, seem to have clustered in Mecklenburg county, immediately prior to the revolutionary war, a family group of these liberty-loving Polks, and and orders of one of them, the Convention assembled at the town of Charlotte; -it was presided over by another. It was his nature. (named Alexander;) had another as recording secretary, (also of that name):-a fourth peuned the colobrated ded the Constitution of the United States with attach-Afth recruited a company of rebels, of whom he retained sistent and unceasingly watchful jealousy, as to those a full description of this remarkable and most honorable actuated but the loftiest principles of human rights and freedom. The series of twenty, resolutions adopted and

following brief, trenchant and irrevocable ones:-1. Resolved. That all commissions civil and military, heretotype all excellents suddenly predominating.

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and see d; and the constitution of each particular colony sholls substanded.

His position may become more clearly apprehended, if

late President was not born until some twenty years after boyhood, they would be the topics of domestic tradition, of ancestral pride, and of frequent meditation. His father manifested the same current of political sentiment as his grandfather, and became early, warmly, and steadily the admirer and supporter of Mr. Jefferson. How far such circumstances contributed to mould that firm, fuarless, and inflexible Democratic spirit, which perva-

ded Mr. Polk's whole character and conduct, from first to last, every experienced and reflecting observer of practical influences and examples can readily imagine. When but eleven years of age, in 1806, his homestead was transferred to the banks of the Cumberland river, in Tennessee, a newly opened and thinly settled field for him with cogliality by the hand, and to manifest entire agricultural industry. His youthful education was, in consequence, necessarily simple and contracted. Under a parental fear that his constitution had been too seriously impaired by disease for the sedentary studies towards which his inclination led him, he was at first dedicated to mercantile pursuits; but, yearning for mental exercise and acquirement, the counting room, in less than a month, became distastful, and he ultimately succeeded in persuading his parents to place him, after a preparatory schooling in Murfreesburg, and at the age of twenty, in the University of North Carolina. He left that sout of science and learning in 1818, with physical one to which I have referred, must be considered as strength much diminished by the assiduity and intensity strikingly illustrative of individual dignity of mind, of of his collegiate course; but with intellectual strength calm and candid temport of andistubed, unenvying pa- and repute augmented to a degree, implied by his having, triotism, and of purg and practical wirtue .- At that mo- at every periodical trial of his class, received its highest

Mr. Polk had now, by extraordinary perseverance

and with acknowledged success, qualified himself to take whatever direction, in the bustling and varying realities of life, any special or predominant taste might incline him as he turned his back upon the station, yet radiating with to. Which path to chose? His temperament was conand irrefragable processes of mathematical investigation searches, and acquisitions. A lively ausceptibility to the interest of public events, to the acts, words and thoughts vellope, summarily but truthfully, the causes which link of leading men, to the advance of principles and meathat sod of earth with the freedom, prosperity, glory, sures, was almost his necessary inheritance. He was prompt in apprehension; generalized with clearness; and never weated in the labors of analysis and detail. Withedly in charge of the unimpassioned tribunal of poster- out imaginative power, he was gifted with an uncommonly ity. In a government like ours, especially-whore op- astate segacity, which instantly appreciated the force of posite opinions and antagonistic measures are ever in value of facts, and penetrated directly into their causes. ardent conflict-cotemporary impartially, though not In speaking or in writing, though never pithy or senten wholly impossible, cannot reasonably be expected. The tious, his style, while it rigorously rejected everything tomb itself is no certain sanctuary against the rage of merely ornamental, was perspicuous, pure and persuaprejudice which has been southed, averted, or extin- sive. These were traits of fitness for the profession of squished by lapso of time. I feel admonished then to the law, and doubtless impelled him to adopt it. In his beware of incantionally exciting the hot breath of vituper- twenty fourth year, Mr. Folix Grundy, an advocate of ation to see the over the very tief you would consecrate extensive practice and reputation, with whom he harmsand cherish. And yet so short, so rapid, so signalized nized in political sontiments, and whose friendship his by extraord nary civil achievements, so devoted to the parents had long enjoyed, welcomed him cordially to his attainment of vast and salutary purposes by noble means, office; and after the customary probation, procured his

