EDITED BY THOMAS RITCHIE.

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The Eighth of January Supper,

At Jackson Hall, in this city, on the 12th instant.

The doors opened, and the guests entered the hall and were seated at the tables at 8 o'clock, numbering 250, besides invited guests.

THOMAS RITCHIE, esq., president of the day, was supported on the right by Vice President J. E. Dow, Hon. GEO. M. DALLAS, Vice President of the United States, Senators DICKINSON and CASS, and others; and on the left by Vice President C. P. SENGSTACK, Gen. SHIELDS, Col. RICHARDSON, of Illinois, and the Hon. Messrs. CHARLES BROWN and RICHARD BRODHEAD, of Pennsylvania, and others. Messrs. W. D. WALLACH and WM. FLINN were secretaries for the occasion. The former, stationed at the lower end of the great table, read the sentiments, after they had been announced by the president.

The names of the officers being announced, and the meeting called to order, the venerable President proceeded to introduce the exercises, by remarking that, unexpectedly to himself, he was there in the place of, if not an older, certainly a better soldier in the cause than himself. FRANCIS P. BLAIR was to have occupied the place which he filled; but he understood at first that modesty (he was since sorry to hear it was indisposition) had prevented his appearance; and the president added, that if he had imitated the example, and consulted the modesty of his friend, he might have shunned the responsibilities of that place. But somebody had to fill the chair, and he was willing to become the martyr to the cause. [Cheers.]

It had been a long time since he had been called to officiate in the honors of the chair, and to address a popular and respectable assembly like this; and therefore, if he should fall into error, he hoped the fault would be indulgently ascribed to his inexperience, rather than to any spirit of unwillingness to serve his friends according to the best of his abilities and understanding. [Cheers.] We had met, he said, to celebrate an event which inscribed the brightest ornament on our national escutcheon, and to do honor to one of the greatest men that ever lived in any age. [Protracted cheering.] He would not now tell the story of the war of 1812, nor would he detail at any length the achievements of that distinguished man—how he drew the sword to assert the rights of his country, and resist the invading foe. He would not tell how he fought, and how he conquered. [Cheers.] But the president proceeded to advert to that peculiar power of General Jackson to call forth the energies of his countrymen in the utmost crises of public danger—instancing that portion of our history when the flames of yonder capitol went up into the heavens. But it was the characteristic of a free people, if they failed for a moment, to rise again with renovated vigor and overwhelming power; because a free people love their country for its blessings, and because the very freedom of their institutions inspires them with an enterprising and energetic spirit, making them irresistible. The flame of the Capitol lit up a fire of the noblest patriotism throughout the Union. It was seen and felt in every subsequent event of the war—in the successive efforts it produced. The capture of Washington was succeeded by a crowd of brilliant victories. Soon after, the Monumental City drove back the invaders, with signal loss, to their retiring ships. Our meteor flag flashed its victories through every sea, and across all the northern lakes. On the frontier of our country, and in the bosom of Canada, battle after battle was fought, and triumph after triumph succeeded. But the last great battle-field was reserved for the southwest. There the enemy had collected his strength and his disciplined, choicest troops, all flushed with victory from the fields of the Peninsula. But, unfortunately for his vaunting hopes, the champion appeared. Jackson was there to guard the altars of his country from profanation! [Cheers.] It was then that Andrew Jackson came forth. He came, like the destroying angel over the battle of Blenheim, to "ride in the whirlwind and direct the storm." It was then that he wrote his name high on the tablets of fame, and elevated that of his country to that most enviable rank, which she still enjoys among the nations of the earth. [Applause.]

But his work was not yet done—the mission of Andrew Jackson was not yet accomplished; for systems of false and fatal policy had become engrafted on the constitution. Subsequently there grew up at home such encroachments upon our federal form of free government as required a bold and energetic hand to resist them. Some of the company whom he had the honor to address, might recollect a remarkable ring which the Old Hero was in the habit of wearing. He himself recollected to have heard him say, on the day when he laid down his power, in describing the virtues of that emblematic signet: "Here are three Hydraheads: *this* represents the Bank of the United States; *that*, the excesses of the protective tariff; *the other*, the wild system of internal improvements. It was my good fortune to struggle with them all." And never could Andrew Jackson have come to the rescue at a more fortunate period than when he ascended the presidential chair in 1829. The tariff act of 1828—one of the most oppressive laws that ever disgraced our statute-book—had just been passed. The charter of the National Bank was about to expire, unless revived during his administration. And applications for appropriations of 200 millions were pressed for internal improvements. But he struggled with all, and it was the glory of the man of the iron nerve, and it was our good fortune, that he gave this three-headed monster that most decisive check, which it had received under his administration. But Mr. Ritchie reminded his friends that the battle was not yet over, nor the danger all passed. There were matters yet demanding our attention—dangers yet which we must meet. He referred to the Mexican war—to the fidelity and efficiency with which it has been conducted by the present republican administration, who had been true to their pledges, and faithful to their principles. He referred to the present efforts of the opposition to throw into the shade this ever-glorious vindication of the rights and honor of the country. We should have to defend this war against its assailants at home. The foreign enemy we could meet and overcome with the same blood and the same valor which had distinguished the battle-field of New Orleans. Our gallant troops had displayed their valor upon every battle-field of Mexico, and filled the world with the renown of their arms. As to the great issues which Jackson had encountered during his civil administration, the opposition party were now attempting to wink them out of sight. They affected to say that they were obsolete; and they were now trying to shuffle them out of the approaching presidential campaign. But while we despise their devices, we must be prepared to expose them. We must show that, whilst they played the same humbug game upon us in 1840, no sooner were they in power, than they proceeded, with hot haste, to revive their monstrous measures, and press them through Congress. Mr. R. exhorted every man with a true heart to still stand his ground, and preserve a united front; so that, if we succeed, we may enjoy the satisfaction of having performed our duty, and carried out our principles; and if we suffer defeat, (which he deemed impossible,) we might fall back, without confusion, upon our ancient platform, rally around our republican principles, and fight the battle over again. [Great applause.] To succeed in the coming campaign, against an opposition desperate in their designs and reckless in their means, it becomes us to exert all our energies—to exhibit the utmost conciliation of feeling, and harmony of movement: "Union, harmony, concession—everything for the cause, and nothing for men." But while we fight here, we ought to recollect that we are fighting with our own countrymen; and that we must carry on the contest in such a manner as to preserve unbroken the consecrated UNION of our country. The president concluded by offering the following toast:

Andrew Jackson—the man of the iron nerve—who filled the measure of his country's glory: Let us never forget his celebrated maxim—"THE UNION (this glorious Union) MUST BE PRESERVED."

