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The Rose.

BY D. EVERETT ROSS.

Fond daughter of the laughing May!
The light of all that's pure is thine;
Thy rosy beams that make the day,
Upon the cheeks of velvet shine.
Thy beauty paints the evening skies,
Mingles with the rainbow's dies,
Love's own light its blushes speak
Thy ruby lip and vermeil cheek.

No wooing zephyrs ever stray'd
To whisper love or steal a kiss,
No dancing sunbeam ever play'd
Upon a sweeter flower than this.
The night rays o'er thy bosom strew
The sparkles of the nectar dew,
And on their shrine the pearls have slept,
Like tears the dying stars have wept.

Many a pouting lip has flush'd
In rival beauty by thy side;
Many a maiden cheek has blush'd
In vain to match thy crimson pride.
The pink may boast its varied hue,
The violet its azure blue,
The lily claim the snow its own;
But still thou reign'st undimm'd alone.

Thou hast the tale of love express'd,
In words the falt'ring tongue forebore;
And answering from the heart confess'd
What eye and cheek had told before.
Young hearts have whisper'd to thy ears
The secret of their hopes and fears;
Then nestled in a gentle breast,
Thou had'st thy tender folds carest.

Ah! anxious hope long watch has kept,
Despairingly beneath thy cover;
While fond heart sigh'd and bright eye wept
The absence of a faithless lover.
And many a vow of love is made,
And fond heart pledged beneath thy shade;
While friendly moon-beams light thy bower,
And glide too soon the stolen hour.

I love thee, emblem of my youth!
Thou bring'st to mind fond memories;
When fancy wore the garb of truth,
And love made earth a paradise.
But as those dreaming hours have fled
Before the light stern truth has shed,
So will thy fleeting beauty fade,
And join the wreck that time has made.

Poor Man's Evening Hymn.

BY WM. JONES.

God of the poor man! hear us,
Thou giver of all good!
In this, our meal, be near us—
Bless, bless our humble food.
We have been toiling through the day,
Sleep hangs upon each brow,
But through the dim night hear us pray,
Look down and bless us now!

God of the poor man! heed us,
As thus on bended knee,
For all thou hast decreed us,
We praise and glory thee!
The hands that made the wealthy,
Unmake them at thy will;
They made us strong and healthy,
May we remain so still!

God of the poor man! listen
To those whose all is gone,
To those whose eye-lids glisten,
With sorrow deep and lone;
Oh! answer, we beseech Thee,
Their broken, anguished prayer;
Let their dark woes first reach Thee,
Then beam on us now here!

God of the poor man! lowly
His heart with love doth beat;
He hath no gift more holy
To deck thy mercy seat;
Take it, our father, though it be
Shaded with earthly sin;
Nought else hath he to offer Thee—
Oh! make it right within.

God of the poor man! shining
Amidst his little cot,
Tho' fortune be declining,
With Thee, how bright his lot!
Guard now the night before us,
Let quiet slumber come,
Spread, spread thy mantle o'er us,
And bless the poor man's home.

Henry Clay.

Harry says he was a Mason—
Long time ago;
But now the sign to get his face in
A lodge he does not know.

He linked a fifty million bank—
Long time ago;
But now the thing has got so rank,
He hardly thinks 'twill go.

He went a Tariff every inch—
Long time ago;
But now, alas! it seem to pinch,
His tender conscience, oh!

[From the Democratic Review for May, 1838.]

James K. Polk, of Tennessee.

Mr. Polk, who is the oldest of ten children, was born in Mecklenburg county, North Carolina, on the second of November, 1795, and is consequently in the forty-third year of his age.—His ancestors, whose original name, Pollock, has, by obvious transition, assumed its present form, emigrated, more than a century ago, from Ireland, a country from which many of our most distinguished men are proud to derive their origin. They established themselves first in Maryland, where some of their descendants still sojourn. The branch of the family from which is sprung the subject of this memoir, removed to the neighborhood of Carlisle, in Pennsylvania, and thence, to the western frontier of North Carolina, some time before the commencement of the Revolutionary war. Its connection with that eventful struggle is one of rare distinction. On the twentieth of May, 1775, consequently more than a twelvemonth anterior to the declaration of the Fourth of July, the assembled inhabitants of Mecklenburg county, publicly absolved themselves from their allegiance to the British crown, and issued a formal manifesto of independence, in terms of manly eloquence, which have become "familiar as household words" to the American people. Col. Thomas Polk, the prime mover in this act of noble daring, and one of the signers of this first Declaration of Independence, was the great uncle of the present Speaker, who is also connected with the Alexanders, Chairman and Secretary of the famous meeting, as well as with Dr. Ephraim Brevard, the author of the Declaration itself.