energy, so eventful in national blessings and renown, Mr. Polk's legal career was one of unsulfied honor, of and so blameless and unspotted in all the relations and admitted ability, and of decided success. It bore him intercourse of private life, was the career of this patriot, rapidly to reputation, and independence-and as it obligthat not to portray it faithfully, even with the warm col- od him to embrace, within the rage of his exertion, oring of personal or political friendship, would be unjust large portion of Tennessee, his opportunities to become to the occasion, unjust to the hying who are here, and known and appreciated in that State were constant and unjust to the new forever gone. Five years ago, it may extensive. His personal qualities conciliated universal have been esteemed almost natural and fair to enquire confidence and esteem:-few men have over attained "who is James K. Polk?" but now, where is that cor- with equal speed, a popularity among their countrymen ner of the earth so obscure as to need the question and as sincere and solid as that he had achieved, for himself swered? Where is the imperial sweet that did not yield as by himself, in 1823. The simplicity and frankness to amazement, as he freely handled the immense exe- of his demeanor:-the fidelity and arder with which he culive power of his free country? Where are the suf- adhered to his clients:-the animation of his elequence, fering masses, insensible to the rescue of a distant peo- and the exactness as well as fulness of his information, ple from starvation? Where are the sages of Political before courts and juries;-the undeviating rectitude of Economy to whom, in adjusting the equilibrium of in- his conduct:-the open, undisguised, resolute, and ready tatives. His trials in that capacity were multiplied and cuted," was bound to apply his legitimate resources and the onthusiasts for hum in liberty, to whom his voice has cratic doctrines:--all adorned by a calm and chastened not become familia ? Where are the veterans of milita- respect for religious observances and moral duties:ry science, who still doubt the efficacy of American can- marked him out-not alone to the Gamaliel of the Hernon, whose thunders he opened? And last and least, mitage, at whose feet he sat with reverence and affecthough still not little, where are the Rothschilds, or the tion;-but to all who saw his progress, as one destined, Barings, or the Steightz, or the Hopes, or the Hottin- by a rare combination of qualities, to rise from spheres his leave, as exhibiting a just conciousness of great du- ted with the ratification of the Treaty of Peace, on the guers, the golden necromancers of finance, who do not of local and state importance, into those of national use-

treasure of California? I allude now thus briefly to the suaded by his follow-citizens of his immediate neighbortraits of a national policy which he controlled and guided | hood to enter the General Assembly of the State, the only to venture the assertion, that the man you mourn ability with which he acted in that body during two of may, as the representative chief of your republic, confront its sessions, made his transfer to the halls of legislation future ages, unabashed by the imposing presence of any at Washington, an object at once of general desire, and of easy execution. He was accordingly elected a mem-If unimportant to the character or merits of the do- ber of the House of Representatives of the United States. coesed, they may nevertheless be accepted as somewhat and took his sent at the first session of the 19th Congress

Let me here, fellow-citizens, arrest the narrative for a tlement on the eastern shores of Maryland, preceded the moment, in order to depict the precise attitude in which Mr. Polk stood, when he thus crossed the threshold of local, and entered the vast area of national, existence:when his bark, as it were, left the placid and familiar in-November, 1795, the son of an upright, intelligent and let. for the uncertain, unbounded, and tempestuous son. Although perhaps the youngest of 218 representatives, Ezekiel, and the grand nephow of Thomas Polk, two there was not upon the floor of that great Chamber, one whose politics were more determinate and avowed. He Declaration of American independence, whose bold and | had inhaled at every hour of his life, opinions and sentiimpressive avowal, on the 20th of May, 1775, has recout- ments respecting the rights of humanity and the only legitimate foundations of civil power, which his judgment had approved, and which now constituted as essential a portion of his moral, as his arteries did of his physical, structure. He was impulsively, instinctively, and irreversibly, a Democrat:-a democrat in fundamental theotheir near connexions. Under the inspiring auspices ry, in uncompromising practice, in word, thought, and motion. It was impossible for him to be anything else.

In comformity with this cardinal trait, Mr. Polk regarmanifesto I have mentioned, (called Brevard):-and a ment and voneration, it is true, but with perfectly conthe active command during the whole struggle. I wish clauses of it, which, by implication, were liable to be perit wore quite relevant and appropriate for me to give you verted into sanctions for encroachment or abuses. He could admit of no construction of that instrument which movement, in a rural and secluded region, where the extinguished the federative, and substituted the consolipopulation was scattered and tranquil, and where nothing dated formation of government. He exacted, from its operation, a strict adherence to self-imposed limits, a scrupulous economy, equal and impartial shelter. On proclaimed, were furiously denounced by the represent, this basis he was, in the universally understood technical tatives of royalty. Governor Martin, in a communica phrase of the times, a party man; zealous in the ranks of tion to the British Secretary of State, of the 30th of party; conscientionaly indentifying with constitutional June, 1775 as "surpassing all the horrid and treasonable patriolism, the aims, organization, and usages of his publications that the inflammatory spirits of this continent party. He looked to party as a bulwark for the mainhate yet produced;"-nor can we be surprised at his ex- tenance of the rights of the States expressly reserved in cellency's vehemence of expression, when we remember the Constitution: he looked to it as a well cemented dyke with what mingled contempt and apprehonsion our poolagainst extravagance of expenditure and oppressiveness ple were, at that day, habitually regarded, by the agents of taxation: he looked to it, in a word, as the Palladium, of power; and that among these resolutions were the practically guarding the Constitution itself from enfeeb. ling excesses, and the Union from the dangers of section