The business of the evening being thus introduced, the president proceeded to announce the following regular toasts, prepared by the Executive Committee of the Association:

REGULAR TOASTS.

1. *The 4th of July, 1776, and the 8th of January, 1815*: The former gave us our independence, the latter sealed it forever.
[Air—Yankee Doodle.

2. *Andrew Jackson, the man of the Hermitage*: His name is freedom's watchword—a nation's heart his sepulchre.
[Air—Jackson's March.

3. *Our Country*: Patient in adversity, meek in prosperity, matchless in energy, and beautiful in simplicity.
[Air—Hail Columbia.

4. *The slain in Battle*: Like stars that set in glory—their epitaph is immortality.
[Air—The Coronach.

5. *The Army and Navy of the United States*: The best negotiators of a speedy peace.
[Air—The Gathering.

6. *The President of the United States*: The constitution his sword—his body-guard the people.
[Air—President's March.

7. *Democracy*: When the storm roars wildest, the rock that buffets the billow shelters the eagle.
[Air—Jefferson's March.

8. *The Democratic Administration*: It has faithfully carried out the great principles and measures of the party. The people will sustain it.
[Air—Washington's March.

9. *The Area of Freedom*: The American Continent.
[Air—Old Dan Tucker.

10. *The Judiciary of the United States*: Leavened by democracy, it grows better as it grows older.
[Music.

11. *The Rights of the States*: The bulwark of the constitution.
[Air—Star-spangled Banner.

12. *Pius IX*: He has broken the fetters of the Cæsars, and thundered liberty from the Vatican.
[Air—Marseilles Hymn.

13. *Woman*: The mother of heroes, the guardian of virtue, and the angel at the hearth-stone.
[Air—Home, Sweet Home.

The following letter from F. P. Blair, esq., addressed to John C. Rives, esq., was next read:

SILVER SPRING, Jan. 12, 1848.

DEAR RIVES: I have a violent cold and sore throat, (blistered without, to cure the inflammation within,) which utterly disables me from performing the duties assigned me at Jackson Hall to-night. Pray make my apology to the Association, with my thanks for the honor they have conferred upon me. F. P. BLAIR.

Mr. Blair sent the following sentiment, which was drunk standing:

Andrew Jackson: His spirit still walks the earth, and pervades the ranks of his countrymen in the hour of battle.

The president of the day next offered the following sentiment, which was received with enthusiastic spirit:

F. P. Blair: The fearless champion of democracy—though absent from us in body, he is present with us in spirit.

In the name of the company, whose enthusiasm caught at once the several parts of the room, the name of John C. Rives—the friend of Blair, and the indomitable advocate of republican principles—was associated in the toast.

The president then announced the following toast:

The orator of the day: The bold and eloquent exponent of a nation's will.

This having been drunk with great applause, the Hon. Senator Dickinson delivered the following address; during the delivery of which he was repeatedly interrupted by shouts of applause:

MR. DICKINSON said:

Mr. President and fellow-citizens: I do not know how I can more appropriately respond to the kind and complimentary sentiment proposed by the venerable president, than to proceed to discharge the duties assigned me by the partiality of the executive committee of this association, or how I can more profitably occupy the brief space of time allotted to me on this occasion, or more effectually evince my high appreciation of the distinguished patriot and statesman, whose heroic deeds we are assembled to commemorate, than by requesting your attention to a theme ever present to his comprehensive mind during his long and brilliant career, and of surpassing importance to his countrymen and the world. If, in the character of the illustrious hero of New Orleans—the great, the good, the honored, and the lamented JACKSON—there was one feature which, above and beyond all others, stood out in bold relief, and challenged the admiration and regard, not only of the American people, but of the whole civilized world, it was the consecration of all his efforts, the devotion of all his mighty energies, the unreserved dedication of his whole life, to the advancement and the triumph of democratic principles. To that great end, every aspiration of his youth, every thought of his manhood, every measure of his maturer years, every dictate of his heart up to its latest pulsation, converged. And the impartial pen of history, as it traces his eventful and varied career, in peace and in war, in the cabinet or the field, in the presidential chair or the quiet shades of the Hermitage, will speak of him as pre-eminently the representative, the fearless champion, and the living embodiment of American democracy. It is then of the triumphs of democracy that I design, on the present occasion, to speak.

Many and profound speculations have, from time to time, been put forth by statesmen and political economists on the nature, objects, and designs of human government. Into these grave questions I do not propose at this time to enter, farther than may be necessary to the elucidation of the topic I have chosen to discuss. That government is the best which most effectually and economically provides for the public order and security, while at the same time it leaves every individual free to develop all the faculties and energies of his nature, whether intellectual, social, or moral, in the mode which to him shall seem best adapted to his circumstances and condition. In a representative democracy alone, are all the elements which go to make up the full and perfect idea of government, symmetrically and harmoniously combined. That degree of civilization, that general diffusion of knowledge, that advanced intellectual, moral, social, and political culture, which must necessarily precede the recognition and adoption of such a government, render the preservation of order and the security of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," an indispensable condition of that mutual compact which the purposes of society require. Originating, as such a compact, express or implied, must, in the voluntary will of an enlightened people—upborne and sustained as it must ever be by public sentiment and popular opinion—the preponderance of public and private virtue over lawless violence, depravation, and vice, must be obvious and strongly marked; and this preponderance will make itself felt and respected in every branch of the resulting government. This great object being fully secured, the functions of the body politic are best fulfilled when its operations are confined to the removal of every restriction which may impede the various channels of human industry and effort, and the opening of new and valuable avenues to the enterprise and energy of the age.

There is no more striking tendency of the period in which we live, than that of the steady and progressive advancement of the principles of democracy. Wherever, in the broad compass of Christian civilization, the light of knowledge and the blessings of general intelligence have been diffused, there the seeds of democratic liberty have been planted; and, sooner or later, the harvest will be ready and abundant. All other forms of government—all other principles of political science—all institutions, fundamentally at variance with this great development of the capacities of man for self government—must ultimately yield to the victorious energies of this pervading "movement" of the nineteenth century. Founded, as it is, in principles implanted in our common nature; resting, as it does, upon the soundest convictions of the intellect and the clearest conclusions of the unperverted judgment; and identified, as it ever must be, with the permanent prosperity and well-being of the human race—its progress can never be long retarded or seriously obstructed, when once the minds of men are opened to the truths which it unfolds, the principles it asserts, and the destinies to which it points. It contains within itself the elements of perpetuity, and its indefinite expansion is as certain and irresistible as that of the deathless spirit of man, to whose capacities it is adapted, and for whose elevation it is designed.

