ADDRESS

On the Life, Character and Public Services of JAMES K. POLK. Late President of the United States DELIVERED BY

B. CHAMPNEYS, Esq., In the Town Hall, in the Borough of Marietta November 17, 1849.

Agreeably to previous arrangements meeting was held at the Town Hall, for the purpose of hearing an Address on the life and character of the late illustrious President of the United States, JAMES K. POLK, by the Hon. B. CHAMPNEYS, who had kindly consented to perform that service on the occasion. The meeting was organised by appointing the Hon. J. GROSH, President; and HENRY HAINES and Hopewell Blanchard, Esqs., Vice Presidents; and DAVID GROH and SIMON

S. Albright, Secretaries.
On motion, J. J. Libhart and Charles Kelly, were appointed to conduct the

After the conclusion of the Address; on motion, the thanks of the audience were tendered to the Speaker, for his eloquent and interesting oration, and a committee appointed to solicit a copy for publication.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Hon. B. Champners:
Dean Sin:—The undersigned appointed a

committee by the Democratic citizens of Marrietta, Maytown and vicinities, who had the pleasure of hearing your eloquent address on the life, character services, of the late illustrious and lamented Ex-President of the United States, JAMES K. Polk, delivered before them on the evening of the 19th inst., at the Town Hall, to solicit a copy

The committee hope and believe, from your uniform readiness to serve the public, that you will not hesitate to grant this additional favor.

> J. HUSTON. ANDREW LEADER. BAYARD GROSH,

Marietta, Nov. 19th, 1849.

GENTLEMEN :- I am deeply sensible of my obligations for the kind and friendly sentiments expressed in your note of the 19th inst.

In submitting the Address for publication, in accordance with your request, I cannot presume,

in the brief and condensed view of the Life and so many important events of our past History, to have been able to contribute any additional in-formation to the public mind, upon subjects with I remain with high regard your friend and

B. CHAMPNEYS.

Leader, Bayard Grosh, and J. J. Cook, Commit-

Lancaster, Nov. 20, 1849.

ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN

of duty to the future.

of its career of usefulness. It has been well motives and actions of his life. said by the poet. " How peaceful and how i powerful is the grave!" It curbs the asperities of our nature: teaches a lesson which must check the vaulting ambition of the aspiring; and inculcates the salutary moral, that every position in society occupies the same space in the eyes of the divinity:--" When the fever of the world shall hang upon the beatings of their hearts," as it has been well expressed, there are spirits who will turn their thoughts to the lifeless clay, and reflect upon the memories of the past; and give to the future, the prediction of the blessings and bounties conferred by the influence of good deeds, and a pure and patriotic heart.

When standing at the grave of one who has distinguished himself for his patriotism and extraordinary services to his country, " The spirit's ladder.

That from this gross and visible world of dust, Even to the starry world, with thousand round

purifies and elevates the memory and theaffections; and discards every other sentiment and feeling, except the impress of the lineaments of character and service, which leave their golden lines of beauty vividly

traced upon the institutions of humanity. No citizen can be elevated to the highest office of this great Republic, without a long ture, which the advocates of despotism so course of distinguished public services; and whatever differences of political sentiment jects, to plod on in the sluggish misery, may exist; all will accord to the eminent office of his country, that in the various and importantservices which he rendered, he was governed by patriotic motives, and contributed every effort of his high intellect in the promotion of the public interests. The light, wherever the standard of freedom is din of party strife, and the unfortunate perby the universal and pervading excitement | poet, that the earth has any more such eleof our political contests, are hushed, in our approach to that chamber of death, which points, with unerring certainty, to the doom of the living. The memory of meritorous ness and disinterestedness of his patriotservice, will, however, always remain; and we will not fail to offer the just homage of

