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Andrew Jackson

Address by

Hon. Ewin L. Davis

of Tennessee

delivered before the

Andrew Jackson Lodge, A. F. and A. M.

Alexandria, Va., March 15, 1930

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ADDRESS
OF
HON. EWIN L. DAVIS

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the Record, I include an address delivered by me before Andrew Jackson Lodge, No. 120, A. F. and A. M., Alexandria, Va., on the evening of March 15, 1930. This lodge was organized and named for Andrew Jackson in 1854. This lodge meets in the same hall as Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, of which George Washington was a member and a master. This lodge room, in which the address was delivered, contains the famous collection of Washington Masonic and other relics, portraits, and so forth, known as "The Washingtonia"; the lodge has a standing offer of \$100,000 for its Williams's Portrait of Washington.

The address is as follows:

Your lodge is named for the most colorful, the most picturesque, the most dynamic figure in American history.

Commonwealth builder, soldier, jurist, statesman, diplomat, President, he was preeminent in them all.

I esteem it an honor to be invited by your historic lodge to talk to you in this hallowed hall and amidst these sacred relics, on this, the one hundred and sixty-third anniversary of the birth of that great American, Andrew Jackson.

PRESENTATION OF PICTURE AND CHECK OF ANDREW JACKSON

When your committee called and invited me to address you on this occasion, they admired a picture of General Andrew Jackson in my office, which had been presented to me by Mrs. Bettie M. Donelson, a grand niece of General Jackson, and president of the Andrew Jackson Society; and they expressed a wish for a similar picture to hang in this lodge room. Thereupon, I wrote Mrs. Donelson inquiring whether she could send me another copy of the picture for presentation to your lodge. I received a prompt reply from her, advising that she was sending the picture, and inclosing a message to you in part as follows:

"I appreciate your desire for the picture, since it increases interest in and respect for the benefactor of my father, Major Andrew Jackson Donelson, who was reared and educated by General Jackson as his ward and nephew, was on his staff in Florida, his private secretary during his two presidential administrations, his confidential friend and counselor until the old hero's death."

Mrs. Donelson also sent to me for presentation to your lodge a check for \$50 given by General Jackson to her father, the check being entirely in the handwriting of Andrew Jackson. Mrs. Donelson facetiously suggests that, if the lodge is ever in need of funds, you can cash the check, i. e., can sell it.

Wherefore, upon behalf of Mrs. Bettie M. Donelson, grandniece of the great hero whose memory we are to-night commemorating, I take

pleasure in presenting to Andrew Jackson Lodge, No. 120, this picture of Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson and this check.

JACKSON'S ANCESTRY

Andrew Jackson's ancestry on both sides ran back to the old kings of Scotland; however, this royal blood in his veins did not prevent him from having a contempt for all things pertaining to royalty; he was always a democrat in thought and action, not only politically, but in the broadest sense of the term.

His ancestors for several generations resided in Carrickfergus, county of Antrim, on the northern coast of Ireland, to which place some of his early ancestors had moved from Scotland. His father, likewise named Andrew Jackson, and wife, Elizabeth Hutchinson, and two small sons, Hugh and Robert, migrated to America in 1875, landing at Charleston, S. C. They went by stagecoach about 160 miles northwest to Waxhaw settlement, on the North Carolina and South Carolina borders. Many of their relatives and countrymen had previously settled there. They went several miles farther, made a clearing in the virgin forest and built a log house, on the banks of Twelve Mile Creek, a branch of the Catawba River.

JACKSON'S BIRTH

Two years after he settled in his frontier home Andrew Jackson, the elder, passed away, a victim of overwork and pneumonia. Betty Jackson did not have the heart to return to their little home in the wilderness with her two small boys, and daily expecting the birth of a third child. She put her boys and her meager personal belongings in a single wagon and started to the home of her sister, Jane Hutchinson Crawford, 12 miles away, near the old Waxhaw Church in South Carolina. She was taken ill before reaching her destination and stopped at the cabin of another sister, Peggy Hutchinson McKemey, just over on the North Carolina side, where Andrew Jackson was born on the night of March 15, 1767.

Ever since Andrew Jackson rose to fame there has been a controversy among historians, and many debates in Congress, as to whether he was born in North Carolina or South Carolina, each of those States having claimed his birthplace. Regardless of whether he was born in the one State or the other, what is more important, as soon as he reached the age of discretion, he displayed the good judgment to move to Tennessee, which appreciated and honored him in a manner seldom if ever equaled.

JACKSON'S BOYHOOD

After three weeks spent in the McKemey home, Betty Jackson, with her three little sons, proceeded to the home of her sister, Jane Hutchinson Crawford, and her husband, James Crawford, where they lived for 10 or 12 years.

Frontier life was hard at best. It was especially so for this penniless widow and three small children. However, Betty Jackson was ambitious, energetic, and thrifty, and did the best she could for her boys. Andrew Jackson received meager training in the crude schools of Waxhaw settlement. The educational opportunities in pioneer settlements of that day were scant, indeed, especially for a poor boy who had to assist a widowed mother to keep the wolf from the door.

