Eulogy

ON THE

LIFE, CHARACTER, AND PUBLIC SERVICES

OF THE LATE

EX-PRESIDENT POLK:

DELIVERED AT THE REQUEST OF THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES

OF THE

CITY OF BOSTON,

JULY 25, 1849.

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honor,” even “by the locks.” He was elected a member of the State Legislature in the year 1823, and two years afterwards a member of Congress. Then I first had the pleasure of forming a personal acquaintance with him, and with the faithful partner of his sorrows and joys, at that time in the bloom of youth, buoyant with hope, and inspiring all around her with respect for her amiability and virtues. She was a new star to help guide his future destiny. I have seen her since, more matronly and yet more adorned by the graces, devoted to the discharge of the appropriate duties in her high sphere, winning the admiration of thousands by the marvellous propriety of her manner, and returning with dignity to a more secluded life with a long vista before her of friendships to be brightened, domestic affections cultivated, new scenes in both continents to be visited,* and hosts of comforts and luxuries to be collected around the downhill of life, and enjoyed so as doubly to bless her in company with him to whom in early love she had bound her mortal destiny for weal or woe. What a change has since come over this paradise by the calamity we now deplore!

And though she may possess firmness of nerve and religious resignation to bear with becoming fortitude, though not without anguish and torture of heart, the severance of the closest of earthly ties, she must have the sympathies of us all in the desolating change

* Mr. and Mrs. Polk contemplated travelling in Europe next autumn.
from her high hopes and enjoyments, dashed at once into fragments; and, in their stead, sickness and death, sack-cloth and ashes, the sad funeral drapery and the chill damps of the tomb.

Very soon after entering Congress, Mr. Polk began to be appreciated for his untiring devotion to business. He was distinguished also for care in his examinations of important subjects, and for promptitude and spirit in debate. His speaking was always animated and usually effective. But, what in such a practical body often goes beyond mere oratory—he soon acquired the character of "a safe man." Every one knew, likewise, beforehand, where to find him. He belonged to that school in politics, where the strictest construction of the constitution prevails, and through his whole career endeavoured to carry out its views. He was no ignis fatuus, at any period of his public life; but firm, steadfast, armed with what he believed to be well grounded principles—and with courage no less than fortitude to stand by to the last what he had concluded to be right. These qualities, ere long, ensured high confidence; and confidence was speedily followed by farther honors no less than esteem.

He became placed at the head of some of the most important committees in the House, and when associated with that of Ways and Means, in 1834 and 1835, the most working, if not most responsible, station in Congress, I enjoyed in the treasury department still closer opportunities of witnessing his careful and practical turn of mind.
While anything remained to be known for illustrating his measures—anything to repel assaults on them—he was indefatigable in becoming possessed of it. The patient inquiry, the wide research, the midnight lamp, the earliest dawn were all put in requisition.

The committees over which he presided were soon more distinguished than usual. Indeed, the committees of Congress are always the great instruments of its power, and their chairmen are even more to the committees than are the latter to Congress. They are its eyes, ears and hands, and without diligence and talents in them, system and punctuality in the head, and especially in crises such as he had to encounter, in vain may Paul preach, or Apollos water.

Appreciating and anxious to reward qualities like these, which Mr. Polk had exhibited as Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Relations, and of Ways and Means, the house early marked him as a fit person to preside over its deliberations. No station in the government is more imposing or influential in legislation than that of presiding officer of a popular body to make and unmake laws for a great and free people.

After one failure to choose him when nominated as a candidate, he was at last, near the close of 1835, elected speaker of the House of Representatives. This elevated him to the regulation in debate and in the disposal of responsible business of one of the most difficult assemblies which the world has ever known. He was surrounded by watchful opponents. He was
criticised by the disappointed. He met envy in one quarter. He encountered morbid jealousy in others. But it was good for him to be thus exposed, as he was undoubtedly thus made more vigilant and industrious. It was useful to the country, also, as it thus became better served. It was not wrong, or to be lamented, so far as regards even assailants, when not overstepping the bounds of truth and courtesy.

Opposition thus exercised evinces independence, freedom of thought and moral courage;—and without these the administration and legislation in a republic are likely to become as degenerate as in a despotism.

But he came out of the fiery furnace unscorched, and triumphing over all obstacles, after his two terms as speaker expired in 1839, he retired to private life with the presage of higher honors awaiting him in the distance.