It cannot be anticipated, that, in the acbe recommended to your attention, by the aid of their novelty, or that can be embellished by the blandishments of the imagination. Every matter connected with the intellects who have wielded the reins of government, presents so extensive a field for contemplation, that it may almost be deem. ily embraced in the consideration of subjects, the vastness, and importance of which,

address, with the great measures and ben- left, in lines of living light, the traces of eficial influences, resulting from his admin-istration of the government, have already measure which he adopted: and, in that been commented upon, and examined by so masterly farewell address, which should be many eminent speakers and writers, whose cherished in the memory of every Amerivirtues and intellectual superiority, have can devoted to freedom, and the perpetuity left to those who follow them, little else, of our institutions, he exhibited that solicithan the humble task of presenting merely citude for the preservation of all the safe the results of previous investigations.

aided and strengthened by our own reflection and judgment, cannot urge, in the present advanced state of learning and political his decease, it was justly remarked: "that intelligence, a very high, claim to original. ancient and modern names are diminished ity. In the writings of the ancient Greek | before him: He has travelled on to the hilosopher, whose profound speculations of end of his journey, and carried with him the first cause, procured, for him the appel-lation of divine: he has intimated, that all deposited it where misfortune cannot tarlearning is but the result of memory, found. | nish it, where malice cannot blast it." ed upon ideas, of which the rudiments had the chief sources, from which we derive our (convey instruction or information to others; and I shall, therefore, in the brief and curboon of that liberality and indulgence, which have so often, and so cheerfully received dom and prosperity around us, that he, who would not offer up the gratitude of his heart to an overruling Providence, for the blessings which the influence of our institutions has so lavishly scattered in our path, must be deficient in a proper appreciation of duty

to himself and his country. The character, fame and services of fames K. Polk, have now become a part of our national property; and like those of his distinguished predecessors, all party animosities will be hushed, and the just pride of every American, will yield the tribute, so justly due to his superior abilities, his patriotism, and the purity of his private character. The associations of antiquity recognize the justice of canvassing the merits and services of those high in authority after their decease; so, that when deprived of all the ensigns of power and influence, the impartial and unprejudiced judgment of the people can then be fearlessly expressed. A passing tribute to the memory and vir- and tended to exalt their character, is just mestic and foreign policy, have had the saltues of the dead, is a just debt from the jus- so far as to repress that spirit of slander, tice of the living. It is associated with the which sometimes invades the ashes of the best feelings of the human heart; with the dead, for the purpose of gratifying the maexamples and recollections of the past; and lignity of the living; but truth and justice impelled by an incentive to the bright path | equally require, that the acts and services of public men, whether living or dead, should The resistless wave of time, carries to be subjected to the impartial ordeal of pubits last resting place, all that remains of lic opinion. The long career of public serhumanity; and the business, turmoils, sel- vice of James K. Polk with the unsullied fishness and interests of society impel us integrity of his private character, require onward; almost unheeding the lifeless form no such mantle of charity to cover from the which has been stricken down in the midst minutest scrutiny of the public mind, all the

> particularly under the influence of our free institutions, become identified with our history; and the impress of their deeds leaves either a beneficial or pernicious influence upon the policy and prosperity of their country. The great security of free government, depends upon the salutary check States, and one of its most able advocates, of constitutional restrictions; but, it cannot was the successor of Mr. Jefferson. The be denied, that a combination of political constant and increasing aggressions of Engand intellectual qualifications, requisite for official station, exert the most salutary and enduring influence in the promotion of the public interests.

distinguished citizen, who has just passed from the admiration and gaze of his countrymen; it may not, I trust, be deemed inappropriate to glance at the names of the station in the government, and having passed from this busy scene of action, have left their character and services for the impartial consideration of the historian and their countrymen. These illustrious men have afforded the best illustration of the power of man for self government; and have falsified that reflection on human naconstantly urge, to induce their abject subwhich leaves them without the rights or first President, George Washington, entwines itself with the inmost fibres of the heart of every American; and the fame of his exalted patriotism, sheds its beams of unfurled against the oppressor. It is not infant Washington: and, the history of the past, offers no parallel to the purity, firm-

ance: our great and patriotic leader bent ceptance of the kind invitation tendered by God of battles! No atrocity, no violations government should exercise only the committee, I shall be able to present to of justice or social order, stained the career

are well calculated to startle me from the every impulse of his heart. His adminis- affections of the American people. His necessary result of an opposite policy. At his period of service.

