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Oration on the Life and  
Character of Andrew  
Jackson, delivered July 4, 1845,  
by J. R. Pimsett.

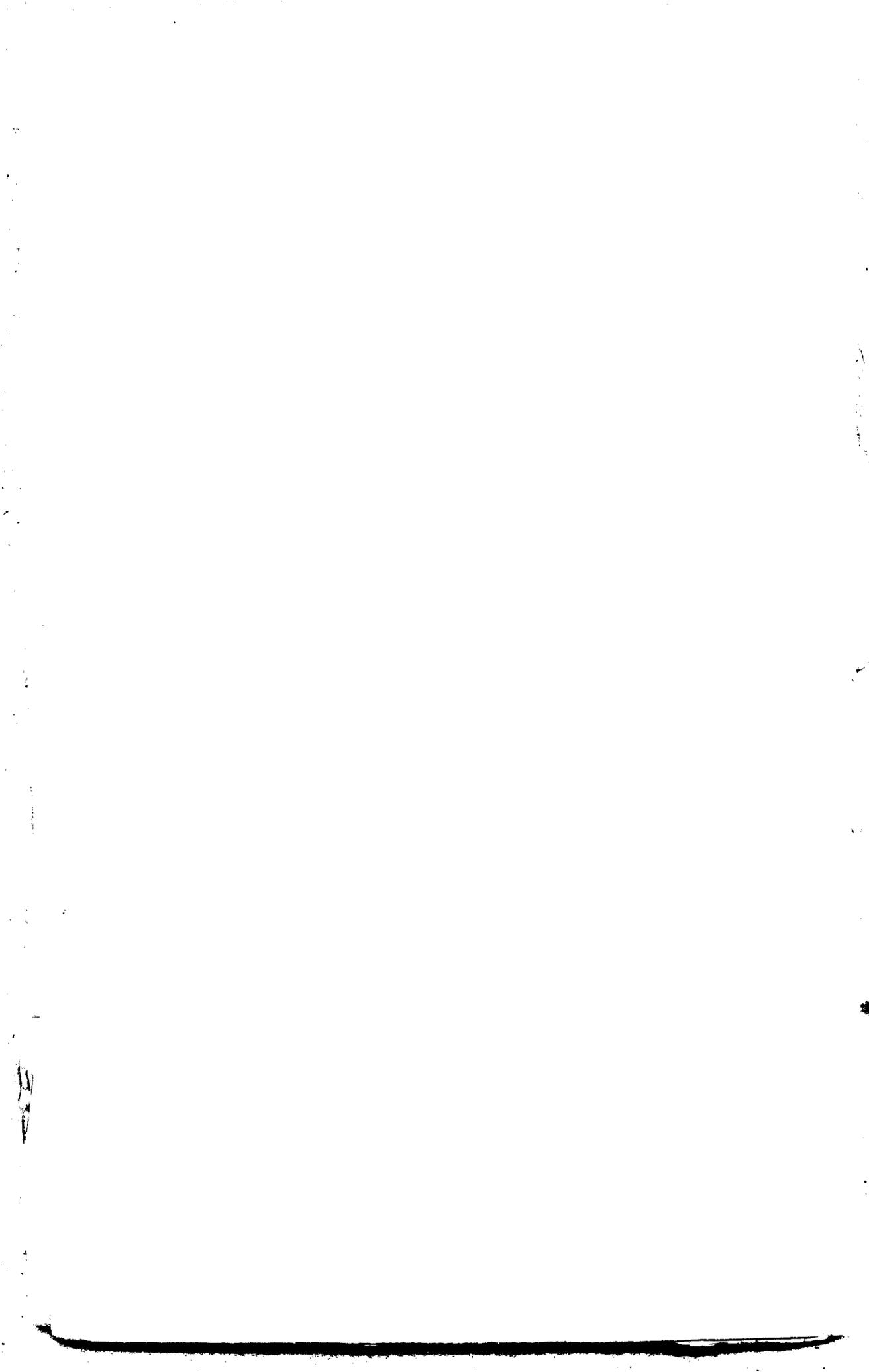




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# ORATION,

ON THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF

ANDREW JACKSON,

DELIVERED ON THE 4TH OF JULY, 1845,

BY J. R. POINSETT,

AT THE REQUEST OF THE CITIZENS OF GREENVILLE, S. C.

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We are assembled, fellow citizens, on a day usually of thanksgiving and rejoicing, to mingle our grief for the loss of a man who was deservedly dear to his country.

The death of the illustrious JACKSON has overspread the land with mourning, and while the day awakens joyful and grateful recollections, the melancholy occasion of our meeting fills our hearts with sadness.

The 4th July, 1776, and the 8th of June, 1845—the first, the birth-day of a great nation, fraught with the memory of the glorious past, and bright with visions of the still more glorious future—the last, the death hour of that nation's favorite son, the pure patriot, the able statesman, the valiant soldier, who had throughout a long life served his country in peace and in war, with scarcely less devotion and success than the man whom we delight to honor as the Father of his Country.

The career of JACKSON stands second only to that of WASHINGTON, and like his, is identified with the glory, the rising greatness and the permanent prosperity of our country. With other noble examples of patriotism which have gladdened the world, they have passed away and have left us to mourn their loss.