Mr. Jefferson having sincerely, no doubt, but merely on negative grounds, questioned the authenticity of this interesting piece of history, the Legislature of North Carolina, with a becoming of patriotism, caused the evidence establishing its validity to be collected in a complete shape, and deposited in the archives of the State. The people of Mecklenburg were, almost to a man, staunch Whigs, in the genuine, revolutionary, acceptation of the term, and have been up to the present day remarkable for their unwavering adherence to democratic principles. As an evidence of the sturdy independence which characterizes them, it is often pleasantly observed that, at the last war, they took up arms six months before, and not lay them down until twelve months after, the government. In the contest for independence several of Mr. Polk's relatives distinguished themselves, even to the peril of life. To be allied to such a people and lineage, is a fit subject for honorable pride. Liberty does not frown upon the indulgence of a sentiment so natural. She does not reject the heritage of honor, while refusing to add to it, social or political distinctions subversive of equal rights. The American people have always manifested an affectionate regard for those who bear the names of the heroes or martyrs of the revolution. They furnish not a proof of the alleged ingratitude of republics.

The farmer of Mr. Polk was a farmer of unassuming pretensions, but enterprising character. Thrown upon his own resources in early life, he became the architect of his own fortunes. He was a warm supporter of Mr. Jefferson, and through life a firm and consistent republican. In the autumn of 1806 he removed to Tennessee, where he was among the first pioneers of the fertile valley of Duck river, then a wilderness, but now the most flourishing and populous portion of the State. The magical growth of a country which was but yesterday redeemed from the sole dominion of nature, is a phenomenon of great moral and political interest, and cannot fail to impress a character of strength and enterprise upon the authors and participators of the wonderful result. How can man languish or halt, when all around him is expanding and advancing with irrepressible energy? In this region Mr. Polk still resides; so that he may be said, literally, to have grown with its growth and strengthened with its strength. Of course, in the infancy of its settlement, the opportunities for instruction could not be great. Notwithstanding this disadvantage—and the still more formidable one, of a painful affliction, from which, after years of suffering, he was finally relieved by a surgical operation—he acquired the elements of a good English education. Apprehending that his constitution had been too much impaired to permit the confinement of study, his father determined, much, however, against the will of the son, to make of him a commercial man; and with this view actually placed him with a merchant. Upon what slender threads hang the destinies of life! A little more, and the uncompromising opponent of the Bank of the United States, the democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives, might have been at this day, in spite of his origin and early tendencies, a Whig preacher of panics, uttering *jeremiads* for the fate of that shadowy and intangible thing yclept "Credit System,"

"If shape it might be call'd that shape had none,
Distinguishable in member, joint, or limb;
Or substance might be call'd, that shadow seem'd,
For each seem'd either."

He remained a few weeks in a situation adverse to his wishes and incompatible with his taste. Finally, his earnest appeals succeeded in overcoming the resistance of his father, and in July, 1813, he was placed first under the care of the Rev. Dr. Henderson, and subsequently, at the academy of Murfreesborough, Tennessee, then under the direction of Mr. Samuel P. Black, justly celebrated in that region as a classical teacher. In the autumn of 1815 he entered the University of North Carolina, having, in less than two years and a half, thoroughly prepared himself to commence his collegiate course. It will be seen from this hasty sketch, that the history of the Speaker furnishes an interesting example of talent and perseverance triumphing over disheartening difficulties in early life. So frequent are such instances, that it would almost seem that true merit requires the ordeal of adverse circumstances, to strengthen its temper and distinguish it from unsubstantial pretension.