The broad foundations of democratic principles are based upon the assumption that governments are, and of right ought to be, established solely and exclusively for the benefit and happiness of the people; that *they* are the only legitimate source of authority; and that they possess the requisite intelligence to appreciate their true interests, the requisite wisdom to advance those interests in the mode best adapted to the promotion of their substantial welfare, and the requisite integrity so to direct and conduct the affairs of the commonwealth, as to secure "the greatest happiness of the greatest number." In accordance with these principles, all invidious distinctions, originating in considerations other than intrinsic merit, capacity, and worth, and all exclusive privileges, tending to the elevation of any class or interest to an undue preponderance in the common field of exertion, are rightly regarded as inconsistent with the genius and spirit of free institutions—repugnant to the simplicity and harmony of that system of republican equality which alone can realize our conceptions of a true democracy. Each citizen, every interest and class into which the community is or may be divided, so that its object be not in contravention to public policy or private rights, is equally entitled to the favor, protection, and paternal recognition of the government.

Whatever men "wise in their own conceit" may think proper to allege to the contrary, it is greatly to be doubted whether we, of the present day, are more wise, more enlightened, or more patriotic, than were the conscript fathers of the republic, when they devised and matured that great system of self-government under which we now live. They were practical, as well as theoretical statesmen. In separating themselves and their country from foreign dominion, they deliberately discarded all those antiquated and senseless maxims of policy which had contributed, from time immemorial, to enslave the human mind, and to counteract its highest and noblest efforts. The first annunciation of the cardinal truth, that "all men are created free and equal," struck at the foundation of all those artificial barriers which the favored few in every age had erected and maintained against the rights of the many; and the assumption that government derives its only legitimate and binding force from the consent of the governed, constituted the enduring basis upon which the whole superstructure of the new order of things was to be erected.

If we trace the history of those political conflicts which have marked the origin and progress of our institutions, from their inception to the present period, we shall find that a constant struggle has been maintained between the irrepressible tendency of the age to the attainment of the highest practicable degree of civil liberty on the one hand, and an inveterate attachment to the lingering phantom of aristocratic power on the other. The pertinacity with which the victory in this momentous contest has been disputed, has, in one memorable instance at least, at a most critical period in the annals of our country, been found in direct conflict with the paramount and peremptory claims of patriotism and public duty. It was reserved for that party, whose gifted leaders at the organization of the government strenuously urged the adoption of a consolidated and hereditary aristocracy, to be the first to abandon the standard of the republic when assailed by a foreign foe, and to leave the perils of the battle-field to be encountered, and the laurels of victory to be gathered, by those who had adopted a creed less aspiring, perhaps, and splendid, but of more practical adaptation to the exigencies of human events. Other less conspicuous instances have not been wanting, in more modern times, indicative of the invariable tendency of the aristocratic principle to range itself in determined opposition to the progress of democratic equality.

It is not to be denied, however, that, during the half century now about to close, the triumphs of the democratic principle have been clearly and strongly marked. I speak not merely of the triumphs of men or of political parties openly professing the creed of democracy; I refer to the establishment of *principles*, and the successive adoption of measures, and the general practical recognition of truths having their origin and their vitality in the great idea of democratic freedom. Men may change; political combinations may not and do not always represent, in their purity and simplicity, the principles upon which they may originally have been based; but whether sustained and supported by the leading statesmen of the republic, and the influential guides of public opinion, or left to make its way in noiseless and obscure efforts to the minds and hearts of the masses—whether the rallying-point of a great and triumphant political party, or the proscribed object of its ridicule and scorn—the cardinal principles of democracy will ever be found to commend themselves to the thoughtful, intelligent, and reflecting mind; and its hour of triumph can be but temporarily postponed. Its first great victory consisted in the recognition and adoption of that glorious charter of equal rights, privileges, and immunities which emanated from the glowing and patriotic pen of Thomas Jefferson—the declaration of our national independence. In that memorable contest with the "principalities and powers" of Great Britain, which resulted in the establishment of our free confederacy of sovereign States, the American people contended for no empty abstraction. Passing over the immediate and proximate cause of the hostilities which had commenced between the two nations, they planted themselves upon great and fundamental principles, and waged a seven-years' war for liberty—liberty of thought—liberty of action—liberty for self-government—untrammelled by any of those absurd and tyrannical restrictions by which they had hitherto been borne to the earth.

Their triumph was the first signal triumph of democracy over aristocracy in all its Protean forms. At the termination of that contest, for the first time in the history of the world, a great nation was left free to establish for itself a government, and to build up institutions such as, in the unbiassed, uncontrolled judgment of the mass of the people, acting through their immediate representatives, would most effectually enable its constituent sovereignties and the individuals of which they were composed, to accomplish the paramount objects of modern civilization—the abiding, substantial welfare of the community, and of all its parts.

The formation and adoption of the constitution of the United States, in the form in which it now exists, was the next great triumph of the democratic principle. In that convention, which assembled at Philadelphia for this purpose, were ably represented the two prominent parties of those exciting, perilous times. Good, great, and wise men were there, who, while they were agreed in the purest sentiments of patriotism, yet differed radically in their views as to the future policy of the new-born nation.

On the one hand, were ranged men of the highest order of intellectual strength—statesmen of commanding influence, astuteness, and power—who, after mature consideration and long reflection, doubted the ability of the great masses of the people to govern themselves, and saw no safety for the experimental republic which they were about to launch into being, except through a strong consolidated government, and the virtual adoption of those theories and principles of government and of legislation, under which Great Britain had risen from an obscure origin to an elevation which no other nation in ancient or modern times had been able to equal. On the other hand, stood the apostles of democracy—the fearless, incorruptible, indomitable Madison, with his invincible cohort of determined republicans, proclaiming with an eloquence which nothing could withstand, and a force of argument which none could gainsay or resist, the lofty principles of democratic equality. They urged that the period had now arrived when the capacity of man for self-government was to be tested—that the citizens of a nation which had achieved the priceless boon of freedom, in the face of difficulties and discouragements which would have appalled the most heroic statesmen and warriors of antiquity, might well claim the privilege and the right of participating fully in all the benefits to which they had thus entitled themselves and their posterity—that the shackles of despotism had long enough been imposed upon the human mind; and that the great mass of the people, of such a country as ours, needed only to be intrusted with the high functions and responsibilities of government, intelligently to assume and wisely to administer the trust thus confided to them. Fortunately for the interests of humanity and the well-being of the race, these enlightened counsels prevailed; and to the hands of the people were committed, not without fear and trembling for the result, the destinies of the only free republic on earth.

