

No public business was transacted in either branch of Congress yesterday, the session being devoted exclusively to paying the tribute of respect to the merits and the memory of our late Chief Magistrate, whose death has followed so fast on his elevation to that high post.

The melancholy duty of announcing his decease was performed in the Senate by Mr. DOWNS, of Louisiana, in a feeling and appropriate manner, followed by brief eulogies on his public services and private worth, by Mr. WEBSTER, Mr. KING, Mr. CASS, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. BERRIEN.

After these marks of respect had been duly paid, the Vice President, MILLARD FILLMORE, was solemnly sworn in as the Constitution directs, to fill the vacancy occasioned in the Chief Magistracy by the death of the President.

In the House the same announcement was made by Mr. CONRAD, who was followed by Messrs. COB, WINTHROP, BAKER, BAYLY, McLEANS, KING, HILLIARD, and MARSHALL, each of whom paid a brief but emphatic tribute to the departed, and commented on the consequences of his unexpected removal from the public councils.

This duty having been performed, both houses, after appointing committees to make arrangements for the funeral solemnities, adjourned without attending to any other business.

The deepest sympathy for his family, so suddenly bereaved, is both felt and expressed by all—for no public man ever had fewer personal enemies than ZACHARY TAYLOR, whose residence now is eternity, and whose name has its place in the Pantheon of history.

It is understood that the members of General Taylor's Cabinet have sent in their resignations, and it is generally thought they will all be accepted, and an entire new Cabinet formed.

The city is full of speculation as to the effect of Mr. FILLMORE's accession to the Presidency; but never was conjecture more various and uncertain. The friends of Mr. CLAY's compromise bill profess now to have stronger hopes of its passage. We do not know on what they calculate, unless it is the aid of Executive influence, as otherwise the adjustment plan is hopeless.

Mr. FILLMORE comes suddenly into power at a critical period of public affairs. He has a difficult career before him—and a disastrous one, if he adopts a sectional or bigoted policy.

We deem it inexpedient to state the multi-form rumors of to-day; except to refer that it is quite current that Mr. WEBSTER is to be Secretary of State.

PARTY.

We observe in the "Mercer Luminary," a Free-Soil paper in Pennsylvania, a long article extracted from the Louisville Democrat, making great objections to the establishment of this paper.

The Louisville Democrat is located at the seat of the late emancipation movement in Kentucky, which it feebly opposed. It has a considerable circulation in Indiana. The Louisville Democrat belongs also to a class of party papers that would like to have exclusive jurisdiction over the slavery and all other sectional questions. No that when party conventions meet at Baltimore or Philadelphia, the delegates can have full power to dispose of the rights and interests of different sections, in such a way as will most promote the success of their respective great national parties.

It is expedient on such occasions, sometimes to nominate Northern men with Southern principles, and sometimes Southern men with Northern principles—sometimes men with few principles as possible. Sometimes these bodies avow their doctrines, sometimes they conceal them under such artful equivocations of expression, that can be interpreted one way at the North, another at the South, and both ways and neither way, as occasion requires. Sometimes it is thought most politic to say nothing at all about principles.

These parties and contrivances that proclaim themselves to be the great conservators of Union and Harmony. And we presume they regard the present state of affairs as evidence of the brilliant success of their labors. Of course they would prefer to preserve the monopoly they have had for some time, of the public mind. They are afraid that if others interpose, it may not be so easy to make those grand national bargains in quid pro quo convention at which principle, right, interest and opinion, are sacrificed to combinations, and calculations for power and place.

The Louisville Democrat, however, undertakes to be remarkably acute. It says the South has heretofore declined and deprecated the agitation and discussion of the slavery question. Why does the South now engage in it?