Breathes there a man, claiming to be an American, whose soul does not dilate with the recollections that crowd into his mind on this day, the wings of whose heart do not expand and bear him triumphantly over the length and breadth of this fair land, erected—by the act you have just heard read and by the valor of our forefathers—into a vast and magnificent inheritance of freemen? Borne along the rugged coast and over the granite fields of the North; over the sunny plains and smiling vallies of the South; over the Apalachian ridge to the far West; along the great valley of the father of rivers; over the Rocky Mountains to the shores of the Pacific; over the

Cordilleras of the Andes, and along the borders of the Amazon and la Plata to the uttermost Southern Cape of our Southern Continent—for the Spanish Americans were awakened to liberty by our cheering example—he sees every where, throughout the whole course of his flight, lands set free by this great act, and every where hears hosannas arising from grateful hearts, and witnesses the rejoicings of a thankful people. The high gratification these feelings bring with them is not confined to those of us who are at home. The American abroad is perhaps more sensible of the blessings his country enjoys, than those who partake of them on the spot. Wherever he may be; whether traversing the deserts of Arabia, or buffeting the waves of the stormy Northern Ocean; in the gilded halls of the Capua of Europe, or amidst the luxurious splendors of Asia, every American bosom beats with triumphant exultation on this auspicious day—with even more of exaltation and higher patriotic feelings than we experience ourselves. He is far removed from the petty party warfare which here sometimes disturbs the harmony of our feelings; he remembers only the amount of general happiness which the Union and the Constitution diffuse among his prosperous countrymen; he compares the magnificence and the misery which surround him, with the equal blessings which all his fellow citizens enjoy in the land of his birth; and he exclaims exultingly, “in truth I have a goodly heritage, my lines have fallen in pleasant places”—mine is the land of equal laws, equal rights and equal enjoyments.— There, the only distinction in station arises from the respect awarded to talents and services. There, difference of wealth is the result of superior industry and knowledge. Throughout that land, every man walks erect in the proud conscious-

*Greenville, S. C.*

1845.

ness that his respectability and fortune, and the future condition of his children, depend upon his own conduct and exertions. No man stands above him in the eye of the law; and if he is sober, frugal and industrious; if he watches over the moral and religious education of his children, he is certain to be prosperous himself, and to secure the future welfare of his offspring.

Fellow citizens, I speak from experience. Wherever the return of this day has found me, I have celebrated it in my heart; and I say to you, that no one in this favored land experiences, on the eventful 4th of July, the same enthusiastic feelings of patriotism; the same fond yearnings; the same burning love of country; the same pride and confidence in the wisdom and permanency of our institutions, that glow in the breast of the Exile. If any waver in his love of country; if any feel discontented with the Government, and disposed to murmur at the difference of the burthens it imposes, let him go abroad, and he will soon learn to estimate justly the wonderful workings of our Constitution, and the incomparable wisdom with which it was framed, as well as to understand and appreciate the inestimable value of the Union which binds together this great Confederacy of Sovereign States; the admirable administration of justice, carried to every man's door, and the equal distribution of property, so that poverty is banished from the land—From his distant station the Exile sees all these things at a glance, and wonders that he should have ever suffered his passions to blind his reason while mingling in the strife of party at home; wonders that he should have ever murmured at evils which are inseparable from the lot of humanity, and have shut his eyes to the many, the great, the transcendent blessings he enjoyed in his own favored land.

What he sees around him will impress upon his mind more strongly, from day to day, the advantages he has left behind.—He will become convinced that the evils his heated imagination had magnified into oppressions, spring from the imperfections to which all human institutions are obnoxious, and are inseparable from the administration of a country of such vast extent, embracing so many varied productions, and involving so many distinct interests; and that these evils, when compared with the actual sufferings of the people among whom he may chance to be, are but as the dark spots in the Sun, which serve only to mark its revolutions, but neither dim its lustre or diminish its beneficent heat and light. Seeing and understanding all this, he will, unless he is either stupid or corrupt, give thanks to God for the great and

glorious privileges of his birth-right, and return to his country well satisfied with his lot in it—he will have become sensible of its advantages, and determined to uphold its institutions and laws; and above all, to maintain by his best exertions the Union, which not only secures us peace at home, but as he will have felt at every step of his progress, strengthens the arm of the nation abroad, and renders it mighty to protect its citizens on every sea and in every clime. He will have learnt to judge it at its true value, and return prepared to lay down his life, if need be, to secure its advantages and blessings to his posterity forever.

And breathes there an American, at home or abroad, who does not mourn for the mighty dead; whose heart does not grieve when he hears the death-knell of the man who has served his country so long, so faithfully, and so ably; of one whose conduct and valor turned back the tide of battle, and with the aid of the Most High, gave us the victory in a contest which involved our national glory and periled our national existence; whose counsels sustained the honor and interest of the country in all its relations, both at home and abroad, and whose patriotic spirit made every aspiration and every impulse of his heart subservient to the good of his country, and led him to sacrifice his pride and passions on the altar of its Constitution and laws. If we acknowledge him to have been accomplished as a Statesman, and distinguished as a Warrior, we must regard him as still more eminent in his character of a good citizen, submitting to, and upholding the laws; for however great he may have appeared to us in the battle field, with his hand uplifted, his eye dilated and his whole soul on fire, cheering on his men to victory, he will appear still greater in history, when it records how he stood before a civil tribunal of the country, flushed with the mighty success of the victory he had just achieved, and bowing to its decision with all humility, submitted without a murmur to the infliction of what he deemed, and what his country afterwards declared to be, an unjust sentence.