guards of liberty and the Union, which was I am consoled, however, by the reflection, offered as the counsel of an old and affechat our knowledge, which is chiefly derived | tionate friend, who had dedicated forty-five from the laborious efforts of other minds, years of his life to the service of his country. In the expression of deep regret, which the Senate of the U-S. presented at

The next in order of the illustrious men formerly been implanted in the mind. This who have filled the executive chair of the opinion was the result of his doctrine of the nation, and have passed to that bourne pre-existence of the soul; and, although which is the common lot of humanity, was his views, thus broadly expressed, in refer. John Adams: Distinguished for his supeence to the operations of mind, cannot rior intellect and literary attainments; a debe sanctioned by experience; yet the truth voted advocate of the rights of the colonies and justice of the sentiment, in relation to against English oppression; a zealous adviser and supporter of the Declaration of nformation, cannot be denied. It teaches Independence; and after contributing by his us a becoming humility, in any effort to energy and eloquence to aid the great cause of the revolution, he was one of the illustrious men who completed the great sory remarks I propose to make, ask the work of our emancipation by the conclusion of the treaty with Great Britain in 1783. Some of the leading acts of his administrarom my fellow-citizens: and permit me to tion were justly obnoxious; and met with add the remark, that, with the associations | the decided disapprobation of the American of the past history of the deceased, and with people; but the motives of patriotism and all the joyous lights of our country's free. high sense of duty, which governed his career, ought not to be impugned. His patriotic spirit gave as its last aspiration "inependence forever!

The author of that great State paper, which shed its gleams of light upon the oppressed of all nations, was elevated to the executive chair, and became the appropriate expositor of those great principles of government, which had been so clearly avowed and successfully maintained by his surpassing energy and ability. His first inaugural address presented an able and lucid exposition of the elements which constitute the securities of our government; and which have been recognized as the fundamental doctrines of the great party of which he was the admitted organ. His administration of the government was distinguished by an energetic determination preserve unimpaired, all the barriers which a strict construction of the constitution has interposed against the encroach-The well known charitable expression of ments of either executive, legislative or juthe Latin poet, that of the dead nothing dicial power. The results of his wisdom, all his propensities to despotic power reenergy and sagacity, both as to our doutary effect of giving strength and symmetry to the great temple of our freedom; and sion. The acquisition of the immense territory of Louisiana, exceeding a million of square miles, of which, Napoleon remarked, that if he should regulate his terms, according to the value of these vast regions many evidences of his superior and farseeing statesmanship. He and his compatriot of the revolution, Mr. Adams, as is well known, passed from the scenes of their The character and services of public men, laborious service on that day of Independence, which was associated with their

most glorious recollections. James Madison, distinguished for his abiity, patriotism and purity of character: prominent member of the Convention which formed the Constitution of the United land rendered the war of 1812 essential to protect our commerce, and the personal rights and liberties of our citizens from vioation: and, under this administration, it In approaching, therefore, the considera- was conducted and terminated in a manner tion of the life of labor and patriotism of the that vindicated the honor of our flag and extended the same and glory of our country.

The able, sagacious and experienced Monroc succeeded Mr. Madison, and administered the government upon the salullustrious men, who have filled the highest tary principles which had been avowed and

The executive chair was next occupied body of his fellow citizens: but none can of all our political institutions: in the vacitizen who so recently filled the highest privileges of humanity. The name of our intellect, indomitable perseverance, and stitutions and legislation of the several