Foretold even then the future greatness which began to brighten his horizon, enjoying in advance and in hope some foretaste of its glories, how would his cheek have blanched and his heart faltered if not fainted, had some guardian angel, in the midst of his joyous perspective, whispered like a seer of olden time, that its toils and anxieties were to sow the seeds of death and hasten him to an untimely grave.

Notwithstanding our natural solicitude to know the future, it is truly fortunate that the curtain of fate remains, beforehand, undrawn, or we should shrink back from many laudable efforts, seeing often
a path before us that leads but to the tomb—or at least to pains—desertion of friends—ruined health and broken fortunes, where all, while shrouded from view, was forced by hope to appear bright with enjoyment and honors.

Mr. Polk was not allowed long to remain in privacy. He was soon elected Governor of Tennessee after a stormy canvass, which, as in the west, being conducted often in person "from the stump," depends much for success on adroitness in debate and ability and fulness of information to ward off victoriously the blows of a skilful antagonist.

All this was united in him. But from a combination of causes, which it is not necessary nor fit to discuss in their political bearings before this mixed audience, Mr. Polk was in another contest for Governor defeated. Yet, Antæus like, when falling to the earth, he seemed to rise again with renewed strength, and aided by sympathies of friends and by new agitating questions in the general government, as well as divisions among those friends in respect to former favorites, he was in 1844, in the democratic convention of that year, unexpectedly at so early a day, honored by the nomination to the highest station in the gift of a free people.

His election took place in the following winter, at the early age of forty-nine, being the youngest ever elevated to that important office. He entered on its duties on the 4th of March ensuing, amidst new responsibilities, new labors, new dangers, new trials of
mind and nerves. The manner in which he met these, may not in all respects, though harmonized as we are by death, be viewed in the same light by different parties, nor by all of any party. But on an occasion like this—amidst great scenes within our great common country—there is room enough for all to move on, without elbowing or jostling in political strife. Some things are certain. The success which crowned his efforts few will deny. The eventful character of his administration, and the critical exigencies with which it had to deal, all must concede. And where such an uniform triumph attended his measures, variegated as they were in character, though accident and the exertions of others might contribute something to the result, it is hardly philosophical to attribute all of it to them. Certain predominant qualities in the pilot at the helm in any vessel, and much more the vessel of state, will tell throughout the voyage. They will break out in every gale, every peril. One kind of genius, and that most fruitful of success in life, is the power of concentrating all the faculties on the business in hand; and this Mr. Polk manifestly possessed in an eminent degree, in relation to the affairs of public life. A never failing and ever useful accompaniment to it in him was sound common sense—that sterling, practical view of men and things which is taken by the millions, and alone can move the millions. To this, in the Presidential chair, Mr. Polk added uncommon industry, vigilance, fidelity,
and much disregard of what he deemed captious cen-
sure, whether from friend or foe.

His public state papers, without evincing remark-
able features of rhetoric or style, are always well
argued, intelligible and full; and his speeches while
in that situation, and especially during his northern
tour, two years since, when many of you had the
happiness to listen to him, were very appropriate.

Without aiming either in dress or manners to be
a man of fashion or finished elegance, his intercourse
with other public functionaries, whether foreign or
domestic, was easy and dignified, and his deportment,
towards the community generally, cordial. He never
seemed to forget that he sprung from the ranks of the
people, that he belonged to a government of the peo-
ple, and that he was but a servant of the people. In
every station which he had filled, as well as in the last
and highest, his morality likewise was without a stain,
and though not a professor of religion till the closing
scenes of life, he was uniform in paying respect to its
principles, and in attendance on public worship. This
attendance was usually with the Presbyterian Church,
though he received on his death-bed the rites of bap-
tism from an Episcopal Methodist Clergyman.

In his last elevated office, with such talents and
such impressive traits in his character without dero-
gating from the very successful efforts of his cabinet
ministers in their respective spheres, it must be but
justice to say, that, independent of his constitutional
responsibility for their measures, and hence his rightful and useful control over them, he could not but have exercised other influences less direct on every important executive proceeding. The impulses of his rare combination of qualities of head and heart being generally felt by those around him, must, for instance, have contributed to caution in foreign negotiations, to watchfulness in conducting a distant and dangerous war, and to promptitude and energy in meeting the great financial difficulties of the crisis. His daily life became a daily example to those more closely connected with him, but it was so by its strong moral influence rather than by any brilliant or dazzling energies of a master spirit. Such a moral influence, constant, strong and wide, is durable instead of transient in its consequences—imprints its footsteps into the rock rather than the sands of time—and is more useful, by its abiding results to the community, than all the coruscations of mere genius. In short, moral influence thus advances the social condition, as well as the political, and forwards fast the progress, the civilization and best hopes of humanity, while other influences too often retard the whole, and cast many a blight over the pages of history. Can it be, then, that, possessed of this great influence, accompanied as it was by the large official patronage attached to his station, and by experience in public life so extensive—can it be too much to claim for him that the remarkable success which attended his chief magistracy de-
pended on something more than mere accidental causes or the assistance conferred by others? Reflect a moment on the length and breadth of that success. How much was accomplished within so brief a period? A mere outline of it, the most naked skeleton, will show as many great events as sometimes spread over a century of history.

