New Orleans Daily Crescent.

THE CLAY STATUE INAUGURATION.

ENTIRE TURNOUT OF THE POPULATION.

TREMENDOUS PROCESSION!

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS.

THE SCENTS ON CANAL STREET.

THE UNTRELLING OF THE STATUE.

MR. HUNT'S ORATION.

SIGHTS, INCIDENTS, ETC., ETC.

The inauguration of the Clay Statue, yesterday, was blessed by fine though rather warm weather, and was remarkable as offering by far the greatest public spectacle ever witnessed in this city. The only previous event at all to be likened to it was Gen. Taylor's triumphal entry on his return from Mexico, some fourteen years ago; and that was a display far behind the one offered yesterday.

Flags to the Breeze.

The rising sun found all the bunting in the city and on the river flaunting merrily in the breeze. Not a flag anywhere, big or little, that was not hung out; the foreign Consuls, and all other owners of foreign flags, vieing with the Americans in hanging their banners on the outward walls. On the levee the sight was magnificent. The five or six miles of steamers and ships all had their colors out, and formed a sort of rainbow bounce for the city, on the river side.

Suspension of Business.

There never was a day in New Orleans when the suspension of business was so total. The Levee, and Fulton, and New Levee, and Tchoupitoulas, and Magazine streets, were quiet and deserted, even more than on the Sabbath; whilst the great shopping thoroughfares were equally so. No places remained open, anywhere, save the coffee-houses, little groceries, confectioneries, and fruit and cigar shops. We never, on any occasion, witnessed such a perfectly total suspension of business; no legal holiday, Sabbath, or any other occasion that we can remember, ever put such a hush on the roar and the rush of commerce.

Turnout of the People.

The weather being bright and altogether favorable, the turnout was universal. Not only the men and boys, but the ladies and the little ones, all in gayest attire, tripped along the hundreds of streets, formed tides on the principal avenues, and aggregated into billows as they neared Canal street, which was the grand vortex of the day.

The Sights on Canal street.

The Statue of Clay, enveloped in the national colors, was the cynosure; situated in the center of a broad intersection, from which it could (and can) be seen from north, south, east and west; a happy situation for the Statue of the "Great Commoner."

Facing the Statue, from the east, on Canal street, was the grand platform of the day; a splendid affair, half a square in length, rising as it receded in order to give the occupants of its multitudinous benches and chairs a fair chance to see. This platform was entirely surrounded by marbled canvas drapery, reaching to the ground; and was like wise surrounded by fifteen or twenty tall masts, each mast supporting an American shield with a stack of flags spread out, and a streamer and gilt ball at the top, and all these masts connected by festoons of the richest and heaviest evergreen. On the front stood a tall double-columned arch of the Moresque style, on which was emblazoned the name, "Henry Clay," whilst American flags were disposed about it in such a way as to add the arch in sheltering from the sun the orator's stand beneath it. The whole appearance of this arrangement was magnificent; far, very far, ahead of anything of the kind ever before gotten up in New Orleans.

The Multitudes

Of spectators that gorged Canal street and every other street above and below it, were altogether tremendous. The street and banquettes were mostly monopolized by the sterner sex; the broad balconies, verandahs and windows, on both sides of the street, for squares, as well as on the other streets, were flush with ladies and children; looking, in their gay and varied dresses, like so many huge bouquets, fresh gathered from the gardens of Paradise and clustered together by some Titanic hand.

The Grand Assembling

Of the Military, Masons, Firemen, Benevolent Societies, and other organizations, was of course the agitation on and off Canal street, long before the procession was formed. All turned out in great strength; such an assemblage was never before witnessed in this city. The particulars of all this will be best given in our account of

The Procession.

An artillery salute was the signal for starting. The long lines of societies which filled the streets to unknown distances, fell in, one by one, according to their places in the programme. After Col. Walton, the Grand Marshal, and his aids, started down Royal street, considerably more than an hour elapsed ere the last end of the procession got off.