By 1780 the Revolutionary War was raging in the Carolinas, which were partly well under the domination of the British and the hated Tories. Andrew's oldest brother Hugh had joined Colonel Davie's army and in the year previous had given his life for American

The relentless British Commander Tarleton and his dragoons descended upon the peaceful Waxhaw settlement and massacred a large number and ravaged the homes of the settlers. Betty Jackson and her sons, Andrew and Robert, ministered to the wounded.

British troops soon returned to demand a promise from everyone to take no part in the war thereafter. The Jacksons and Crawfords, not desiring to make such a promise, took refuge in the hills.

REVOLUTIONARY SERVICE

Thereafter Andrew and Robert Jackson frequently accompanied bands of patriots who would attack and harass the British troops. After one heated engagement these boys of tender years spent the night in a forest alone, and early next morning repaired to the home of a cousin for food. A Tory informed the dragoons, who surrounded the house and captured Robert and Andrew. The redcoats proceeded to wreck everything in the home, and a browbeating Hessian officer ordered Andrew to clean his boots. Andy refused. "Sir, I am a prisoner of war, and claim to be treated as such," he said. The officer's sword descended upon Andrew's head, when he parried the blow with his left hand, receiving a deep gash, the ugly scar of which he carried to his grave. The brutal officer next turned on Robert and ordered him to clean his boots. Robert likewise refused. The officer struck Robert upon the head with full force, cutting a deep gash. The boys were then thrown in a crowded prison, where they and the other prisoners were cruelly treated, were furnished no beds or medical attention, and given but a scant supply of miserable food. Smallpox broke out among the prisoners and, being unchecked by medical attention, spread rapidly. Both Robert and Andrew fell victims to this dread disease. In addition Robert's wound, having never been dressed, had become infected.

JACKSON'S MOTHER

In the meantime the mother worked tirelessly to effect the release of her sons and finally succeeded in arranging for an exchange of prisoners. Betty Jackson carried her disease-racked and emaciated boys back home and labored day and night to save them. Her efforts were of no avail as to Robert. In two days she buried him in the Waxhaw churchyard besides his father. Andrew hovered between life and death for weeks—in a state of delirium. He finally began to improve under the faithful ministrations of his devoted mother, although he was an invalid for many months.

The following summer a cry for help came from the prison ships at Charleston. Many of the prisoners were the kindred and neighbors of Betty Jackson. Andrew now on the road to recovery, she went with other Waxhaw women on this mission of mercy. After a tiresome and perilous journey of 160 miles they reached their destination. In a few weeks Betty Jackson joined her husband and two sons, a victim of the ship fever which she contracted while ministering to the sick and wounded men on the British prison ship. She was buried in an unmarked grave in an open field. Years later Andrew Jackson instituted a special inquiry to locate the spot where his heroic mother was buried, but to no avail.

We catch but a fleeting glimpse of his mother, but enough that we can easily surmise the source of Andrew Jackson's devotion to duty, his fidelity to purpose, his superb courage, his patriotism, and many other traits that characterized him. Betty Jackson's nobility of character left a deep impress on her illustrious son, who often spoke of her in terms of tenderness and reverence.

Everting to our narrative, we thus find Jackson facing the world alone at the age of 14.

What hardships, what cruelties, what suffering, what sorrows, what nerve-racking, soul-stirring experiences have been crowded into that short span of years for Andrew Jackson!

TEACHERS SCHOOL, REIDIES LAW

However, Jackson was never known to give up. He never surrendered to obstacles, however great. After his mother's death he worked for six months in a saddler's shop, but this gave no outlet for his ambitions. Besides, it was not in Andrew Jackson's make-up "to play second fiddle." He was a born leader and was never attituded to follow or to take orders from others. He next taught a "field school" in the Waxhaws for two years. He then studied law in the office of Spence McCay, a lawyer of Salisbury, N. C. According to reports he spent a portion of his time in horse racing, cock fighting, card playing, and rollicking. Despite these diversions, he applied himself assiduously to the law books and was an apt student. He completed his preparations for admission to the bar in the office of Col. Spence Stokes.

In the spring of 1787, at the age of 20 years, young Jackson obtained his law license.

Even at this age he bore unmistakable evidences of leadership. Tall, erect, graceful, dashing, with a strong personality, supreme courage, and a high sense of justice, he was a recognized leader of the young men among whom he moved. He was likewise very popular with the ladies, toward whom he was always courteous and chivalrous.

APPOINTED PUBLIC PROSECUTOR—GOES TO NASHVILLE

In 1788, John McNairy, a friend of Jackson, was appointed judge of the Superior Court for the Western District of North Carolina, which embraced that vast wilderness between the Alleghanies and the Mississippi River, which later became the State of Tennessee. The office of solicitor or public prosecutor, was offered to Jackson, and he accepted. The courts for this district were to be held at Jonesboro and Nashville.

