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THE LAST HOURS OF CONGRESS.

Our reporters have industriously supplied us with notes of the Proceedings of the two Houses of Congress previous to the adjournment on Monday night, of which we regret being obliged to defer the publication to our next.

We sum up the leading incidents of the night in the following paragraphs:

The two Houses sat, busily engaged, until nearly three o'clock on Tuesday morning.

All the annual appropriation bills finally passed, and have become laws.

The bill making appropriations for the improvement of harbors and rivers, and for the continuation of the Cumberland road, including more beneficial legislation than all the other acts of the session put together, which had passed the House of Representatives, was taken up in the Senate late in the night, passed, returned to the House without amendment, presented to the President, and by him retained without being either approved or returned to the body in which it originated, and thus was lost; a loss greatly to be regretted, though it was only shared the fate of a great many important and desirable bills which did not get as far as that on their passage.

The Senate also, late at night, took up and passed several bills of secondary importance from the House, which lay on its table in a state to allow of their being acted upon, and which have become laws.

One incident of the night which we delight to record was a decisive victory over the Executive Veto, being the first such victory ever achieved in this Government. A bill had passed both Houses, and been sent to the President, to forbid the construction of revenue cutters, at the Executive pleasure, without the previous authority of Congress. This bill was returned by the President to the Senate, in which body it originated, with his objections to it; and the question being again taken on the passage of the bill, notwithstanding the President's objections, the vote was, yeas 126, nays 81. So, passing both bodies by more than a two-thirds vote, it has become a law, in defiance of the Veto.

The Senate held no Executive Session on Monday, so that a large number of nominations to office made by the late President, remaining unacted upon at the close of the Session, have fallen to the ground. Among them was the nomination to the much-coveted appointment of Consul of the United States at Liverpool.

THE SENATE.
The Senate of the United States met on Tuesday in Extra Session, being convoked, as is usual, by the late President, to hold counsel with his successor after his induction to office.

All the new Senators Elect were present and were sworn in; after which the VICE PRESIDENT, being also sworn into office, took the Chair of the Senate, relinquished to him by Mr. MANUUM, who has so long filled it with the general approbation.

THE INAUGURATION.

The city had been filling up for days, and even for weeks, in anticipation of the approaching inauguration, with strangers of every rank in life, and every variety of personal appearance. The public hotels had become so much crowded as to be compelled to refuse new applicants, and the private boarding houses were speedily coming into the same condition. Halls, and bar-rooms, dining-rooms, ay, and dining-tables, might at night be seen covered with beds and pallets for the accommodation of such as could no longer gain admission into the over-crowded chambers. Country people from the vicinity, on horseback, on foot, and in vehicles of every variety, flocked on Monday, besides loads of passengers in every train of cars, regular and extra, and every line of boats. Many strangers, of noble port and dignified appearance, were from time to time to be met on our great thoroughfares, recognising each other, as after long separation. Ex-Judges, ex-Senators, ex-Heads of Department, former members of both Houses of Congress in great numbers, Governors of States, and other distinguished individuals from all parts of our country, seemed drawn together, as by a spell, to one common centre of attraction. Office-seekers and office-expectants, political speculators and party leaders without number, and of every caliber, crowded our streets, and especially near the hotel where Mr. Polk, the President Elect, had lodgings. Among other worthies, the members of the famous "Empire Club," conspicuous from their flame-colored uniform, blazed like meteors among the throng. The fairer sex must not be forgotten. They, too, in all their grades, from the jeweled lady to the modest country girl in her new bonnet and riband, appeared to diversify the ruder multitude. The city was swarming like a hive, and the slow moving stream of people traversing the pavements of Pennsylvania avenue in the morning of yesterday seemed itself a procession upon some sad or solemn occasion, rather than a joyous gathering for the purpose of common gratulation.

The hopes of the morrow, which had kept many an eye waking through the preceding night, were all sadly dashed by the unrelenting, undiscriminating sky, which, after a transient smile, began to lower, and frown, and threaten, and finally to pour down rain outright. Could any peering eye, any lurking open ear, have witnessed the corresponding frowns in many a boudoir, where ladies were ready to be donned, and all the artillery of Beauty lay, like the arms of Achilles, all ready for fields of victory, how sad, yet how instructive, might not the lesson have proved! However, the appointed cannons roared; and the national flags, (displayed, be it remembered, from every Whig as well as every Democratic staff,) though somewhat damped by the unpropitious heavens, did their best to wave in triumph; and the bands played martial

airs. The programme had promised a splendid procession; something must be done; and accordingly, such a display of umbrellas as darkened the city by their shade was never probably witnessed by "the oldest inhabitant."