high sense of duty so richly merit. The power of the people then placed Andrew Jackson in this high office. His name is associated with the richest recollections of our country's triumphs and its onward prosperity. In his boyhood and quired in addition to the proper mental qualsonal animosities, necessarily engendered certain, to adopt the sentiment of the in his matured age he was distinguished by that well-disciplined and superior intellect, ments within her bosom, as produced the which, in the field of battle, in the Senate chamber, and, in the Cabinet, were equally distinguished. His administration, as has been well expressed, gave "a new lease to the life of the constitution;" and infused The right of resistance to despotic au- into every department of the government our hearts for his patriotism, his public ser- thority, which was inscribed on the ban- that vigilance and energy of purpose, so es- in his profession. He was elected in 1823 1839, and, upon receiving the thanks of vices, and for his exemplary private vir- ners of our republic, was under such guid- sential to the security of the public interests. The great principles, upon which he based his knee and offered his orisons to the his administration, were, that the general that he remained in that body, he acquired powers that are clearly designated; that and eloquence, and for the integrity and you, upon the life and character of the illustrious deceased, and the great results of liberty. Our victory was lustrious deceased, and the great results of the blood and toil aged in its expenditures; that no more molitical principles. his administration, any remarks, that will of our ancestors is now to be seen in the ney should be raised from the people than prosperity and fame of our extended coun- may be requisite for these objects; and, in a manner that will best promote the intec-It was a fitting tribute, therefore, from ests of all classes of the community and of the meeting of the House of Representatives the devoted admiration of his countrymen, all portions of the Union. He constantly in December of the same year. Having past history of our country, and of the great | that the great chief of the revolution, who | inculcated the necessity of fostering with | been from his youth a member of the Dem had contributed so much in compelling En- our brethren, in all parts of the country, a ocratic party, and a warm adherent and in Congress; and during that time he main- 4th of March, 1845, was a clear and master- generalities of the English crown. The gland to furl her proud flag, and yield all spirit of liberal concession and compromise: steady supporter of the principles avowed tained an able and prominent position upon ly exposition of the principles and policy her pretences of sovereignity; should be and, by reconciling our fellow citizens to and maintained by Thomas Jefferson, he every great question of policy which was ed presumptuous, to attempt even a cursomade the first executive officer, to aid and those partial sacrifices, which they must did not fail to adhere firmly to that restriction the subject of debate; although he was the government: He avowed, that it should guide by his experience, patriotism, and wisunavoidably make for the preservation of a tive construction of the constitution, which necessarily in constant conflict with the be his first care, to administer the governdom, the dawning power of that great Union greater good, to secure our valuable government of the constitution; greater good, to secure our valuable government in the true spirit of the constitution;

A name, which is a virtue and a scul,

Which will multiply itself throughout all time. The next of that illustrious line of those who have passed from the scenes of their public labors was Gen. William H. Harrison. In his youth he was honored with the confidence of Washington; and by his bravery, energy and intelligence, rendered the most distinguished services in the then unsettled regions of the West: and by the patriotic and able manner in which he discharged the duties of the varied civil and military stations which had been awarded to him for faithful and devoted service, he obtained the confidence and received a majority of the votes of the American people for the highest office in their gift.

In one short month, he was removed from the exalted position, to which the people had just elevated him, by the hand of death; and the whole nation, with one accord, and as one family, bowed their heads n grief, at this mysterious dispensation of

In this hurried pilgrimage to the tombs of the illustrious dead, my duty has been merely to gather their names without any particular delineation of their character and services; so as to array them with the name of our late distinguished President, who has just joined this great equality .-From the shadows of their tombs, the light f their patriotism and services irradiates he country to which they were so devoted. Their commanding abilities and purity of haracter, and the results of their labors, oint to our own favored soil for the satisactory demonstration of the secure enjoyment of the salutary principles of free gov ernment; and their corresponding advantages. In contrasting their names and services with the imbecilities and oppresions of the royal line of any country in Europe, we cannot fail to express, with ust pride, that the true titles of nobility result from the equality and privileges of an

American citizen. Our country has thus completely falsified n the eminent men who have directed the administration of her affairs, that vile seniment of despotic power, which was equaly a libel on human nature, and a reflection on the justice and benevolence of Deity, that man is wanting in the ability for self-

I shall refer with great brevity to the ancestry of James K. Polk. The spirit and influence of our institutions peculiarly demand, that the personal merits of the individual, independent of birth or other adventitious circumstances must be the only test of title to the favor of his country.-It was the remark of Napoleon, who, with so fully, capacity as the only and just means of advancement: when one of his ambassadors was searching through some musty records in protecting our flag from foreign aggres- Italy, to trace out his title to noble descent, that he neither claimed nor desired any such distinction; that he had no such ancestry; that he was the first of his family. It cannot be concealed, however, that there is a beneficial influence in the recollection to the U.S., the indemnity would have no and association of patriotic and meritorious limits, will ever be regarded as one among service, which may operate upon a well directed mind to stimulate him to the imitation of the deeds of his ancestry. The ancestors of James K. Polk, who emigrated to this country, were from the green isle of Erin; the land of warm hearts and gallant and chivalrous spirits; who have been equally distinguished for their patriotism, eloquence and literary attainments: and amidst all their oppressions, they have retained that devotion to freedom, which in duced Randolph to make the remark, That he had met, in his day, with a black swan, but that he had never met with an Irish