Indiscriminate eulogy is without value or point; and hence at the risk of being thought by some not sufficiently enthusiastic, it has been and will be my endeavor "nought to extenuate," and to hold the mirror up faithfully to the truth and nature of the leading features in his admirable character and remarkable administration. I do not consider it as a part of his fame that he planned many of these great events. He did not enter on his high station with a magazine in his mind, full of magnificent and imposing measures to be attempted.

Though a young man, comparatively, and from the enterprising west, his character was rather wary than rash—rather to follow than devise—rather to meet, resolutely, difficulties and dangers, when thrust on him, than to project them, or to indulge in novel designs or to court deeds of danger and blood. Not like the hero who sleeps near him at the Hermitage, born to carry conquests among hostile savages, or meet on our shores an invading foe, and drive back profaners of our soil, but rather a civilian, formed to husband carefully and defend well what others have
bravely won. Thus, while president, he found himself in a most eventful age; but it seemed made so by others more than himself. He added, to be sure, something to the great deeds and stirring incidents of the era, but this was rather forced on him than sought. His ambition was more for the calm than the tempest; and his reputation will rest chiefly on the successful manner in which he managed the vessel of state in the various perils which he was compelled to face.

Thus, for a moment, as to Oregon. The course of events had produced a crisis almost unavoidable. Her limits and exclusive occupation were, therefore, under his administration settled. Though long before agitated—even a quarter of a century—yet a regular government by the United States was, under him, first flung beyond the Rocky Mountains, and their laws and institutions first carried formally and fully to the waves of the Pacific. Grant, that all was not obtained by his arrangement which the sanguine hoped; grant, as was the conviction of many, that our rights to 54° 40' were clear; grant, that it was on several accounts desirable to stretch our limits to their utmost verge; yet can it be said that the peace of the country with a great kindred power, and the exclusive possession and settlement and growth of twelve or thirteen degrees of latitude, and under the reign of established laws rather than the rifle or the tomahawk, was not a high national object, desirable to be accomplished speedily, though at the expense of some
territory. All must admit that, on a subject most sensitive, further painful collisions were thus obviated—doubts and difficulties of many years standing closed, and the prospect of future war between races almost fraternal, thrown off, and it is hoped, for ages. Next behold the annexation of Texas, finished under his auspices. Though it is conceded far from having originated with him, yet this measure was, during his administration, carried into complete effect—consolidated. She was not then merely preparing to come into the Union—anxious and negotiating—but was actually brought in, and her representatives mingled with ours in the halls of legislation—her troops bleeding with ours on the field of glory, and her lone star united in our political galaxy forever.

The importance of this measure, thus perfected under Mr. Polk's administration, can only be appreciated by the vindication it has afforded to the right of self-government; and the large addition it has made to our territory—no less than to our securities in future difficulties—and the hostile weapons both in peace and war it has wrested from our opponents, and the vast markets for our manufactures it has opened, and the new employments presented for our navigation. Superadded to all this has been the acquisition of California and new Mexico—larger in territory than half our old thirteen states combined.

This has been more exclusively a measure of his administration. There have been added by it to our
public domain and to the Union—lands broad enough to support a nation—rich enough in gold for half a world—harbors, capacious enough for whole navies—and almost indispensable for safety and supplies to the greatest whaling marine of the globe. The chief regret, mingled with this, may be the inability as yet to agree on any but a military government over this great acquisition, and which makes a strong demand on our liberality and exertions, as it already has done on our sympathies, to establish the law of the Union over what has been purchased by means of the money and blood of this consecrated league of fraternal states. Such remote regions are likely soon to become alienated, if not duly protected and bound to us—by benefits and improvements, such as are necessary to their growth in commerce and close attachment to the Union, even though requiring an Isthmus railroad, or one spanning half the continent in higher latitudes, and which are so much stronger ties than any of mere paper or parchment.