Mr. Polk's career at the University was distinguished. At each semi-annual examination, he bore away the first honor, and finally graduated in 1818, with the highest distinction of his class, and with the reputation of being the first scholar in both the mathematics and classics. Of the former science he was passionately fond, though equally distinguished as a linguist. His course at college was marked by the same assiduity and studious application which have since characterized him. His ambition to excel was equalled by his perseverance alone, in proof of which it is said, that he never missed a recitation, nor omitted the punctilious performance of any duty. Habits of close application at college are apt to be despised by those who pride themselves on brilliancy of mind, as if they were incompatible. This is a melancholy mistake. Genius has even been defined the faculty of application. The latter is, at least, something better, and more available. So carefully has Mr. Polk avoided the pedantry of classical display, which is the false taste of our day and country, as almost to hide the acquisitions which distinguished his early career. His preference for the useful and substantial, indicated by his youthful passion for the mathematics, has made him select a style of elocution, which would perhaps be deemed too plain by the shallow admirers of flashy declamation. The worst of all styles is the florid and exaggerated. It is that of minds which are, as it were, overlaid by their acquisitions. They break down beneath a burden which they have not strength to bear,—

"Deep versed in books, but shallow in themselves."

The mind should rather be fertilized by culture than encumbered with foreign productions. Pedantry is at once the result and proof of sciolism.

Returning to Tennessee, from the State which is, in two senses, his *alma mater*, with health considerably impaired by excessive application, Mr. Polk, in the beginning of the year 1819, commenced the study of the law in the office of Senator Grundy, and late in 1820 was admitted to the bar. He commenced his professional career in the county of Maury, with great advantages, derived from the connection of his family with its early settlement.—To this hour his warmest friends are the sharers of his father's early privations and difficulties, and the associates of his own youth. But his success was due to his personal qualities, still more than to extrinsic advantages. A republican in habits as well as in principles, depending for the maintenance of his dignity upon the esteem of others, and not upon his own assumption, his manners conciliated the general good-will. The confidence of his friends was justified by the result. His thorough academical preparation, his accurate knowledge of the law, his readiness and resources in debate, his unwearied application to business, secured him, at once, full employment, and in less than a year he was already a leading practitioner. Such prompt success in a profession where the early stages are proverbially slow and discouraging, falls to the lot of few.

Mr. Polk continued to devote some years exclusively to the laborious prosecution of his profession, with a progressive augmentation of reputation, and the more solid rewards by which it is accompanied. In 1823, he entered upon the stormy career of politics, being chosen to represent his county in the State legislature, by a heavy majority over the former incumbent, but not without formidable opposition. He was, for two successive years, a member of that body, where his ability in debate, and talent for business, at once gave him reputation. The early personal and political friend of Gen. Jackson, he was one of those who, in the session of 1823–4, called that distinguished man from his retirement by electing him to the Senate of the United States; and he looks back with pride to the part he took in an act which was followed by such important consequences. In August, 1825, being then in his thirtieth year, Mr. Polk was chosen to represent his district in Congress, and in the ensuing December took his seat in that body, where he has remained ever since. He brought with him into the national councils those fundamental principles to which he has adhered through all the personal mutations of party. From his early youth he was a republican of the "straitest sect."—He has ever regarded the Constitution of the United States as an instrument of specific and limited powers, and that doctrine is at the very foundation of the democratic creed. Of course, he has ever been, what is termed, a strict constructionist, repudiating, above all things, the latitudinarian interpretations of federalism, which tend to the consolidation of all power in the central government. He has signalized his hostility to these usurping doctrines in all their modes. He has always refused his assent to the appropriation of money by the Federal Government for what he deems the unconstitutional purpose of constructing works of internal improvement within the States. He took ground early against the constitutionality as well as expediency of a National Bank; and in August, 1829, consequently several months before the appearance of Gen. Jackson's first message, announced then his opinions in a published letter to his constituents. He has ever been opposed to an oppressive tariff for protection, and was, at all times, the strenuous advocate of a reduction of the revenue to the economical wants of the Government. Entertaining these opinions, as we shall have occasion to illustrate, and entering Congress, as he did, at the first session after the election of the younger Adams, he promptly took his stand against the broad and dangerous doctrines developed in the first message of that Chief Magistrate, and was, during the continuance of his administration, firmly and resolutely, but not tactiously, opposed to its leading measures.