The judicial party, Judge McNairy, Solicitor Jackson, and a few lawyers made the long and hazardous trip to Jonesboro. After remaining there for several weeks, they, together with a crowd of emigrants, made the long and dangerous trip to Nashville, through trackless forests infested with hostile Indians. By common consent young Jackson took command of the party. About the time of their arrival in Nashville news reached them that a majority of the States had adopted the Federal Constitution.

At this time Nashville was a rather important frontier settlement. That country, embracing what later became the State of Tennessee, was inhabited by various tribes of Indians, including the Cherokees, Chocktaws, Shawnees, Chickasaws, and Creeks. There had been many clashes between the white settlers and the Indians with the result that much hostility existed. From the year 1780 to 1784 the Indians killed an average of one white person in every 10 days within 5 miles of Nashville. In 1787, the year before Jackson's arrival, 33 white men had been slain by the Indians within the immediate vicinity of Nashville. Of course, conditions were still more perilous in sections more sparsely settled by the whites.

Jackson applied himself assiduously to his duties as public prosecutor, and built up a large private law practice. He made a reputation as a able, fearless, and successful prosecutor and general practitioner.

APPOINTED FEDERAL ATTORNEY GENERAL

On May 26, 1790, Congress organized the country between the Ohio River and the present States of Alabama and Mississippi and bounded on the west by the Mississippi River, as "the Territory of the United States southwest of the Ohio River." John McNairy was continued in office as territorial judge and Andrew Jackson was appointed Federal attorney general of the Mero district.

RACHEL DONELSON

Eight years before Jackson's arrival at Nashville a company of settlers, led by Col. John Donelson, a Virginia surveyor, had arrived there. Rather than hazard the dangers and hardships of traveling through the wilderness, this company had made the trip by water in flatboats, floating down the River Holston to the Tennessee, down the Tennessee to the Ohio, up the Ohio to the Cumberland, and up the Cumberland to Nashville, a distance of more than 2,000 miles. I shall not take time to narrate the hardships endured on this perilous 4-month voyage.

In this party was the daughter of Colonel Donelson, black-eyed, black-haired, vivacious Rachel. At an early age she married Lewis Robards, of Kentucky. All did not go well with them. While handsome, Robards was overbearing and brutal. They separated, Robards returning to Kentucky. After a time word came direct from him that he had obtained a divorce from Rachel. This news was accepted as the truth by everybody. Andrew Jackson and Rachel Donelson Robards fell in love with each other and were in time married—in November, 1791; Jackson was then 24 years of age and Rachel 4 years younger. After they had been happily married for two years it developed that, while proceedings had been instituted, yet Robards had not obtained a decree of divorce at the time Jackson and Rachel were married, although a final decree had subsequently been entered. While Andrew Jackson and Rachel had undoubtedly married in perfect good faith, yet, upon receipt of this news, they were promptly remarried. However, the fact that they had lived together as man and wife for a time prior to an actual divorce between Robards and Rachel furnished a sweet morsel for the enemies of Jackson, and this circumstance played a conspicuous part in the subsequent lives of both Andrew Jackson and his wife.

In passing it may be of interest to note that Col. John Donelson had been killed by the Indians prior to Jackson's arrival at Nashville.

The greatest tragedy in the life of old Hickory was that his beloved wife, the sweet, pious Rachel, than whom a more chaste woman never lived, should be cruelly and unjustly branded with the scarlet letter. However, the good women and men of Nashville understood and Rachel Jackson was invariably received and welcomed into the very best circles without question. There was only an intermittent remark by some enemy or scandal monger, until the circumstance referred to was revived during Jackson's candidacy for the Presidency, to which reference will later be made.

MEMBER OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

The territorial legislature ordered the census to be taken in 1795, when it developed that the territory contained 77,262 inhabitants, more than the 60,000 inhabitants required for admission of the territory into the Union as a State. Governor Blount called a constitutional convention to assemble January 11, 1796, at Knoxville, "for the purpose of forming a constitution or permanent form of government," the territorial governor and the inhabitants proceeding upon the basis that they

were entitled to statehood, although Congress had not enacted legislation providing for the admission of the territory to statehood. Andrew Jackson was one of the five delegates from Davidson County elected to this convention.

The convention completed its labor, leaving to the assembly, which it created, the task of putting the new State government into operation, and fixed March 28, 1796, as the time when the territorial government should expire. It declared, moreover, that if Congress should fail to admit Tennessee to statehood, the commonwealth would continue to exist as an independent state.

This defiant attitude was not received with entire favor by President Washington or the Federalists. However, Thomas Jefferson, after studying this constitution, praised it as the most republican one of all the State constitutions.

At any rate, after considerable debate, Congress admitted the State of Tennessee into the Union on June 1, 1796.

JACKSON FIRST MEMBER UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM TENNESSEE

Tennessee was entitled to but one Representative in the House of Representatives, and Andrew Jackson was elected to this post in the fall of 1796. In the latter part of October he bade Rachel good-bye and set off on horseback for Philadelphia, a distance of 800 miles, and served in Congress until the 3d of March following. During this brief period he manifested that deep conviction and independence of spirit which always characterized him. He also succeeded in obtaining the passage of two measures of particular interest to Tennesseans, which increased his popularity at home. Upon his return home he was enthusiastically received at Nashville, as his service at the National Capital had in every way been satisfactory to his constituents.