His position may become more clearly apprehended, in a contraction of the great Confinential Congress of each province; under the intection of the great Confinential Congress, is invested with all legislative and excellive powers within their respective provinces; and that no other legislative and excellive powers does for community from the cross, or attempt to exercise any spin community from the cross, or attempt to exercise any spin community from the cross, or attempt to exercise any spin community from the cross, or attempt to exercise any spin community from the cross, or attempt to exercise any spin community from the cross, or attempt to exercise any spin community from the cross, or attempt to exercise any spin community from the cross, or attempt to exercise any spin community from the cross, or attempt to exercise any spin community from the cross, or attempt to exercise any spin community from the cross, or attempt to exercise any spin community from the cross, or attempt to exercise any spin community from the cross, or attempt to exercise any spin community from the electors as having received. That Coloral Thomas Polic, and Dr. Joseph Kenigal, purchase 300 pounds of powder, 600 pounds of powder, 600 pounds of powder, 600 pounds of the first, for the use ofthe military of the county.

These incidents, on which I relative the county and fifty eight more than Mr. Intercess of the neonle, or the requisition and Mr. Clay, and surface, and mr. Clay, and surface, and mr. Clay, and surface and stroke of the neonle, or the requisition and a late to all the blessings of a universal civilization and a late, to all the testification of the continuous and stroke of the neutrality of the territory. Here is an astroke of the powers will all to these broad outlines a more nice and stroke of the powers will all to these broad outlines a more nice and stroke of the neutrality of the territory.

The continuous cross the relative powers will all to the territory. Here is an astroke of the neutrality of the constitu

future opportunity, an immense and indignant Democra- stowed on him who, at the end of his term of service, coast long timidly hugged, into the freedom and safety has beene touched by the wand of the American pioneer. their occurrence, we can readily suppose that during his cy was already in aroused exertion. Mr. Polk's relation to have so used his public functions as to of an open sea. As, from age to age, from year to year, tions to General Jackson were those of disciple, friend, leave his country tranquil, prosperous, honored and we gradually reached, in defiance of plausible dreads, plished officer of the national service, places beyond doubt companion, and partizan; in each alike cherished and strong. This is, in fact, the only standard which the and even of its own misuses, the liberty of the press, so the practicability of a through-cut canal of the largest enthusiustic-relations that could not fail to impart both arder of our political controversies suffer to remain un- may we ultimately, notwithstanding partial disadvantastimulus and interest to his public action.

> rated by the presence of citizens who had achieved dis- America, tell me whether the sepulchre of the late Prestinguished reputations. He was in the midst of such as lident should not be hallowed by your reverence and afsociates as Edward Livingston, John Forsyth, Daniel fection? Webster, Louis McLane, James Buchanan, George Mc-Duffie, Samuel D. Ingham, William C. Rives, Edward Everett, and James Hamilton-while he had but to pass | chise has lifted from the common level to be the Executhrough the Retundo, into the Senate Chamber, in order tive: to carry with him into government, the authority to mingle with those equally conspicuous, as Van Buren, he has derived by that process, accompanied by the in-Woodbury, Tazewell, Macon, White, Benton, Harrison, Randolph, Berrien, and Hayne. Young as he was, however, and unobtrusive as a debater, Mr. Polk promptly participated in the leading discussions. His very first speech related to the relinquishment of the titles of public lands in Tennessee-a topic wholly devoid of attraction:-and, yet, it manifested so happy a faculty in lucidly arranging and explaining dry and complicated facts, that his character as an exact and laborious man of business, was at once recognized and established. His second offort was a vigorous and expanded argument to united excellence. The American people will hereafter maintain the proposition, that "after nearly forty years experience of the practical operations of the Constitution, it was sound policy, and important to the stability, duration, and harmony of the Union, to amend that instrument, by giving the power to elect the President of the U. S. directly to the great body of the American people."-And his third address, on the celebrated Panama Musion. displayed the carnestness and fidelity with which he inculcated and adhered to the republican doctrines enunciated by Madison, Gallatin, Livingston, Giles, and others, on the occasion of Jay's treaty in 1796, as well as ligd undergone an almost entire change. If taken by the animation and pungency with which he was prepared surprise, when proclaimed a candidate, it was impossito assail an administration, to whom his repugnance was ble for him, when elected, to shut his eyes to the hereuopen and undisguised. I have recurred to these displays, lean labors to which he was summoned. Not only was not in order to communicate an inflated impression of the vessel of state to be restored to its republican tack: their substantive importance and worth, but because they but he felt, and knew, and acknowledged that lie had were Mr. Polk's earliest Congressional speeches-made incurred an engagement, alike distinct and solemn, to at his first session of attendance,—and because I think a accomplish, if accomplished they could be, favorite nacareful consideration of the purport and tone of each, en- tional objects, both external and internal, of the utmost ables you to discern the high reach of his aims, and the possible delicacy and importance. He looked at his now triple basis on which he was disposed to construct his inevetable task, however, with an unflinching resoulupublic character, namely, representative industry, con- tion, and stormly dedicated to its consummation his time, stitutional patriotism, and party, acting as well with con- talents, health, and life.