In tracing him through the whole of his career, it will be found that the honorable distinction of America's most illustrious citizen was attained by the continual exercise of high and noble qualities. Born in South Carolina, in the Waxaw settlement, in 1767, he received the first rudiments of education at the Academy of that place, but left it at the early age of fourteen to bear arms in defence of his country. He was very soon made prisoner by the enemy's Dragoons, and is said to have given proof even then of his unbending spirit, by refusing to obey an order which he consid-

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ered degrading. He received a sabre cut for his contumacy, and suffered a long imprisonment.

When released, after the battle of Camden, by an exchange of prisoners, he was prostrated by disease, and soon after experienced a severe loss in the death of his Mother, to whose high moral qualities, great piety and excellent nurture, may be attributed much of the success of this distinguished man. She had in her heart destined ANDREW for the Church, and her early lessons of piety no doubt influenced materially his character in after life.— When she died he studied for the Bar, and began the practice of law in North Carolina.

In 1788 he removed to Nashville in Tennessee, then a frontier Territory, where he soon rose to distinction. His determined character, unwearied industry and bold spirit, eminently fitted him to contend with the difficulties of a frontier life; and we find him, during this period, protecting the weak, restraining the turbulent, supporting the laws, and repressing the incursions of the savage foe, which at that time surrounded Nashville, and continually harassed the inhabitants. We see him successively a Law-giver, a Representative in Congress, a Senator, a Judge and a General, giving in all these characters constant proofs of firmness, wisdom and courage, and preparing himself for the career of glory which he was about to enter upon.

The war of 1812 found him at his farm near Nashville, on the Cumberland River, known as the Hermitage, and which is destined to become the Mecca of the American Pilgrim, from whence, in obedience to the call of his country, he marched at the head of a small force of Volunteers, to Natchez. This first campaign would have been inglorious to a less determined commander. The enemy had retired, and he received an order to disband his men.— Many of them were ill and disheartened; he had engaged, when they enlisted, to take care of them; he had promised their parents and friends to bring them back; he would not abandon them. He took the responsibility, refused to obey the order, and conducted them back to Tennessee.— On this march, transportation for the sick was wanting, and the General, with the generous self-denial which distinguished him through life, gave his horse to an invalid, and walked the whole distance with his men, sharing all their hardships and privations. Can it be wondered at, that these men were ever after eager to be led on by such a chief?

Accordingly, in 1813 they again mustered under his Banner, and were led against the Creek Indians, who were com-

mitting fearful ravages on the borders.— His address to his soldiers, when he marched them against the enemy, strongly evinces that humanity which ever accompanies true courage. He recapitulates the cruel outrages of the savages upon the defenceless citizens of the frontier; but while he urges his men to drive these invaders from the soil of Tennessee, while he tells them that "our borders must no longer be disturbed by the war-whoop of these savages, or the cries of their suffering victims," he exhorts them "not to imitate these ruthless barbarians, but in the midst of victory to be mindful of what is due to humanity." On this campaign he encountered great difficulties from want of supplies. During the whole time the troops were engaged they suffered from this cause; and you may be assured, that although to do battle and achieve victory are the most glorious portions of the soldier's service, they are not the most arduous of his duties.

To prepare for these events by maintaining discipline and securing abundant subsistence, requires the high qualities of combination and foresight, and these General JACKSON appears to have possessed in an eminent degree. He manifested the greatest solicitude and exercised unwearied activity to procure food for his men, and never lost sight of their necessities and comforts, even in the ardor of pursuing and bringing the enemy to battle.

When he entered the Indian country, his language to his soldiers was highly characteristic; he said to them, "You are about to meet the enemy. You will soon have an opportunity of signaling your valor. They will not abandon the soil which contains the bones of their forefathers without fighting. Wise men do not expect it, brave men do not desire it."

Thus prepared, they did meet and vanquish the enemy at Tallushatchee and at Talladega. In this last action they released a band of friendly Indians who were shut up in the Fort with their women and children, and who would have been massacred but for this timely succor.

It was after these successes that his little army suffered most for want of food. With unaffected charity the General shared his rations with the sick and wounded, and was reduced to such scanty and coarse fare, that upon a suffering fellow-soldier asking him for bread, he put his hand into his pocket and pulling it out full of acorns, offered them to him as part of his own dinner. During this period of famine, the General kept his army together by his admirable power of command, and by the most extraordinary exhibitions of firmness. Placing himself on one occasion in front of a Brigade which was prepared to abandon its post and return home, he threatened to

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shoot the first man who advanced a step forward, and having brought them to a halt, his remonstrances induced them to return to camp. At another time he compelled the volunteers to return to their duty when on their march to abandon him, by stationing himself on their path with a choice band and two pieces of light artillery.— When they came up, he addressed them in the following spirited language; “Go back to your quarters. I have done with entreaty, and now command you to return; if you still persist in your resolution to move off forcibly, the point between us shall soon be determined.” Seeing them hesitate, he ordered the artillery to prepare to fire. The Volunteers were brave men; they had given proofs of their courage at Tallushatchee and Taladega; but they were subdued by the spirited bearing and iron will of the man before them. They returned to their quarters, and the frontier was saved from the tomahawk and the scalping knife.