The Military

Followed the Grand Marshal and his Staff, and were out in great strength. Major-General Lewis and Staff led; next came the Louisiana Legion, under Brigadier-General Palfrey, including the Orleans Battalion Foot Rifles, and other down-town companies, and the Artillerists from Donaldsonville; then came the First Brigade, under Brigadier-General Tracy, including the Washington Artillery, Continental Guards, City Guards, Louisiana Grays; the Mississippi Rifles, from Jackson, and the Cadets, from Mobile. All this was merely the military escort to the grand procession of the day.

The First Grand Division

led off with a long line of carriages, in which were seated the Clay Monumental Committee, the Jackson Monumental Committee, and other gentlemen identified with enterprises in honor of the illustrious dead. Then came the

Free Masons

In a degree of strength and splendor never before seen here. A long cavalcade of the Knights Templars, gorgeously apparelled in frocks and mantles of white, bearing the scarlet cross of the order, black cockades with white and black plumes, yellow top boots, drawn swords, all on white horses, and their cross on every saddle-cloth, were at the head. After these were the various Lodges and Degrees of Masonry in their rich regalia, from Entered Apprentice to Royal Arch, Knight Kadosh, and Thirty-third Degree. The Knights Kadosh were a splendid feature in their dress of richly embroidered black velvet and cockades; and the length and strength of the Masonic turnout was an astonishment to everybody. After the Masons, followed a line of carriages, containing the orator of the day, Wm. H. Hunt, Esq., the Mayor of the city, Aldermen, city and State officers, Representatives, Army and Navy officers, Government officers, and the gray-haired

Veterans of Chalmette,

With their tattered flag, riddled by British bullets, and eaten by time. After all these (a very long line) came the Shipping Agents and Ship Masters, with the celebrated full-rigged fourteen tun

Ship West Wind,

braced on a track drawn by six horses; manned by a merry crew of four men and ten boys, and four miniature cannon over her bows, firing salutes on the way. This was a very great sensation; thousands seeing the little ship for the first time, and admiring it and its crew accordingly. Marshal, C. W. Pescay; Captain, S. P. Johnson; First Lieutenant, A. Freitas; Midshipman, W. Smith; Boatswain, John Rogers; Gunner, W. Davis; Second and Third Gunners, W. Perry and John Brown; Quartermaster, Peter Mackay; Seamen, Peter Brewer, Joseph Pierce, Joseph Fall, W. Low, W. Wells, W. Shepherdson, and W. Forester. The crew had to do some quick and tall climbing, at various points, to keep the masts from raking the flags and banners which hung across the streets. As the ship came up Camp street, the flags of the three newspaper offices hung straight down. The sailors commenced climbing, to pass the flags over the masts; but just as they got to the spot, a gust of wind raised the Picayune flag to a horizontal flow; the Crescent flag followed suit, but one corner of it sank just low enough to kiss, coquettishly, the gilt ball on the top of the mainmast; and the Delta flag also raised itself, and gave the little ship a free passage. After the ship passed, the flags drooped down again. The singularity of the thing was remarked by all who were in sight of it. The flags, accidentally, offered a happy illustration of genuine newspaper courtesy.

Another line of carriages followed the little ship; in these were Protestant and Catholic clergymen, and other gentleman whom we had not time to make out; and after these, a handsome body of professional medical gentlemen, lately graduated.

The Fire Department

led the second grand division. It was a powerful and most splendid turnout; astonishing everybody, in view of the immensity of the other turnouts, to which so many of the firemen belonged.

The Algiers and Milneburg companies were in the line; every city company turned out except one, which we think was No. 22; and many of the companies were out in as great force as on their own and exclusive fourth of March parade. From an elevation on Camp street, we took in at a glance some six or eight squares of firemen, walking four abreast, in a straight column, and in close ranks; the shirts, red, white and blue, designated the different companies in the undulating column; we never before saw the firemen to such advantage; it was a splendid sight. After the firemen came

The Printing Press,

On a covered car, with stand, cases, printers at work sticking type, and others at a press striking off little neat sheets, and scattering them broadcast to the crowds as they passed. The subject of the print was a handsome ode to Henry Clay, by "Nettie McL." The

German Draymen's Society,

In their neat regalia, came next; a very large body of stout-looking men. Other societies followed, of which we did not get the names. The Benevolent Association of the

Sons of Louisiana

led the third grand division, having with them the Young Men's Benevolent Association; a large and splendid turnout, comprising the best of the creole population. These were followed by a very notable feature, in the