The Procession, being formed, proceeded to the Capitol in the order described in a following column; considerably lessened in the brilliancy of its display, however, by the rain which fell during its march.

Within the Capitol a more interesting scene presented itself than on the approach to it. The avenues to the building had all been closed and carefully guarded till the hour appointed in the plan of proceedings. But, when that hour did arrive, the rush was fearful. No limbs, happily, were broken, though injuries both to clothes and persons certainly were sustained. The gentlemen's gallery in the Senate chamber was crowded as in a moment, while the stairs leading to it and a large space about the door long continued to be occupied by a struggling mass, vainly hoping to work their way in. The circular gallery opposite to the gentlemen's gallery was given up to the Ladies, on condition, however, that beaux and brothers should be left behind; and, accordingly, when these doors also were thrown open, such a din of sweet sounds burst forth, and such a waving of plumes, fanned by ambrosial breath, astonished the delighted air, as would call for a poet duly to describe it.

In the area below, the officials might be seen arranging seats and making preparation for the august assemblage that was soon to enter. Senators and Representatives in Congress began to drop in, with now and then one of our naval or military heroes in his imposing military dress; and then the craning of necks, and peering of eager curious eyes, and the pressing of incessant queries, showed that to a large portion of those who beheld it the scene was entirely new. At length the Marshal of the District of Columbia and the Clerk of the Supreme Court made their appearance, at the head of the Judges of the Supreme Court in their robes, who, entering the space in front of the Secretary's table, occupied seats in a semicircle on the right of the Chair of the President of the Senate. A solemn, beautiful, and very appropriate Prayer was delivered by the Chaplain of the Senate.

The Senate being called to order, the new Senators were qualified; among whom we recognised, with cordial satisfaction, the noble intellectual countenances of several good Whigs and true, the eloquent advocates and guardians of the Union and the Constitution, whose voice has been as a battle-cry in some of the darkest days of our changeable history.

When all the new Senators had taken their seats, the appearance of the VICE PRESIDENT elect attracted, as well by the dignity as the snow-like whiteness of the hair which distinguishes Mr. DALLAS, the immediate notice of all spectators. The oath of office was administered to him by the Hon. Mr. MANUUM, the President of the Senate, who immediately vacated his own seat, surrendering it to his new occupant.

A brief pause ensued; after which M. DALLAS rose and delivered, with great self-possession and composure, the brief Address of which a copy will be found in another part of this day's paper.

The Diplomatic Corps entered the hall while the Vice President was speaking, and took their seats on the left of the chair, opposite the Judges. If the appearance of Major General SCOTT, with his towering form and lofty plumes, and other General and Staff Officers, in full uniform, called forth comments and inquiries in all quarters, who can tell the impression on one of the sons of the West, now visiting cities for the first time, of the brilliant, many-colored, dazzling spectacle of official national costumes now presented to his gaze?

"Who is that gentleman in the bright red coat?" "Which is the British Minister?" "Which is the French?" "Who is that with the large epaulets?" "Where is the Spanish Minister?" "Who are all those in the back row?—that one, with the gold snuff-box in his hand?—that young man, with the black moustaches?" "Where is the Mexican Minister?" A hundred questions like these might be heard among the crowd in the gallery, and the man who could answer seemed to be looked to as a sort of oracle.

At length the two PRESIDENTS, actual and elect, entered, not like Richard and Bolingbroke, but side by side, and took their seats below the Clerk's table, and with their faces towards the audience, and then, after a brief pause, the order of arrangements was read aloud, the parties falling into their places as they were respectively named, and the whole mass left the Senate Chamber and proceeded to the Eastern Portico.

Here a temporary stage had been erected, as at the inauguration of President HARRISON, over the great flight of steps; and, from the front of this, the PRESIDENT ELECT read to as many of the vast mass which filled the space in front as could hear him, the Address which will be found in the following columns. He read it in a firm tone of voice, with the air of a man profoundly impressed by it himself, and desirous to impress it upon others.

The delivery of the Inaugural being concluded, the Oath of Office was administered to the PRESIDENT by the CHIEF JUSTICE of the United States, and the new President was saluted by loud cheers from the surrounding multitude.

The Procession was then again formed, and escorted the PRESIDENT to the Presidential Mansion, where, in the course of the afternoon, he received the congratulations of a large number of his fellow-citizens.