UNITED STATES SENATOR

On November 22, 1797, Jackson was elected United States Senator by the Legislature of Tennessee. However, senatorial work and Philadelphia life were distasteful to Jackson. He longed for his devoted wife, his beloved Tennessee, and the great outdoors. In April, 1798, he took leave of the Senate, returned home, and resigned from the Senate in June.

JUDGE OF STATE SUPREME COURT

Jackson was now 31 years of age. Having divested himself of public office, he made up his mind to devote the rest of his life to managing his plantation and keeping a general store; but without any suggestion from him, the legislature elected him a judge of the State supreme court. He reluctantly accepted the office and served in that capacity for six years. Jackson was not very learned in the law, but he had a profound sense of justice, and consequently made a splendid judge. He maintained the dignity and the authority of the position at all times.

MAJOR GENERAL OF TENNESSEE MILITIA

In 1801 Jackson was elected major general of Tennessee Militia. This was an important officer in that day, as the Indian menace in Tennessee was serious.

In 1804 Jackson resigned from the supreme court.

JACKSON NOT AN OFFICE SEEKER

It should not be said that Jackson was politically ambitious. I do not recall that he ever sought any office save one, and he failed to

obtain that. When Jefferson was President Jackson applied to him for appointment as Governor of the Territory of Louisiana, but Jefferson turned him down. This was in 1803, soon after the purchase of the Territory of Louisiana. It is singular that the founder of the Democratic Party and the greatest exponent of Democratic principles should have denied a relatively unimportant appointment to that other great Democrat, who subsequently, more than any man in the history of this Republic, injected breathing, throbbing life into the principles enunciated by Jefferson.

HOME LIFE

Jackson spent the next few years at the Hermitage, devoting his time and efforts to his plantations and stores. He was a progressive, successful planter. He had as many as 150 slaves at a time; he was very kind to them and they loved him. His name signed to paper made it good as legal tender anywhere in Tennessee.

Andrew and Rachel Jackson were not blessed with any children of their own. However, he adopted a son of one of Mrs. Jackson's brothers and named him Andrew Jackson, jr. Another nephew of Mrs. Jackson was named Andrew Jackson Donelson. Jackson would fondle and play with these boys by the hour. He was very hospitable and frequently had other children, relatives, and friends in his home.

Having heard so much of his turbulent, fiery spirit, even of him being a man-killer, visitors to The Hermitage and later the White House marveled at the extraordinary patience of General Jackson in his home. He was never even cross with the children, his wife, or the servants. Relentless and ruthless as he was toward his adversaries, Jackson was tender, gentle, and affectionate in his own home. Tempestuous as was his life elsewhere there was always peace and quietude around his own fireside. However much his grim and austere demeanor may have held others in awe the members of his own household regarded him with tenderest affection and treated him with utmost familiarity.

However, this peaceful and happy existence at The Hermitage was not to continue indefinitely. Jackson was born under a star that presaged action. To be precise, he was born under the sign of the planet Mars—the god of war.

WAR OF 1812

War clouds were rapidly gathering, due to the controversies between the United States and Great Britain. War was declared on June 12, 1812. Led by Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun, the war fever ran high in the West and South. New England was decidedly hostile to the war. To quote the language of David Karsner in his biography of Andrew Jackson, "Daniel Webster led a strong antiwar contingent which skated mighty close to the brink of sedition." He succeeded in defeating the conscription bill in Congress, leaving this country entirely dependent upon volunteers. The standing Army of the United States consisted of about 7,000 men. The American Navy consisted of a dozen fighting ships, while England possessed nearly a thousand.

New England remained hostile to the war and refused to send their quota of soldiers to the front. As late as 1814 a convention representing five New England States was held at Hartford and expressed its opposition to the war in which we were then engaged.

Within a few days after the declaration of war General Jackson, through Governor Blount, tendered to President Madison his services and those of the 2,500 militiamen under his command. The offer was promptly accepted, but no funds for the equipment and support of the

command were furnished by the Federal Government. However, Jackson proceeded with preparations, advising the soldiers that they should furnish their own arms, ammunition, and campaign equipment, for which it was confidently expected that the Government would later compensate them. On January 7, 1813, two months after President Madison had requested Tennessee to move the Army to the Gulf, Jackson's army started for that point, the Cavalry going through the country and the Infantry on boats down the Cumberland into the Mississippi. General Wilkinson, who was in command at New Orleans, sent a courier informing Jackson to halt his troops at Natchez, as neither quarters nor provisions were ready for them at New Orleans. On February 6 Jackson received orders from the War Department to dismiss his troops and deliver to Wilkinson all articles of public property in his possession, "as the cause of embodying and marching to New Orleans the corps under your command has ceased to exist."