Young Men's Christian Association,

escorting the Confederation of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and the British Provinces; a long line of fine-looking men, mostly young, who evidently felt that they had not come to New Orleans for nothing. Mr. Robert Gribble was the Grand Marshal; his aids were Dr. H. S. Forwood, and Messrs. A. G. Bakewell, R. D. Gribble, and R. G. Latting. Walker Smith, Esq., President of the Confederation, appeared in his proper place. This body attracted much attention, throughout the whole long march. The

Sons of Temperance

were out, strong and handsome, with their banners and regalia. The

B. B. of G. Y. M.,

Louisiana Wigwams Nos. 1 and 2, were out in a force which surprised the masses not familiar with that order. The

Scotch Rite Masons

next came in great force, the different lodges and degrees wearing the richest of regalias, and forming a brilliant section of the procession, three or four squares in length. The

Screwmen's Benevolent Association

Was immense; the largest single body in the procession; four abreast, close ranks, for more than two squares; their blue scarfs, black hats and coats, and white linen pants, giving them, as a whole, a most imposing appearance.

We Have not Room

To tell all about the other societies that followed. A just description of yesterday's pageant would fill our whole paper, to the exclusion of everything else." The New Lusitanos Society was out in great strength, and made a most beautiful and elegant display. The Spanish Benevolent Association, the Hebrew Association and others, were handsomely represented in the apparently interminable procession. The German Mechanics' Society was out in tremendous force; as a body, coming up Canal street, they offered a splendid appearance.

The boys of the Rev. Father J. Moynihan's school on Dryades street, under charge of some of the clergy, and the boys of several of the Fourth District public schools, under charge of Mr. Parham, the Superintendent, made a show which surprised and pleased everbody. The graduates and students of Dolbear's Commercial College, a large body of fine looking young men and boys, brought up the rear of the procession.

The reader will just consider that the banners, flags, ornaments, bands of music, etc., dispersed throughout the immense procession, included nearly everything of that kind in the city and surrounding country. The procession, dense as it was, men walking four abreast, was nearly four miles long; had it been spread out like ordinary processions, the city would not have been long enough to contain it.

The head of the procession returned from the down-town circuit, and was far up-town, before the tail of the procession had budged from Canal street. It was a turnout altogether gigantic, magnificent, unprecedented in this city. We must now come to Canal street and the

Inauguration Ceremonies.

For an hour's time the multitudinous procession was occupied in coiling its long length into Canal street, the Masonic fraternity occupying ground near the Statute, the military forming in a line enclosing the Statue at one end and resting on the speaker's stand at the other and keeping open the elliptic area of ground between stand and Statue, which faced toward the former. Other companies, societies, orders and associations as they filed into the wide street ranged themselves as near as possible to the central scene, and, with the general crowd, densely packed a vast area of space. Every window on both sides the street was blocked up with eager gazers, who swarmed and clustered on balcony and housetop. We heard it estimated that fifty thousand pairs of eyes were gazing when the Statue was revealed and the beams of a New Orleans sun first bathed it in a baptism of light. A more benignant sky could not have smiled upon its christening. We think the above estimate of the number present was not over the mark. The scene was most animating and interesting—indeed, it might be termed magnificent and impressive—with its various features of uniformed and regalia'd companies, associations and orders, its vast throng of lookers-on on all sides, its waving flags and banners, the beautifully decorated stand, and in the midst of all, the Statue, its colossal outlines barely showing through its gorgeous drapery. The beauty of New Orleans was sufficiently represented by an innumerable and brilliant array of ladies wherever there was room for them to locate in sight of the Statue.

Unveiling the Statue.

Amid the thunders of artillery and the stormy music of scores of bands, the striped and starry drapery fell from the muffled form of the Statue, and unveiled its magnificent proportions—the signal for the wildest enthusiasm among the vast multitude, while sky-rending and continuous shouts from tens of thousands of throats hailed the imposing effigy of the loved and honored statesman. The effect was absolutely electrical when the Statue was first exposed, and everybody seemed insane with excitement.