The General next made a dash into the enemy’s country, and defeated them at Enuuckfaw; and again at the passage of Enotichopo Creek. Both these actions were gallantly contested by the Indians. In the first the troops fought bravely and routed the enemy, notwithstanding the superiority of their numbers. At Enotichopo Creek, the rear guard was dismayed by the fierce attack of the Savages, and was only saved from immediate destruction by the courageous devotion of a few gallant spirits, who, with a single piece of Artillery, protected their retreat. The sight of his discomfited troops roused the lion-hearted Chief—he arrested the flying, rallied and inspirited his men by his voice and manner, and finally succeeded in re-crossing the creek at their head. On this occasion his presence of mind and active courage turned the fortune of the day. He rescued the gallant band who were found contending against fearful odds, and attacking the Indians in their turn, routed them with great slaughter.

In the ensuing campaign was fought the bloody battle of Tohopeka, or the Horse Shoe, in which JACKSON displayed all the great qualities of an accomplished Captain and gallant soldier. The Indian forces were destroyed here—the spirit of the nation was broken by those frequent defeats, and they shortly after sued for peace.— These results were due altogether to the personal character and exertions of the General. He had succeeded in inspiring his men with confidence, and in diffusing throughout his army the assurance of success, which he commanded by the rapidity of his movements, his skilful manœuvres and undaunted courage.

Our own General PINCKNEY, a brave and accomplished officer himself, and therefore

a good judge of these qualities in others, often spoke of this campaign as being in a high degree creditable to General JACKSON, and as indicative of his talents for command. He repeated these sentiments and opinions in his despatches to Government, and advised that he should be taken into the service of the United States.

In May, 1814, JACKSON received the commission of Brigadier, and the Brevet rank of Major General in the United States Army, which, upon the resignation of General HARRISON a few days after, was made a full commission. As soon as he could organize an Army, we find him again in the field, exhibiting his accustomed energy in the defence of Mobile and the capture of Pensacola, by which he deprived the enemy of a strong hold where they had received succor, and from whence they issued forth to harass the country. The town was taken by assault, but neither the inhabitants nor garrison were treated with rigor.

The next action of this distinguished man was the crowning glory of his military career, the Battle of New Orleans. It was fought on the ever memorable eighth of January, 1815; and in contemplating this defence, we know not which most to admire, the firmness and decision with which he met and overcame the dissensions that arose in the City, and the opposition of weak or designing men; the prompt determination and daring execution of the attack made on the 23d of December, before the enemy had disembarked their whole force, or had time to form their encampment or provide for their defence; an attack which checked their ardor and postponed their assault upon the City; the simple but effective barrier opposed to a presumptuous foe, and the cool intrepidity with which it was defended; or the instinctive prudence which led a man so impetuous in attack, to restrain himself and his victorious troops from leaving their lines and following up their success, (a movement which would have been very hazardous against well disciplined regulars;) all evincing the high qualities of his commanding mind, and the wisdom as well as energy of his character.

The circumstances of this glorious action, so important in its consequences, are familiar to the whole American people as household words; and to mention the date, to speak of the 8th of January, is sufficient to bring to the mind a picture of the Battle, and to arouse the enthusiastic gratitude of every American. And here, where he had won such imperishable laurels in the battle field, did he perform that equally memorable civil act, which will serve in all time as an example to his fellow citizens, of respect and obedience to the laws. After the Judge, refusing to listen to his defence, had passed sentence upon him, and fined

him a thousand dollars for contempt of Court, as he termed a measure rendered necessary and fully justified by the exigency of the imperious circumstances in which he was placed, the people that thronged the Court House were so excited, and manifested their indignation at this decision in so alarming a manner, that the General, who was compelled to submit to be drawn to his hotel in the carriage from which the horses had been taken, found it necessary to address them. He did so with great earnestness, beseeching them, if they felt really the gratitude and regard for him which they expressed, to submit, as he had done, without violence to the decision of the Judge. He urged "that the civil was the paramount and supreme law of the land; that if recent events had shown what fearless valor can effect, he exhorted them to believe in the no less important truth, that submission to the civil authority is the first duty of the citizen."

By arguments and exhortations such as these, he calmed the popular tumult. The citizens then raised the money by voluntary contributions, and insisted upon paying the fine.

"I thank my fellow citizens for their generous offer," he replied, "and consider it as a renewed evidence of their regard; but I have already paid the money, and beg that the sum they have raised may be applied to the relief of the widows and orphans of those who have fallen in defence of the City." His request was at once complied with by the generous and patriotic inhabitants of New Orleans.

Nevertheless, this unjust decree distressed him, and he was most anxious it should be reversed. His conscious sense of rectitude could not remove the sting it had inflicted, and he earnestly desired to be relieved from this unmerited disgrace by the voice of his country. In this, too, he was fortunate; although long delayed, this act of justice finally passed Congress and gladdened his declining years.

The last time he appeared in arms was in 1817, when he marched at the head of the Volunteers of Tennessee and the Militia of Georgia, to protect the frontiers from the savage outrages of the Seminoles. He drove them back and penetrated into Florida, where he destroyed their villages and broke up their retreats. Receiving here undoubted proofs that the Indians had been instigated to commit their massacres by two foreigners, these men were arrested and made to expiate their crimes by a disgraceful death. Learning too that the dispersed hordes were reassembling west of the Apalachicola, and were protected and countenanced by the Governor of Pensacola, he at once pursued them to the walls of that town, which he again captured. The

whole nation approved these vigorous proceedings, and the Administration justified his course and declared it to have been in strict conformity with national law. When Florida was ceded to the United States, he was appointed a Commissioner to receive the Territory, and was subsequently created its first Governor. Here too his firmness protected the country from fraudulent attempts to deprive it of rights secured by the Treaty of cession.