FROM THE MARIANNA OF MONDAY EVENING.
FLOYD WAGGAMAN, Esq., will leave the city this afternoon to deliver to Major DONELSON, temporarily at Nashville, the Joint Resolution for the admission of Texas into the Union, which was signed by the President of the United States on Saturday. Should it be found that our Charge has left Nashville, the bearer of despatches has been directed to proceed immediately himself to Texas.

The people of CINCINNATI have, by a public vote, decided against the erection of additional public buildings, and a public square in that city, because of the increase of taxation which would attend such improvements.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

PRONOUNCED BY
JAMES K. POLK, PRESIDENT,
In the presence of the Senate and People of the United States,
AT THE CAPITOL, MARCH 4, 1845.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: Without solicitation on my part, I have been chosen by the free and voluntary suffrages of my countrymen to the most honorable and most responsible office on earth. I am deeply impressed with gratitude for the confidence reposed in me. Honored with this distinguished consideration at an earlier period of life than any of my predecessors, I cannot disguise the diffidence with which I am about to enter on the discharge of my official duties.

If the more aged and experienced men who have filled the office of President of the United States, even in the infancy of the Republic, distrusted their ability to discharge the duties of that exalted station, what ought not to be the apprehensions of one so much younger and less endowed, now that our domain extends from ocean to ocean, that our people have so greatly increased in numbers, and at a time when so great a diversity of opinion prevails in regard to the principles and policy which should characterize the administration of our Government? Well may the boldest fear, and the wisest tremble, when incurring responsibilities on which may depend our country's peace and prosperity, and, in some degree, the hopes and happiness of the whole human family.

In assuming responsibilities so vast, I fervently invoke the aid of that Almighty Ruler of the universe, in whose hands are the destinies of nations and of men, to guard this heaven-favored land against the mischiefs which, without his guidance, might arise from an unwise public policy. With a firm reliance upon the wisdom of Omnipotence to sustain and direct me in the path of duty which I am appointed to pursue, I stand in the presence of this assembled multitude of my countrymen, to take upon myself the solemn obligation, "to the best of my ability to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

A concise enumeration of the principles which will guide me in the administrative policy of the Government, is not only in accordance with the examples set me by all my predecessors, but is eminently befitting the occasion.

The Constitution itself, plainly written as it is, the safeguard of our federative compact, the offspring of concession and compromise, binding together in the bonds of peace and union this great and increasing family of free and independent States, will be the chart by which I shall be directed.

It will be my first care to administer the Government in the true spirit of that instrument, and to assume no powers not expressly granted or clearly implied in its terms. The Government of the United States is one of delegated and limited powers; and it is by a strict adherence to the clearly granted powers, and by abstaining from the exercise of doubtful or unauthorized implied powers, that we have the only sure guaranty against the recurrence of those unfortunate collisions between the Federal and State authorities which have occasionally so much disturbed the harmony of our system, and even threatened the perpetuity of our glorious Union.

"To the States respectively, or to the People," have been reserved "the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States." Each State is a complete sovereignty within the sphere of its reserved powers. The Government of the Union, acting within the sphere of its delegated authority, is also a complete sovereignty. While the General Government should abstain from the exercise of authority not clearly delegated to it, the States should be equally careful that, in the maintenance of their rights, they do not exceed the limits of powers reserved to them. One of the most distinguished of my predecessors attached deserved importance to "the support of the State Governments in all their rights, as the most competent administration for our domestic concerns, and the surest bulwark against anti-republican tendencies," and to "the preservation of the General Government in its whole constitutional vigor, as the sheet-anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad."

To the Government of the United States has been entrusted the exclusive management of our foreign affairs; beyond that, it wields a few general enumerated powers. It does not force reform on the States. It leaves individuals, over whom it casts its protecting influence, entirely free to improve their own condition by the legitimate exercise of all their mental and physical powers. It is a common protector of each and all the States; of every man who lives upon our soil, whether of native or foreign birth; of every religious sect, in the worship of the Almighty according to the dictates of their own conscience; of every shade of opinion, and the most free inquiry; of every art, trade, and occupation, consistent with the laws of the States. And we rejoice in the general happiness, prosperity, and advancement of our country, which have been the offspring of freedom, and not of power.

This most admirable and wisest system of well-regulated self-government among men ever devised by human minds, has been tested by its successful operation for more than half a century; and, if preserved from the usurpations of the Federal Government on the one hand, and the exercise by the States of powers not reserved to them on the other, will, I fervently hope and believe, endure for ages to come, and dispense the blessings of civil and religious liberty to distant generations. To effect objects so dear to every patriot, I shall devote myself with anxious solicitude. It will be my desire to guard against that most fruitful source of danger to the harmonious action of our system which consists in substituting the mere discretion and caprice of the Executive, or of majorities in the legislative department of the Government, for powers which have been withheld from the Federal Government by the Constitution. By the theory of our Government, majorities rule; but this right is not an arbitrary or unlimited one. It is a right to be exercised in subordination to the Constitution, and in conformity to it. One great object of the Constitution was to restrain majorities from oppressing minorities, or encroaching upon their just rights. Minorities have a right to appeal to the Constitution as a shield against such oppression.