When Mr. Polk entered Congress, he was, with one or two exceptions, the junior member of that body. But capacity like his could not long remain unnoticed. In consequence of the palpable disregard of the public will manifested in the election by the House of Mr. Adams, together with the means by which it was effected, a proposition was brought forward, and much discussed at the time, to amend the Constitution in such manner as to give the choice of President and Vice President immediately and irreversibly to the people. In favor of this proposition, Mr. Polk made his first speech in Congress, which at once attracted the attention of the country by the force of its reasoning, the copiousness of its research, and the spirit of honest indignation by which it was animated. It was at once seen that his ambition was to distinguish himself by substantial merit rather than rhetorical display, the rock upon which most young orators split. At the same session, that egregious measure of political Quixotism, the Panama mission, which was proposed in contempt of the sound maxim, to cultivate friendship with all nations, yet engage in entangling alliances with none, gave rise to a protracted debate in both Houses of Congress. The exploded federal doctrine was, upon this occasion revived, that, as under the Constitution, the President and Senate exclusively are endowed with the treaty-making faculty, and that of originating and appointing to missions, their acts under that power become the supreme law of the land, nor can the House of Representatives deliberate upon, much less, in the exercise of a sound discretion, refuse, the appropriations necessary to carry them into effect. Against a doctrine so utterly subversive of the rights and powers of the popular branch of Congress, as well as of the fundamental principles of democracy, Mr. Polk strenuously protested, embodying his views in a series of resolutions, which reproduced, in a tangible shape, the doctrines, on this question, of the republican party of '98.—The first of these resolutions which presents the general principle with brevity and force, runs thus: "that it is the constitutional right and duty of the House of Representatives, when called upon for appropriations to defray the expenses of foreign missions, to deliberate on the expediency or inexpediency of such missions, and to determine and act thereon, as in their judgment may seem most conducive to the public good."

From this time Mr. Polk's history is inseparably interwoven with that of the House. He is prominently connected with every important question, and upon every one, as by an unerring instinct of republicanism, took the soundest and boldest ground. From his entrance into public life, his adherence to the cardinal principles of the democratic creed has been singularly steadfast. During the period of Jackson's administration, as long as he retained a seat on the floor, he was one of its leading supporters, and at times, and on certain questions of paramount importance, its chief reliance. In the hour of trial he was never found wanting, or from his post. In December, 1827, two years after his entrance in the House, Mr. Polk was placed on the important committee of Foreign Affairs, and some time after was appointed, in addition, chairman of the Select Committee to which was referred that portion of the President's message calling the attention of Congress to the probable accumulation of a surplus in the Treasury, after the anticipated extinguishment of the National Debt. As the head of this committee he made a lucid report, replete with the soundest doctrines, ably enforced, denying the constitutional power of Congress to collect from the people, for distribution, a surplus beyond the wants of Government, and maintaining that the revenue should be reduced to the exigencies of the public service.

The session of 1830 will always be distinguished by the death blow which was then given to the unconstitutional system of internal improvements by the General Government. We have ever regarded the Maysville Road Veto as second in importance to none of the acts of Gen. Jackson's energetic administration. It lopped off one of the worst branches of the miscalled *American* System. Mr. Polk had assailed the bill before its passage with almost solitary energy; and one of his speeches, in which he discusses the general policy of the "American System" in its triple aspect of high prices for the public lands, to check agricultural emigration to the West, and foster the creation of a manufacturing population,—of high duties or taxes for protection, and excessive revenue,—and of internal improvements, to spend this revenue in corrupting the country with its own money,—should be perused by every one who wishes to arrive at sound views upon a question which has so much agitated the public mind. When the bill was returned by the President unsigned, a storm arose in the House, in the midst of which the veto was attacked by a torrent of passionate declamation, mixed with no small share of personal abuse. To a member from Ohio, whose observations partook of the latter character, Mr. Polk replied in an energetic improvisation, vindicating the patriotic resolution of the Chief Magistrate. The friends of States Rights in the House rallied manfully upon the veto. The result was that the bill was rejected, and countless "*log-rolling*" projects for the expenditure of many millions of the public treasure, which awaited the decision, perished in *embryo*.