Jackson's soldiers had no Government property, had not received a penny of pay, were 500 miles from home, many of them sick, and the order was that they be dismissed—without means of transport back to their homes. Jackson very properly ignored the order from the War Department, resolving to personally conduct his men back to their homes. He purchased supplies in Natchez for the march homeward, giving the merchants drafts for the amounts, advising them that if the Government failed to honor the drafts, he would make them good out of his own pocket. One hundred and fifty of his men were sick as they commenced the long, cold, arduous march of 560 miles through the wilderness to Tennessee. Means for the transportation of the sick were very meager, and General Jackson himself gave up his three mules to the sick men, and marched afoot with his ragged army, although then 46 years old. Jackson's conduct toward his men during this trying ordeal won him their everlasting affection and reverence, and they bestowed upon him the affectionate nickname, "Old Hickory." On May 22, 1813, his army was dismissed. However, as will be later seen, this mistreatment of Jackson by the War Department did not cool his ardor or dampen his patriotism.

Affairs had been going badly for American arms, with the single exception of the notable victory of Commodore Perry on Lake Erie.

CONQUERS CREEK INDIANS

Incited, armed, and aided by the British, the Creek Indians were over-running the southern country, marauding, pillaging, burning, and butchering the whites and friendly Indians. They had massacred the garrison and inmates of Fort Mims, on August 30, 1813. The Governor of Tennessee and others repaired to the Hermitage to consult General Jackson, who was in bed from serious wounds recently received in an altercation with the Britons. His wife propped Jackson up in bed for the council of war. He assured the governor and committee that he would lead the army if he had to be borne on a stretcher. Governor Blount called for 3,500 volunteers and selected Andrew Jackson to lead them. Jackson at once assumed direction of the movement for defense, calling the volunteers to assemble at Camp Blount, Fayetteville, Tenn., on October 4; he arranged for supplies of food and ammunition and looked after other details. The army assembled at the time and place appointed, Jackson conducted a vigorous campaign against the Creek Indians, completely routing them in five important battles, and concluding a lasting treaty of peace. This was one of the bloodiest and most significant wars ever waged against the Indians on this continent. It had a salutary effect throughout the Nation and did much to improve American morale, and to lessen British arrogance.

Many have felt that one of Jackson's faults was that he was too relentless toward the Indians. If he was, he viewed it as a matter of military strategy and necessity. As evidence of the personal side of his nature an incident is given. In the battle at Tallushatchee all of the Indian warriors were killed. An Indian papoose was found on the battle field. Jackson asked first one squaw and the another to care for the infant, but each refused. Whereupon Jackson took charge of the papoose, tenderly cared for it temporarily, sent him to Huntsville to be cared for until the end of the war, and then took him to the Hermitage where he became the playmate of Little Andy. General Jackson reared and educated him, and his body reposes in the garden of the Hermitage.

Camp Blount was used as a place of rendezvous during this campaign, and when the Creek War was ended the army was there discharged from further service. Camp Blount is in the district which I have the honor to represent.

MAJOR GENERAL OF UNITED STATES ARMY

After he had conquered the Creek Indians Andrew Jackson was appointed major general of the United States Army. Having learned that the Spaniards were harboring Creek Indians and also allowing the British to occupy the town and forts at Pensacola, Jackson came to the conclusion that the British had designs on Pensacola or New Orleans. He again called for volunteers. General Coffee raised about 2,500 cavalrymen and occupied Camp Blount, and moved from there on October 5, 1814, and marched to Fort Montgomery, near Mobile, where he joined General Jackson's army.

General Jackson took command and marched to Pensacola, where he conquered the Spaniards, blew up the Spanish forts, and drove the British out of town. After this Jackson and his army marched to New Orleans for the defense of that city.

BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS

General Jackson with his army arrived in New Orleans December 2, 1814. The people of New Orleans were disappointed in the appearance of General Jackson. They expected to see a robust, pompous general arrayed in all the gay panoplies of war. Instead they beheld a spare, gaunt frontiersman, his garb simple and badly worn from the campaigns through which he had passed. However, they were glad to welcome any defender, and gave a banquet, at which local orators indulged in much fervent patriotic appeal. Jackson replied in a brief, simple talk, but to the point. He declared that he had come to protect the city and to drive the enemy into the sea, or perish in the attempt. He called upon all citizens to bury their differences and rally to the defense of their country. He made it clear that his word would be law and must be respected and obeyed.

The facts relating to the Battle of New Orleans are so well known that I shall but briefly describe them. However, such a description would be incomplete without reference to the conditions leading up to that famous victory. During the first two years of the War of 1812 the British victories over our Armies had not only been complete but disastrous and humiliating—we had not won a single land battle.