When the applauditory clamor had subsided, Mayor Stith stepped forward and requested the Grand Marshal to announce three cheers for Joel T. Hart, Esq., the Sculptor, who, with Judge T. G. Hunt, flanked one side of the Orator's desk, and his Honor and Col. Robert J. Ward the other. They were given with deafening emphasis, Mr. Hart rising and bowing acknowledgment to the salute.

The Dedication.

When the assemblage again became hushed and still, the high officers of the Masonic fraternity, standing on the pediment base of the Statue, dedicated the work with the solemn and mysterious ceremonies of the Order. This was a most interesting and imposing feature of the occasion.

The Ode.

The Committee of Arrangements having changed the programme somewhat from its published form, Mr. Overall declined reciting his promised ode.

The Oration.

Grand Marshal Walton announced the Orator of the day, and Wm. H. Hunt, Esq., arose and delivered the beautiful and eloquent oration which we give below. As the sonorous and powerful voice of the speaker enunciated the flowing periods which told the patriotic virtues and achievements, the private worth and public noble-doing of the subject of eulogy, we saw the cheeks of many an old Clay Whig wet with tears, called forth by the fond remembrances of Harry of the West, which the glowing words of the orator had conjured back to mind.

The oration was a triumphantly brilliant effort, and altogether worthy the grandeur of the occasion—the cap-sheaf and splendid climax which crowned with becoming success and luster the various events of the inauguration. Though the position of many of the myriad of auditors was very uncomfortable, and a fiery sun played upon the great majority, the oration was listened to with breathless interest by all who could get within hearing distance. Rapturous applause frequently broke in upon the speaker, for the enthusiasm was irrepressible:

In the year 1852, a number of public-spirited and patriotic citizens, desirous of manifesting their veneration for the character and public services of Henry Clay, formed themselves into a society named the "Clay Monumental Association of New Orleans." Their object, as their name indicates, was to erect in this city a suitable monument to the illustrious man whose memory they designed to honor.

They determined to erect a bronze statue of Mr. Clay, and they fixed upon this spot for its location, with the permission of the city authorities.

On the 12th of April, 1855, the corner-stone of the pedestal was laid with becoming solemnities. The work of making the statue was entrusted to Mr. Joel T. Hart, of Kentucky. The Association displayed their good judgment in committing this important work to a native sculptor, whose distinguished reputation in the world of Art gave an earnest of its admirable execution; and who, born in the side of Clay's native mountains, and having early learned to contemplate his greatness, would bring to the performance of his grateful task a genius glowing with the enthusiasm of unbounded personal admiration.

Equally judicious has been the selection of this site for the statue. In the most frequented thoroughfare of our city—in the very heart of the metropolis, overlooking the Father of Waters, avenue of our internal commerce, and one of the strongest natural bonds of the Union—it stands conspicuous; a noble and permanent ornament of New Orleans, and a fit monument of the gratitude and veneration of a free people!

And now that this patriotic undertaking is crowned with completion, we have assembled to-day, beneath the open heaven, to celebrate with appropriate ceremonies the gratifying event. The city has assumed its garb of holiday; the artisan has laid aside his work; the stores and places of business are forsaken; the courts and public offices are closed. The large attendance here of the military in glittering uniforms, and of the civic societies in tasteful decorations; the throng of citizens of all classes and occupations, who crowd the ample area where we stand; the groups that fill the surrounding balconies and windows and housetops; the presence on this platform of the highest dignitaries of the State and city, and of the numerous distinguished visitors from other communities, who have come among us, combine to lend unusual consequence to the occasion, and to invest it with a splendid interest.

In the name of the Association whose organ I am, to you, fellow-citizens of Louisiana, and of other portions of our glorious Union, and to others who manifest by their presence a generous sympathy in our proceedings, I extend a hearty, free and American welcome.

The custom of perpetuating the memory of illustrious men by statues or paintings is derived from the remotest antiquity. The ancients were wont thus to typify their gods in order to inspire their youth with sentiments of religious piety; whilst the images of their great captains, their kings and rulers, their sages and statesmen, served constantly to impress upon the people salutary lessons of emulation, patriotism and virtue.