That the blessings of liberty which our Constitution secures may be enjoyed alike by minorities and majorities, the Executive has been wisely invested with a qualified veto upon the acts of the Legislature. It is a negative power, and is conservative in its character. It arrests for the time hasty, inconsiderate, or unconstitutional legislation, invites reconsideration, and transfers questions at issue between the Legislative and Executive departments to the tribunal of the People. Like all other powers, it is subject to be abused. When judiciously and properly exercised, the Constitution itself may be saved from infraction, and the rights of all preserved and protected.

The inestimable value of our Federal Union is felt and acknowledged by all. By this system of united and confederated States our people are permitted, collectively and individually, to seek their own happiness in their own way, and the consequences have been most auspicious. Since the Union was formed the number of the States has increased from thirteen to twenty-eight; two of these have taken their position as members of the Confederacy within the last week. Our population has increased from three to twenty millions. New communities and States are seeking protection under itsegis, and multitudes from the Old World are flocking to our shores to participate in its blessings. Beneath its benign sway peace and prosperity prevail. Freed from the burdens and miseries of war, our trade and intercourse have extended throughout the world. Mind, no longer tasked in devising means to accomplish or resist schemes of ambition, usurpation, or conquest, is devoting itself to man's true interests in developing his faculties and powers, and the capacity of nature to minister to his enjoyments. Genius is free to announce its inventions and discoveries, and the hand is free to accomplish whatever the head conceives not incompatible with the rights of a fellow-being. All distinctions of birth or of rank have been abolished. All citizens, whether native or adopted, are placed upon terms of precise equality. All are entitled to equal rights and equal protection. No union exists between Church

and State, and perfect freedom of opinion is guaranteed to all sects and creeds.

These are some of the blessings secured to our happy land by our Federal Union. To perpetuate them it is our sacred duty to preserve it. Who shall assign limits to the achievements of free minds and free hands under the protection of this glorious Union? No reason to mankind, since the organization of society, would be equal in atrocity to that of him who would lift his hand to destroy it. He would overthrow the noblest structure of human wisdom, which protects himself and his fellow-man. He would stop the progress of free government, and involve his country either in anarchy or despotism. He would extinguish the fire of liberty, which warms and animates the hearts of happy millions, and invites all the nations of the earth to imitate our example. If he say that error and wrong are committed in the administration of the Government, let him remember that nothing human can be perfect; and that under no other system of government revealed by Heaven or devised by man has reason been allowed so free and broad a scope to combat error. Has the sword of despotism proved to be a safer or surer instrument of reform in Governments than enlightened reason? Does he expect to find among the ruins of this Union a happier abode for our swarming millions than they now have under it? Every lover of his country must shudder at the thought of the possibility of its dissolution, and will be ready to adopt the patriotic sentiment, "Our Federal Union, it must be preserved." To preserve it, the compromises which alone enabled our fathers to form a common Constitution for the government and protection of so many States and distinct communities, of such diversified habits, interests, and domestic institutions, must be sacredly and religiously observed. Any attempt to disturb or destroy these compromises, being terms of the compact of Union, can lead to no other than the most ruinous and disastrous consequences.

It is a source of deep regret that, in some sections of our country, misguided persons have occasionally indulged in schemes and agitations whose object is the destruction of domestic institutions existing in other sections—institutions which existed at the adoption of the Constitution, and were recognized and protected by it. All must see that, if it were possible for them to be successful in attaining their object, the dissolution of the Union, and the consequent destruction of our happy form of Government, must speedily follow.

I am happy to believe that at every period of our existence as a nation there has existed, and continues to exist, among the great mass of our people, a devotion to the Union of the States which will shield and protect it against the moral treason of any who would seriously contemplate its destruction. To secure a continuance of that devotion, the compromises of the Constitution should not only be preserved, but sectional jealousies and heartburnings must be discontinued, and all should remember that they are members of the same political family, having a common destiny. To increase the attachment of our people to the Union, our laws should be just. Any policy which shall tend to favor monopolies, or the peculiar interests of sections or classes, must operate to the prejudice of the interests of their fellow citizens, and should be avoided. If the compromises of the Constitution be preserved, if sectional jealousies and heartburnings be discontinued, if by laws be just, and the Government be practically administered strictly within the limits of power prescribed to it, we may discard all apprehensions for the safety of the Union.