The enemy had captured ~~and burned the city of Baltimore and in town~~ and partially burned the National Capital. Our President and the seat of government had been driven from Washington. The martial spirit of the Nation seemed to have been largely broken; our morale was at a low ebb. England was in a state of glorification. Many sections of our country were demanding peace at any price. The President had sent a commission of five notable men to Europe to seek

peace. They had been haughtily received, and the British demanded most unreasonable terms, including a cession of that territory now comprising the great Middle West. These were the conditions when Andrew Jackson was commissioned a major general and authorized to appoint his subordinate officers and mobilize an army, but the Federal Government provided no means with which to do it. It is with pride that I point to the fact that the old Volunteer State of Tennessee met the emergency, and through its legislature appropriated \$300,000 for the equipment and expenses of an army to be raised by Jackson. So far as I am aware, this is the only instance since the establishment of our Government that a State has made an appropriation for the national defense. Whereupon, General Jackson quickly mobilized an army of 5,800 men at Fayetteville, Tenn.

Jackson had about 6,000 troops at New Orleans, sturdy frontiersmen, wearing coonskin caps, hunting shirts, and armed chiefly with squirrel rifles. He was confronted by General Pakenham, with over 12,000 trained and seasoned British troops, who had fought under Wellington and many of whom later covered themselves with glory at Waterloo in combat with Napoleon's legions; many of whom had recently participated in the capture of Baltimore and Washington. Jackson began attacking the British at night on December 23, 1814, and kept it up until the final, decisive battle on January 8, 1815, when he and his troops won their miraculous victory, killing and wounding a large number of British troops and driving the remainder in disorder from the field. The deadly aim of the Tennessee frontiersmen was evidenced by the fact that General Pakenham was killed; Gibbs, who succeeded him, was killed; and many other high officers in the British ranks met a similar fate. The most remarkable feature of this wonderful victory was that the Americans sustained a loss of only 8 killed and 13 wounded. This most marvelous and glorious victory ever won by American arms was acclaimed with wildest joy throughout the Nation from President Madison down to the humblest citizen. Jackson was the great national hero. His name was on every tongue. As expressed by Bowers, this victory had "brilliantly avenged the humiliations of an unhappy war."

While it is true that this great victory was won after the signing of the treaty at Ghent, yet in the light of subsequent events we know that it was one of the most important and far-reaching events in our history; among other things it assured to us the preservation and possession of the Louisiana Purchase, comprising 84 of our great States.

DECLINES APPOINTMENT AS SECRETARY OF WAR

Upon his election in 1816, President Monroe tendered to Jackson the position of Secretary of War, but he promptly declined it.

GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA

However, December 26, 1817, General Jackson entered upon his second Florida campaign. In February, 1819, Spain ceded Florida to the United States. In 1821 President Monroe appointed Jackson Governor of Florida, which he reluctantly accepted. He resigned as major general in the Army and on July 17, 1821, took possession of Florida as governor, it becoming a territory of the United States. In October following, Jackson resigned as Governor of Florida.

AGAIN TAKES STRONG INTEREST

However, Old Hickory is to again be called from his peaceful lair at the White House. In October, 1835, without solicitation on his part, he was elected United States Senator by the Tennessee Legislature. He resigned this position in October, 1835.

FIRST RACE FOR PRESIDENT

On July 20, 1822, Jackson had been placed in nomination for the Presidency by the Legislature of Tennessee. On March 4, 1824, he was nominated for President by the Philadelphia convention. In the ensuing election Jackson received a plurality of both the popular and electoral votes for President over his three opponents, Adams, Clay, and Crawford, but, not having received a majority of all the electoral votes, the election was thrown into the House of Representatives, which elected John Quincy Adams.

ELECTED PRESIDENT

In October, 1825, the Tennessee Legislature again placed Jackson in nomination for the Presidency.

He was again nominated as the Democratic standard bearer for the Presidency in 1828. After the most bitter and scurrilous campaign this country has ever known he was triumphantly elected. In view of the powerful interests arrayed against him and the character of the campaign waged against him, he achieved a remarkable victory, securing 178 electoral votes, while John Quincy Adams received but 83. It is needless to state that he had the loyal support of the masses of the people.

OVERWHELMINGLY REELECTED PRESIDENT

The popularity of his first administration was attested by the fact that he was triumphantly reelected in 1832, receiving 219 electoral votes against 67 for all of his opponents.

JACKSON THE MASON

General Jackson had been grand master of the Masonic fraternity of Tennessee. During his first term as President the head of his Cabinet was Secretary of State Edward Livingston, who was the highest-ranking Mason in America. In 1832 William Work was nominated for President by the anti-Masons and Henry Clay was nominated by the Whigs. The anti-Masons and Whigs worked in close cooperation and with complete understanding. During the campaign Ex-President John Quincy Adams made a bitter attack on Masonry and Edward Livingston. It is needless to relate that Jackson went on record against this anti-Mason hysteria and that the Masons rallied to Jackson's banner. The campaign against Jackson in 1832 was quite as bitter and scurrilous as that waged against him in 1828, but with even more disastrous results to the opposition. In discussing this campaign in his admirable work, *The Party Battles of the Jackson Period*, Claude G. Bowers says in part:

"Thus the Whigs used every weapon that came into their hands—money, subsidized and bought papers, the hostility of Masonry, the hate of the nullifiers, the fear of Van Buren, intimidation, coercion, and slander. And something comparatively new to politics—the cartoon—soon became a feature of the fight. Here the Democrats were at a disadvantage and the pictorial editorials that have come down to us are largely anti-Jackson. Here we find the President pictured as a raving maniac, as Don Quixote tilting at the pillars of the splendid marble bank building in Philadelphia, as a burglar attempting to force the bank doors with a battering ram, while the most popular cartoon among the friends of Clay pictured Jackson receiving a crown from Van Buren and a scepter from the devil."