Why, for the same reason that a nation which deprecates war, will nevertheless, if continually attacked, think it proper at last to repel the assailant. Whilst this war on the South was made by a small faction, and both of the great political parties professed to condemn and repudiate it, the South treated it with some indifference. But when both the two great parties of the North, after having refused all countenance to the agitation, began to

"—first endure, then pity, then embrace," it, then the South rose up to meet this new "Holy alliance."

The Democrat, affecting to be very military, gives us an eminent specimen of his genius, in complaining that the South has "changed front in the midst of battle." Well, who do not pretend to know much of military tactics, must still be permitted to suggest that the "front" of an army, must be modified a good deal by the number and direction of the assailants.

When, therefore, the two great parties of the North, changed front, and deserted to the Abolitionists, the South naturally enlarged and strengthened her front accordingly.

The Democrat next proceeds to be smart. He asks us whether Northern people may exclude our paper from the Post-office, as the Southern have excluded incendiary publications. We answer, certainly. Whenever this paper becomes a teacher of rebellion, plunder, and massacre, to any class of people at the North, its circulation then ought to be suppressed. But they will find it expedient to put down a number of their own papers first.

But the Democrat at length lets the cat out

of the bag. This paper is to build up a Southern and sectional party, and thereby affect the next Presidential election. Well, such papers as the Democrat have reason to be distressed at such a prospect. But don't let them despair. We don't intend to kill off their parties. We shall only compel them to define their position. They shall speak plainer. They shall trim and traffic less. They must reason more, and give up rant. They will have to resort to ability and principle more than heretofore. Sometimes they will have to commit themselves before they know which is the strongest side. All this will be very inconvenient to the editor of the Democrat. But we hope he will not give up on that account. Let him reflect that the good of the party will then require his reform, and what will not be attempted, if the good of the party demands it; however difficult it may be from previous habits.

The Editor of the Democrat thought and intended to injure the circulation of this paper in Kentucky among his party by his distributive agent. He is perhaps mistaken—we think he has only injured his own. At all events we expect a circulation in that State, among all who are capable of distinguishing between what a paper ought to be and a trimming petty organ.

The Democrat takes grave offence at the agency of members of Congress in promoting the establishment of this paper even in the mild form of a recommendation. Another paper has also been troubled at this interference with the press.

Both these papers have seen, without emotion, except that of pleasure, Executive organs established at this place, by President's of each party, and supported by Government patronage. Nay, we have seen these editors repeatedly changed, at Executive pleasure. Mr. Duff Green was superseded by Mr. Blair, and he again by Mr. Ritchie. So Mr. Gales has been set aside for Bullitt & Sargeant, and they removed to give place to the present editor of the Republic, Mr. Hall.

Is the Executive, alone, entitled to the possession of the Press? Is he, alone, to have access to public opinion, and to control it, or pervert it, by central organs here, and petty organs elsewhere, like the Louisville Democrat, also supported out of the public crib? But members of Congress are not to be allowed, by these dependents on Executive favor, even to recommend a paper. They may, however, vote to give the public printing, and fat jobs, and extra allowances, to Executive dependents, and that sort of interference with the press will be submitted to.

We have hitherto neglected to acknowledge the receipt of the admirable likenesses of the late President Taylor, John C. Calhoun, and Daniel Webster, comprising the first issues of the Gallery of Illustrious Americans, engraved by D'Avignon from daguerotypes by Brady, and accompanied by Biographical Sketches by Mr. Lester and others.

We were yesterday reminded of this omission by the receipt of the two last numbers, which give the "counterfeit presentations" of Henry Clay and Col. Fremont, both very well executed; although we do not think that the artist has succeeded quite so well with the former as with the other eminent men who preceded him in this series. Still the likeness is a very fair one—though rather wanting in expression.

The likeness of Silas Wright, which also constitutes one of the series, we have not received—but it is said to be a good one. The best of those of General Taylor, Mr. Calhoun, and Mr. Webster, which are almost life-like in their accuracy.