For nearly seventy years the machinery thus put in operation has continued to dispense the blessings of an orderly, quiet, and efficient government; all its parts harmoniously according with each other, and with the general welfare; until from a few hundred thousands of inhabitants sparsely scattered over the surface of thirteen States, it embraces twenty millions of freemen, densely populating twenty-nine States. The anxious doubts and trembling solicitude with which the novel experiment was first viewed, have long since given place, in every reflecting mind, to a firm and sober conviction of the entire capacity of an intelligent and enlightened people to take into their own hands the direction and administration of their government.

But the triumphs of democracy were not destined to be arrested at this point. From the nature of the several municipal and governmental institutions of Europe, privileged classes were established, recognised, and protected—the interests of the favored few were constantly and painfully in collision with those of the great mass of the people—overgrown wealth and boundless rapacity had concentrated themselves in institutions from whence they were able, at will, to control the commerce and the industry of the nation, to overawe its legislation, and to cripple and paralyze all its energies. The result of this system was the building up of an enormous fabric of external prosperity and wealth, at the expense of all that was intrinsically valuable in the civil and social polity. Looking at Great Britain as the most splendid and perfect embodiment of the aristocratic principle, we find a strong and powerful government, supported by a long line of hereditary counsellors, and surrounded by all the elements of civil and military greatness. Yet, when we come to view the people, for whose sole benefit this gorgeous pageant of king, lords, and commons should exist, how mournful and degrading is the spectacle! Destitute of all power, of all influence—deprived of every incentive to exertion beyond such as is absolutely requisite to the sustentation of life—compelled to toil all their lives long, that a few individuals may riot in luxury, and transmit their honors and their wealth to a still more worthless and impotent posterity—the toiling millions of the "Sea-girt isle" are crushed to the earth with a burden which they can neither shake off nor carry. What is it to them that her Majesty the Queen, and his royal highness the Prince, and the starred and gartered nobility of the realm, are enabled to wield the truncheon of command—to secure the "balance of power" on the continent—to keep in check Louis Philippe, subsidize the Elector Palatinate, cozen the Emperor of Austria, beard the Russian "lion in his den," and rule with despotic authority over hundreds of millions of crouching slaves in the torrid zone? What is it to them that the iron vaults of the Bank of England overflow with gold and silver; that her lordly Board of Directors, in their magnificent parlor, contract at pleasure, and expand, the sinews of wealth; or that Liverpool, and Birmingham, and Manchester are enabled to supply the world with the manufactured products of their industry. The throne, the nobility, the council chamber, the bank, the manufactory—all are alike beyond their reach; and not even a solitary reflected ray beams upon their desolate abodes from these "chambers of imagery." The withering, hopeless blight of exclusive privileges, exclusive legislation, splendid governments, has long since, and most effectually, dried up all the springs of their prosperity, happiness, and welfare. Existence—a scanty, meagre, suffering, toiling existence—is the sole boon left to them; and when we have said that by no possibility short of absolute famine or desolating pestilence could their condition be made more hopeless, more degrading, more utterly impotent and imbecile, than it has been rendered by a series of governmental measures, based upon aristocratic institutions, we have pronounced a verdict upon those institutions and their results which all coming time will ratify and approve.

And yet, had the representatives of the people of the United States followed the counsels of the eminent leaders of the federal party, in the convention which framed the constitution, our institutions would have been modelled upon those, the legitimate workings of which stand out in such bold relief upon the page of history and the records of experience. And in so far as we *have* listened to the suggestions of this policy—in so far as we *have* adopted and engrafted upon our legislation and our political economy, the theories of the European school, to that extent have we retrograded as a nation from the primitive simplicity of our free institutions. When disregarding the monitory lessons of centuries of feudal oppression, aristocratic and oppressive privileges, and partial legislation—overlooking the manifest advantages, responsibilities, and duties of our position as a free republic, uncommitted to any one of the baseless fabrications of an ignorant age, and untrammelled by any of its restrictions, we deliberately incorporated into our statute-book the principle of a protective and discriminating tariff—discriminating in favor of a particular interest, and manifestly designed to build up that interest at the expense of every other—we then and there laid the foundation of a series of legislation at variance with the most firmly established principles of a sound political economy—repugnant to the highest interests of the commonwealth—subversive of that confidence in the paternal justice of the government which should form the cornerstone of every political fabric—and fraught with the most disastrous consequences to the prosperity of all classes, including those for whose special and exclusive benefit this important measure was primarily designed; and it required half a century of earnest and persevering effort on the part of the democracy of the country, to bring back the vessel of State to its true moorings, on this point. Among the signal triumphs of that democracy, none has been more dearly purchased, or more unwillingly and reluctantly yielded, than this. Interests of vast magnitude and undoubted importance were combined and concentrated in opposition to the dictates of the profoundest political wisdom; the sound uncorrupted sense of the country was denied utterance by the unintermitted clamor of "vested rights" and overgrown chartered privileges—the lowest passions of the multitude were appealed to—national pride and national interest were thrown into the scale—and the boldest statesman quailed before the formidable array which the advocates of "protection" marshalled to the defence of their great idol. The daring iconoclast, however, has appeared; and the flag of democracy floats at length, proudly and gracefully, over the last entrenchments of the "protective policy." Great Britain and America simultaneously led the attack, and a "crowning victory," more lasting in its consequences than that of Waterloo, or even of New Orleans, has sounded the death-knell of restrictive legislation.