With these views of the nature, character, and objects of the Government, and the value of the Union, I shall steadily oppose the creation of those institutions and systems which, in their nature, tend to pervert it from its legitimate purposes, and make it the instrument of sections, classes, and individuals. We need no National Banks, or other extraneous institutions, planted around the Government, to control or strengthen it in opposition to the will of its authors. Experience has taught us how unnecessary they are auxiliaries of the public authorities, how impotent for good, and how powerful for mischief.

Ours was intended to be a plain and frugal Government, and I shall regard it to be my duty to recommend to Congress, and, as far as the Executive is concerned, to enforce, by all the means within my power, the strictest economy in the expenditure of the public money which may be compatible with the public interests.

A national debt has become almost an institution of European monarchies. It is viewed, in some of them, as an essential prop to existing Governments. Melancholy is the condition of that people whose Government can be sustained only by a system which periodically transfers large amounts from their pockets to the pockets of a few. Such a system is incompatible with the ends for which our republican Government was instituted. Under a wise policy, the debt contracted in our Revolution and during the war of 1812 have been happily extinguished. By a judicious application of the resources not required for other necessary purposes, it is not doubted that the debt which has grown out of the circumstances of the last few years may be speedily paid off.

I congratulate my fellow-citizens on the entire restoration of the credit of the General Government of the Union and that of many of the States. Happy would it be for the indebted States if they were freed from their liabilities, many of which were incautiously contracted. Although the Government of the Union is neither in a legal nor a moral sense bound for the debts of the States, and it would be a violation of our compact of Union to assume them, yet we cannot but feel a deep interest in seeing all the States meet their public liabilities and pay off their debts at the earliest practicable period. That they will do so, as soon as it can be done without imposing too heavy burdens on their citizens, there is no reason to doubt. The sound, moral, and honorable feeling of the people of the indebted States cannot be questioned; and we are happy to perceive a settled disposition on their part, as their ability returns, after a season of unexampled pecuniary embarrassment, to pay off all just demands, and to acquiesce in any reasonable measures to accomplish that object.

One of the difficulties which we have had to encounter in the practical administration of the Government consists in the adjustment of our revenue laws and the levy of the taxes necessary for the support and Government. In the general provision that no more money shall be collected than the necessities of an economical administration shall require all parties seem to acquiesce. Nor does there seem to be any material dissent of opinion as to the absence of right in the Government to tax one section of country, or one class of citizens, or one individual, for the support and Government of another. Justice and sound policy forbid the Federal Government to foster one branch of industry to the detriment of another, or to cherish the interests of one portion to the injury of another portion of our common country. I have therefore declared to my fellow-citizens that, "in my judgment, it is the duty of the Government to reverse such a policy, and, as far as it may be practicable to do so, by its revenue laws and all other means within its power, fair and just protection to all the great interests of the whole Union, embracing agriculture, manufactures, the mechanic arts, commerce, and navigation." I have also declared my opinion to be "in favor of a tariff for revenue," and that, "in adjusting the details of such a tariff, I have sanctioned such moderate discriminating duties as would produce the amount of revenue needed, and at the same time afford reasonable incidental protection to our home industry;" and that I was "opposed to a tariff for protection merely, and not for revenue."

The power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, was an indispensable one to be conferred on the Federal Government, which, without it, would possess no means of providing for its own support. In executing this power by levying a tariff of duties for the support of Government, the object of revenue should be the object, and protection the incident. To reverse this principle, and make protection the object and revenue the incident, would be to inflict manifest injustice upon all other than the protected interests. In levying duties for revenue, it is doubtless proper to make such discriminations, within the revenue principle, as will afford incidental protection to home interests. Within the revenue limit, there is a discretion to discriminate; beyond that limit, the rightful exercise of the power is not conceded. The incidental protection afforded to our home interests by discriminations within the revenue range, it is believed will be accomplished. In making discriminations, all our home interests should, as far as possible, be equally protected. The largest portion of our people are agriculturists. Others are employed in manufactures, commerce, navigation, and the mechanic arts. They are all engaged in their respective pursuits, and their joint labors constitute the national or home industry. To tax one branch of this home industry for the benefit of another would be unjust. No one of these interests can rightfully claim an advantage over the others, or to be enriched by impoverishing the others. All are equally entitled to the fostering care and protection of the Government. In exercising a sound discretion in levying discriminating duties within the

