

Delivered by Wm. H. Macfarland, on the occasion of the funeral ceremonies in honor of the memory of Henry Clay, in Richmond, July 26, 1852.

It needs no voice to interpret the contrast to its ordinary aspect, which our city this day presents. The solemn procession, the grave assembly, the touching indications of deep emotion, which meet us on every side, proclaim with sympathetic power, above the reach of studied phrase, that a strong and cherished affection has been wounded, cast down and broken up. The emotion which, as a single pulsation, has pervaded the heart of the entire nation, is witnessed here in the tokens and emblems in which a sincere and universal grief may vent its wailings. It is right that it is so. It would imply a fearful folly, ignorance of the true unity and glory of a State, a low and depraved spirit, if the nation marked not by lamentation, the death of a statesman, whose example and counsels had put her forward in the high career of permanent, solid, expansive success. It is an occasion to draw forth from the citizens of a free State the pliancy, reverence of Israel's King—"O my Father, my Father! the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof!" And if any one portion of the citizens more than any other may thus express their lamentation, it is those who were allied to the revered dead by his birth, and by having furnished the theatre of his youthful training and of his earliest efforts.

HENRY CLAY is no more. "After life's fitful fever, he sleeps well." The coming event had cast its melancholy shadow before it, and we were prepared in a measure for the sad announcement. But so long had he been prominent in the public mind, and to such an extent was he confided in and relied upon, that we do not realize the startling truth in all the magnitude of the nation's loss. Even now did any question arise, of national policy, or of constitutional law, we would find ourselves clinging to the delusion, that the great statesman was at his post. The fearful agitations of his time will and must return upon us, changed it may be in outward form, but fierce and turbulent as those with which the victor contended, and who then shall take his place, and emerge from the portentous excitement with a message of glad tidings!—True, there survive him those who were his peers—statesmen of mature wisdom and intrepid patriotism—to whom the country may look, as has been its wont, with pride and hope. And then, we may rely on the same Divine Providence which hitherto has so bountifully blessed our country, to provide for coming trials, by raising up men competent to meet them. Yet so natural was it for the illustrious deceased to lead in great emergencies, and so cheerfully did others give place to him, that we of this generation cannot expect to look upon his like again.

HENRY CLAY is no more. The voice so often heard above the din of discord and faction, and which discord and faction was ever unable to resist or elude, is silenced. The stately form, the majestic mien, the composed and resolute air in whose presence modest merit gathered confidence, and vernal presumption was abashed, live only now in memory. "The great man," whose name is the great event, which finishes the honors and glory of life." It came, as with epic unity, to crown the cherished end and object of his being. His triumph over the grave was linked with the triumph of his unremitted labors in behalf of the Union, the master solicitude and object of his life. As was said on a similar occasion, if we had the power we could not wish to reverse this dispensation of Providence.

It was his rare fortune to possess the homage alike of all classes and conditions; and to impress his opinions on every class with the same ready success. The lettered and the unlettered, the ambitious and the humble, were alike happy to repose on his authority. It was not so much his eloquence, high as it is, and which won upon the general admiration, and fixed him immovably in the general confidence; but his unshrinking tenacity, the sternness of his principles, and the ardor with which he asserted them,—to resolve under his convictions of duty, ever to consider what might happen to himself. Yet, his serene and open classes was a voluntary tribute to the elevation of his aims, and the open, earnest, onward manner in which he proceeded to accomplish them.

"Statesman, yet friend to truth! of soul sincere, Of action faithful, and in honor clear, Who broke no promise, serv'd no private end, Who gain'd no title, and who lost no friend."

The career of **MR. CLAY**, consistent and in harmony with itself, as it was in its aims, and in its objects, which at all times, he exhibited in its steady and upward growth, really as surprising and beautiful as ever warmed a poet's fancy. Here there was contrast,—novel, strong, yet majestic and inspiring contrast. There was nothing to identify the early with the matured man, save only the lineaments and endowments with which God had distinguished him. He was all his own, his by a heaven-descended title, being what his own steady and unaided purpose had achieved. "These things but a prophet's vision could have detected in the circumstances of his obscure and friendless youth. We have from his lips the effect of the retrospect upon himself. He said, 'I look back upon my humble origin, left an orphan too young to have been conscious of a father's smiles and caresses, with a widowed mother surrounded by a numerous offspring, in the midst of pecuniary embarrassments, without fortune, without friends, without patrons. I have reason to be satisfied with my public career.'"