Long, too, and strenuous was the resistance which that overshadowing monopoly, the late Bank of the United States, interposed to the progress of democratic principles: and to no will less indomitable, to no energies less powerful, to no influence less commanding than that of the Hero of New Orleans, the chosen standard-bearer of the democratic legions, could its fierce [illegible] be made to quail, in its hour of pride and strength. Wielding at its sovereign will and pleasure the vast revenues of the republic—exercising despotic sway over its tributaries dispersed in every portion of the Union—concentrating within itself the immense pecuniary resources of our great capitals—and swaying, at its option, the energy and enterprise of the whole community—it might well assume to set at defiance the clearest expressions of the public will, and laugh to scorn the anathemas of its crushed and helpless victims. Not more firmly seated on his regal throne was the Emperor Napoleon, when, in his pride of power and of place, he distributed thrones, and principalities, and kingdoms among his obsequious followers, and "dared a world in arms," than the Emperor Nicholas, when the first blast of the trumpet of democracy summoned him to surrender the keys of the golden fortress of his strength. Not more astounding to the ears of awed and trembling Europe, was the intelligence of the overwhelming rout of Waterloo, than to the expectant hosts of democracy was the clarion peal of victory which announced the fall of the Bank of the United States—the final demolition of that towering engine of oppression which for so many years had crushed its hecatombs of victims, and had even dared to measure its fearful strength with that of the government and people of the Union itself. Not more mournful and instructive was the gloomy termination of the brilliant and meteoric career of the great conqueror of Europe, than the falling of the curtain at the close of that exciting drama which had been enacted before the American people during the eventful administration of the patriot Jackson. Posterity will do ample justice to the origin, progress, and termination of this great contest which overthrew this dragon of federalism, and terminated in separating the revenues of the government from the business of the country, by a constitutional treasury. And the impartial pen of History will record the victory thus achieved, under circumstances of unparalleled difficulty, as one of the noblest triumphs of democratic principle. All honor to him who bared his noble breast fearlessly to the encounter—whom neither flattery nor intimidation—neither false friends nor vindictive enemies—neither calumny nor vituperation, nor violence, could induce for one moment to waver from the path he had determined to pursue.

These are some of the triumphs of democracy in the organization and operation of our free institutions. If, however, in our view of this subject, we restrict ourselves to the limited sphere occupied by the general government, we shall do great injustice to this noble theme. The spirit which pervades the local legislation of the several States, is, with rare and unimportant exceptions, becoming the spirit of the age. Many of the earlier constitutions of the States were tinctured strongly with the leaven of aristocracy. The right of suffrage was not unfrequently made dependent upon the possession of a property qualification, to a greater or less extent. An obvious unwillingness to trust the people with the election of their public servants—at least to any greater extent than was absolutely requisite or peremptorily demanded by public sentiment—was manifested; and a variety of complicated devices was resorted to, with the view of obviating, as far as possible, the necessity of directly consulting the popular voice in the choice of the subordinate officers of government. In many instances, vexatious and absurd restrictions were interposed to the exercise of the right of suffrage, even on the part of those who, by the general policy of the government, were deemed qualified.

The extended experience and observation of the great majority of the people, however, and more enlightened, comprehensive, and just views on the part of the leading statesmen of the several States, have originated and matured a different policy. No restrictions, other than such as are absolutely indispensable to secure its proper exercise, are now permitted in most of the States of the confederacy to obstruct the right of suffrage. The odious property qualification has almost entirely disappeared; and it would be an unwarrantable reflection upon the strong good sense of the American people to indulge the supposition that the last remaining traces of this indefensible and obnoxious relic of antiquity will not speedily be erased from the fundamental laws of our land. The numerous barriers which, from time to time, have been interposed between the people and their servants, in the shape of executive, legislative, and judicial patronage and power, are giving way, one after the other, before the advancing spirit of the age; and New York has placed herself in the van of this great movement, by unreservedly committing to the hands of the people, by periodical and frequent elections, not only all her executive and legislative, but her judicial officers, from the lowest to the highest grade.

And now, in view of these great results—in view of the unqualified adoption by the American people of those principles of democracy which level to the earth every barrier to the onward progress of the race—which discountenance every restriction upon the free development of thought and of action—which recognise no distinctions not founded upon the immutable basis of truth and of nature—which leave to every individual the free exercise of all his faculties of body and of mind, in such channels as he may deem best adapted to his peculiar circumstances—and commit all the functions of government, executive, legislative, and judicial, to the people, through their immediate representatives—in view of the successive triumphs which the past half century has achieved in this direction, within our own favored clime, and under the benignant influences of our free institutions—what is our position, our duty, our responsibilities? Are we to stop where we are—quietly to fold our arms upon the laurels we have already gained, and leave to others, in distant lands, the completion of the great work of democratic equality, and the full realization of its fruits?—or are we once more to gird on our armor, and, rallying around the noble standard of the democratic faith, push forward our victorious legions to other fields of conquest, where a new and brilliant succession of triumphs awaits our advance!

Assuredly, the present is not the season for wavering. The times are portentous of great events. Freedom's flag has been unfurled in the eastern hemisphere, and indications are not wanting of the near approach of a contest that shall determine, for all coming time, the fate of thrones and kingdoms, principalities and powers, which for centuries have crushed and trodden down the spirit of millions of the human family. Not more surely does the gathering and concentration of the dark thunder-cloud portend the approaching conflict of the elements, than do the mighty gatherings of the masses of Europe around the chosen champions of her new-born democracy speak to all who "have ears to hear," of the speedy advent of a regenerated hemisphere. The trumpet-tones of the Liberator of Ireland have not yet ceased to vibrate upon the air, and from his consecrated tomb there shall yet go up a voice proclaiming freedom to the nations. From the sunny climes of Italy, too, the clarion-tones of triumph are borne upon the breeze; and the standard of democracy floats proudly upon the seven hills of Rome, sustained by a hand too firm to waver in the noble purposes of his heart, and protected and defended by millions of grateful and devoted worshippers. On our own borders, too, new States and Territories are annually ranging themselves around the broad standard of the American Union; and numbers, in quick succession, have been peacefully enfolded within the vast area of freedom; and events are in progress, the ultimate termination of which no one can foresee, but which, beyond all question, are destined to bring within our confederacy, and the influence of our free institutions, an accession of territory and of population vitally important to the future welfare and perpetuity of our Union. The existing war with Mexico, viewed merely as the hostile collision of two neighboring republics, whose obvious policy was uninterrupted peace, and the constant interchange of mutual good offices, is, beyond all question, seriously to be regretted.