The letter-press which accompanies these engravings we have not read, and cannot therefore express any opinion as to the merits of the accompanying biographies. That, however, is a matter of secondary importance, as the lives of those distinguished public servants constitute a part of the history of our country, and the main incidents are familiar to all. The portraits are worthy of preservation, and can be detached and framed separately—which we would advise all who procure them to do immediately on receipt of them. The Prospectus of the Publishers will be found in our advertising columns.

At a large meeting held at Greensboro, Alabama, the following resolutions were offered by Judge Moore, and (all save the third to which there were two dissenting voices) were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, 1. That our thanks are due and are hereby returned to the Hon. John Erwin and the Hon. Wm. M. Murphy for their attendance at the Nashville Convention.

Resolved, 2. That while we cherish an abiding love for the Union of these States, and are ready to sacrifice much to preserve it, yet that there are evils far greater than that of dissolution of this Union, and among these are submission to wrong, to injustice, and the degrading terms which a tyrannical majority may seek to force upon us.

Resolved, 3. That we cordially approve and fully endorse the Resolutions passed by the Convention, recently held in Nashville.

Tremendous Fire in Philadelphia.

GREAT LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY. We were informed last evening by a gentleman just from Philadelphia, that the great fire there which commenced day before yesterday was subdued yesterday morning at one o'clock.

Our informant stated that three or four hundred houses were destroyed, fifty lives lost, and about one hundred wounded, and the loss of property was eight or ten millions. The loss of life was caused by explosions of Saltpetre in some of the heavy warehouses. The fire raged along the front of the city on the Delaware, from Vine street eastward.

Telegraphic despatches were sent to New York and Wilmington for firemen, who promptly responded.

Continuation of T. H. Averett's speech to-morrow.

Local Intelligence.

CRIMINAL COURT.—This Court met yesterday at the usual hour, and the District Attorney, P. R. Fendall, announced the death of the President of the United States, in a speech of some fifteen minutes in length, full of eloquence, and delivered with a good deal of feeling, which was responded to by Judge Crawford, in a few appropriate remarks.

THE BALL IN MOTION.—We learn that a large and enthusiastic meeting, composed of citizens of both political parties, was held at Greenville, in Meriwether county, on the 2d inst. Eloquent and appropriate addresses were made by several gentlemen, and resolutions approving of the proceedings of the Nashville Convention unanimously adopted.—Augusta (Ga.) Constitutionalist.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE, Wednesday, July 10, 1850.

The Secretary called the Senate to order at 11 o'clock.

A message was received from the late Vice President of the United States, (Mr. FILLMORE), stating that, in consequence of the death of the President of the United States, he could not appear as the presiding officer of the Senate, and that it would, therefore, be incumbent on the Senate to elect a presiding officer.

Another communication was received from him, officially informing the Senate that the late President had died, and that (Mr. FILLMORE) would, at twelve o'clock, be ready to receive the oath of office in the hall of the House of Representatives in the presence of both houses.

A resolution was adopted appointing a committee of three, which, together with a similar committee on the part of the House, was to wait on the President and inform him that both houses would be ready to receive him at 12 o'clock.

The committee, on the part of the Senate, was Mr. STILES, Mr. DAVIS, of Mississippi, and Mr. UNDERWOOD.

The Senate, at 12 o'clock, proceeded to the hall of the House of Representatives where seats had been provided for them. After they were seated, the President of the United States, (Mr. FILLMORE), and the Cabinet of the late President appeared, and were ushered in. The oath of office was then administered to Mr. FILLMORE by Chief Justice Taney, in the following words:

"I, MILLARD FILLMORE, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

The Senate then returned to their chamber. A message was then received from the President of the United States, requesting the two houses of Congress to take such steps as they might think proper in the present emergency.

Eulogies on the deceased President were then delivered by Mr. DOWNS, Mr. WEBSTER, Mr. KING, Mr. CASS, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. BERRIEN.

A resolution was then adopted, appointing a committee of three, to confer with a similar committee on the part of the House, to take such steps as might be proper on the occasion.