In modern times, throughout the civilized world, this custom still prevails. In Europe every polished nation abounds in monuments to its illustrious heroes. In our own country we have not been unmindful of the advantages to posterity thus conferred, and of our duty to our own feelings; and in most of our larger towns, monuments and statues have been erected to the memory of our distinguished men.

It is the instinct of virtue to do honor to Genius and Patriotism. To do so by the enduring means of the Fine Arts is to illustrate the progress and proficiency of our age in those accomplishments which evince the highest degree of culture and refinement in a nation.

The desire of posthumous fame is a powerful incentive to public virtue. So uncertain are popular favor and power at all times, so much alloyed by envy hatred, malice and all uncharitableness, that a wise man looks rather to posterity than the present for his reward and the realization of his golden dreams of glory. In doing honor to the dead, the living are but discharging a pious duty; and it is by a beautiful and unselfish institution that a virtuous and patriotic people is led to feel a proud pleasure in such holy offices.

Prompted by these feelings, we are here to-day to dedicate this statue—the statue of Henry Clay! Behold his life-like image stands before you! No royal robes adorn his person; no crown, no sceptre, no badges of ancestral glory. No sword is by his side to tell of battles fought and won; no baton to indicate the pomp and power of authority. A plain man, in the simple garments of a citizen; his image challenges not one admiring glance for adventitious aids of rank or the tinsel ornaments of military glory. But he stands before us as we knew him—as we loved and honored him. The embodiment of the Genius, of the wisdom, of the eloquence, of the courage, of the public virtue, of the self-sacrifice, of the patriotism which filled the measure of his country's glory, and made his name and fame immortal.

Henry Clay was born in Hanover county, Virginia, on the 12th day of April, 1777. His parents were very poor, and when he was of tender years his father died. This event left him dependent entirely on his own resources, and he thus early set forth upon the thorny path of life, leaning on no friendly arm, but moulded and unsupported, to achieve the great destiny that awaited him in the future. Having enjoyed slender educational advantages—advantages very far inferior to those now within the reach of every child in this community—we find him at fourteen years of age, and with only three years' schooling, employed in a mercantile house in Richmond. This situation he soon left, to act as a scribe in the office of the Clerk of the Court of Chancery. Here he contracted the acquaintance, and was enabled to enjoy the instructive conversation of many of the ripest lawyers and ablest minds of Virginia—a rare advantage, and want to be undervalued by youth, but which he had the good sense fully to appreciate and improve.

He seized eagerly and gratefully the outstretched hand that sought to guide his youthful footsteps through the darkness with which circumstances had enveloped them.

On becoming licensed to the practice of the law, his ambitious and adventurous spirit led him to remove to Kentucky; and before he arrived at the age of majority he commenced his professional career in that State.

Obscurity and indigence did not dismay his lion heart, but seemed rather to quicken his powers into action, and to strengthen in him the indomitable spirit of self-reliance for which he was ever remarkable. His diligence, his facility, his ability and eloquence achieved for him immediate success, and he rose at once to the highest rank at a bar where there were many lawyers of merit and eminence.

This high professional reputation he maintained throughout his life. I will not weary you by referring to the various important causes in which he participated, although many of them involve high questions of constitutional law and personal rights, which would, doubtless, interest you; but as a member of that noble profession, I feel a pride in pointing to him and in claiming that it was from the study of the enlightened and philosophical principles of the science of the law, he drew those elevated, enlarged and catholic views of constitutional government, of public and personal rights, and that love of regulated liberty on which the pillars of his greatness rest.

Mr. Clay soon left the exclusive practice of his profession, to engage in the more extended duties of political life. Elected to the Legislature of Kentucky in 1803, he may be considered to have then enlisted himself in the service of his country. In 1806 he was elected to the Senate of the United States for an unexpired term, and was again elected to that body in 1809, to fill another vacancy. His national career seems thus strangely to have commenced at a point of distinction where the glory of the most successful of our public men usually culminates.

Returned to the House of Representatives in Congress, at the expiration of his Senatorial term, in 1811, he first entered that body. His fame had preceded him. In the graphic language of Mr. Randolph: "his first step was from the door of the House to the Speaker's chair."