limit prescribed, care should be taken that it be done in a manner not to benefit the wealthy few, at the expense of the toiling millions, by taxing *luxuries* the necessities of life, or articles of superior quality and high price, which can only be consumed by the wealthy; and *highest* the necessities of life, or articles of coarse quality and low price, which the poor and great mass of our people must consume. The burdens of Government should, as far as practicable, be distributed justly and equally among all classes of our population. These general views, long entertained on this subject, I have deemed it proper to reiterate. It is a subject upon which conflicting interests of sections and occupations are supposed to exist, and a spirit of mutual concession and compromise in adjusting its details should be cherished by every part of our wide-spread country, as the only means of preserving harmony and a cheerful acquiescence of all in the operation of our revenue laws. Our patriotic citizens in every part of the Union will readily submit to the payment of such taxes as shall be needed for the support of their Government, whether in peace or in war, if they are so levied as to distribute the burdens as equally as possible among them.

The Republic of Texas has made known her desire to come into our Union, to form a part of our Confederacy, and enjoy with us the blessings of liberty, secured and guaranteed by our Constitution. Texas was once a part of our country—was unwisely ceded away to a foreign Power—is now independent, and possesses an undoubted right to dispose of a part or the whole of her territory, and to merge her sovereignty, as a separate and independent State, in ours. I congratulate my country that, by an act of the late Congress of the United States, the necessity of the Government has been given to the reunion; and it only remains for the two countries to agree upon the terms, to consummate an object so important to both.

I regard the question of annexation as belonging exclusively to the United States and Texas. They are independent Powers, competent to contract; and foreign nations have no right to interfere with their free exertions to their reunion. Foreign Powers do not seem to appreciate the true character of our Government. Our Union is a confederation of independent States, whose policy is peace with each other and all the world. To enlarge its limits is to extend the dominion of peace over additional territories and increasing millions of our fellow-citizens. While the Chief Magistrate and the popular branch of Congress are elected for short terms by the suffrages of those millions who must, in their own persons, bear all the burdens and miseries of war, our Government cannot be otherwise than pacific. Foreign Powers should therefore look on the annexation of Texas to the United States, not as the conquest of a nation seeking to extend her dominions by arms and violence, but as the peaceful acquisition of a territory once her own, by adding another member to our confederation with the consent of that member—thereby diminishing the chances of war, and opening to them new and ever-increasing markets for their products.

To Texas the reunion is important, because the strong protecting arm of our Government would be extended over her, and the vast resources of her fertile soil and genial climate would be speedily developed, and her commerce with the Pacific Ocean would be secured. The safety of New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico would be secured against hostile aggression, as well as the interests of the whole Union would be promoted by it.

In the earlier stages of our national existence the opinion prevailed with some that our system of confederated States could not be extended to other sections of territory, and sectional objections have at different times been made to the enlargement of our boundaries. These objections were earnestly urged when we acquired Louisiana. Experience has shown that they were not well founded. The title of numerous Indian tribes to vast tracts of country has been extinguished, and new States have been admitted into the Union. New Territories have been created, and our jurisdiction and laws extended over them. As our population has expanded, the Union has been enlarged and strengthened. As our boundaries have been enlarged, and our agricultural population has been spread over a large and fertile territory, our commerce and manufactures have increased, and our national strength and security. It may well be doubted whether it would be in greater danger of overthrow four present population were confined to the comparatively narrow limits of the original thirteen States, than it is now that they are sparsely settled over a more expanded territory.

It is not to be feared that the extension of our jurisdiction and laws to the remote bounds of our territorial limits, and that, as it shall be extended, the bonds of our Union, so far from being weakened, will become stronger.

None can fail to see the danger to our safety and future peace, if Texas remains an independent State, or becomes an ally of a foreign Power, or a tributary to a foreign Power. It is there one among our citizens who would not prefer perpetual peace with Texas to occasional wars, which so often occur between bordering independent nations? Is there one who would not prefer to intercourse with her, to hold justice on all our products and manufactures which enter her ports, or to her frontiers? Is there one who would not prefer an unrestricted communication with her citizens, to the frontier obstructions which must occur if she remains out of the Union? Whatever is good or evil in the local institutions of Texas will remain her own, whether annexed to the United States or not. None of the present States will be responsible for them any more than they are for the local institutions of each other. They have confederated together for certain specified objects. Upon the same principle that they would refuse to form a perpetual union with Texas because of her local institutions, they would refuse to form a perpetual union with any other State, or with any other people, perceiving no valid objection to the measure, and many reasons for its adoption vitally affecting the peace, the safety, and the prosperity of both countries. I shall, on the broad principle which formed the basis and produced the adoption of the Constitution, and the right of the United States to peace, endeavor, by all constitutional, honorable, and appropriate means, to consummate the expressed will of the People and Government of the United States, by the re-annexation of Texas to our Union at the earliest practicable period.