Their descendants were amongst the fore most and most gallant spirits in our revoutionary struggle: and were always found unflinching in the path of duty to their country.

James K. Polk passed through his colle giate course and received the highest honors at the University of North Carolina where he graduated. Having studied the profession of the law under a distinguished legal adviser, he was admitted to practice, maintained by Mr. Jefferson and his suc- with a high reputation for learning, ability and industry.

It is not detracting from the merit and of official service; his devotion to duty are art, and the whole range of literature, known to all his countrymen. The man-than the profession of the Law: In our administration were disapproved by a large | be schooled and disciplined in a knowledge States: and with a thorough knowledge of duct in that exalted and difficult station .tribunals; combined with the high moral purposes which should govern the discharge of the duties of the profession: there is reintegrity to accomplish the high responsibilities which devolve upon the station.a courteous demeanor which recommended ties of the chair. him to all with whom he had intercourse, soon enabled him to attain a very high rank a representative of the Legislature of Tennessee; and in the two successive years those a distinguished reputation for his ability

In 1825, at 30 years of age, he was

tinguished man, who is the subject of this dress to descant upon its measures. He try; and he has left his countrymen "a his first efforts was in favor of a resolution for Governor of Tennessee, and was elected which he offered proposing an amendment of the Constitution of the United States, so as to give directly to the popular vote the power of electing the President, without, in any event, the election devolving on Congress. This able and spirited speech maintaining such just and patriotic views as to the beneficial results from the greatest extension of the popular sovereignty, became a subject of general observation and applause. He took decided ground, at the of his opponent. From 1841 when he left same session, against the projected embas- the executive chair of Tennessee, he remainsy of Mr. Adams to Panama, in which he ed in private life until his nomination by the advocated and eulogized the doctrine of Baltimore convention. During this period Washington, and opposed the policy of he was surrounded by a circle of devoted meeting a Congress or representation of friends, in the enjoyment of their confidence other powers, by which we might be in- and with the universal attachment of his veigled into those entangling alliances, neighbors; and at this time, and during which that great and pure patriot so much deprecated. He contended ably for the man was more firmly seated in the affectrue republican doctrine, that the House of tions of Andrew Jackson than James K: Representatives has that control over the Polk. The great and essential qualificaappropriations of the government, so as to tions of a statesman, the sagacity to perenable them to refuse their sanction to ex- ceive, and the decision to act, were the conpenditures for projects, arising either from stituent traits of his political character. He reaties or embassies, which had not pre- never failed to avow and maintain his opinviously received their approval. During ion upon any question of foreign and dothe whole of Mr. Adams' administration, he was one of the most prominent and able of the country. He took a decided stand members of the House of Representatives; with the hero of New Orleans in fadecidedly opposed to the measures of that vor of the annexation of Texas. In reply administration, and a warm and devoted to a letter from the opponents of annexation

> nevs for distribution as surplus revenue. son sent to the House of Representatives in ter, by assigning the many reasons which it to be the just and obvious policy of every 1830, on the celebrated Maysville road bill, in which he laid down the salutary doctrine, that Congress had not the general power to expend the moneys of the public selves, and the meeting of citizens of Cinreasury for the general purposes of internal improvement, except, as connected with our national defences; and the improvement of such harbors as was necessary for the his consistency and devotedness to the peoa prominent and able advocate of the pringovernment as thus presented by Andrew

cided part in endeavoring to expose, what department of business and society, a bold sions. and determined spirit, to resist its efforts to obtain mastery over the government .--One of the friends of the bank subsequently admitted, that the history of the last few years should convince all who were open to conviction, that any evils which may be anticipated from the want of such an institution, however great, are more tolerable than the certain, positive and immeasureable injuries which we know have flowed from one that was instituted under the most favorable auspices.