I first met him in the City of Washington, shortly after my return from South America. Living under the same roof, I saw him frequently and familiarly. I was much struck with his commanding presence and erect carriage; his marked countenance and keen, expressive eye—and not less so with his bland and courteous manner, and the dignity and repose of his general demeanor, singularly contrasted at times with the energy of his speech, amounting almost to bursts of eloquence, especially when roused by any allusion to the difficulties thrown in his way while making preparations for the defence of New Orleans. Of our late enemy he spoke with respect, except when his eye caught the blackened walls of the Capitol, and then he expressed his indignation with his wonted vehemence. I regret that he himself had not commanded on that eventful day. Both nations might have been saved from lasting disgrace.

At his invitation I visited him at the Hermitage. It was a pleasing sight to see this impetuous man subdued into the kind hearted father of a family, and practising all the social virtues that adorn and refine life. He was more than hospitable—he was unremitting in his attentions to the wants and comforts of his guests. He loved to play with children, and treated his wife with marked deference and affectionate respect, and all around him with hearty kindness. Indeed, his attachment to his wife was devoted and romantic. After her death, I was once shown into his bed-room, to which, being indisposed, he had retired at an early hour. I found him seated by the fire, with his Bible and his wife's Miniature on a small table before him. He alluded to her in the most touching terms, and spoke of his hope of being again united to her in another and a better world, with great feeling and unaffected piety.

Having no children of his own, he adopted her relatives; one of them to whom he gave his name, he treated in every respect as if he had been his own son; and his kindness was extended in an especial manner to all who were in any way connected with her. The warmth of his affections and his active benevolence were exhibited in this as in all his relations in life. His friends and neighbors were never tired of recounting his charitable acts.

In his friendships, he was steady, warm and sincere, and he possessed in a remarkable manner the gift of winning the affections of those around him. All who lived within his circle became attached to him. When applied to by the parents and friends of some of the Texan prisoners who were languishing in chains in Mexico, he addressed to our Minister there a long and animated appeal in their behalf, written at a moment when he was suffering under a painful disease, and had the gratification to find that his name was powerful to save, and that his intercession had struck the fetters from the limbs, and opened the dungeon of the captive.

Some years after my visit to the Hermitage, I had occasion to address him on an important subject. I had just returned from Mexico, whither I had gone at the request of Mr. MONROE, to examine and report on the probable durability of the imperial Government there, in order to enable him to form an opinion on the propriety of entering into diplomatic relations with the Emperor ITURBIDE.

My report was unfavorable. I deemed it inexpedient to form relations with the usurper, both on account of the instability of his throne, and because such a measure on our part would discourage the Republican party, composed of a vast majority of the nation, and engender a bad feeling towards us in case of their success in an attempt to overthrow the imperial Government, which I regarded as certain. The President requested me to state my views to General JACKSON, who, during my absence, had been appointed Minister to that Court. I did so, and the General courteously replied, that if he had no other motive for refusing the appointment, my communication would have decided him to do so, for he too was opposed to our giving any countenance to the establishment of imperial thrones in North America; but that he did not desire to leave home, and would not accept a foreign mission.

While I was still a member of the House of Representatives, he took his seat in the United States Senate, and our intercourse was renewed. His reputation was already spread abroad over Europe, and foreigners were anxious to be presented to the Hero of New Orleans. I was frequently solicited to introduce them, and to interpret for them, and on such occasions always felt proud of my countryman. No one left his presence without having been struck with his courteous and dignified manners, and gratified by his intelligent conversation.

His first act on reaching Washington, was to reconcile himself to all those with whom he had ever been in feud. His impetuosity had led him into some personal contests, the recollections of which were

painful to him. His temper was softened by time and religious influences, and he extended his hand to all those with whom he had been at variance. His reconciliation with his gallant adversary, Col. BENTON, was followed by mutual esteem, and they remained fast friends to the day of his death. It was remarked that during the whole period of his service in the Senate, he never once gave way to his natural impetuosity, but was uniformly mild and forbearing, rarely taking part in debate, and only when appealed to on topics which his experience could elucidate; on such occasions his language was simple, energetic and expressive.

Without any movement on the part of his personal connections, and entirely without his own agency, a majority of the people in 1824 spontaneously nominated and supported him for the Presidency. They gave him a hearty support, and notwithstanding the character and services of his opponents, Mr. ADAMS, Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. CLAY, he received a plurality of the Electoral votes. The election was brought into the House. Our delegation voted unanimously for General JACKSON, and to a late hour we cherished the hope that the will of the people would be respected by their Representatives. It was a moment of intense anxiety to us all. We knew that the vote of New York would decide the election, and we were aware that the delegation of that State were so equally divided that one vote would give the majority to Mr. ADAMS or to General JACKSON. That vote was given against us, and our suspense removed by hearing it announced by the Chairman of the Committee appointed to count the votes, that Mr. ADAMS was elected President. I saw the General shortly after; he was quite calm, and only said, that he was in the hands of the people, who would decide the question at some future day, after their own manner.

He resigned his seat in the Senate, and retired once more to the repose of the Hermitage. Four years after, the people did decide the question between him and the incumbent. They arose in their majesty and bore him triumphantly into the Presidency, and with the same enthusiasm re-elected him for the ensuing term.

