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ASK NOTHING THAT IS NOT RIGHT—SUBMIT TO NOTHING THAT IS WRONG.—Jackson.

Lines on the Death of ex-President Polk.

BY JOHN E. FRASE.
The eagle has stooped from his vane on high,
A star has gone out from its path in the sky,
A Statesman has fallen in his blaze of renown,
His brow all encircled with Fame's laurel crown,
Then hallow his grave—lay him down in his rest,
Where memory shall water the turf on his breast,
And the soft winds of summer sigh o'er his repose,
In his own Tennessee, where the Cumberland flows.
His name is enrolled with each mighty name
That Glory or Country shall hand down to fame,
Interwoven in the annals of the brave and the free,
To echo forever from sea unto sea.
His career was all finished, his laurels were won,
When the race of the foremost is scarcely begun;
And the finger of Glory shall point to his name
As the greenest in years, but the equal in fame.
While red Buena Vista looms up in the fight,
Like a meteor's blaze in the darkness of night;
While the gates of the mountains their secrets unfold,
While California o'erflows with rivers of gold;
While the sweet name of Freedom is our glory and pride,
While the broad wave of Empire rolls up like the tide;
While new States, like new stars, on the horizon shall shine,
What name shall be brighter emblazoned than thine?
Then hallow his grave—lay him down in his rest,
Where Memory shall water the turf on his breast,
And the soft winds of summer sigh o'er his repose,
In his own Tennessee, where the Cumberland flows.
WASHINGTON CITY, June 20, 1849.

From the Washington Union.
Mr. Polk.
We had reserved for ourselves the melancholy duty of preparing a succinct sketch of the life of the late ex-President, whose unexpected and untimely decease the nation now mourns; but we have been anticipated in part in the task which we had appropriated to ourselves by the following full and authentic sketch which we find in the *Pennsylvania*, and which we take pleasure in transferring to our columns. This admirable sketch brings the life of Mr. Polk down to the commencement of his administration, in March, 1845. We reserve to ourselves the melancholy office of sketching the eventful and glorious measures of that administration, which but a few days ago we conscientiously pronounced to be the most brilliant which has graced our annals. We have had a full opportunity of studying the whole character of James K. Polk. We have seen him nearly every day for four years, amid all the cares of office—when laboriously engaged in considering and concocting those great measures which have excited the astonishment and admiration of the world—and we do not hesitate to pronounce him one of the ablest statesmen, if not the ablest, whom we have ever known. He had all the elements of a statesman. He had that strong common sense which approaches its high objects calmly and comprehensively, regards it in all its lights, and traces its remotest consequences in the germ itself. He took his course according to the democratic principles with which he had long been deeply imbued, and fixed his eye upon the good of his country alone. It was his high office to attain "noble ends by noble means." Having made up his decision, he had the firmness to adhere to his measures. The clamors of the opposition in or out of Congress and the thunders of the press, and even their persuasions and remonstrances, could not shake him from his purpose. No man governed him. On the contrary, such was the clearness of his views, and such the firmness of his character, as he went on steadily in the path which he had marked out for himself, that even his anxious and doubting friends were frequently inspired with new energy, and confessed the superiority of his judgment. Along with these elements of real civic greatness, Mr. Polk combined another of the high and rarest qualities of a statesman—that magnanimity of character which forgives wrongs, and does justice even to an enemy. We have seen Mr. Polk tried in various situations, but amid all the stormings of the battlements—amid all the storm-

ing of party—amidst the various questions which he had to meet, in peace or in war, greater both in interest and variety than has probably occurred to any other President, he never lost that clearness of spirit and equanimity of temper which the occasion required. It was thus that he communicated confidence to his friends, commanded frequently the respect of his enemies, and confirmed the propriety of his course by the brilliancy of his success. We have uniformly expressed these opinions of Mr. Polk's abilities, and of the value of his administration; and we see no occasion to withhold them now that this distinguished man is no more, when our motives cannot be assailed, nor "flattery soothe the dull, cold ear of death." Would that his precious life could have been spared longer to his country! Would that he could have had a more extended opportunity of enjoying the reminiscences of the past, and the gratitude of the people! And, above all, would that the cherished partner of his bosom, who had been bound to him for so many years—who had shared all his fortunes and all his sympathies—whose superior mind had enabled her to assist his own judgment, and to throw such a tender and exquisite grace around the office to which he had been elevated by the voice of his country, could have been spared the inexpressible pain of this early, fated separation. But we must not murmur against the dispensations of Providence; and religion will descend, with healing on its wings, to soothe the sorrows of the friends whom he left behind him.
The public voice is already expressing the sincere respect which is felt for his memory. Public honors will be awarded to the deceased patriot President; and orators will not be wanting to do full justice to his merits, and among them those who were personally and best acquainted with him—who intimately understood his whole character, and the whole scope of his glorious administration.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF JAMES KNOX POLK, Late President of the United States.