When Jackson entered the White House he had about \$5,000 in money. After his eight years' distinguished and triumphant service as Chief Executive he left Washington for the Hermitage with \$90 in money, 106703—6240

with Rachel's picture and her Bible, from which he had read every night. The Presidency had cost him all of his savings, and he was in debt. He once more settled down to the quiet life of a farmer and spent the rest of his days. He paid all of his debts, for he was a good farmer, but died comparatively a poor man.

I am discussing rather the personal side of Andrew Jackson. Time forbids a detailed narrative of his many and valuable achievements while an occupant of the White House.

MOST POPULAR AMERICAN. ACHIEVEMENTS

When Jackson entered the White House he was the most popular of all Americans. After eight years of the most bitter and turbulent administrations in the Nation's history he retired to private life stronger than ever in the affections of the people. Throughout his presidential career he was constantly harassed by a hostile Senate; he had pitted against him those able and astute statesmen, Clay, Webster, and Calhoun. The battle between the hostile Senate on the one hand and President Jackson on the other raged with unremitting fury and bitterness. Jackson asked no quarter and gave none. He always came out victor. He was invincible. He never lost the confidence and support of the people.

From his quiet retreat at the Hermitage, which by the way is quite as attractive and interesting as Mount Vernon, Jackson caused the nomination, and his influence effected the election of his two successors in the presidential chair, Van Buren and Polk. For a quarter of a century he controlled the political destinies of this Nation and for a century his achievements and influence have colored the affairs of our country.

In accepting upon behalf of the United States the splendid bronze statue of Andrew Jackson presented by the State of Tennessee, to be placed in Statuary Hall, President Coolidge said of him:

"History accords him one of the high positions among the great names of our country. He gave to the nationalist spirit through loyalty to the Union a new strength which was decisive for many years. His management of our foreign affairs was such as to secure a wholesome respect for our Government and the rights of its citizens. He left the Treasury without obligations and with a surplus. Coming up from the people, he demonstrated that there is sufficient substance in self-government to solve important public questions and rise superior to a perplexing crisis. Like a true pioneer, he broke through all the restraints and impediments into which he was born and, leaving behind the provincialisms and prejudices of his day, pushed out toward a larger freedom and a sounder Government, carrying the country with him."

As before shown, Jackson's scholastic training was very meager; but he had such a splendid natural intellect and acquired such an excellent education in the school of experience, by keen observation and intelligent reading, that one of his biographers expressed his opinion that Jackson was the finest letter writer this country had produced, and the late Congressman James D. Richardson, who compiled the Messages and Papers of the Presidents, gave it as his mature judgment that Jackson's state papers were the greatest of all our Presidents. Jackson was not cultured; he did not have a literary education. He did not know the difference between a ballad and a sonnet, and probably cared less. He made mistakes in orthography, but, after all, spelled better than the Father of Our Country; even as late a President and as learned a scholar as Theodore Roosevelt indulged in

phonetic spelling. Yet Jackson's head was chucked full of wisdom such as is seldom possessed even by perfect grammarians and spellers. His superior intelligence, his iron will, his dauntless courage overcame all deficiencies of scholastic training; and the latter are overlooked except by those puny, contemptible minds which grovel on the floor looking for specks.

By sheer force of intellect, unadulterated patriotism, indomitable will, and invincible courage, he displayed qualities of extraordinary versatility. By his thirty-third birthday he had served as public prosecutor, Federal Attorney General, Representative in Congress, United States Senator, Supreme Court judge, and major general. He had sought none of these offices, and resigned from all of them before his terms expired.

Like all great men of positive character and fearless action, he had many bitter foes and was the victim of much unjust slander. Only recently we are getting histories and biographies which do justice to Andrew Jackson and his great achievements; even some of the recent writers still give currency to slanders which have long since been thoroughly discredited.

Jackson is now generally recognized as having been truly a great President. He so impressed himself upon the history of our country that we speak of the "Jackson period." One of his greatest contributions was to make our Government responsive to the will of the people. As has been aptly said, Jefferson enunciated the principles of a government of the people and for the people, and Jackson completed the process by making it a government of the people, for the people, and by the people.

To again quote that trenchant biographer, Claude G. Bowers:

"Andrew Jackson was the organizer of democracy. He found the masses helpless and futile in the midst of their tools, and he taught them how to use them. He mobilized the scattered forces of ordinary men; vitalized them with energy, fired them with his faith, and made sharpshooters of them, every one. He made the trapper in the wilderness, the worker on the wharf, the toiler in the factory, and the farmer in the field realize that the Government is his Government in days of peace as well as when he is solemnly reminded of it in days of battle.