When I returned from my mission to Mexico I found him, unaltered in character or demeanor, filling the office of Chief Magistrate with dignity, and sustaining the honor and interests of the country with well directed energy and consummate wisdom. He appeared perfectly acquainted with Mexican affairs, and enquired earnestly of Texas, and what prospect there was of our acquiring that Territory by purchase. He seemed much disappointed when I replied that there was not the remo-

test probability of our doing so; that the Mexicans were a proud people, and would never consent to sell one foot of their territory: that I had not made the offer officially, because I had ascertained that such a proposal would not only be rejected, but would be regarded as an insult to their national dignity. I assured him, however, that causes were at work which would soon bring Texas into the Union: that I had lately seen a report from Gen. TERAN, a very intelligent officer, who commanded on the Northern frontier, in which he informed his Government that it would be impossible, with its present policy and organization, to retain possession of Texas much longer: that the Americans who had been invited to settle there, as a defence against the Indians, were accustomed to law and order, and would rebel against the misrule of the Mexican authorities. "If you do not," said he, "give them laws, and take care that they are impartially executed, the Texans will make laws for themselves and form a separate Government." I regarded this result as inevitable, and expressed my firm conviction that the Americans in Texas, although they would loyally fulfil their compact with the Mexican Government, would not submit to any violation of it; and that, sooner or later, circumstances would force them into our Confederacy. On hearing this, the General took down an enormous manuscript Map of that country; it was too large for the table and was spread on the floor; we cast ourselves down beside it, and propped on his arm, and pouring over its bays, rivers and mountains, he pointed out the importance of its acquisition, exhibiting throughout all his observations an intimate and even minute acquaintance with the advantages and resources of that country, and shewing that he had examined the whole subject, and every circumstance connected with it, with careful solicitude.

General JACKSON lived to see this most cherished wish of his heart accomplished. In this, as in all his high aspirations, his country's good was the object he had in view. In this as in all his great undertakings for the common welfare, his firmness of purpose, his ardent zeal, and well directed energy and perseverance, commanded success.

It was at the period of which I have been speaking that General JACKSON, at a public festival, uttered these memorable words: "The Federal Union: it must be preserved." They arose in his heart and burst spontaneously from his lips, upon hearing sentiments expressed on that occasion, which, according to his interpretation of them, threatened the safety of the Union. With that extraordinary perspicuity with which he was so eminently gifted, he fore-

saw at that moment the gathering storm, and sought by his warning voice to avert it. With his eagle glance he embraced all the dreaded results of the doctrines which rung in his ears. He did not mean to accuse those who maintained and promulgated these doctrines of any intention to dissolve the Union; but in his opinion they could not be carried out without endangering its existence; and he wished it to be at once understood, that he was resolved to use all the power confided to him by the Constitution to preserve it. In the contest that followed, this object was kept continually in view, and this determination fully manifested. But from frequent and intimate personal communications on the subject, I can bear witness that throughout the whole period of that painful controversy, while exhibiting an inflexible firmness of purpose, he manifested on every occasion the most earnest solicitude that the struggle might terminate peaceably. His letters to me at this period, written in a remarkably clear and vigorous style, are instinct with the noblest sentiments of humanity and patriotism.

In 1833 I met him in New York, and at his request accompanied him through Connecticut to Boston. During the whole course of this triumphant progress, he was every where received by the people with enthusiastic manifestations of love and respect. Their eagerness to approach him, their earnest greetings, animated cheers and joyful acclamations, exhibited their affectionate admiration. He was at times profoundly moved, and frequently expressed his gratitude to God for having filled to overflowing his cup of happiness. It is not surprising that he should have enjoyed so large a share of popular favor; for not only had he served his country in war, and won for her imperishable renown in the battle field, but his administration of the Government had been singularly fortunate. His firmness and decision had elevated the character of the nation abroad, and had constrained Foreign States to respect and do us justice. Honorable peace had been maintained with all the powers of the world, and domestic tranquility re-established.

The long pending claims of the United States on Naples, Denmark and France, had, by his firmness and straight-forward proceedings, been at length adjusted and paid; and the fearful struggle between the General Government and one of the States, which threatened the existence of our institutions, had been peacefully terminated. The National debt was paid off, and the Government exhibited the gratifying spectacle of an overflowing Treasury: Agriculture and Commerce were flourishing, and every portion of our vast country was prosperous.

In every step in his journey through life; in his military career and in his civil stations, JACKSON was eminently favored by fortune. It is true that his promptness and decision, his vigorous intellect and strength of character, enabled him to seize upon circumstances and direct events to the advancement of his country's glory and prosperity; but the events and circumstances of the epoch in which he lived, were in a high degree favorable, and called all those qualities into action: they made him in early life a participator in his country's struggle for Independence, and identified him with the glorious recollections of this day. Borne onward with the mighty stream of emigration, which, soon after the Revolutionary war, flowed to the West, overspreading the fertile plains and filling up the rich vallies of that favored region, he was transported at once to a theatre where his growing virtues were nurtured, his energetic nature displayed, and all his high qualities brought into constant activity. The wilderness was to be subdued, the defenceless frontier settlers to be protected, the Savage taught to respect the superior race that had invaded his territory, new States were to be created and new Governments organized, laws to be made and justice administered; all circumstances and acts affording frequent opportunities for displaying the high and brilliant qualities JACKSON possessed, and of which he was enabled to avail himself by the confidence inspired by his early career, his high character and remarkable firmness and self-possession in the hour of danger.