> tic manufactures; he did so against the Bank of the Uni- fore the year clapsed. ted States: he did so in resisting the distribution or surplus funds, or the proceeds of the sales of the public lands | causes, or to vindicate the right and the expediency of among the respective states: he did so in advocating the this extension of our Republic. Perhaps a defeat of the extension of the Judiciary: he did so in vigilantly guar- Democratic party at the election in the fall of 1844, wo'ld ding General Jackson whenever assailed, and especially have discouraged and thwarted that movement. Their in defending the military executions by Courts Martial success, on the contrary, proved how fixed a hold it had ut Mobile in 1814, and in vindicating the famous veto of upon the popular judgement; and recommended it to countless number and variety of other occasions, spring. is, that the incorporation took place only after the will of ing incidentally and almost daily from propositions of pol- the American people, and the sense of the American can statesman. For four years preceding his retirement forms of the American Constitution; and that every nafrom Congress, he occupied the ardnous, responsible, and tional functionary, especially the President, who omabsorbing station of Spouker of the House of Represen- phatically "shall take care that the lanes be faithfully exefiercest conflicts of political animosity. Yet he closed authorized by existing acts of Congress, were taken, and his labors, at the adjournment of each session, honored it was hoped would overawe the gasconading fever of and consoled by the approving thanks of those over whose our discontented neighbors. They crossed, however, deliberations he had presided. And I cannot but regard the Rio Grande, on the 15th of April 1846, and recklessthe following paragraphs of his address, on finally taking, by commenced a series of hostilities, that only terminaties performed in a faithful and exemplary manner:

"But five members (said Mr. Polk.) who were here with me fourteen years ago; continue to be members of this body. My service has been constant and arduous. I can perhaps say which the few others, if my, can say, that I have not failed to attend the daily sittings of this house a single day since I have been a member of it, saveou one occasion, when prevented for a short time by indisposition."

ber of 14, accord one occasion, when prevented for a start time by indispesition."

"The high office of Spéaker, to which it has twice been the pleasure of this House to clevate me, has been at all times one of labor and responsibility. It has been made my duty to decide more questions of parliamentary law and order, many of them of a complex and difficult character, arising often in the midst of high excitement, in the course of our proceedings, than have been decided, it is believed, by all my predecessors, from it e foundation of the government. This thouse has uniformly sustained me; without distinction of the political parties of which it is composed."

Once more resuming and energetically presecuting his professional practice, Mr. Polk was nevertheless not permitted, by his fellow citizens of Tennessee, to give to it an exclusive devotion. He had become essentially and unalterably a public man. The claims upon his time, noon his popular talents, upon his experience and skill in guiding political movements, were numerous and distracting, in proportion to the reputation and success which had stendily attended him. Second only in the community of his residence, to the chief who now, after filling equally as sage and as soldier, the measure of American glory, demanded repose-he soon found it impossible, had such been his inclination, at the vigorous age of fortyfour, to shroud himself in domestic enjoyment, and private pursuits. Nearly balanced as the two parties have long been in Tennessee, the Democracy engerly rallied in 1841 and 1843, although still clong to as the champion occasions prevailed.

It is enough fellow citizens, to have glanced thus briefly at the incidents of this comparative seclusion .--I must hasten to follow the quick flight of time, in order to bring the lamented patriot once there from the recesses of his happy home into the blaze of his fame.

cy, in May 1844, was, at the moment unforecen, but far from being unexceptable. There had suddenly arisen a arms. Such at least will be the case, if the progressive question, or point of policy, which quickened the pulses, That question, whose magnitude and urgency were conceded, seemed for the time to domineer over all other tablished and well tested system of obtaining adequate considerations. The republican convention which as revenue by moderate duties on imports. The relations sembled at Baltimore, swayed by a resistless and patriot- of communities, and the dependences of social and doc desire for the annexation of Texas, withheld their mestic life, may possibly, in some remote future, underchoice from one whom it would otherwise have fallen, go vital changes; and exact at the hands of caution and and conferred it on one to whom it was wholly unexpec- | benevolence, a retrograde march, with a system of reted. The sterling morit and substantial services of the candidate were, however, speedily called to mind:-the While, however, the spread of "life, liberty, and the purred and satisfied-and Mr. Polk, after an unusually ani-

inveterate enthusiasm for civil liberty. Although the presentatives; and for whose elevation, at the earliest hence the vast reward of gratitude and renown be- waters, hidden shoals, and dangerous currents, of a fornia, for ages regarded as a rugged and uscles waste, questionable. Governed by this standard, fellow-citi- ges and misgivings, find the true solution of the tax-When he reached the Capitol, both houses were illus- zens, and casting a rapid thought upon the condition of problem, in releasing trade from every unnecessary fetter