And the Senate then adjourned.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Yesterday, the session of the House was opened with prayer by the Rev. Chaplain of the Senate, and then for twenty minutes there was no action by the House. At length, the House being called to order by the SPEAKER, the following took place:

On motion of Mr. STANLY, the reading of the journal of the previous day's proceedings was dispensed with.

A message from the President of the United States being announced, George Fisher, Esq., appeared at the bar and delivered a message in writing; which was reported to the House from the Clerk's desk as follows, viz:

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

I have to perform the melancholy duty of announcing to you that I have passed Almighty God to remove from this life ZACHARY TAYLOR, late President of the United States. He deceased last evening at the hour of half-past ten o'clock, in the midst of his family, and surrounded by affectionate friends, calmly and in full possession of all his faculties. Among his last words were these, which he uttered with emphatic distinctness: "I have always done my duty; I am ready to die; my only regret is for the friends I leave behind me."

Having announced to you, fellow-citizens, this most afflictive bereavement, and assuring you that it has penetrated no heart with deeper grief than mine, it remains for me to say that, I purpose this day, at twelve o'clock, in the hall of the House of Representatives, in the presence of both houses of Congress, to take the oath prescribed by the Constitution, to enable me to enter on the execution of the office, which this event has devolved on me.

MILLARD FILLMORE.

WASHINGTON, July 10, 1850.

On motion of Mr. MORSE, the House took a recess until 12 m.

Mr. WINTHROP suggested the propriety of responding to the recent announcement from the President of the United States, that he intended to attend in the hall at noon, to be sworn into office, by the appointment of a joint committee to wait on that functionary, for the purpose of signifying to him that at that hour, both Houses of Congress would be in attendance in the House hall, to receive him.

On motion of Mr. W. such a resolution was agreed to.

The transaction of business was then stayed until 11 a. m., and 48 minutes, when Mr. L. Machin, the clerk of the Senate, being announced from the bar, delivered a message, saying that the Senate had acted on the resolution of Mr. WINTHROP, for the appointment of a joint committee, &c.

Mr. ASHMUN (no action thereupon being necessary) moved that this message be laid upon the table, which was agreed to.

Again there was a recess in the hall until 12 m., and 5 minutes; when

The SPEAKER, preceded by his officers, entered, and was seated in the area surrounding the Clerk's desk.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES then appearing at the door, his presence was announced by the doorkeeper.

Whereupon all on the floor of the House rose up, remaining standing until the President and suite—the Cabinet of the late President, the joint committee of the two Houses of Congress appointed under Mr. WINTHROP's resolution to wait on him, and many officers of the Government—traversed the aisles to the area in front of the rostrum.

These gentlemen being seated, (the President in the Clerk's desk,) the Senate and House again resumed their seats.

The SPEAKER announced that the oath of office would now be administered to the President of the United States, by the Hon. Wm. Cranck, Chief Justice of the United States Circuit Court for the District of Columbia.

MILLARD FILLMORE (President of the United States) rising, read aloud, in a slow and distinct voice, the few words of the usual oath of office, which having been administered to him by Judge Cranck, (the House and Senate standing in the meantime.)

The SECRETARY OF THE SENATE summoned the members of that body again to attend in their chamber. The House then again rose, remaining standing until the Senate, headed by their sergeant at arms and Secretary, retired from the hall.

The House were then called to order by the SPEAKER.

A message from the President of the United States being announced, Geo. Fisher, Esq., again came within the bar, and delivered an Executive Message, in writing, in the usual form, which was laid on the Speaker's table.

to-day to lay you before an official communication of his death. It is my purpose simply to make the announcement, not to dwell upon it; that duty will more properly devolve upon others. Whilst, gentlemen, our own body has been peculiarly exempt during its present sittings from the fatality which usually attends a protracted session, we should not be regardless of the solemn warnings which Providence has extended to us in the death of those associated with us in the administration of our National Government. The victims who have been summoned to the tomb have been less remarkable for their number than their exalted character and position.

