

**SWORD OF GEN. JACKSON.**

The following eloquent speech was delivered by Mr. Cass in the U. S. Senate, on the presentation of the sword worn by Gen. Jackson at New Orleans, presented to Congress from the family of Gen. Armstrong, deceased.

Mr. President:—I must ask the indulgence of the Senate for requesting that its usual business may be suspended to give me an opportunity to discharge a trust which has been committed to me—a trust I had not the heart to decline, but which I knew I had not the power to fulfill, as such a mission should be fulfilled. I hold in my hand the sword of General Jackson, which he wore in all his expeditions, while in the military service of the country, and which was his faithful companion in his last and crowning victory, when New Orleans was saved from the grasp of a rapacious and powerful enemy, and our nation from the disgrace and disaster which defeat would have brought in its train. When the hand of death was upon him, General Jackson presented this sword to his friend, the late General Armstrong, as a testimonial of his high appreciation of the services, worth, and courage of that most estimable citizen and distinguished soldier, whose desperate valor, on one occasion, stayed the tide of Indian success, and saved the army from destruction. The family of that lamented depository, now that death has released him from the guardianship of this treasure of patriotism, are desirous it should be surrendered to the custody of the national legislature, believing that to be the proper disposition of a memorial, which, in all time to come, will be a cherished one for the American people. To carry that purpose into effect, I now offer it in their name to Congress.

Mr. President, this is no doubtful relic, whose identity depends upon uncertain tradition, and which owes its interest to an impulsive imagination: Its authenticity is established beyond controversy by the papers which accompany it, and it derives its value as well from our knowledge of its history, as from its association with the great captain, whose days of toil and nights of trouble it shared and witnessed, and who never drew it from the scabbard but to defend the honor and the interests of his country.

This is neither the time nor the place to portray those great traits of character which gave to General Jackson the ascendancy that no man ever denied who approached him, and that wonderful influence with his countrymen which marked almost his whole career from his entrance upon a public career till the grave closed upon his life and his labor; and left him to that equality which the mighty and the lowly must find at last. Still, from my personal and official relations with him, and I trust, I may add, from his friendship towards me, of which I had many proofs, I cannot withhold the acknowledgement of the impression which his high qualities made upon me, and which become more lasting and profound as time is doing its work of separation from the days of my intercourse with him.

I have been no careless observer of the men of my time, who, controlled by events, or controlling them, have stood prominent among them, and will occupy distinguished positions in the annals of the age; and circumstances have attended my opportunities of examination to the old world as well as to the new. But I say, and with a deep conviction of its truth, that I never have been brought into contact with a man who possessed more native sagacity, more profundity of intellect, higher powers of observation, or greater probity of purpose, more ardor of patriotism, nor more firmness of resolution after he had surveyed his position and occupied it, than the lamented subject of this feeble tribute, not to him, but to truth. And I will add, that during the progress of determination upon important subjects, he was sometimes slow and generally cautious and inquiring, and he has more than once told me, anxious and uneasy, not seldom passing the night without sleep, but he was calm in his mind and indelible in his will, when reflection had given place to decision. The prevailing opinion that he was rash and hasty in his conclusions is founded upon an erroneous impression of his thoughts and action—upon a want of discrimination between his conduct before and after his judgment had pronounced upon his course.

This is not the first offering of a similar nature which has been laid upon the altar of our country, with the sanction of the legislative department of the government. Some years since, another precious relic was deposited here, the sword of him, who, in life, was first in the affections of his countrymen, and in death, is now first in their memory. I need not name his name. It is written in characters of living light on every heart and springs instinctively on every tongue. His fame is committed to time, his example to mankind, and himself, we may humbly hope, to the reward of the righteous. When centuries shall have passed over us, bringing with them the mutations that belong to the lapse of ages, and our country shall yet be fulfilling, or

shall have fulfilled, her magnificent destiny, for good, I devoutly hope, and not for evil, pilgrims from our ocean coasts, and from our inland seas, and from the vast regions which now separate, but ere long, by our wonderful progress, must unite them, will come up to the high places of our land, consecrated by days and deeds of world wide renown, and turning aside to the humble tomb, dearer than this proud capital, will meditate upon the eventful history of their country, and recall the example, while they bless the name of Washington.

