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MR. CLAY'S SPEECH

Delivered in the City of Raleigh, April 12, 1844.

Friends and Fellow-Citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen of North Carolina:

A long cherished object of my heart is accomplished. I am at your Capitol and in the midst of you...

I am here, fellow-citizens, in compliance with your own summons. Warm and repeated invitations to visit this state and my own ardent desire to see it...

Although, fellow-citizens, I have truly said that I have not come to your State with any political aims or purposes, I am aware of the general expectation, entertained here...

...to the public speaking, in legislative halls, or in public meetings... it has been public speaking, in which there was a practice and well defined object to be pursued...

Without presuming to prescribe to any body else the course which he ought to pursue in forming his judgment upon political parties, public measures, and the principles which ought to guide him...

It is far from my intention or desire to do the least injustice to the party to which I am opposed; but I think that in asserting the characteristic difference between the two parties which I have done, I am fully borne out by facts...

The first, to which I shall call your attention, has occurred during the present session of Congress. The variety in the mode of electing members to the House of Representatives of the United States, some being chosen by whole states, and others by separate districts...

York, which, electing its members by districts, might receive an equal or nearly an equal number of members of both parties. According to the general ticket system, it is impossible that the elective franchise can be exercised with the same discretion and judgment as under the district system...

And what, fellow citizens, do you suppose was the process of reasoning by which this most extraordinary result was brought about? Congress you have seen is invested with unlimited power to make regulations as to the times, places, and manner of holding elections for representatives...

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which it is entrusted. The doctrine, applied to the enjoyment of private property, would restrain a man from using any part of his property, unless he used the whole of it.

The case of the New Jersey election is familiar with every body. There the Whig members who presented themselves at Washington, to take their seat, bore with them the highest credentials, under the great seal of their State, demonstrating their right to occupy them...

In connection with the subject on which I am now addressing you, the manner of the admission of Michigan into the Union is worthy of notice. According to the usage which had uniformly prevailed, prior to the admission of the States of Michigan and Arkansas...

In intimate connection with this case the subject of Dorrism may be noticed. Rhode Island had an existing government of long duration, under which her population had lived happily and prosperously. It had carried her triumphantly through the war of the revolution, and borne her into the Union, as one of the original thirteen independent sovereign States...

for otherwise with our opponents. Without meaning to assert that the mode of their maintenance and support does every body know that all the sympathy and encouragement which he has received, have been among them. And they have introduced the subject into the present House of Representatives...

Then there is Repudiation—that dark and foul spot upon the American name and character—how came it there? The stain has been put there by the Democratic majority of the Legislature of Mississippi. Under special pleas, and colorful pretenses, which any private man of honor and probity would scorn to employ...

Other examples might be cited to prove the destructive and disorganizing tendency of the character, tendency and principles of the Democratic party, but these will suffice for this occasion. If the systems and measures of public policy of the two parties are contrasted, and compared, the result will be not less favorable to the Whig party. With the Whig party there prevails entire concurrence as to the principles and measures of public policy which it espouses.

In considering the policy of introducing and establishing manufactures in our country, it has always appeared to me that we should take a broad and extensive view, looking to seasons of war, as well as peace, and regarding the future, as well as the past and the present. National existence is not to be measured by the standard of individual life...

the policy of protection enhanced in price of commodities, it would be found that their cheapness, prevailing in a time of peace, when the foreign supply might be open to us, would be an equivalent for the dearth in a period of war, when that supply would be cut off from us...

The advantages arising from the division of the labor of the population of a country are too manifest to need being dwelt upon. I think the advantage of a home, as well as foreign markets, is equally manifest; but the home market can only be produced by diversified pursuits, creating subjects of exchanges, at home as well as abroad.

The great law, which regulates the prices of commodities, is that of supply and demand. If the supply exceed the demand, the price falls; if the demand exceed the supply, the price rises. This law will be found to be invariably true. Any augmentation of supply is beneficial to the consumer; but, by establishing manufactures in the United States, an additional supply is created.

But I think this is an extremely contracted and fallacious view of the subject. Consumption is greater in consequence of the existence of manufactures at home. They create a demand for labor, which would not exist without them, and the employment of labor creates an ability to consume, which would not exist without it. How could the American labor, employed in manufactures, at home, supply its consumption of European commodities, if it were deprived of that employment? What means of purchase would it possess? It is in vain to point to agriculture; for every department of that is already producing superabundantly. It cannot be questioned that the chief cause of the reduced price of cotton is the excess of production. The price of it would rise, if less were produced, diverting a portion of the labor employed in its cultivation to some other branch of industry. This new pursuit would furnish new subjects of exchange and those who might embark in it, as well as those who would continue to the growth of cotton, would be both benefited by mutual exchanges. The day will come and is not distant, when the south will feel an imperative necessity voluntarily to make such a diversion of a portion of its labor. Considering the vast water power, and other facilities of manufacturing, now wanting and unemployed, at the south, and its possession, at home, of the choice of the raw material, I believe the day will come when the cotton region will be the greatest manufacturing region of cotton in the world. The power of consuming manufactured