Besides these mementoes of his public career, as president, has been a war unsought, but waged—brilliant—chivalrous by sea as well as land; and among its memorable victories not the least—fortified towns conquered, and a capital subdued—renowned as the seat of empire under the Montezumas, and though situated over 7,000 feet above the ocean—and hundreds of miles from its shores—yet all accomplished under orders, supplies and reinforcements from
a distance equal to a quarter of the diameter of the globe. It is these extraordinary triumphs, under Mr. Polk's administration which, however as party politicians we may differ as to their usefulness or justification, help to give a character to him and that administration in all coming time. They have astonished Europe, and carried the fame of the American flag into both hemispheres higher and wider than in any former age. Not the least among its glories has been—forbearance to the fallen, the conquerors bringing away scarcely any spoils of war, except one, perhaps the choicest in history, the reputation of showing great humanity to the vanquished, and rare moderation in victory. What is no less extraordinary in a republic, peace followed under the same chief magistrate by whose recommendation war was declared. The victorious chieftains, also, who more immediately won the laurels, have withdrawn to their homes and to peaceful duties as quietly as they would retire from a church service or funeral obsequies—rather than attempting to turn their swords against their common country, or like the Alexanders and Tamerlances of antiquity, to ravage other unoffending nations. Say nothing debatable then in a party view, as to all these memorials of his fame or the different lights and shadows in which they appear to different minds—say nothing as to several important changes in the laws on financial and industrial subjects, beside postal arrangements by sea, during the exciting term of his presidency, and which
time will permit us hardly to enumerate, much less discuss—say only, that all these striking events in peace and war, requiring ages to develop their full results, have happened, and this in the brief space of four years, and enough is said to hand down to after ages the renown of him who guided the whole. History will do credit to events like these, or become no better than romance. And though it may not paint him without faults, as errors of some kind are inseparable from the lot of humanity—yet it will do justice to his intentions, however at times misled—it will yield to him a most pacific temper, however forced into war, and will commend him for vigilance, activity and most useful and exemplary habits, in conducting the whole, whatever severity of criticism has occasionally been showered on him, and more especially for his unexpected vetoes. Mr. Polk thus lived and thus triumphed until the period arrived for his return once more to the shades of private life. He thus lived and triumphed till his measure of patriotism was full even to overflowing, till he had done almost everything in the proudest records of patriotism, except to die for his country,—*pro patria mori,*—till, in short, the era arrived for him to bid farewell to all official greatness, and hasten home to what, alas, soon became his long, last home. He went amidst the thanks and honors of a grateful people, and doubtless in the expectation of many years of the most choice varieties of bliss that have survived the Fall.
His return was almost one continued triumphal procession, and though seeming to us, short-sighted mortals, as too quickly afterwards removed from the living, yet he died only when it is probable he would have lived no longer for the public service, but chiefly for his family and hosts of friends.

Like two of his distinguished predecessors, as president, he was childless; but surrounded with almost every other blessing, and amidst all the solaces of his calm retreat, so deceitful are the promises of life, that in little more than three brief months he has been summoned to the dread realities of another world.

"What shadows we are," may be seen most impressively in his fate, so soon to be obliged to part with so many treasured hopes and enjoyments, and pass that "bourne whence no traveller returns."

He does not seem to have been unaware of his danger from the first approach of the king of terrors. He had been admonished on this same subject, by the same insidious foe, when on his visit among us in 1847. Long before the fatal blow was struck, he had felt his frame attenuated, and his hair thinned and whitened by its repeated attacks, added to his severe official labors. But he met his fate with fortitude and resignation. In the same house where his early friend and instructor, Mr. Grundy, lived and expired, he sunk slowly to his last rest with unclouded faculties, amidst the consolations of our holy religion, and with the sympathies of troops of personal friends, and the
prayers and tears of a widowed mother and a heartbroken wife.

He sleeps now, where flattery, if indulged in, could not "soothe the dull cold car of death." But it is only just to add that a nation laments his premature departure—a nation is proud of his name and fame—a nation will embalm his worth—a nation unites in paying the last sad honors to his memory. And while the authorities of this ancient and honorable city contribute their share in the ceremonies, the credit of it will be reflected on them no less than on him; and their liberality and magnanimity will help to illustrate both their own character and the high worth of the deceased, considering that it is able so to win their respect and draw forth their eulogies.
Our Father who art in heaven; with thee are the issues of life, and in thy hand are the keys of death; Thou raisest up one and castest down another, and teachest all to accomplish, as an hireling, their day. Thou sittest upon the throne of the universe, and performest thy pleasure among the armies of heaven and the children of men—none being able to stay thy hand, or having authority to say, What doest thou?