The glory of every administration concentrates upon its chief. He it is, and he only, that the elective franstructions, wishes, and principles of his constituents; to vivify, supervise, check, control:-to be disgraced by failure, and to wear the laurels of success. Aided as he necessarily must be by associates and agents of his own selection, the lustre of their limited spheres combines for the effulgence of his boundless one;—and brilliant as is so constitutionally and essentially dependent upon the his mission, that he rightly bears the palm achieved by rank among the most effective achievements of the late the wisdom with which he impelled, the variously gifted

counsellors of his Cabinet. It will be remembered that, when withdrawing from Congress, Mr. Poik, had left at the head of affairs an admired and approved statesman:-that the discomfiture of the Democracy in the fall of 1840, under the auspices of Gen. Harrison, gave the direction of government to their opponents; and that public policy and persons

The admission of Texas as a State of the Union, up-When he declined farther legislative service, in 1839, on her acceptance of certain terms, had been provided to had been engaged in it for fourteen continuous years, for by a joint resolution of Congress, passed but three e-elected at every biennial period, and was yet in the days before he took the outh of office; and nothing was prime of manhood. He had on every great topic of left to be done but to expedite the proceedings, so as to speculative or practical concorn which arose during that forestall the proplexities which might spring from foreign time, taken his part, often the leading one, with frank- intermeddling; and to make such military arrangements ness, firmness, and ability. He did so in opposition to as would protect our new frontier from inroads. These appropriations of the national treasure on projects of In- daties were promptly and skillfully discharged. The ernal Improvement: he did so in austaining schemes for people of Texas held a convention, remodeled their conretrenchment: he did so in resisting the imposition of stitution, submitted it to the inspection of Congress, and high duties on imports, as a means of protecting domes. | bécame, by law, an intergal part of our confederacy, be-

I should deem it ill-timed and misplaced, to trace the ce, and developing or testing his qualities as a republi- Congress, had been tested and recorded, agreeably to the mbittered, far beyond the common measure, by the powers to its defence. Precautionary steps, to the extent 30th May, 1948. The contest had a duration two years. being six months shorter than the last with Great Britain.

For us, there is no blemish upon the war with Mexico:-it is all brightness. In its principles, its origin, its instruments, its character, its designs, and its end, there is nothing to regret, save only that it displaced the inestimable blessing, and white-robed innocence of Peace. If in the ceaseless course of human events, the curse of war be unavoidable:-if the genius of universal brotherhood breathing and glowing through our institutions, cannot prevent its being forced upon us by others-let posterity be grateful to Providence, should its features and conduct make a counterpart of that which the late President so ably managed. What were its fruits? Some were cortainly hitter enough, and common to all belligerent action, severing and blasting the dearest ties and fundest hope of domestic affection:-vet even those, in extent and form, were unusually restricted and mitigated. Although I do not rank as valuable the acquired privilage to vaunt our prowess, I do not rank as priceless the protracted peace, with a knowledge by others of our real, though latent, power, is sure to leave us .- the undisturbed and expanding commerce and intercourse so apt to follow in the train of social dignity, -and the example, first and alone, set by America, of a war divested of intolerance, rapine treachery, licentiousness or injustice. Nor can those who fairly appreciate the amelioraupon him as a candidate for the office of Governor, and ting influences of our religious and educational habits, in August 1839, elected him by a majority of about two as a race, of our eagerness to elevate the condition and thousand votes. But at the recurrence of the elections perfect the happiness of humanity; contemplate without pride and hope the realms, hitherto derelict and savage, of his party, his competitor, Mr. James C. Jones, on both now opened to our enterprise, and conceded to the dissemination of our bibles, our schools, our ploughs, our looms, and our laws. They who gather, from the fiery crucible of war, such pure and permanent deposits as these, may be pardoned if they forget, in the success of their ordeal, its inseparable solicitudes and sufferings. Posterity will probably acknowledge, from the admin-