In December, 1832, he was transferred to the Committee of Ways and Means, with which his connection has been so distinguished. At that session the Directors of the Bank of the United States were summoned to Washington, and examined upon oath, before the committee just named. A division of opinion resulted in the presentation of two reports. That of the majority, which admitted that the Bank had exceeded its lawful powers, by interfering with the plan of the government, to pay off the three per cent. stock, was tame, and unaccompanied by pertinent facts, or elucidating details. Mr. Polk, in behalf of the minority, made a detailed report, communicating all the material circumstances, and presenting conclusions utterly adverse to the institution which had been the subject of inquiry. This arrayed against him the whole bank power, which he was made to feel in a quarter where he had every thing at stake, for upon his return to his district he found the most formidable opposition mustered against him for his course upon this question. The friends of the United States Bank held a meeting at Nashville to denounce his report. The most unscrupulous misrepresentations were resorted to in order to prove that he had destroyed the credit of the West, by proclaiming that his countrymen were unworthy of mercantile confidence. The result, however, was, that after a violent contest, Mr. Polk was re-elected by a majority of more than three thousand. Fortunately for the stability of our institutions, the panics which "frighten cities from their propriety," do not sweep with the same desolating force over the scattered dwellings of the country.

In September, 1833, the President, indignant at the open defiance of law by the Bank of the United States, and the unblushing corruption which it practiced, determined upon the bold and salutary measure of the removal of the deposites, which was effected in the following month. The act produced much excitement throughout the country, and it was foreseen that a great and doubtful conflict was about to ensure. At such a crisis it became important to have at the head of the Committee of Ways and Means, a man of courage to meet, and firmness to sustain, the formidable shock. Such a man was found in Mr. Polk, and he proved himself equal to the occasion. Congress met, and the conflict proved even fiercer than had been anticipated. The cause of the Bank was supported in the House by such men as Mr. McDuffie, Adams and Binney, not to mention a host of other names. It is instructive to look back in calmer times, to the reign of terror known as the Panic Session. The Bank, with the whole commerce of the country at its feet, alternately torturing and easing its miserable pensioners as they increased or relaxed their cries of financial agony; public meetings held in every city with scarcely the intermission of a day, denouncing the President as a tyrant and the enemy of his country; deputations flocking from the towns to extort from him a reluctant submission; Whig orators traversing the country, and stimulating the passions of excited multitudes, without respect even to the sanctity of the Sabbath; inflamatory memorials poured into Congress from every quarter; the Senate almost decreeing itself into a state of permanent insurrection, and proclaiming that a revolution had already begun; all the business of legislation in both wings of the Capitol postponed to that of agitation and panic; an extrajudicial and branding sentence pronounced upon the Chief Magistrate of the nation, in violating of usage and of the Constitution,—these features present but a faint picture of the alarm and confusion which prevailed. Consternation had almost seized upon the republican ranks, thinned by desertions and harrassed by distracting doubts and fears. But the stern resolve of him whose iron arm guided the helm of State, conducted the perilous conflict to a successful issue. Nor should we forget the eminent services of the individual who presided over the Committee of Ways and Means. His coolness, promptitude, and abundant resources were never at fault. His opening speech in vindication of the President's measure, contains all the material facts and reasons on the republican side of the question, enforced with much power and illustrated by great research.—To this speech almost every member of the Opposition, who spoke upon the question, attempted to reply, but the argument which its author brought forward, to establish the power of the President under the Constitution, as elucidated by contemporaneous or early exposition, to do the act, which had been so boldly denounced as a high-handed and tyrannical usurpation, could neither be refuted nor weakened. Mr. McDuffie, the distinguished leader of the opposition in this eventful conflict, bore testimony, in his concluding remarks, to the "boldness and manliness" with which Mr. Polk had assumed the only position which could be judiciously taken. The financial portion of his speech, and that in which he exposed the glaring misdeeds of the

[SEE FOURTH PAGE FOR CONCLUSION.]