But there are duties imposed upon a nation such as ours, of higher obligation than those which respect these considerations, important and weighty as they are. And while those who are intrusted by the people with the administration of its affairs, foreign and domestic, are prohibited from claiming from neighboring nations "anything that is not clearly right," they are imperatively required by the dictates of that self-respect which can be forfeited only at the hazard of national existence, to "submit to nothing that is clearly wrong." On the justice and the necessity of the pending war with Mexico, the constituted authorities of the nation have deliberately, solemnly, and repeatedly passed—the sovereign people have spoken; and he must be wilfully and hopelessly blind to the indications of public sentiment who affects to doubt that the great majority of the people entertain sentiments on this head corresponding with, and even in advance of, those of their representatives in the several departments of the government. So strong, unequivocal, and decided, indeed, is this feeling throughout the country at large, that few—very few—even of the most inveterate and determined opponents of the democracy and its honored and chosen organ, the President of the United States, are found so rash and adventurous as to endeavor to interpose the slightest obstacle to the continued prosecution of the war.

To rally around the administration of our choice, and efficiently and actively to sustain that administration in its efforts to vindicate the honor and dignity, the rights and interests of the country "through evil and through good report" is, then, the paramount duty, and will constitute the cherished obligation, of every democratic citizen. In vain will the choicest blood of the land have been poured forth like water in the valleys and mountains, the plains and passes of Mexico—in vain will the star-spangled banner have been planted by our gallant chieftains upon the fortresses and heights of Monterey, Palo Alto, Buena Vista, Cerro Gordo, Vera Cruz, and Churubusco—in vain shall our invincible troops have penetrated, through myriads of opposing spears, even to the ancient "Halls of the Montezumas" from whence they may dictate the terms of peace to the faithless and treacherous Mexicans—if, with the dearly-bought prize, already within our grasp, we are voluntarily to relinquish the advantages of our position; to abandon to some more determined, and less scrupulous conqueror, that territory we have so fairly and so nobly won; and retire from the glorious theatre of so many victories, only that we may continue to be insulted with impunity, and robbed without the fear of redress by our pusillanimous and cowardly neighbor.

No, my friends, not such, I trust, is the destiny in store for the American people and its government. They who would persuade us that territorial extension is but another name for national weakness, have failed to read aright the lesson of our past history—have but partially comprehended the great problem of democracy. When with but thirteen States, ranging along our Atlantic coast, we adventured upon the experiment of a confederated democratic government, we were solemnly warned against the inefficacy of a bond of Union comprehending so large and varied an extent of territory. When one after another, in long succession, State after State was added to our original domain, until the vast region between the Atlantic and the Mississippi was occupied by a restless and enterprising population, the political Cassandras still harped upon the same mournful theme: and still the Union survived. When the great "father of waters" was passed, and the vast wilderness beyond, even to the verge of the Rocky mountains, was penetrated, and millions upon millions of acres of fertile territory were brought within the confines of our confederacy, the same monotonous, lugubrious chant was heard: and still the pillars of the Union stood firm as a rock. When, "at one fell swoop," the vast area of Oregon and Texas was "annexed," the predictions of the approaching dissolution of the confederacy were numberless and loud; and yet our glorious Union stands—ay, and *shall* stand, and tower proudly above the nations of the earth, long after the hoarse notes of the timid and fearful "architects of ruin" shall have been forgotten and consigned to an oblivion from whence there shall be no resurrection.

"Moored in the rifted rock,
Proof to the tempest's shock,
The firmer it roots him, the ruder it blows."

The existence of the American Union, and the prosperity and well-being of its inhabitants—its rank in the scale of nations, its greatness and its power, are dependent not upon the extent of surface it occupies, the number of States and Territories comprised within its boundaries or its geographical position, but upon the intelligence and virtue of its inhabitants—upon their adherence to the tried principles of that democratic faith in which it had its origin, and upon the fidelity with which they shall cherish those lofty aspirations and that unbending purity and integrity of purpose, which have conducted the nation to its present high estate. Let the American people but inscribe upon their banner the inspiring motto of "freedom, equality, democracy"—freedom to each and every citizen to accomplish his just purposes, and secure his proper objects in his own untrammelled, unrestricted way—whether those purposes and objects are the acquisition, the distribution, or the consumption of wealth, or the attainment of any other end not at variance with the paramount or equal rights or interests of others—equality of privilege in all the varied avenues of industry, honors, and distinctions, and democratic institutions, democratic measures, and democratic aims. Let these great objects be written "in letters of living light" upon the triumphant banner of the "great republic;" and if we are true to ourselves, true to our destiny, and true to the world, there exists not on the American continent the nation or the people whom we might not gladly welcome into the ample folds of the American Union! The principles upon which our government is constructed are broad enough to meet the wants and insure the well-being of the most extended territory and population. The basis upon which our free institutions rest is sufficiently comprehensive to embrace every variety of soil, of climate, and of interest. And if those principles are founded in immutable truth, and that basis rests upon the adamantine rock of right, why should we fear to extend the ægis of our noble confederacy wherever its ample shield may be required for the advancement of human civilization and the protection of human rights?

We seek not conquest nor would we desire, by physical force, to impose our institutions upon an unwilling people. Nor, on the other hand, will we permit the despots, either of the Old or the New World, in Europe or America, to interpose between us and that nation or people, that State or territory, which wills to unite its destiny with ours. If, in the just assertion of our indubitable rights, we are forced to draw the sword for the protection of the highest or the meanest of our citizens, for the chastisement of a long-continued career of insolence, duplicity, overbearing arrogance and settled malignity, we will not return that sword to its scabbard until it "shall have accomplished that whereto it was sent." And if, in the prosecution of such a contest, the opportunity shall be afforded for the acquisition, without derogation to the just rights or interests of other powers, of additional territory, valuable ports and harbors, and increased facilities for our manufactures, our agriculture or our commerce, and of extending civil liberty and good-will to men, we will not hesitate to avail ourselves of these advantages, as some indemnity, however inadequate, for the blood of our slaughtered countrymen, and the expenditure of our nation's treasure.

Who are those countrymen, and by whom was that treasure contributed? Who are the men, and from whence do they come, who have braved all the perils of the Mexican battle-fields, and the still greater perils of the Mexican clime? And whence have been derived the sinews of that protracted contest which has been so gloriously maintained? The conquerors of Mexico—the slain on her battle-fields—the "noble army of martyrs" to her pestilential atmosphere—were American citizens, who, at their country's call, rushed to the defence of the common standard of the Union—from the east and from the west—from the north and from the south; and from the common treasury of that Union, furnished by contributions in equal proportions from every section, whether north or south, were supplied the means of sustaining the war. Let us, then, remember that we are brethren of a common household, and spurn from us, as unworthy of the catholic spirit of democracy, all subjects calculated to destroy that political union, without which we may become disjointed and broken, and fall an easy prey to our ancient and unscrupulous foe.