The nomination of Mr. Polk for the Chief Magistra- istration of the late President, a civil benefit equal to, if not greater than, the consequences of his triumphs in receive the sanctions of time and trial. I refer to the esulsive, almost feudal and castellated intrenchment.-

or incumbrance. Another stiking feature of Mr. Polk's internal policy,

the public money, now in operation. In his first mes. rage to the legislative body, on the 2d of December, 1845, after some brief but forcible reasoning, he used the folseparation of the moneys, of the government, from banking institutions is indispensable for the safety of the funds of the government, and the rights of the people, I rethe subordinate executions of duty may be, everything the creation of a public treasury, in which the public mon- and honor. However various opinion might be as to the sy should be kept from the period of collection until needoffspring of the popular suffrage, and upon his truth to ed for public uses":--and that to confide its custody to banks, of one description or another, most of which had herotoforo proved "faithless," endangered its loss, by their employing it in discounts and loans, and was a do-President, the discrimination with which he chose, and viation from the warrant and intent of the Constitution. It is true, this conception did not originate with himself. 1835, by Mr. GAMBLE, of Georgia, it was accepted, as a

matised for legislative enactment by the profound, comprehensive, practical mind of Silas Wright:-was realsted in its progress by the united force of ability and par-Then too it had no time, to exhibit more than the faltering steps of infancy, when it was struck by the blow of repeal on the 13th of August, 1841. Whether, in every possible aspect of commercial business and exchange, no more convenient, available, and secure, disposition of involves considerations alike complex and delicate. Thus means, met even the disquietudes and emergencies of a distant transfers of its co'n. No subject or arrangement tween the political and the money powers of our free prople:-relations which, if they cannot be wholly sevored, should never be tightened; but, for the benefit of both, be kept as pure and independent as possible .-When the Constitutional Treasury shall have become familiar, in its form and effects, to our practical habits and prudent reflections, it is difficult to doubt that it must be regarded, with entire unanimity, as a monument of wis-

dom and patriotism, entitling its inventive framers, and

its persevering founders, to the warm gratitude of their

ments introduced by the last President, there is one which 1 must be permitted to mention, seemingly subservient to commercial interests only, but by its necessary operation contributing in fact to the advancement of others, and the Maysville Road Bill: and, in fine, he did so on a more legislative favor than it before enjoyed. Certain it especially to the firmues and safety of manufacturing ones, It will doubtless be remembered, that, from the earliest period of our government, the laws which regulate the collection of revenue from customs, allowed extensive credits to importers for duties imposed, and, that the rich and already established, with easily unsettled boards abroad? flow from the change: and to avoid them the system new inexhaustible sources of bullion-capital, destined to augpractised was adopted. It is generally known as the ment the wages and secure the independence of their laval, to be stored under the joint custody of its owners and all precedent? the public officers, for two or three years-to be taken Who, in fine, does not firmly believe, that the condiwhenever wanted, either for domestic consumption, on tion and attitude in which Mr. Polk, after toils that were payments of duties and expenses, or for exportation, on fatal to himself, has left his country, are the most effecpayment of charges only. By those who are unaccustomed to note the consequences of such progress, their and impressive, that their consideration overpowered and virtue! the impulses of political party; and whenthe vote for establishing the system came before Congress, with the your call, I have thus imperfectly traced, sank, with uncountenance of Mr. Polk's administration, the most relenless, as the most enlightened, of his opponents gave it the 15th of June, surrounded by his dearest friends, and support. In the course of a century, England has derive amid the soul-inspiring hopes and sanctions of religious ed more aid perhaps from such a system, than from any faith. To him are now alike indifferent the praise and other instrumentality, in attaining her commercial emin- consure of men. His ear, that was wont to be so quick. ence; and it is estimated that, at presence, her customs is numb and heedless:-his eye, that flashed with recog-Warehouses contain nothing short of three hundred nition over multitudes, knows no one-not even her who millions worth of imported merchandise. What may we gave him birth, nor her who charmed his life:-but not fairly anticipate as its fruits in this western world of though he be as insensible to your soothing as the cold Mr. Polk was no less happy in promoting international