In the exciting discussions, which follows ed the removal of the deposits of the Government from the Bank of the U. States, in 1833, Mr. Polk, as chairman of the committee of ways and means, reported certain esolutions to the House fully sustaining the views of the President; and by his able and clear exposition of the reasons and motives which induced the removal, he rendered most effectual service, in obtaining the vote of the House of Representatives adopting the resolutions; and this measure had necessarily the effect of giving a vital and fatal blow to the further efforts of this

institution for existence. In December, 1835, Mr. Polk was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, and during the extraordinary political excitement which prevailed for five sessions; by John Quincy Adams, who was elected labor of other professions to say, that there he presided over their deliberations with traordinary literary abilities; his long course larger contributions from every science and partiality. It seemed to be admitted, that no individual except Mr. Clay, had ever occupied the chair as Speaker, more admiraner of his election and the measures of his country the legal mind ought necessarily to bly calculated to discharge its high and responsible duties. I was a personal witness, during several very exciting debates, to the fail to pay him the tribute, which his great | ried systems which provail under the con- courteous manner, promptitude and energy of character, which characterized his conthe adjudications of the national and State In the various and numerous appeals, which were taken from his decisions, he was invariably sustained by the vote of the house and frequently without reference to political differences. At the close of the session of ifications, untiring assiduity, energy and 1837, he received, on the motion of a distinguished political opponent from this State, the unanimous approbation of the House for His intellectual attainments and thorough the fidelity and dignity with which he had divided the republic. The result was, that knowledge of legal principles, joined with discharged the onerous and responsible du-

he responded in terms which were characterized by that ability and devotion to duty. which were consistent with all the acts and declarations of his public life. He remarkelected to Congress to represent the district that it could not be filled by any one who assurance, that in executing the responsible in which he resided, and took his seat at would devote himself with more zeal to do duties which would devolve on him, it of States whose interests were associated with ernment and Union in the confidence and uncertain discretion, which would be the litical opponents, who were members during and to assume no powers not expressly

by a large majority; and he performed all his duties during his gubernatorial term with distinguished ability. He supported the nomination and urged the election of Martin Van Buren in 1840; and the result of the overwhelming defeat which that candidate suffered in Tennessee and throughout the Union, prevented the possibility of Mr. Polk's re-election; and he was therefore defeated in the fall of 1841 by the election mestic policy, which involved the interests supporter of Andrew Jackson. In 1827, early in 1844 he said: "Let Texas be anas Chairman of a Select Committee, he nexed, and the authority and laws of the early avowed his views in favor of such United States be established and maintained

modification of the revenue laws, laying within her limits, as also in the Oregon duties upon our imports, as would reduce Territory, and let the fixed policy of our the receipts to the exigencies of the public government be, not to permit Great Briservice: and he protested against the power tain to plant a colony or hold dominion over of Congress to collect from the people mo. any portion of the people or territory of He congratulated the country upon the eneither. These are my opinions; and with- tire extinguishment of the national debt, In the important veto, which Gen. Jack. out deeming it necessary to extend this let- created by the war of 1812; and deemed influence me in the conclusions to which I government; by strict economy in the come, I regret to be compelled to differ so management of its affairs, to keep its exwidely from the views expressed by yourcinnati, whom you represent." The long course of public service of this