Keeping in view, then, the fundamental principles of American democracy, of its time-honored usages—remembering always that to us is intrusted as a sacred and inalienable deposite, the welfare and the prosperity of the only free republic on earth—it becomes us jealously to guard the battlements of that constitution which our fathers in their wisdom framed, and the men of the revolution sanctioned, and the patriots and sages of a purer age have transmitted to us, their descendants and representatives. There are those in our midst—in numbers and in influence far from despicable—formidable, many of them, from their weight of character, versatility of talent, and extent of resources—who would look without emotion upon the soiled escutcheon of our nation's honor; who would see its hitherto unblemished standard prostrate, and trailing in the dust; who would arrest and turn back the brilliant career of victory and of glory which our brave and gallant troops have so nobly achieved, if, through these means, ulterior objects, comprehending the ultimate downfall of democratic principles, and the re-establishment of an aristocracy of wealth, exclusiveness, and power, might be accomplished. There are those in our midst—gathered within the ample folds of a political party claiming to be the exclusive representatives of the popular sentiment—"wolves in sheep's clothing," who look with undisguised apprehension and alarm upon the advancing progress and successive triumphs of democratic principles and democratic measures—who clamor loudly for the restoration of restrictive systems of foreign and domestic trade—for a national regulator of the currency and exchanges—for a restricted suffrage—for the peremptory and contemptuous exclusion from the most valuable and cherished rights of citizenship of all not born upon our soil—who declaim against the capacity of the people to make choice of their own servants and agents, for the transaction of their own affairs—and who would transplant to our favored shores the worn-out, antiquated, condemned systems of trans-atlantic government. It is for us to determine, in full view of all the consequences to ourselves, to our beloved country, and to posterity, whether these men, and such as these, shall grasp the helm of the cherished ark of our political safety; or whether, confiding in the patriotism, the wisdom, and the integrity of the men who have guided the ship of State thus far on its course in accordance with the principles and the maxims of Jefferson, of Madison, and of Jackson, we will accept the splendid destiny which the future has in store, and secure for our children, and our children's children, the inestimable blessings of liberty and equality.

I will close, Mr. President, by proposing the following sentiment:

"*A more perfect Union*:" Embracing the entire North American continent.

The president then announced the following toasts prepared by the committee of arrangements:

George M. Dallas, Vice President of the United States: Endeared to the people by his promptitude in dissolving unholy ties in the Senate.

Loud and prolonged cheering, and calls for Mr. DALLAS, who rose and said:

Mr. President and fellow-citizens: While I thank you sincerely for the complimentary notice you have taken of me, it is not my purpose to reply by any reference to what personally affects myself. I might address you at some length on the topic to which you have referred: but this is not an appropriate occasion; and in response to your sentiment, I will endeavor to give you something much more worthy of a generous acceptance. [Cheers.]

I desire, Mr. President, to recall to the republicans, who constitute this numerous and imposing assemblage, one to whom the democracy of America owes much—to whom that democracy can never hesitate to award a just measure of honor and of gratitude; and whose career of public service was strikingly linked with that of the great man who made forever glorious the day we are commemorating. [Cheers.] I knew him while yet myself extremely young, and was never other than his disciple, admirer, and friend, up to the hour of his lamented death. With the *Hero of this day*, he stood shoulder to shoulder in the hall of national legislation, resisting the encroachments upon the rights of our adopted fellow-citizens through the agency of the alien and sedition laws. With *him* he exultingly welcomed the pride of Virginia—the resolutions of 1798. At *his* side he passed through the perils and shared in the triumph of the battle at New Orleans; and with *him* he partook in the toils and achievements of an administration to which, as democrats, we delight in recurring. Let me add, that his name is one cherished by every philanthropist, and honored by every patriot. Mr. President, as the best return I can make for your flattering notice of myself, let me offer this heartfelt sentiment:

The memory of Edward Livingston: The statesman and the sage—the aid in the camp, and the associate in the councils, of his immortal friend Andrew Jackson. [Cheers.]

James Buchanan: The able diplomatist, accomplished statesman, and eloquent debater. His long and valuable services in the cause of the democracy have endeared him to an intelligent and grateful people.

When the long and loud cheering which followed the announcement of this toast ceased, the president read the following letter and sentiment from Mr. Buchanan:

WASHINGTON, January 11, 1848.

SIR: I deeply regret that indisposition will deprive me of the privilege and the pleasure of attending the supper to be given at Jackson Hall this evening by the Democratic Association in commemoration of the victory of New Orleans.

Glorious as were the achievements of Andrew Jackson on the field of battle, they yet yield in importance to his civil triumphs as President of the United States. The Bank of the United States was a more formidable enemy to our free institutions than British bayonets. In destroying this corrupting and dangerous institution, which existed in violation of the constitution, and in restoring the just interpretation of that sacred instrument, he has conferred enduring blessings upon his country. But this is not an occasion for a long letter. I shall, therefore, conclude by requesting you to present, on my behalf, the following sentiment to the assembled company.

The great Democratic party of the country: Upon the continued ascendency of its time-honored principles depend, under Heaven, the success and perpetuity of our free institutions.

Yours, very respectfully,
JAMES BUCHANAN.

JOHN E. NORRIS, esq.,
Corresponding Secretary, &c.

Robert J. Walker, Secretary of the Treasury: The welcome Tax Gatherer, and the Wise Financier.

The president next read the following letter and sentiment from Mr. Walker, which, as well as the toast above, was received with rounds of applause:

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12, 1848.

SIR: As continued illness deprives me of the pleasure of accepting your kind invitation to the supper to be given this evening by your association, in honor of the glorious victory of the 8th of January, 1815, permit me to request you to present the following sentiment from yours, most respectfully,
R. J. WALKER.

JOHN E. NORRIS, esq., Corresponding Secretary
of Jackson Democratic Association.

Annexed or conquered territories: No State by legislation, past or prospective, nor Congress by resolutions or enactments, direct or declaratory, can force the peculiar local institutions of any State, north or south, into such Territories, against the will of their people, in violation of prior existing laws, and of the fundamental principle of self-government.

William L. Marcy, Secretary of War: He keeps the sword bright, and the grape ready. [Cheers.]

John Y. Mason, Secretary of the Navy: The old salt, who keeps his sails trimmed, and his decks cleared for action. [Cheers.]