Through successive Congresses he continued to fill this distinguished and conspicuous position for about thirteen years. His impartiality and fairness—the dignity and courtesy of his demeanor—the justice, readiness and correctness which marked his decisions of questions of order, won for him the respect and applause of even political opponents. To have filled this exalted station for so long a period was of itself a distinction such as has occurred in the history of no other public man in this country.

But Mr. Clay did not content himself simply with the duty of presiding over the deliberations of the House. He participated largely in its business. Whenever a measure of moment arose during his Speakership, he left the chair to take a part in its discussion. His labors thus were most arduous and incessant; and it is believed that during this time he exercised an influence over the House such as no statesman ever wielded before or since.

From this theater of his glory he was called to act as one of the commissioners of the United States in negotiating a treaty in 1814 and 1815, and subsequently to accept the post of Secretary of State during the administration of Mr. Adams. In 1831 he was elected to the Senate of the United States, and continued a member of that body until 1842, when he resigned his seat and retired to private life. In 1848 he was, however, called from his retirement to occupy again, and for the fifth time, a seat in the Senate; and he continued a member of that august body up to the time of his death in June, 1852.

It is not my object, nor would it be becoming in me on an occasion like this, to enter upon the discussion of those measures of public policy which he advocated during his long life. "I am not here to rake off the warm ashes from the embers of controversies which have spent their fury, and are dying away, or to fan the fires of those which still burn." But it is proper to bring before your minds some of his leading measures and views, which, sometimes shaping the course of our national policy and sometimes opposing it, illustrate his character as a statesman.

Mr. Clay has been called "the Father of the policy of internal improvements by the General Government." As far back as 1807 his opinions on this important subject were foreshadowed in the Senate, in his speech on the Potomac Bridge bill. It is true that this policy had been previously recommended by Mr. Jefferson. Mr. Madison also recommended the subject with approbation. But when, under the advocacy of Mr. Clay in 1817, a bill was proposed to set aside for internal improvements a fund, to be paid into the National Treasury by the Bank of the United States, then rechartered, President Madison vetoed the bill upon the ground of its unconstitutionality. President Monroe, his successor, in his first annual message, in anticipation of renewed legislation on the subject, took occasion to pronounce his clear opinion that Congress did not possess the power under the Constitution.

Against the authority of these distinguished statesmen, Mr. Clay stood forth the leading advocate of the power. A resolution introduced into the House declaring that Congress possessed the power to construct military roads, post-roads and canals, called forth from him a speech of masterly ability and eloquence. The argument of Madison had been, that the Constitution should be amended so as to confer this power upon Congress. But Mr. Clay pressed the resolution, considering that if the House decided against the power, it was gone—gone forever—unless restored by a constitutional amendment, which he showed it was impracticable to seek or expect. He carried through his exertions the resolution passed the House by a handsome majority, and the power of Congress over the subject was for the first time emphatically declared.

Doubts among statesmen may still exist as to the correctness of Mr. Clay's views upon this subject. The important works of public utility, which have been since undertaken and completed by the Government, and to him more than to any other statesman of his era, is the country indebted for the permanent benefits they have conferred. The traveler upon our noblest national highway, the great Cumberland Road, sees in the striking monument which has been erected to his genius, and which bears his name inscribed upon its shaft, a just tribute of gratitude to the enlightened patriotism of the Father of International Improvements. Nor will I be considered as trenching on forbidden ground when I cite as a corollary from the principles of constitutional interpretation he advocated, the recent recommendation to Congress by President Buchanan that the General Government should lend its patronage and aid to the construction of a great national railway to the shores of the Pacific.

In April, 1810, Mr. Clay delivered his first speech in Congress in favor of the policy of protecting and encouraging domestic manufactures. Of this policy, familiarly known as the American system, he continued, throughout his entire life, the zealous and devoted friend. Mr. Benton referred to him as its "founder." It aimed to effect the entire independence of our country of all foreign nations as it respects our essential wants. The system proposed that, "whilst imposts should be mainly, and under modifications might safely, be relied on as a fit and convenient source of public revenue, the articles of foreign fabrics should be so adjusted and arranged as to afford a gradual but adequate protection to American industry; thus lessening our dependence on foreign nations, by securing a certain and ultimately a cheaper and better supply of our own wants from our own abundant resources."