arrangements, equally solid and durable in their character. The Postal Convention concluded with Great Britain on the 15th of December, 1848, and which the parties expressly declare to be designed to endure for an indefinite period, attains certainty and cheapness, while its promises an almost unlimited expansion to corresponprinciples of that class of citizens, at whose invitation I dence by letter, between our country and Europe. And and divideb the sentiments of Democratic citizens - am speaking, continue, as they long have continued, to the quick, light, living literature of the times - the newspapers, perodical works, and printed pamphlet-those ceastess choristers of civilization-find punctual, regulated. safe channels of interchange. This is a practical blessing to nearly every class of population. Business. intellect, and sentiment—the trader, the scholar, the emmigrant-are all accompdated and comforted. Again; In a spirit of wise utility, the thirty-fifth article of a Treaty with Granada, on the 10th June, 1848, secured to the government and citizens of the United States the right of hesitation, inspired for an instant, by an abrupt proceed- suit of happiness," the ready ministration to the wants, way, or transit and transportation, across the lathmus of ing, was dispelled:—the ranks of his party became stire comforts, and enjoyments of the great masses, the true Panama, upon any modes of communication that now expath to all the blessings of a universal civilization and a lat, or that may hereafter be constructed; guaranteed, in are objects at heart, his financial reforms will stand to atsured, basis for the noblest material monument which
test his fidelity, truth and patriotism. Elaborated with which the agency of man can accomplish!—one that will
time letyour diet be pork, cooked by yourself at a smoky ted States to the incumbent of the Presidential office, the utmost care, they have worked with the utmost case. bind together our opposite ocean-fronts; that will give to Second.—Improve all the rainy nights in elseping beautiful and the second.—Improve all the rainy nights in elseping beautiful and the second.—Improve all the rainy nights in elseping beautiful and the second.—Improve all the rainy nights in elseping beautiful and the second.—Improve all the rainy nights in elseping beautiful and the second.—Improve all the rainy nights in elseping beautiful and the second.—Improve all the rainy nights in elseping beautiful and the second.—Improve all the rainy nights in elseping beautiful and the second.—Improve all the rainy nights in elseping beautiful and the second.—Improve all the rainy nights in elseping beautiful and the second.—Improve all the rainy nights in elseping beautiful and the second.—Improve all the rainy nights in elseping beautiful and the second.—Improve all the rainy nights in elseping beautiful and the second. are large and influential. The manner in which they Three years have thrown everywhere the proofs of their commerce a scope never before known; and that will pour tween your current bushes and garden fence.

Second.—Improve an two interesting tween your current bushes and garden fence.

Third.—On the fourth day of our regime, let your di-These incidents, were thought to indicate a deep-seated and Crawford, yet failed to be the choice of the functional management of the resident and the finite states. It were the male steek.

The se incidents, on which I reluctantly refrain from I John Quincy Adams, and fifty-eight more than Mr. Interests of the people, or the reputation and resources same ratio, to augment the national means. We have, cradic to indicate a deep-seated and Crawford, yet failed to be the choice of the House of Re
The second reduced, softened with an account of the force of President, fifteen more votes than Mr. In the contentment and equalized as to individuals, would seem, almost in the human race, who now groupe their gloomy way from the the mules steek.

A topographical exploration, conducted by an accomdimonsions-fit to float frigates on-at a cost which the wealth and expedients of modern enterprize cannot fail soon to regard as insignificent. And again: By a sories of campacts with the secondly states of the Germanic Confederation, commencing in a treaty with Hanover, was the revival of the mode of keeping and disbursing of the 10th of June, 1846, to which the accessions of Oldenburg, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Nassau, Bavaria, andSaxony, were obtained subsequently, the salutary principles and relations of reciprocity are established, and lowing expressions: "Entertaining the opinion that the growing markets reached, upon advantageous terms for our staple productions.

In these short and superficial sketches, fellow citizens of the prominent features by which the late President commended to Congress that provision be made by a law stamped forever illustrious the single term of his adminfor such separation, and that a constitutional treasury be listration, my purpose has been to enable you at once to created for the safe-keeping of the public money." In appreciate the entire and unit ring devotion with which his estimation, the fundamental charter contemplated he rivetted himself to the attainment of your prosperity merit of his polices, it must be uniform as to his patrism. No citizen-1 speak with equal reverence and reflection -ever has made, or ever can make, that lightshine more steadily in the path before him. His patriotism was not, it is true, of the otensible and dazzling nature whose gleams, in the emergencies of peril, attract all eyes and win all hearts: it resembled rather the unflickering First started in the form of a resolution of inquiry, in and undying flame of the vestal's lamp. It was so true, the House of Representatives, on the 3d of January, so ceasiess, so tranquil, that it lulled the conciousness of its own perpetual action. It impelled him to an ever adremedial and conservative plan, by President Van Buren, vancing serrih for the real interests of his country: to after the general suspension of specie payments by the unromitted, silent, and secluded labor: to the sacrifice of banks, in the spring of 1837: was matured and syste- domestic case, of the delights of friendships, of the consolations of health. It strained to their utmost tension his intellectual faculties, his moral energies, and his bodily endurance. It was, in fact, his master-quality-superior ty, and was only first made law on the 4th of July, 1840. If you please, to his judgment, or discrimination, or constancy, or knowledge, or skill; and guiding, and controling, and tasking one and all of these, irresistibly and uninterrruptedly. In the measures of his policy-separately or colletively-in his extension movements, his conduct of the war, his free trade, his financial systems, his the public treasure can be devised, is an enquiry which foreign intercourse-whatever differences of sentiment may and must exist, as to the prudence or expedifar, the solidity, stability, and composure of monoyed ency of their details, you cannot avoid feeling and transactions in general, seem to have resulted from a trial confessing, amid their broad bearings and progressive of three years:-while the government, through its aims, the pervading presence of a generous and genuine patriotism. I know nothing so worthy of encomium and foreign war, without loss or embarrassment, in the most acknowledgment, as this sort of patriotism. It is the only element on whose buoyancy can be safely confided has more direct bearing than this, upon the relations be- the majestic argosy of the Republic, full-freighted with your liberties, union, rights, and fame. . It should never fail to receive the encouragment of our applause in the living, and the homage of our gratitude in the dead.