Assembled as we are on the present occasion, without regard to our peculiar views of national policy, but simply in our capacity as fellow citizens, having common hopes and privileges, common enjoyments and responsibilities, to testify our respect for one who, by the suffrages of his countrymen, has occupied various important stations in the government,—we implore thy blessing to rest upon us. May we be enabled to take a correct view of that afflictive dispensation which has given occasion for these funeral obsequies; may we rightly interpret the lessons which, by this painful event, thou dost inculcate.

We here see one, who, after occupying the highest position of honor and power in the gift of the nation, and one of the most exalted stations in the world, withdrawing from the excitement and responsibilities of public, to the calm enjoyment of private life. But alas! instead of re-
posing for years, in dignified retirement upon his honors, how soon was he required to relinquish those honors and to enter upon the realities of "that world which no mortal may know!" So true is it that it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps—that whilst man's heart deviseth his way, layeth his plans and cherisheth high hopes, the Lord directeth his steps—so true is it that man at his best estate is altogether vanity. For thou changest his countenance and sendest him away; thou teachest him to say to corruption thou art my father, and to the worm thou art my mother and sister, and in the grave will I make my bed. Yet this is but the repetition of an event which had previously and frequently occurred. Our Presidents—those who have successively occupied this eminent position since the formation of our government—where are they? and our fathers, our senators, and our judges, do they live forever? Alas! Death regards no distinctions of age, of talent, nor of station. He comes uninvited to the highest seats of the executive; he visits the officers of the army and navy in time of peace as well as amid the roar of battle; he enters our halls of legislation, our courts of justice, our seats of learning, and the sacred precincts of the pulpit, that there he may select incumbents for the grave; so that we may appropriately use the language uttered in ancient times—"The Lord of Hosts doth take away the mighty man and the man of war, the judge and the prophet, the prudent and the ancient, the honorable man and the counsellor, the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator.

With reference to the distinguished individual whose sudden demise has startled the nation, and given occasion for these solemn services, we thank thee for his personal integrity, his private virtues, and for all the influence which he exerted whilst occupying his various official stations, in favor of the elevation, the improvement and perpetuity of our republican institutions. For all the
judicious councils, the timely warnings, the sentiments of morality, and all the motives to an honorable and patriotic life which were ever uttered by his lips, or fell from his pen, do we sincerely praise thee.

We deem it an especial cause of gratitude that, in this age of scepticism and infidelity, when, by so many in the more elevated circles, as well as in the lower walks of life, the sacred Scriptures are contemned, the house of God abandoned, the Sabbath violated, and the claims of Jehovah disregarded, that the influence of his high example has been given in favor of the reading and study of the Bible. We thank thee that when, Chief Magistrate of the Union, he was accustomed so generally to observe the Sabbath, and to frequent the sanctuary of the Most High, and that in his last moments, he rendered his verdict in favor of the glorious Gospel of the blessed God.

Whilst we have occasion deeply to regret that during his administration, by the prevalence of a most sanguinary war, so many of our countrymen were sent to untimely graves, it affords alleviation to know that thou canst, and to believe that thou wilt, bring good out of that which is evil, and gather a revenue of praise from the wrath of man.

Oh thou friend of the afflicted, and Comforter of the comfortless, we commend to thee her who, by this painful bereavement, is the most deeply affected: may the afflicted widow—the chief mourner of the nation, find in the truths and promises of the gospel, ample sources of consolation and strength. Whilst the remembrance of the virtues and the honors of her distinguished companion, and the official expressions of respect for his memory and sympathy for herself, which have been, or which may yet be extended to her by the various municipal and state governments of our land—whilst all this may be peculiarly grateful—yet may the promises of thy word, the sympathy of a Great High Priest who hath
passed into the Heavens, and who can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities as no mortal can, and the privilege of approaching the throne of grace, be to her bruised and bleeding heart far more precious. May she now dwell with unwonted interest upon those consoling declarations of thy word—A Judge of the widows is God in his holy habitation; For thy Maker is thy husband, the Lord of Hosts is his name, and thy Redeemer, the Holy one of Israel. Be thou a present help to her in this her time of need. Under the influence of the gospel in which she professes to confide, may she rise superior to her trials and glorify God in the fires. In the exercise of a spirit of calm, Christian resignation, may the language of her heart sincerely be, the cup that my Father hath given me shall I not drink it? Not my will but thine Oh God be done. By the power of Christian faith may she endure as seeing him who is invisible; may she look beyond the cloud which now casts its dark shadow upon her path, and anticipate the time when the days of her mourning will be ended, when thou wilt wipe all tears from her eyes, and when she will be an inhabitant of that world where there is no death, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pain, but where in thy presence is fullness of joy, and at thy right hand, pleasures for evermore.