James Knox Polk, the eleventh President of the United States, was the eldest of ten children, and was born on the 2d of November, 1795, in Mecklenburg county, North Carolina. His ancestor, (whose original name, Pollock, has, by obvious transition, assumed its present form,) emigrated in the early part of the eighteenth century, from Ireland. The family traces their descent from Robert Polk, who was born and married in Ireland; his wife Magdalen Tasker, was the heiress of Mowing Hill. They had six sons and two daughters; Robert Polk, the progenitor of James Knox Polk, was the fifth son; he married a Miss Gullet, and removed to America. Ezekiel Polk, the grandfather of James K. Polk, was one of his sons.
The Polk family settled in Somerset county, on the eastern shore of Maryland, where some of their descendants still sojourn. Being the only democrats of note in that country, they were called the democratic family. The branch of the family from which the President is descended, removed to the neighborhood of Carlisle, in Pennsylvania, and thence to the western frontier of North Carolina, some time before the commencement of the revolutionary war. Some of the Polk family were honorably distinguished in that eventful struggle. On the 20th of May, 1775, consequently more than twelve months anterior to the Declaration of Independence of the 4th of July, 1776, the assembled inhabitants of Mecklenburg county publicly absolved themselves from their allegiance to the British crown, and issued a formal manifesto of independence, in terms of manly eloquence, similar to some of the expressions in the declaration of the American Congress adopted more than a year afterward. Colonel Thomas Polk, the prime mover in this act of noble daring, and one of the signers of this first declaration, of independence, was the great uncle of the President, and the family is also connected with the Alexanders, chairman and secretary of the meeting which adopted the declaration, as well as with Dr. Ephraim Brevard, the author of the declaration itself.
The father of James K. Polk was a farmer of unassuming pretensions, but enterprising character. Thrown upon his own resources in early life, he became the architect of his own fortunes. He was a warm supporter of Mr. Jefferson, and through life a firm and undeviating democrat.
In the autumn of 1806 he removed, with his family of ten children, from the homestead in North Carolina, to Tennessee, where he was one of the pioneers of the fertile valley of Duck river, a branch of the Cumberland, then a wilderness, but now the most flourishing and populous portion of the State. In this region the subject of this sketch resided until his election to the presidency; so that he may be said literally to have grown with its growth, and strengthened with its strength. Of course, in the infancy of its settlement, the opportunities for instruction could not be great. Notwithstanding this disadvantage, and the still more formidable one of a painful affection, from which, after years of suffering, he was finally relieved by a surgical operation, he acquired the elements of a good English education. Appre-