It has been truly said, that he was a living tradition, connecting his own times with the great epoch of our history. Born the 12th of April, 1777, and reflecting faithfully the spirit of that heroic age, he seemed to connect us with the noblest of our ancestors. He was not too young to shape his aspirations by the illustrious examples before him. It was, indeed, an heroic age, above and beyond comparison, heroic, for its actors, and the aims which inspired them. The very atmosphere in which men lived, was instinct with the elements of a high order of moral being. Superior to Grecian and Roman models, beyond the *beau ideal* of poetry, more the child of wisdom and nature, it shone in the daily lives, as in the public acts of the then living heroes and statesmen. There is something ennobling in the thought, that we are connected with such an age, by having among us those who were in contact with it, and lived whilst its heroes yet lived; and one of them, and he one who had fully imbibed and retained in true spirit, is, as it were, to be driven from the spirit world. We feel, at least it becomes us to feel, that we enter on the future, deprived of a presence it was a privilege to repair to, when threatened with the national retributions, provoked by a heady obduracy.

The unpropitious circumstances of his youth, was the occasion of bringing **MR. CLAY** to the notice of one, then of our city, and eminently distinguished in the eventful period to which he has just referred—that of the benighted learned, and upright Chancellor Wythe. Admitted into the clerk's office of his court at the age of sixteen, he was soon engaged by the Chancellor as an amanuensis, and employed in transcribing Greek passages, without the least knowledge of Greek alphabet. An humble occupation, as we might think, and inappropriate for the future learning and seniority of the profound and accomplished jurist; yet, relieved by the fluent learning and courtesy of the profound and accomplished jurist, it served to supply the deficiencies of an imperfect education. In a recent letter sketching the Chancellor, he used this expressive language: "that no man was I more indebted, for his instructions, his advice, and his example, for the little improvement which I made, up to

which overpowered the land, gave place to demonstrations of joy, and the intense of grateful hearts was witnessed on the occasion. On the result of the late operations of a State to resist the Government, and the other the revival of the Union, the late operations were as publicly acknowledged, as it was beneficially employed. In both instances, he was triumphed over the powerful opposition, as that, whilst South Carolina retained her loyalty, our institutions were preserved, and our arms, which, for a time, threatened dissolution, became a pledge of more intimate fraternal relations.

Illustrious man! thy victories in defence of thy country's institutions, and thy contributions to her renown, shall shine as lights in our firmament, tracing the way to liberty's heights, and cheering the discouraged patriot in his struggles to reach them. His eloquence was original, marked, separate from every thing common and current. It was not the product of the schools, nor are the schools able to produce it. It was practical, direct, designed for an immediate end, suited to the purpose, by an energy and command, as may be claimed for the human voice. The outbreak of intense convictions, robed in simple and emphatic language, his eloquence seemed as the visible form of a spirit, trusting alone for acceptance to its simple majesty and truth. And this explains his success and power as a speaker. Men cannot, if they would, escape the influence of a vigorous mind, inspired by deep and passionate emotion. Whether he would express the conclusions of a laborious and comprehensive induction, or insist upon some grave State duty, or expose an act of official delinquency, no matter what was the occasion, the style of his oratory was the reflex of a powerful intellect, proud in the purity of its aims, and intensely concerned for the cause of right and truth. He was not without taste for rhetorical embellishments; and when the argument might be thereby advanced, could and did abound in richness of allusion, amplification, and illustration. The power of sarcasm and invective, belonged to a nature as resolute and independent as his, and fell, when exerted, with terrific force upon the unhappy victim. Yet, the feature which gave to his eloquence its nobility, was its earnestness; that element of nobility power, called *action*, by the father of orators.

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