In the advocacy of this comprehensive and truly national policy, Mr. Clay, at different periods, encountered the strenuous opposition of the greatest intellects of the country. At one epoch Mr. Webster, whose views upon the subject subsequently underwent a change, opposed it with all the masterly power of his gigantic mind; whilst the whole energies of the disciplined logic of Mr. Calhoun, in his later days, sought to break it down. In the discussion of no subject during his life has Mr. Clay displayed more splendid or more varied powers of oratory—more vigor and profundity of argument—a greater extent of information and a more admirable patriotism.

Sustained by the watchfulness of its great founder, the principle of protection involved in the system, modified according to the increasing strength of our manufactures and the demands of the National Treasury, withstood the assaults of its opponents, and is still to a certain extent, the policy of the country. Its beneficent influences have been shown in the development of our national enterprise, in the encouragement of the mechanic arts, in opening and multiplying diversified avenues of labor, in swelling the tide of industrial immigration to our shores, in securing at home the vast profits resulting from a conversion of raw materials into manufactured articles, and in the creation of new ties of interest binding more closely together the different portions of the Union.

In 1832, propositions being introduced into the Senate in regard to fixing the price and the transfer of the public lands, it was moved to refer them to the Committee on Manufactures, of which Mr. Clay was a member. In spite of the incongruity of the subject with those legitimately falling within the province of that committee, and notwithstanding earnest the entreaties of Mr. Clay and his remonstrances against a course so extraordinary, the motion prevailed.

"The design was," said he, "to place in my hands a many edged instrument, which I could not touch without being wounded." It was supposed that, in view of the approaching Presidential election, and actuated by motives of personal advancement, he would be tempted to advocate the demands of the new States to the public domain, in hopes of their favor, and would so incur the displeasure of the old; or, that by a course of silence and inaction, he might seek to avoid all responsibility in the matter. How fallacious were these expectations! The patriotic statesman at once applied himself to the duty thus ungraciously imposed upon him, and soon reported to the Senate a bill containing features so eminently just and based upon such sound policy, that it passed the very Senate which had hoped to embarrass its author. The measure was subsequently concurred in by the House of Representative by the unusually large vote of 96 over 40. It was defeated by the veto of the Executive; but through its means and the wise course of Mr. Clay upon the subject, many plans for the plunder of the public lands, were then and afterwards frustated, and in 1841 many of the important features of this bill became a law. I cite this history not merely as displaying the wisdom of Mr. Clay, and the resources of his great intellect, and the influence he exerted in the councils of the nation, but as illustrating his fearlessness of all personal consequences in the faithful discharge of public duty.

To the consideration of the subject of the national currency Mr. Clay, throughout his life, devoted his enlarged and practical mind. In 1811, acting under the convictions of his judgment as to the unconstitutionality of a Bank of the United States, and in accordance with the instructions of the Kentucky Legislature, he voted and spoke against the recharter of that institution. But in 1816, whilst Speaker of the House, upon a report introduced by Mr. Calhoun, proposing the recharter of the Bank, pursuant to the recommendation of President Madison, Mr. Clay came down from the chair to the floor to advocate the measure. This is the only instance of a change of views by Mr. Clay on any important measure of national policy during a public life of nearly half a century. The reasons which led to this change he frankly avowed. A heavy debt, the result of the late war, weighed like an incubus upon the country, and there was a general national financial embarrassment. The eyes of the whole people were turned to the Government in the reasonable expectation that the Legislature would devise some means of relief. Satisfied by experience and more mature reflection of the incorrectness of his first scruples as to the constitutionality of a Bank, and impressed with a full conviction of its absolute necessity, he did not hesitate to announce publicly his change of opinion, when he might have sheltered himself behind his Speaker's chair. He knew full well that his candor was liable to misconstruction—his motives open to animadversion and suspicion. It was like him to meet the responsibility face to face, with the courage of conscious rectitude.