Cave Johnson, Postmaster General: His messengers the lightning of heaven, and his realm the republic of letters.

Major HOBBIE, First Assistant Postmaster General, being called out, after the applause which followed the announcement of this toast, said he rose with great reluctance; but the voice of the stormy multitude demanded it; [cheers;] and he felt it an honor to be called on to acknowledge a compliment to one who so fully came up to the idea of the poet—

"An honest man's the noblest work of God." [Cheers.]

Although under peremptory orders to make a speech, it had so happened that he had not even heard the toast. [Laugh. Here the toast was read again.] Mr. H. said Mr. Johnson was democrat enough for any republic, and was, moreover, a faithful public officer. That he was popular, he knew would be denied by those whose notions of popularity excluded the idea of fidelity to the law and the observance of economy. A celebrated English candidate promised, if elected, "to give everybody everything." Cave Johnson (he said) was not that sort of a man. He enlarged on this idea, to the great amusement of the company, especially in his allusions to the railroads and expresses, and to what the condition of the department would be, and the reputation of its head, if administered under this pretended popular principle.

At length he said: Mr. President, I cannot forget that I am on this floor as a representative of a citizen of that State that gave us the hero who furnished us the occasion for this commemoration. To speak of that hero, or that occasion, becomes, then, my duty, to say nothing of my desire. I see in the person of the president, I think, a member of the Jackson Monument Committee. [The president gave assent.] I allude to the circumstance as an introduction to the sentiment I shall offer, and as making more appropriate the remarks with which I shall precede it.

It has so happened, sir, that I have seen the column of the Vendome—the most magnificent of monuments erected to man—constructed of the cannon taken by Bonaparte in his various battles, and blazoned all over with inscriptions of his exploits and victories. It is surmounted by a statue of him who, under the little cocked hat, and large surtout, presents a striking personation of the most prodigious power, in agencies and in events, that ever fell to the fortune of one man to create and to wield. I gazed on it with curiosity and admiration; but as my attention tired, it was succeeded by another vision. The place and the pillar faded from my view, and in my mind's eye I beheld another column rising in simple majesty in the clear skies of my own country. Around its summit played the light of brilliant qualities, of heroic deeds, of civic renown, of eminent public services. [Cheers.] I looked at its base, and saw that it rested deep and strong on the moral, domestic, and religious virtues. Again I cast my eye to the summit, and lo! it had risen like a spire, until it touched the heavens, and he whom I had contemplated as a hero, I beheld as a dying but triumphant Christian. [Long-continued cheers.] Gone was the military mantle—gone the civic robe—and arrayed in the snowy vestments that bespeak the whiteness within, he passed away, a just man made perfect, into the pure empyrean. That was Andrew Jackson. [Renewed applause.]

I turned, and there stood the column of the Vendome, 146 feet high, and no higher; and there stood the man of destiny upon it, incorporated with the belligerent metal beneath him. I could raise him no higher in my imagination. I recollected that long before his heart had ceased to beat—whilst yet it throbbed with the fiery pulses of ambition, it had become cold and insensate to the sympathies of the republican heart of the world. Those sympathies had been lavishingly given when he was the leader of republican armies, and flaunted their triumphant banners in the pallid faces of the kings of Europe. But he withdrew his heart from fellowship and enjoyment in those sympathies—he ascended a throne. From that he went to his island prison in the southern Atlantic, and thence to his grave; and the last words of his lips indicated no higher aspiration than to be at the head of the army. How different from the dying moments at the Hermitage! which, in my fancy, leave even yet a lingering halo around the shades of that peaceful retreat.

The intellectual power of Jackson was of a kindred order with that of the mighty Corsican. God had given to each that faculty he has vouchsafed to but few mortals—of accomplishing the higher ratiocinations of the mind with the quickness of intuition; of controlling other minds as with magnetic attraction; and of concentrating upon the purpose or the act in hand, his heart, mind, body, and soul, with burning intensity. [Cheers.] But Jackson's career was under the dominion of principles, emanating from that lofty daring and disinterested love for his kind that placed him ever on the side of the oppressed, the assailed, and the wronged, whether in the instance of an individual, of his country, or the masses of his fellow-citizens;—in short, he was the champion of man, and never sunk that character to become the aggrandizer of himself or his family. [Cheers.] He performed his part with perfectness and consistency to the close. He had no regretful desires to play it over again, but awaited with ardent confidence that blissful translation that his faith promised, and his trusting soul anticipated. My sentiment is:

The Jackson Monument Committee: May they bear in mind that the Hero of New Orleans was the Statesman of Washington and the Christian of the Hermitage.

Nathan Clifford, Attorney General: He stands at the bar of the nation, and speaks in the voice of the people. [Cheers.]

Levi Woodbury: He soared above the receipt of custom, and the scales of justice cannot hold him. [Cheers.]

Martin Van Buren: The father of the ten-hour system, and workingman's friend. [Prolonged cheering.]

Brig. Gen. John A. Quitman: He laid the blows so thick upon the Mexicans, that they cried, "Quitman." [Cheers.]

Brig Gen Shields: The buckler, tempered by democracy, is brightened by the Mexican bullet.

To this toast, which was received with the most enthusiastic cheerings—

Gen SHIELDS responded from the president's table, saying, first, a word of acknowledgment in behalf of Major Gen. Quitman, for the sentiment just proposed to his name, and then returning thanks in his own name.

Formerly a resident of this District, he had returned, and stood now among his old friends. [Cheers.] Always a democrat, [cheers,] recently a soldier, [cheerings continued,] but, putting on the coat of a soldier, he had lost none of the spirit of a democrat. [Protracted cheerings.] He regretted that neither the occasion nor the hour would permit him to return thanks, such as his feelings would induce, for the compliment he had just received. The demonstrations of respect and honor with which he had been everywhere received since his arrival from Mexico, he was not vain enough to consider as belonging to himself alone. He recognised these proceedings as the testimonials of a proud, a noble-hearted people, awarded to one of those men whose good fortune it has been to return from the army which has been recently called upon to sustain the rights and honor of the nation on the fields of Mexico. [Cheers.] These demonstrations he could receive only in that way. It would be but vanity in him or any other man to appropriate to himself more than this. For, regarding himself and those around him here in this hall, dedicated to the memory of the noblest soldier and the greatest man of the age, whose rare qualities as a hero and statesman, though gone into history, were yet stored deep in the hearts of his countrymen, which, while he lived, it seemed to be his mission to stamp with the im-