For the first time in our history has the Chief Executive of the Union been stricken down during the session of Congress. It devolves a novel and solemn duty upon the representatives of the people. As the organ of House, delegated with the mere expression of its resolves, I feel it appropriate to indulge in no suggestions of my own, or expressions of personal emotions. I cannot, however, forbear from uttering the confident assurance that it will be your melancholy satisfaction to adopt the most appropriate manifestations of the profound sensibility which this afflicting dispensation must awaken throughout the Union, and to concur in every mark of respect to the memory of the distinguished patriot who has been so suddenly summoned from the high honors and responsibilities of the Chief Magistracy, to which he had been called by his grateful countrymen, to the repose of the grave.

The message from the President of the United States was then reported from the Clerk's Desk, as follows, viz:

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

A great man has fallen among us, and a whole country is called to an occasion of unexpected, deep, and general mourning.

I recommend to both Houses of Congress to adopt such measures as, in their discretion may appear proper, to perform with our solemnities the funeral obsequies of ZACHARY TAYLOR, late President of the United States; and thereby to signify the great and affectionate regard of the American people for the memory of one whose life has been devoted to the public service; whose career in arms has not been surpassed in usefulness or brilliancy; who has been so recently raised by the unolicited voice of the people to the highest civil authority in the Government—which he administered with so much honor and advantage to his country; and with whose sudden death, so many hopes of future usefulness have been blighted forever.

To you, Senators and Representatives of a Nation in tears, I can say nothing which can alleviate the sorrow with which you are oppressed. I appeal to you to aid me, under the trying circumstances which surround me, in the discharge of the duties, from which, however much I may be oppressed by them, I dare not shrink; and I rely upon him, who holds in his hands the destinies of nations, to endow me with the requisite strength for the task; and to avert from our country the evils apprehended from the heavy calamity which has befallen us.

I shall most readily concur in whatever measures the wisdom of the two Houses may suggest as befitting this deeply melancholy occasion.

MILLARD FILLMORE.

WASHINGTON, July 10th, 1850.

Mr. SPEAKER: In accordance with a wish expressed by many members, I have prepared a resolution adapted to the melancholy event which has just been announced, and which I propose to offer to the House. Before doing so, however, I would do violence to my own feelings, as a representative of that State of which the illustrious deceased was a citizen and the brightest ornament, if I did not offer some remarks appropriate to the melancholy occasion on which we are assembled. Seldom has an event occurred which more strikingly illustrates the uncertainty of life and the instability of earthly greatness than the one we are called upon to deplore.

A few days ago General Taylor was in his usual robust health. On the fourth of this month he attended some ceremonies which took place in commemoration of the anniversary of our national independence. As the ceremonies occurred in the open air, it is believed that the exposure to a heat of unusual intensity produced the malady which, at about half-past ten last night, terminated his earthly career. A great patriot has fallen! A great benefactor of his country has departed among us! In a few hours a nation will be plunged in mourning, and the voice of lamentation will ascend from twenty millions of people!

It is not my purpose, Mr. Speaker, to dwell at length, on this occasion, on the public career and the military achievements of General TAYLOR. These belong to the history of his country, and are deeply engraven on the memories and the hearts of his countrymen. I prefer to dwell on those minor traits of his character which, as they exert a less perceptible influence on the destinies of nations, are too often overlooked by historians.

I hazard nothing sir, in saying, that the roll of our Chief Magistrates, since 1789, illustrious as it is, presents the name of no man who has enjoyed a higher reputation with his contemporaries, or who will enjoy a higher reputation with posterity than ZACHARY TAYLOR, for some of the best and noblest qualities which adorn our nature.