The wrongs inflicted upon his country by a Foreign power, during the convulsions of Europe, produced a war, in the progress of which he performed deeds that will be held in everlasting remembrance. Gratitude for his services, and the concurrent approbation of a majority of his fellow citizens, placed him at the head of the nation, and furnished another opportunity of bringing into action the remarkable qualities of his mind. He possessed the wisdom rather of the heart than of the head which conducted him, by unerring and infallible methods, to correct conclusions and fortunate results; for his heart was animated by high and noble principles, and his purposes directed by unwavering courage and energy. His instinctive love of justice, which led him neither to do nor to suffer wrong, gave a high tone to his Government and exalted the honor of his country. His hatred of corruption rendered his administration pure, and his sense of duty prompted his courageous resistance to what he conscientiously regarded as the pernicious and baneful influences of a great monied Institution.— As there still exists a contrariety of opinion

on this subject among his fellow citizens, I will content myself with expressing my belief that in future time the impartial historian will justify both his motives and his conduct on this trying occasion. His respect for the Constitution, and his thorough democratic principles, caused him to guard vigilantly the respective rights of the Federal Government and of the States; and neither to suffer or to do any act which might disturb the harmony of their movements. And finally his love of country, the ruling passion of his heart, prompted him to tax all his faculties and to exert all his energies to preserve the Union from threatened or impending danger.

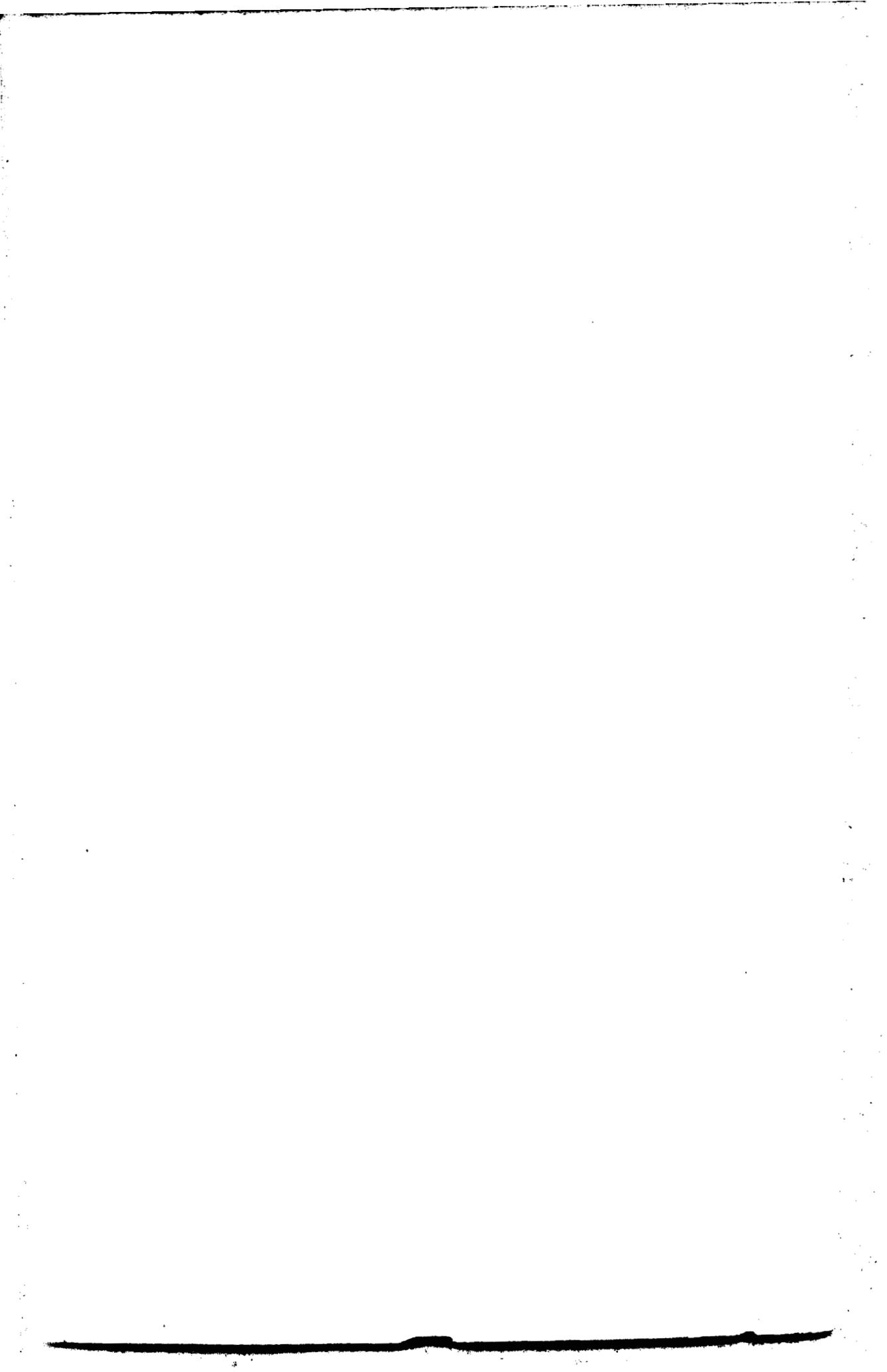
The termination of his civil career left his country prosperous, respected and happy, and he bore into retirement the love and veneration of his fellow citizens. He carried with him, too, the gratifying conviction that the same high principles which had governed him, animated his successor, and would be exerted with equal zeal and devotion to maintain the honor of the country and advance its interests and prosperity.