distinguished man to the State and Nation; protection of our commerce; Mr. Polk was | plc whose confidence had elevated him; his poldness and fidelity in advocating what he ciples and policy which should direct the considered to be the true interests of the ciples by which his executive action would In the political collisions which were pro- bestowed by the approving voice of his ernment. duced by Gen. Jackson's opposition to the countrymen. I was present at the delibera-Bank of the U. S., he took a bold and de-tions of the Democratic Convention, at Baltimore in May, 1844; and without departhe alleged to be, the attempts of that bank ing from the proper purpose of this address; to overshadow and overawe the govern- by adverting to the details of their proment: and, in 1832, as a member of the ceedings, or the candidates that were in cretion to discriminate; beyond that limit committee of ways and means, he presented nomination, I will merely remark, that 1 the rightful exercise of that power is not adthe report of the minority of that committee, never witnessed a more enthusiastic or uni- mitted. The incidental protection afforded ably vindicating the course of the executive, ted demonstration of feeling, than was exand presenting a bold and masterly delinea- hibited when James K. Polk was nomina- within the revenue range, it is believed, will tion of the various charges which had been | ted. It was hailed as a precursor of vic- | be ample. In making discriminations, all urged against the management of the bank. tory, by the great party which nominated our home interests should, as far as pract required, at that day, with the immense him; as he was presented as a candidate, tical, be equally protected. The largest influence of that institution, and with the va- upon the principles avowed by that Con- portion of our people are agriculturalists: ricd interests connected with it, which vention, uninfluenced by past defeats or others are employed in manufactures, com-

proaching political contest. These resolu- harmony, and a cheerful acquiescence of ions presented, with other sentiments, that all in the operation of our revenue laws." the federal government derives its powers

Ho congratulated the country, that the solely from the constitution; and that these Republic of Texas was about to form a part powers ought to be strictly construed by all of our confederacy, and enjoy, with us, the the federal government has not the power by our constitution: "To Texas," he retem of internal improvements: That the the strong, protecting arm of our Governconstitution does not confer the power to ment, would be extended over her; and the assume the State debts; nor to charter a vast resources of her fertile soil and genial national bank: That the liberal policy of climate would soon be developed; while the rights and privileges; so that one branch of western frontier against hostile oppression, industry should not be fostered to the de- as well as the interests of the whole Union riment of another; but that the government would be promoted by it. should equally extend its protection of per- He also adverted to the clear and unquessons and property to every portion of our tionable title, which had so long been concommon country. That Congress has no tested by England to the country of the power to interfere with or control the do- Oregon; and declared his determination, to mestic institutions of the several States:- assert and maintain, by all constitutional that such States are the sole judges of means, the right of the United States to this by the House of Representatives. His ex- is no position in society which requires distinguished ability, promptitude and improhibited by the constitution. That every the Rocky mountains. effort to induce Congress to interfere with these institutions, are calculated to dimin- he avowed, that it would be his aim to obish the general security of the people; and serve a careful respect for the rights of othendanger the principles of our national gov- er nations; while our own would be the being closely associated with the unaltera. cluded this address, by supplicating the

his acceptance of the nomination. The Whig party presented as their can- a prosperous and happy people. fair encounter of the antagonist principles intended fearlessly to pursue. of the two great parties, which have so long Mr. Polk was elected to the distinguished guished statesmen of the country; and, station, for which he was nominated; by a He retired from the office of Speaker, majority over Mr. Clay of 65 electoral ability, and patriotic devotion to duty, which and from the House of Representatives, in votes; and Mr. Dallas, the able and distin- characterized the Vice President, there was guished candidate for the vice presidency, thus concentrated, about the President. the House at the close of their deliberations, was elected by the same majority over his his constitutional advisers, a body of men, opponent Mr. Frelinghuysen.

retiring might in future times be filled, as reposed in him by the people; and requestdoubtless it would be, by abler men, but ed the committee to convey to Congress his his whole duty than he had done. Mr. would be his anxious desire to maintain Polk thus retired into a private life, after a the honor and promote the welfare of the The messages of our Presidents are a strikdevoted and able service of fourteen years country. His inaugural, delivered on the ing contrast to the brief, and mysterious attempt—and, especially, when it is considered, that the life and services of the dissistance of the life, as it has been remarked, was a the time he took his seat, he was one of the life, as it has been remarked, was a the time he took his seat, he was one of the life, as it has been remarked, was a the time he took his seat, he was one of the life, as it has been remarked, was a the time he took his seat, he was one of the life and services of the dissistance of the life, as it has been remarked, was a the time he took his seat, he was one of the life, as it has been remarked, was a life time he took his seat, he was one of the life and services of the dissistance of the life and services of the dissistance of the life, as it has been remarked, was a life time he took his seat, he was one of the life, as it has been remarked, was a life time he took his seat, he was one of the life, as it has been remarked, was a life time he took his seat, he was one of the life, as it has been remarked, was a life time he took his seat, he was one of the life, as it has been remarked, was a life time he took his seat, he was one of the life and services of the dissipation of the life and services of the life