His indomitable courage, his unimpeachable honesty, his Spartan simplicity and sagacity, his frankness, kindness, moderation, and magnanimity of spirit, his fidelity to his friends, his generosity and humanity to his enemies, the purity of his life, the patriotism of his public principles, will never cease to be cherished in the grateful remembrance of all just men and all true-hearted Americans.

As a soldier and a general his fame is associated with some of the proudest and most thrilling scenes of our military history. He may be literally said to have conquered every enemy he has met, save only that *l'ennemy*, to which we must all, in turn, surrender.

As a civilian and statesman, during the brief period in which he has been permitted to enjoy the pre-eminence honors which a grateful country has awarded him, he has given proof of a devotion to duty and an attachment to the Constitution and the Union, which no trials or temptations could shake. He has borne his faculties meekly, but firmly. He has been "clear in his great office." He has known no local partialities or prejudices, but has proved himself capable of embracing his whole country in the comprehensive affections and regards of a large and generous heart.

But he has fallen almost at the threshold of his civil career, and at a moment when some of us were looking to him to render services to the country, which we had thought no other man could perform. Certainly, sir, he died too soon for everybody but himself. We can hardly find it in our hearts to retrace, that the good old man has gone in his rest. We cannot grudge him the repose in which the brave old soldier sleeps. His part in life had been long and faithfully performed. In his own emphatic words, "he had always done his duty, and he was not afraid to die." Our regret can only be for ourselves and for our country.

Sir, this was a fit and beautiful circumstance in the close of such a career, that his last public office is in his gift.

It is so common for the most ambitious men

to affect a reluctance in accepting those very honors which they have long and ardently sought, that we are apt to consider all such professions as indicating feelings the very reverse of those they express. Those, however, who knew General TAYLOR well, entertained no doubt of the entire sincerity of his declarations when he was called upon to be a candidate for the office of President.

The excitement of politics had no charm for one who had always been extremely averse to political controversy. The pomp and splendor of the presidential mansion had no temptations for one who was always remarkable for the simplicity of his tastes and the frugality of his habits. Add to this his unaffected modesty and inexperience in public affairs led him sincerely to distrust his ability to discharge the duties of this high and responsible station.

At no period of our history, indeed, was the executive chair surrounded by more difficulties than those which encompassed it when he was called on to occupy it. Party spirit was still raged with unabated fury; a dark cloud was visible on the horizon, which portended that a storm of unusual violence was approaching, and would shortly burst forth. Under such circumstances, a man even of stouter heart than his might well hesitate before he consented to embark on this "sea of troubles." Yielding, however, to the public voice, he did embark. The tempest arose; and in the midst of its fury, while the vessel of State was tossed to and fro, and all eyes were turned with a confidence not unmingled with anxiety on the pilot who, calm and collected, guided her course, that pilot was suddenly swept from the helm!

Here let us pause! Let us avail ourselves of the momentary calm which this sad event has produced, and calmly survey the perils that surround us—the lowering heavens above, the raging billows below, the breakers on our right, the shoals on our left. Let us prepare to meet these dangers like men and like patriots, to overcome them. Let us not despair of the republic. On the contrary, let us determine that she must be saved, and she will be saved. The clouds that overhang us will be dispersed, and the glorious stars of our Union will again shine forth with their wonted splendor.

Mr. WINTHROP rose to second the resolutions, and proceeded as follows:

It would not be easily excused, Mr. Speaker, by those whom I represent in this hall, if there were no Massachusetts voice to respond to the eulogy which has been pronounced by Louisiana upon her illustrious and lamented son.

Indeed, neither my personal feelings nor my political relations to the living and to the dead, would permit me to remain altogether silent on this occasion.

And yet, sir, I confess I know not how to say anything satisfactory to myself, or adequate to the circumstances of the hour.

The event which has just been officially announced, has come upon us so suddenly—has so overwhelmed us with mingled emotions of surprise and sadness—that the ordinary forms of expression seem to lose their significance, and one is impelled to bow his head in silence to the blow until its first shock has, in some degree passed away.