May the whole circle of relatives who have been afflicted by this unexpected calamity, see the uncertainty of earthly grandeur, the brevity of human life, and the importance of being habitually prepared for its termination. May it be their earnest effort to imitate every noble, every generous, every patriotic, every commendable trait in the character of the deceased. May they acquit themselves like men upon the stage of life, being mainly anxious to discharge all their obligations with such strict fidelity as to secure the testimony of a good conscience and the approbation of Heaven.

May this solemn admonition of thy Providence be ap-
appropriately regarded by the present Chief Magistrate of the Union. Occupying, as he does, an exalted position which had been previously filled by a number who are now in the world of spirits, may he be suitably impressed with the uncertainty of its tenure. Having been a man of war comparatively from his youth, and the conqueror in many a hard-fought battle, may he in future, reap a richer harvest of glory from the peaceful administration of the government, than he ever gathered from his victories on fields of blood. May his administration be eminently wise, just, liberal, patriotic, unsectional and efficient. May all the checks and the limitations which have been established by the Constitution and the laws be duly observed. May there be no usurpation of illegal authority, no trampling upon the rights nor disregard of the claims of others, but earnest, conscientious and persevering endeavors to protect the rights, to consider the claims, and to promote the welfare of all. May the various branches of industry, and all of the useful arts and sciences be encouraged and advanced. Through all the channels of trade may there flow a healthful current; may all classes of men find profitable employment; may want be banished; may plenty prevail; may judicious progress and permanent improvement be secured to all our valuable institutions; may peace be successfully cultivated between this and all foreign nations, and may there be great advance made in the encroachments of the light and spirit of liberty upon the dark domain of Slavery.

May thy blessing rest upon the Chief Magistrate of our beloved Commonwealth; upon the Governors of the various other States of the Union; upon our National and State Legislatures; upon our Municipal Government, at whose call we have come together, and upon all others who are in authority. May they, by the faithful discharge of their public trusts, and in the development of their private character, prove themselves to be men of integ-
rity, of sobriety, of moral purity; noble-minded, honorable, patriotic, Christian men—truly solicitous to advance the interests and the happiness of the nation.

By the solemn admonition which has occurred, may, throughout our land, inordinate ambition—the love of power and glory, be checked; may rapacity for wealth be restrained; may the spirit of party be weakened, and the power of selfishness diminished. On the contrary, may a spirit of common brotherhood, of enlightened charity, and of expansive Christian benevolence, widely prevail.

We deem it not inappropriate on this occasion to remember that, since the decease of him whom to-day we mourn, death has again entered the capital of the nation, and removed the venerable and honored relict of one who was formerly President of these United States. Thou didst permit her to behold the rising glories of her country, until the little one had become many millions, and the small one, one of the most powerful nations upon earth. We thank thee that in the annals of our country, so much prominence may be justly given to the influence of woman. We thank thee that in the time which tried men's souls, the influence of woman stimulated our fathers to contend earnestly for the defence of their rights, the protection of their homes, and for the liberties of their country. Oh grant that their virtues may be imitated by their sex during many successive generations. Through all coming time may the daughters of our land prove themselves the worthy descendants of such an honored maternity!

And now, Oh Father, let thy blessing rest upon him who is to address us on the present occasion. Prepare us for the reception of those truths which he may inculcate; then assist us to return with renewed vigor to the great battle of life; and as there is no discharge in this war, grant that when the time comes for us to fall, we may be found at our post, with our armour on, zealously contend-
ing for truth, liberty and religion. When to us comes "the last of earth" may we be "content." Through faith in the Captain of our Salvation, may we with our last failing breath be enabled to say—Oh Death where is thy sting? Oh grave, where is thy victory? Thanks be unto God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. When the beauties of creation fade from our eyes, may the glory of Paradise be brought to view; when the sounds of earthly music and the tones of affection die away upon our ear, may we catch the melody of angels; when we bid farewell, to those whom we love on earth, may we receive the welcome of beloved ones in Heaven: all of which we ask in the name of Him who is worthy to receive riches and honor, dominion and power, henceforth and forever, Amen.