by a strict adherence to the authority that clearly granted; we have a sure guaranee against the recurrence of those unfortunate collisions which have occasionally so much disturbed the harmony of our system; and even threatened the perpetuity of our glorious Union. In speaking of the peneficial results of our national government, under our free institutions, he justv and eloquently remarks: "It is a common protector of each and all the States; of every man who lives upon our soil, whether of native or foreign birth; of every religious sect in the worship of the Almighty, according to the dictates of their own conscience; of every shade of opinion and the most free inquiry; of every art, trade and occupation consistent with the laws of the States; and we rejoice in the general happiness and prosperity of our country which have been the offspring of freedom and not of power."

In speaking of the constitutional power vested in the executive, of a qualified veto upon the acts of the Legislature, he remarked: "it arrests, for the time, hasty and inconsiderate or unconstitutional legislation; and, when judiciously and properly exercised, the constitution itself may be saved from infraction and the rights of all preserved and protected."

In reference to the attempts made to inerfere with domestic institutions peculiar to some sections of the Union; he says, that the compromises of the constitution jealousies and heartburnings must be discountenanced; and all should remember, that they are members of the same political family; having a common destiny. penditures strictly within the means of the treasury; and never create a national debt, except, when the public exigencies imperatively demand it.

Upon the agitating subject of a proper adjustment of the tariff, in reference to which so many conflicting views have existed, he frankly expressed the liberal princountry, rendered him peculiarly qualified be guided, in the recommendation of revefor the high office which was subsequently | nue laws to supply the wants of the Gov-"In levying duties," said he, "it is, doubt-

less, proper to make such discriminations.

within the revenue principle, as will afford

incidental protection to our home interests. Within the revenue limit, there is a discrewere so necessarily entwined into every any prejudices resulting from past dissen- merce, navigation, and the mechanical arts. They are alloengaged in their respective Amongst the able gentlemen who advo- pursuits, and their joint labors constitute the cated his nomination, it is due to one of national or home industry. All are equalour own distinguished citizens, to say, that ly entitled to the fostering care and protecno member of the Convention was more tion of the Government. It is a subject rominent and enthusiastic in presenting upon which conflicting interests of sections and urging the propriety and justice of or occupations are supposed to exist: and nominating Mr. Polk than himself. a spirit of mutual concession and comprom-The national convention at Baltimore, em- ise in adjusting its details, should be cherpodied in resolutions unanimously adopted, ished in every part of our wide spread the principles which were to govern the ap- country, as the only means of preserving

> he departments of the government: and that | blessings of liberty, secured and guarantied to commence and carry on a general sys- marked, "the re-union is important, because the government requires entire equality of safety of New Orleaus and our whole south

In the direction of our foreign relations. ernment, which were thus promulged as subject of constant watchfulness. He conble interests of the people: These princi- blessing of the divinity upon our beloved ples were fully acceded to by Mr. Polk in country; to continue his gracious benedictions upon us, that we may be preserved as

didate, the most distinguished and able ad- I have thus presented, with great brevity, vocate of their views of public policy, in the leading principles avowed by President the person of Henry Clay; and the exci- Polk; by which, he prescribed in plain ting political contest which ensued, was a terms the path of executive duty, which he

The members of his cabinet were selected from the most experienced, able and distinwith the aid derived from the well tried whose intellectual superiority and integrity The Committee of Congress who and of character, ensured, that they would be nounced to him officially at Washington equal to any emergency, which either the honor or the interests of the country might

require from their services. The first annual message of President Polk presented a reiteration of the great principles so clearly expressed in his inaugural; by which he intended to regulatthe administrative policy of the government. representative of the popular power has nothing to conveal; and he discloses frankly to the people, his entire knowledge as to the condition and relations of the government. The policy of our government is essentially pacific; but the condition of the world, and the disposition of nations. must be very much changed before wrongs [Conclusion on fourth page.]