Nor will it become in a less degree my duty to assert and maintain the rights of the States, and the rights of the United States to that portion of our territory which lies beyond the Rocky Mountains. Our title to the country of the Oregon is "clear and unquestionable," and already are our people preparing to perfect that title by occupying it with their wives and children. But eighty years ago our population was confined to the narrow limits of the Atlantic seaboard. Within that period—within the lifetime, I might say, of some of my hearers—our people, increasing to many millions, have filled the eastern valley of the Mississippi, adventurously ascended the Missouri to its head springs, and are already engaged in establishing the blessings of self-government in valleys of which the rivers flow to the Pacific. The work of a few generations, the triumphs of the industry of our emigrants. To us belongs the duty of protecting them adequately wherever they may be upon our soil. The jurisdiction of our laws and the benefits of our republican institutions should be extended over them in the distant regions, which they have selected for their homes. The increasing facilities of intercourse will easily bring the States, of which the formation in that part of our territory cannot be long delayed, within the sphere of our federative Union. In the mean time, every obligation imposed by treaty or conventional stipulations should be sacredly respected.

In the management of our foreign relations, it will be my aim to observe a careful respect for the rights of other nations, while our own will be the subject of constant watchfulness. Equal and exact justice should characterize all our intercourse with foreign countries. All alliances having a tendency to jeopard the welfare and honor of our country, or sacrifice any one of the national interests, will be studiously avoided, and yet no opportunity will be lost to cultivate a favorable understanding with foreign Governments, by which our navigation and commerce may be extended, and the ample products of our fertile soil, as well as the manufactures of our skillful artisans, find a ready market and remunerating prices in foreign countries.

In taking "care that the laws be faithfully executed," a strict performance of duty will be exacted from all public officers. From those officers, especially, who are charged with the collection and disbursement of the public revenue, will prompt and rigid economy be required. Any culpable failure or delay on their part to account for the moneys entrusted to them, at the times and in the manner required by law, will, in every instance, terminate the official connexion of such defaulting officer with the Government.

Although, in our country, the Chief Magistrate must, almost necessarily, be chosen by a party, and stand pledged to its principles and measures, yet, in his official action, he should not be the President of a party only, but of the whole people of the United States. While he executes the laws with an impartial hand, shrinks from no proper responsibility, and faithfully carries out in the Executive Department of the Government the principles and policy of those who have chosen him, he should not be ungrateful that our fellow-citizens who have differed with him in opinion are entitled to the full and free exercise of their opinions and judgments, and that the rights of all are entitled to respect and regard.

Confidently relying upon the aid and assistance of the co-ordinate departments of the Government in conducting our public affairs, I enter upon the discharge of the high duties which have been assigned me by the people, again humbly supplicating that Divine Being, who has watched over and protected our beloved country from its infancy to the present hour, to continue his gracious benedictions upon us, that we may continue to be a prosperous and happy people.

ADDRESS TO THE SENATE,

DELIVERED BY
THE HON. GEORGE M. DALLAS, VICE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES,
On taking the Oath of Office, March 4, 1845.

SENATORS: In directing the Vice President to preside at the deliberations of this body, the Constitution of our country assigns to him a sphere and a duty alike eminent and grateful. Without any of the cares of real power, with none of the responsibilities of legislation, except in rate conjuncture, he is associated with the dignified Delegates of Republican Sovereignties; he is posted by the entire American People in your confederated council, party, it would seem, as an organ of freedom's fundamental principle of equal, and partly, perhaps, as a mere symbol of that more popular and "more perfect Union," on which depend the blessings of our peace, independence, and liberty. His mission, tranquil and unimpeded, is yet noble in its origin and objects, and happy as well as proud in its relations to you.

No one, gentlemen, can appreciate more lightly or recognize more deferentially than does the incumbent of this chair the powers, privileges, and rules or forms of the Senate of the United States. To maintain these unimpaired and unrelaxed he feels to be an official duty, second in impressive obligation only to his constitutional allegiance. To their exercise the Republic owes incalculable good, and through them has been gradually achieved a wide-spread fame for wisdom, justice, moderation, and efficiency, unsurpassed by any assemblage of statesmen in former or present times. A calm, well-adjusted system of deliberation, characterized by fully devised and steadily pursued by those who have preceded us in it, has indeed largely contributed to the undoubted success of our great political experiment. Instability, haste, prostration, discourtesy, and indecision, habitually discontinued and banished, leave in undisturbed supremacy here the powers of enlightened reason and the vigor of practical patriotism. Our country reaps these solid and substantial advantages in her policy, institutions, prospects, and renown.