And on the same occasion was presented the case of Franklin, which was deposited in our national archives, with the sword of his friend and co-laborer in the great cause of human rights. Truly and beautifully has it been said that peace has its victories as war; and never was a nobler conquest won than that achieved by the American apprentice, printer, author, statesman, ambassador, philosopher, and better than all, model of common sense, over one of the most powerful elements in the economy of nature. Subduing its might to his own, and thus enabling man to answer the sublime interrogatory addressed to Job, 'Canst thou send lightnings that they may go and say unto thee here we are?' Yes, they now come at our command, and say, here we are, ready to do your work. And it was our illustrious countrymen who first opened the way for this subjugation of the fire of Heaven to the human will. The staff that guided the steps of Franklin, and the sword that guarded the person of Washington, may well occupy the same repository, under the care of the nation they served, and loved, and honored.

The memorial of the first and greatest of our Chief Magistrates, and this memorial of his successor in the administration of the Government, and second only to him in the gratitude and affections of the American people, will lie side by side, united tokens of patriotic self-devotion, and of successful military prowess, though they who bore them and gave them value by their services, are now tenants of distant and lonely graves, separated by mountains, and rivers, and valleys. And in ages now shut out from our vision by the far away future, when remote generations, heirs of our heritage of freedom, but succeeding to it without the labors and privations of acquisition, shall gaze, as they will gaze, upon these testimonials of victories, time-worn, but time-honored, they will be carried back by association to those heroes of early story, and will find their love of country strengthened and their pride in her institutions, and their confidence in her fate and fortunes increased by this powerful faculty of the mind, which triumphs over the distant and future as well as over the stern realities of the present, gathering around us the mighty men and the mighty deeds which excite the admiration of mankind, and will ever command their respect and gratitude. And thus will communion be held with the great leaders of our country, in war and in peace, who wore these swords in her service, and hallowed them by their patriotism, their valor and success.

A resolution was adopted, expressive of the thanks of Congress to the heirs of Gen. Armstrong for the gift, and directing its preservation in the Department of State.

How beautifully does James Madison bequeath the following advice to his country.

**ADVICE TO MY COUNTRY.**—As this, if it ever see the light, will not do so till I am no more, it may be considered as issuing from the tomb, where truth alone can be respected, and the happiness of man alone consulted. It will be entitled therefore, to whatever weight may be derived from good intentions, and from the experience of a man who has served his country in various stations through a period of forty years;—who espoused in his youth, and adhered through his life to the cause of liberty; and who has borne a part in most of the great transactions which will constitute epochs of its destiny.

The advice nearest my heart and deepest in my convictions, is, that the Union of the States be cherished and perpetuated. Let the open enemy to it be regarded as a Pandora with her box opened; and the disguised one, as the serpent creeping with its deadly wiles, into Paradise.

**A CHILD'S SYMPATHY.**—A child's eyes! those clear wells of undefined thought—what on earth can be more beautiful? Full of hope, love and curiosity, they meet your own. In prayer how earnest! In joy, how sparkling! In sympathy, how tender! The man who has never tried the companionship of a little child, has carelessly passed by one of the greatest pleasures of life, as one passes by a rare flower without plucking it or knowing its value. A child cannot understand you, you think; speak to it of the holy things of your religion; of your grief for the loss of a friend, of your love for some one you fear will not love in return. It will take, it is true, no measure or soundings of your thought—it will not judge how much you should believe, whether your grief is rational in proportion to your loss, but its whole soul will incline to yours, and engraft itself, as it were, on th feeling which is your feeling for the hour.

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