"When they reminded him that these men of the masses were untrained in government, he answered that in a democracy it was high time to train them. When the timid cringed at the thought of these crude folk being awakened to a realization of their civic power, he consoled himself with the reflection that they were the same crude folk who battled behind him at New Orleans. He knew that men good enough to die for the Republic are good enough to have a voice in the determination of its destiny; and he knew that a nation that will exact a life and withhold a civic right is not fit to live."

Without previous training, Jackson demonstrated his ability to cope with every situation in any field of endeavor. He even demonstrated the fact that he was a diplomat and capable of successfully coping with grave international problems. When he became President many old and vexatious questions with foreign countries were pending, all of which he soon satisfactorily adjusted, and when he retired from the Presidency he did not bequeath to his successor a single pending controversy with a foreign nation.

His sterling party service has furnished us the descriptive term, "Jacksonian Democracy," and Democrats throughout the Nation assemble on "Jackson Day," to pay him homage.

It was Jackson who established the custom of party platforms, his purpose being to take the people into the counsel and confidence of party leaders.

CHARACTER SKETCH

Andrew Jackson had many faults, it is true, but absolutely none that compromised honor, integrity, justice, or patriotism. Generally his faults were merely the excesses of the very virtues which made him great.

His sensitive, high-strung nature, his impetuous will, his readiness to resent an insult, his determination to redress a wrong, his utter fearlessness naturally led him into paths that more phlegmatic and timid souls would dare not tread. However, a remarkable feature of Jackson's complex nature was that he was always calm and collected in every crisis.

Jackson was not sly or subtle. He never resorted to artifice, deceit, or even tact. He was blunt and straightforward. He always spoke in unmistakable terms. He never equivocated. He never "trimmed his sails." He always struck straight from the shoulder.

No obstacle discouraged, no danger deterred Andrew Jackson. Both his moral and physical courage was supreme under all circumstances. He feared no mortal man; he feared no aggregation of men. No power, no influence could turn him away from the path of duty as he saw it. His lion heart never quailed; his iron will never wavered. He was superlatively a real man.

Commodore Elliott brought from Palestine, in the U. S. S. *Constitution*, a magnificent sarcophagus believed to have contained the body of the Roman emperor, Alexander Severus. A short time before Jackson's death the commodore wrote to him telling about the sarcophagus, saying, "I pray you to live on in fear of the Lord, dying the death of a Roman soldier; an emperor's coffin awaits you."

General Jackson promptly replied as follows:

"I must decline accepting the honor intended to be bestowed. I can not consent that my mortal body shall be laid in a repository prepared for an emperor or a king. My republican feelings and principles forbid it; the simplicity of our system of government forbids it. True virtue can not exist where pomp and parade are the governing passions; it can only dwell with the people—the great laboring and producing classes that form the bone and sinew of our Confederacy. I have prepared an humble depository for my mortal body beside that wherein lies my beloved wife."

Jackson spent the last 17 years of his life without his beloved Rachel, who passed away shortly after his first triumphant election to the Presidency. Rachel had pined away with a broken heart as a result of cruel slanders before mentioned, which were revived and embellished in that campaign.

A short time before his death, General Jackson's pastor went to his bedside and said:

"General, the doctor informs me that you have but a short time to live. You must remember that if you expect forgiveness you yourself must forgive all your enemies."

The old fellow turned his eyes to the wall where hung Rachel's portrait, with trembling fingers pointed to it, and said:

"I forgive them all—except her traducers."

For many years before his death General Jackson was afflicted with tuberculosis, and finally dropsy developed. He suffered the most excruciating agony, but he never flinched nor complained.

THE END

During his last hours Jackson manifested his greatness and patriotism when he said :

" May my enemies find peace ; may the liberties of my country endure forever."

The end came on Sunday, June 8, 1845. The members of his household, and even his faithful slaves, were admitted into his presence. General Jackson heard them sobbing and said : " Do not cry, dear children, we all will meet in heaven—all—white and black." And then in a voice so weak that it was scarcely audible, he uttered his last words : " Heaven will be no heaven to me if I do not meet my wife there."

The grim reaper mercifully ended his sufferings and sent his proud spirit to join his Rachel. His mortal body was laid to rest beside that of his beloved wife in the garden of the Hermitage.

In the graphic words of Gerald W. Johnson :

" The wilderness which had slain his father yielded to Andrew Jackson. The war which destroyed his mother and his brothers he survived. The wild frontier to which they dispatched him on a dangerous mission he subdued. The enemies that rose against him he struck down. He swept the red man beyond the great river. He swept the British into the sea. The country thundered his acclaim and showered honors upon him. It gave him the Presidency, and he made the Presidency such a power as it never had been before. The immigrant linen draper's son touched the height of human glory and his renown echoed throughout the world."

As his handsome bronze statue graces the National Hall of Fame, so his character and achievements place Andrew Jackson among the immortals.

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