The citizen whom it has pleased a people to elevate by their suffrages from the pursuits of private and domestic life, may best evince his grateful sense of the honor thus conferred by devoting his faculties, moral and intellectual, resolutely to their service. This I shall do; yet with a diffidence unavoidable to one conscious that almost every step in his appointed path is to him new and untried, and sensible how dangerous a contrast must occur in the transfer of powers from untried hands. In observing, however, upon this floor a number of those experienced and skillful statesmen on whom the nation justly looks with pride and reliance, I am assured that there can be but little danger of public disadvantage from inadvertencies or mistakes, which their counsel may readily avert and rectify. And thus, gentlemen, while aiming, frankly and impartially, to exercise the functions of an unaccustomed station in the spirit of the Constitution, for the enlarged and lasting purposes of a revered country, and with sincere good will towards all, I may cherish the encouraging hope of being able, with the assent of an indulgent Providence, at once to perform my duty and to attract your confidence.

INAUGURAL PROCESSION.

The unfavorable state of the weather on Tuesday did not prevent an immense multitude of strangers and citizens from turning out to join in the Inaugural Procession, or to witness the interesting proceedings at the Capitol.

At sunrise a discharge of artillery announced the important and imposing ceremonies of the day. At eight o'clock A. M. the volunteer companies of the District, and those which had arrived from Baltimore and distant places, commenced marching towards the appointed parade-ground in front of the Capitol. At nine o'clock the military, under the command of Capt. MANN, of the Post-office Dragoons, marched from their parade-ground, by Sixth, E, and Tenth streets, to Pennsylvania avenue, where they halted for a short time, and then marched forward and took their appointed station in front of Coleman's Hotel. Here the Inaugural Procession was formed under the direction of Chief Marshal McCALLA and his aids, whose names have been already published.

Between eleven and twelve o'clock the PRESIDENT ELECT left Coleman's Hotel, and then the procession took up its line of march towards the Capitol, the military being in front, and making altogether a handsome and imposing display, there being eleven volunteer companies in the line, of whom eight belonged to the District of Columbia, one to Baltimore, one to Savage Factory, and one to Fairfax county, Virginia. Our own volunteer companies appeared to great advantage; but the most prominent and most observed of all the companies in the procession was the Independent Blues of Baltimore, commanded by Capt. WATSON—a corps that always musters strong, is of excellent discipline, and to which is attached Deems's strong and skillful band of musicians. The Savage Factory Guards, a handsomely uniformed company, under the command of Capt. WILLIAMS, also appeared to great advantage, as did the Fairfax County Cavalry, under the command of Capt. WILCOCKSON. The volunteer companies in front of the procession were as follows:

Fairfax Cavalry, Capt. WILCOCKSON.
Post-office Dragoons, Lieut. BROWN.
Independent Blues, of Baltimore, Capt. WATSON.
Savage Factory Guards, Capt. WILLIAMS.
Washington Light Infantry, Lieut. McLEAN.
National Blues, Capt. TEPPER.
Independent Grays, of Georgetown, Lieut. PICKRELL.
City Guards, Capt. CRAWFORD.
Mechanical Riflemen, Capt. McCALLA.
United Riflemen, of Georgetown, Capt. DUYALL.
Columbia Riflemen, of Alexandria, Capt. COUSE.

The Empire Club followed the military. They bore in front a large silk banner, which was surmounted with the cap of liberty, and had on it portraits of Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, and Van Buren. The members of this club wore a uniform consisting of a red jacket and a leather girdle. They had with them a mounted brass cannon, which they fired in front of Coleman's Hotel several times, and afterwards at the Capitol.

After the Empire Club, followed several military and naval officers and the Reverend George HUNTER, Marshal of the District of Columbia, and several Assistant Marshals, the PRESIDENT ELECT and his immediate Predecessor. The carriage was flanked by the Fairfax Cavalry.

As the carriage passed along Pennsylvania avenue, at different points of the line, the people cheered the President Elect, and there was in some places a waving of handkerchiefs by the ladies from the windows that commanded a view of the procession.

After the President Elect, followed various distinguished functionaries, judicial, civil, and military. Then followed the Corporate Authorities of Washington, and the Democratic Associations of Washington. This formed the longest and most imposing portion of the civic procession. The marine band played national and