Certainly, sir, no one can fail to realize that the most momentous and mysterious Providence has been manifested in our midst. At a moment when, more than almost ever before in our history, the destinies of our country seemed to all human sight, to be inseparably associated with the character and conduct of its Chief Executive Magistrate, that magistrate has been summoned from his post by the only messenger whose mandates he might not have defied, and has been withdrawn forever from the sphere of human existence!

There are those of us, I need not say, sir, who had looked to him with affection and reverence as our chosen leader and guide in the difficulties and perplexities by which we are surrounded. There are those of us who had relied confidently on him, as upon no other man, to uphold the Constitution and maintain the union of the country in that future upon which "clouds and darkness" may well be said to rest. And as we now behold him, borne away by the hand of God from our sight, in the very hour of peril, we can hardly repress the exclamation, which was applied to the departing prophet of old: "My father, my father; the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof!"

Let me not even seem to imply, however, that the death of Gen. TAYLOR is any thing less than a national loss. There may be, and we know there is, in this event, a privileged and pre-eminent grief in his immediate family and relatives, to which we can offer the assurance of our heartfelt sympathy. There may be, too, a peculiar sorrow for his political friends and supporters. But the whole people of the United States will feel, and will bear witness, when they receive these melancholy tidings, that they have all been called to sustain a most afflictive national bereavement.

I hazard nothing sir, in saying, that the roll of our Chief Magistrates, since 1789, illustrious as it is, presents the name of no man who has enjoyed a higher reputation with his contemporaries, or who will enjoy a higher reputation with posterity than ZACHARY TAYLOR, for some of the best and noblest qualities which adorn our nature.

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And yet, sir, I confess I know not how to say anything satisfactory to myself, or adequate to the circumstances of the hour.

The event which has just been officially announced, has come upon us so suddenly—has so overwhelmed us with mingled emotions of surprise and sadness—that the ordinary forms of expression seem to lose their significance, and one is impelled to bow his head in silence to the blow until its first shock has, in some degree passed away.

Certainly, sir, no one can fail to realize that the most momentous and mysterious Providence has been manifested in our midst. At a moment when, more than almost ever before in our history, the destinies of our country seemed to all human sight, to be inseparably associated with the character and conduct of its Chief Executive Magistrate, that magistrate has been summoned from his post by the only messenger whose mandates he might not have defied, and has been withdrawn forever from the sphere of human existence!

There are those of us, I need not say, sir, who had looked to him with affection and reverence as our chosen leader and guide in the difficulties and perplexities by which we are surrounded. There are those of us who had relied confidently on him, as upon no other man, to uphold the Constitution and maintain the union of the country in that future upon which "clouds and darkness" may well be said to rest. And as we now behold him, borne away by the hand of God from our sight, in the very hour of peril, we can hardly repress the exclamation, which was applied to the departing prophet of old: "My father, my father; the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof!"

Let me not even seem to imply, however, that the death of Gen. TAYLOR is any thing less than a national loss. There may be, and we know there is, in this event, a privileged and pre-eminent grief in his immediate family and relatives, to which we can offer the assurance of our heartfelt sympathy. There may be, too, a peculiar sorrow for his political friends and supporters. But the whole people of the United States will feel, and will bear witness, when they receive these melancholy tidings, that they have all been called to sustain a most afflictive national bereavement.

I hazard nothing sir, in saying, that the roll of our Chief Magistrates, since 1789, illustrious as it is, presents the name of no man who has enjoyed a higher reputation with his contemporaries, or who will enjoy a higher reputation with posterity than ZACHARY TAYLOR, for some of the best and noblest qualities which adorn our nature.

His indomitable courage, his unimpeachable honesty, his Spartan simplicity and sagacity, his frankness, kindness, moderation, and magnanimity of spirit, his fidelity to his friends, his generosity and humanity to his enemies, the purity