When this subject again came before Congress in 1832, he advocated the recharter of the Bank. The measure failed, as is well known, through the veto of the President. The opposition in Congress to this veto, and to the subsequent removal of the deposits, and indeed to the administrations of Gen. Jackson and Mr. Van Buren, was open, determined and dauntless. Mr. Clay became on all occasions its courageous, skillful and acknowledged leader. Though thwarted in carrying through their measures, the opposition enjoyed the satisfaction of seeing them approved of by the people, in the memorable Presidential contest of 1840. The untimely death of Gen. Harrison prevented the realization of the expectations of his party. But the election of that distinguished patriot was no less a verdict of the people in favor of the policy which Mr. Clay had so long and consistently advocated before the country. Since that time, some of the measures of the great Whig party, of which he was the life and soul, have been laid aside or modified; but let any candid mind turn to the history of that party, and however much he may dissent from its tenets, he cannot but admit that its aims were patriotic and national, pure, comprehensive and republican.

Hitherto I have spoken only of some of those measures of domestic policy in which Mr. Clay bore a prominent part. I pass now to review briefly his course with reference to the foreign relations of our country.

It has been said by a distinguished statesman, whose name I take pride in mentioning—by Mr. Crittenden—that "to Mr. Clay belonged the statesman's portion of the glory of the last war with Great Britain;" and the strongest testimony of his contemporaries has assigned to him the honor of being its most prominent and effective advocate and supporter.

When, in 1812, President Madison sent a confidential communication to Congress, recommending an embargo upon vessels then in port for sixty days, the measure was strenuously opposed in the Senate. Mr. Clay, then a member of that body, rose forth its defender, assuming the bold ground that it was "to be viewed as the direct precursor to war." The measure was adopted, and was shortly followed by an open declaration of war with England.

Under the Berlin and Milan decrees of Napoleon our ships and their cargoes had been seized and confiscated by the French. The British, by their orders in Council, continued during the same time to perpetrate like outrages upon our flag and property. These wrongs were justified by each nation upon the novel plea that they were also perpetrated with impunity by the other. Dissatisfied with our policy of neutrality, they despised our power to resent their injuries. Our feeble remonstrances, was induced to forego, so far as we were concerned, the hostilities perpetrated under her decrees. But the haughty and domineering spirit of England was reluctant to refrain from further aggressions upon us, and she continued for a year after to harrass our commerce, to violate our flag, to stop our ships upon the high seas, and to search and impress our own sons—and to impress into her hateful service American citizens. In a space of some two months and a half, twenty-seven merchant ships were taken by British cruisers and condemned as prizes by British Courts of Admiralty; and it was estimated that up to the time when war was declared, four seamen were impressed, in flagrant violation of our rights under the established principles of the Law of Nations.

Outrages such as these, the people of this country, mindful of their ancestral glories and instinctively imbued with the spirit of liberty and independence, could not long tolerate. To portray them in the strains of fiery indignation and impassioned eloquence which Mr. Clay employed, was at once to flush the cheeks and stir the heart of the nation. The patriotism of the people became kindled into a blaze. The powers of his oratory at this time seemed indeed wonderful. He spoke like one inspired. His words glowed with genius and patriotism. In one of his bursts of eloquence he memorialized the people in relation to the right of impressment as claimed and exercised by Great Britain, which has stood and is now the acknowledged principle of the Law of Nations. Speaking of the certificates of protection to our seamen, authorized by the act of 1796, he said: "Sir, Government has done too much in granting these paper protections. I can never think of them without being shocked. They recognize for the paper which the master gives to his negro slave: 'let the bearer Mungo, pass and repass without molestation.' What do they imply? That Great Britain has a right to seize all who are not provided with them. From their very nature, they must be liable to abuse on both sides. If Great Britain desires a mark by which to distinguish her subjects, let her give them an ear mark. *The colors that float from the mast heads of our ships should be the only credentials of our seamen.*"

During the war he wielded an influence almost absolute in the House—among such illustrious statesmen as Lowndes, Calhoun, Cheves, Peter B. Porter, and others. He showed the nation how to breast the storm; and was most active and zealous in devising and advocating plans to provide for our efficient armament.

Wherever the recruiting drum was heard, our youth pressed forward in crowds to answer its beat—going forth to war in vindication of our country's honor. Need I remind you, Mr. President, how, in your own and his beloved Kentucky, in the short space of a few weeks, your illustrious ancestors, the Johnsons, raised, equipped, and took the field at the head of a regiment of mounted men, a thousand strong, the flower and the strength of your noble country, they then marched from their firesides and