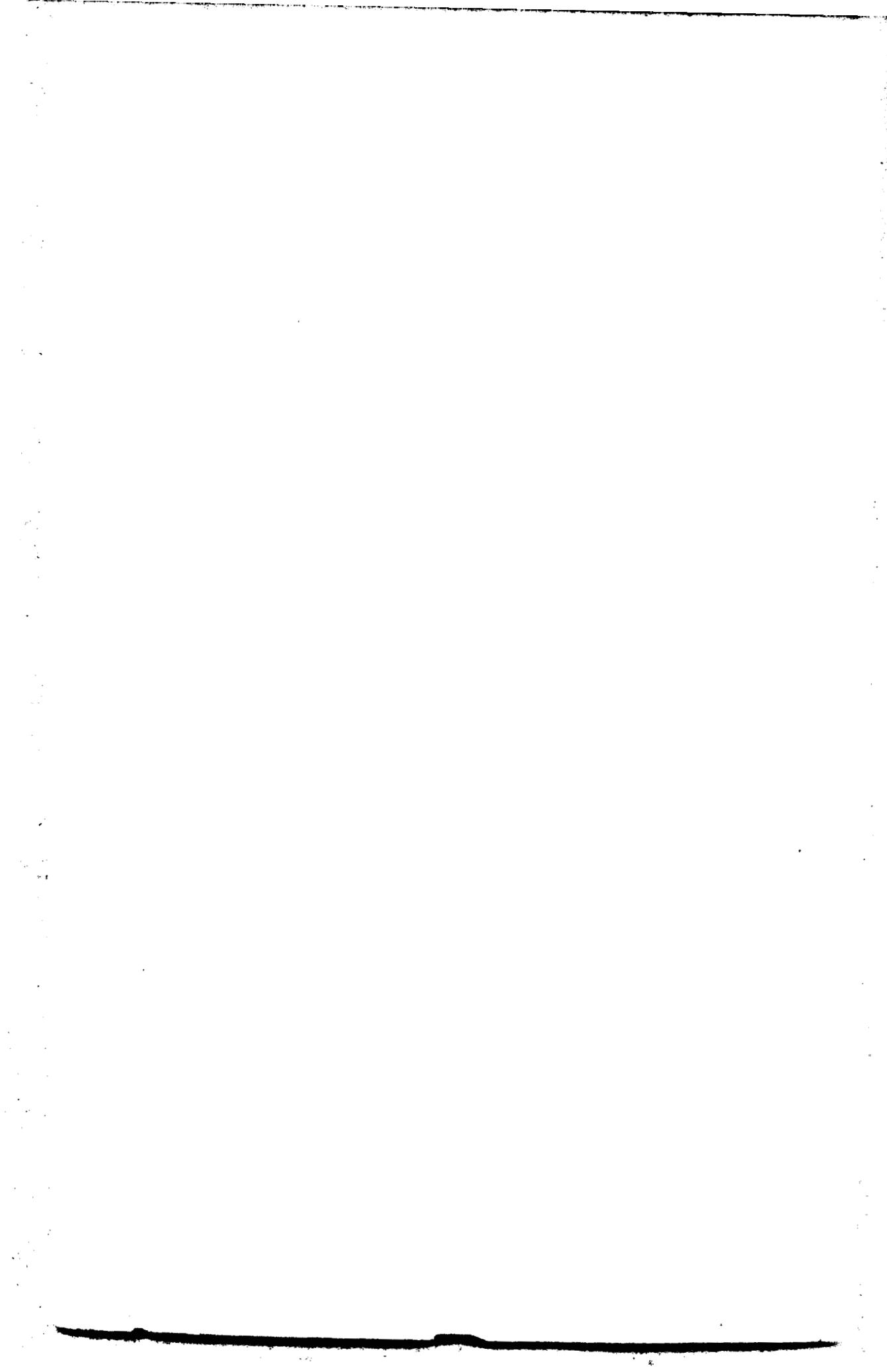
During the remainder of his days, his time was devoted to his religious duties, to the practice of every social virtue, to prayers and aspirations for his country's welfare, which appears to have occupied his thoughts and to have been his ruling passion to the last moment of his existence.

He died on the 8th of June, 1845. At no period of his life, and under no circumstances, was the wisdom of his heart more conspicuous than in the hour of death. It had conducted him to a confident belief in the christian religion and to a firm reliance on his God; and steadfast in his faith, we find him in his last moments resigned and self-possessed, as on all other occasions of his eventful career. With his earthly affections still strong within him, he desired to breathe his last in the arms of friendship. He assembled his family and household that he might bless them, and exhorting them so to live the remainder of their days that he might meet them again in Heaven, he expired, in the full hope of a blessed immortality through the merits and intercession of his Redeemer.

Spirit of the departed! Thy christian brethren find consolation for thy loss in the belief that thou art at peace.

From the realms above thou callest us, thy mourning friends and countrymen, from these manifestations of our grief to the contemplation of thy virtues, thy deeds of greatness, thy honorable fame, thy well-spent life, christian death and eternal happiness—reflections, which elevate our thoughts, soothe our sorrow, and fill our hearts and minds with grateful feelings and affectionate remembrances.







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