It is worthy of remark, that, on quitting the Presidential office, he left nothing unfinished. What he attempted, he did. His measures of policy were, one and all, urged, discussed, adopted, carried out practically, tested by time, and triumphant in results, before he relinquished the helm to another hand.

Who needs evidence, will find it in his pulse, that since the Spring of 1845, the people of the United States, their constitution, science, resources, courage, and character, have assumed, to the whole world, a position more elevated and influential, than was ever before accorded or enjoyed.

Who doubts that, from the same period, their financial credit has been constantly rising, until their contracts. and securities, in despite of the venemous defamation with which they were previously overwhelmed, are now highest in the confidence of all Christendom?

Who questions, with sincerity, the emancipation of this indulgence, whence many mischiefs flowed, was their currency, commerce, business, strength and elaswithdrawn in 1842, and payments in chash on entry sub- ticity, from a palpitating and trembling dependence upstituted. The discouragement of trade, its monoply by on the fluctuating schemes of bank parlors and stock

Warehousing system: - permitting merchandise, on arri- bor; and to swell the aggregate of their wealth beyond

tive guarantees for her prolonged posce and happiness?

In his personal deportment, he was plain, unaffected, bearings and influences upon industrial operations, the affable, and kind. In no one respect, that I am aware of extensive and important effects of so simple an arrange. did he depart from a consistent simplicity of life and puriarrangement can accarcely be immagined. It at once ty of manners. All his habits were exemplary and regopens the wide field of mercantile adventure to youth- ulated. He was temperate but not unsocial, industrious ful onterprise and prudence, superseding the necessity of but accessible, punctual but patient, moral without aushaving at command large resources of credit or cash: it terity, and devotional though not bigoted. Accustomed, invites the accumulation of immence quantities of goods, through a long service, to observe the diversities exhibiof every decription, in the ports of the United States, as ted by opinion on every subject, he was never surprised depositories from which cargoes may be drawn, for voy- or provoked by any of its phrases, into individual intolerages to all parts of the world; it gives superiority, if not ance. His ordinary intercourse and associations were control, over what is termed the Carrying Trade: it reser- equally respectful and cordial with the friends and the ves to our own citizens vast profits on insurence, which foes of his politics. And I must be pardoned for adding would otherwise be paid abroad: it prevents sudden al. that, in this general amenity towards his follow-citizens, ternations, as to any commodities, from scarcity to abun- without distinction of party, or condition, or pretension, dance and abundance to the scarcity: and it thus dimin. he was aided by a wedded partner, to whom, all who had ishels, if it does not destroy a large range for more specula- the happiness to know her, have united with a single tion, so subversive of stendy values, and so ruinous to reg- voice, in swarding that high and affectionate tribute, won ular labor. The advantages are, indeed, so numerous only by irropro. chable conduct, intelligence, gentleness,

Fellow citizens!-He whose career, in obedience to murmuring resignation, to his last rost, at Nashville, on sod which covers his rolics, the voice of a just and generous humanity bids you to deplore a loss so signal, so sudden, and so premature. The tears shed by a nation on a patriot's grave, cannot reanimate the dust within:but they do attest the existence of an honorable public gratitude, and they do freshen the pursuits of a noble

WEAR OF THE NIAGARA FALLS.—The 710,000 tons of water which each minute pour over the precipice of Nia-gara, are estimated to carry away a foot of the cliff every year. Taking this average, and adopting the clear gelo-gical proof that the fall once existed at Queenstown, four miles below, we must suppose a period of twenty thou-sand years ocupied in this recession of the cateract to its actual sight-while the Delta of the Mississippi, hearly 14,000 square miles in extent, an estimate founded on its present rate of increase, and in a calculation of the justifice Mr. Lyell in alleging that sixty-seven thousand years must have elapsed since the formation of this great deposite began.—[Quartety Review.

A REMEDY FOR THE CALIFORNIA FEVER .- A friend who has seen some service in camp life offers to those afflicted with the prevailing epidemic, the following pre-

scription. First.—"Sleep three nights in your wood-house, with