hending that his constitution had been too much impaired to permit the confinement of study, his father determined, much, however, against the will of the son, to make him a commercial man; and, with this view, placed him with a merchant.
He remained a few weeks in a situation adverse to his wishes, and incompatible with his taste. Finally, his earnest appeals succeeded in overcoming the resistance of his father, and in July, 1813, he was placed, first under the care of the Rev. Dr. Henderson, and subsequently at the academy of Murfreesborough, Tennessee, then under the direction of Mr. Samuel P. Black, justly celebrated in that region as a classical teacher. In the Autumn of 1815 he entered the university of North Carolina, having in less than two years and a half thoroughly prepared himself to commence his collegiate course, being then in the twentieth year of his age.
Mr. Polk's career at the university was distinguished. At each semi-annual examination he bore away the first honor, and finally graduated in 1818, with the highest distinction of his class, and with the reputation of being the first scholar in both the mathematics and classics. Of the former science he was passionately fond, though equally distinguished as a linguist. His course at college was marked by the same assiduity and studious application which have since distinguished him. His ambition to excel was equalled by his perseverance alone; in proof of which, it is said that he never missed a recitation, nor omitted the punctilious performance of any duty. Habits of close application at college are apt to be despised by those who pride themselves on brilliancy of mind, as if they were incompatible. This is a melancholy mistake. Genius has ever been defined the faculty of appreciation. The latter is, at least something better and more available. So carefully has Mr. Polk avoided the pedantry of classical display, (which is the false taste of our day and country) as almost to hide the acquisitions which distinguished his early career. His preference for the useful and substantial, indicated by his youthful passion for the mathematics, has made him select a style of elocution which would perhaps be deemed too plain by the admirers of flashy declamation.
From the university he returned to Tennessee, with health impaired by application, and in the beginning of the year 1819 commenced the study of the law (that profession which has furnished nine of the eleven Presidents of the United States) in the office of the late Felix Grundy, for many years a representative and senator of Tennessee in Congress, under whose auspices he was admitted to the bar, at the close of 1820. He commenced his professional career in the county of Maury with great advantages, derived from the connexion of his family with its early settlement. His warmest friends were the sharers of his father's early privations and difficulties, and the associates of his own youth. But his success was due to his personal qualities still more than to extrinsic advantages. A republican in habits as well as in principles, depending for the maintenance of his dignity upon the esteem of others, and not upon his own assumption, his manners conciliated the general good-will. The confidence of his friends was justified by the result. His thorough academic education, his accurate knowledge of the law, his readiness and resources in debate, his unwearied application to business, secured him at once full employment, and in less than a year he was already a leading practitioner.
Mr. Polk continued to devote some years exclusively to the prosecution of his profession, with a progressive augmentation or reputation, and the more solid reward by which it is accompanied. In 1823, he entered upon the stormy career of politics, being chosen to represent his county in the State legislature, by a heavy majority over the former incumbent, but not without formidable opposition. He was for two successive years a member of that body, where his ability in debate and talent for business at once gave him reputation. The early personal and political friend of General Jackson, he was one of those who, in the session of 1823-'24, called that distinguished man from his retirement, by electing him to the Senate of the United States.
In August, 1825, being then in his thirtieth year, Mr. Polk was chosen to represent his district in Congress, and took his seat in the national councils in December following. He brought with him those fundamental principles to which he has adhered through all the mutations of party. From his early youth he was a democratic-republican of the strictest sect. He has ever regarded the constitution of the United States as an instrument of specific and limited powers, and he was found in opposition to every measure that aimed to consolidate federal power, or to detract from the dignity and legitimate functions of the State Governments. He signified his hostility to the doctrines of those who held to a more liberal construction of the constitution, in all their modes. He always refused his assent to the appropriation of money by the federal government for what he deemed the unconstitutional purpose of constructing works of internal improvement within the States. He took ground early against the constitutionality as well as the expediency of a na-

tional bank; and in August 1829, consequently several months before the appearance of General Jackson's first message, announced then his opinions in a published letter to his constituents. He has ever been opposed to a tariff for protection, and was, at all times, the strenuous advocate of a reduction of the revenue to the economical wants of the government. Entertaining those opinions, and entering Congress, as he did at the first session after the election of John Quincy Adams to the presidency, he promptly took his stand against the doctrine, developed in the message of that Chief Magistrate, and was, during the continuance of his administration, resolutely opposed to its leading measures.
When Mr. Polk entered Congress, he was with one or two exceptions, the junior member of that body. His first speech was in favor of a proposition to amend the constitution in such manner as to prevent the choice of President of the United States from devolving on Congress in any event. This speech at once attracted public attention by the force of its reasoning, the copiousness of its research, and the spirit of indignation with reference to the then recent election by Congress by which it was animated. At the same session, the subject of the Panama mission was brought before Congress, and the project was opposed by Mr. Polk, who strenuously protested against the doctrine of the friends of the administration, that as the President and Senate are the treaty-making power, the House of Representatives cannot deliberate upon nor refuse the appropriations necessary to carry them into effect. The views of Mr. Polk he embodied in a series of resolutions, which reproduced in a tangible shape the doctrines on this question of the republican party of 1798. The first of these resolutions declares "that it is the constitutional right and duty of the House of Representatives, when called upon for appropriations to defray the expenses of foreign missions, to deliberate on the expediency of such missions, and to determine and act thereon, as in their judgment may seem most conducive to the public good."
From this time, Mr. Polk's history became inseparably interwoven with that of the House. He was prominently connected with every important question, and upon every one took the boldest democratic ground. He continued to oppose the administration of Mr. Adams until its termination; and during the whole period of General Jackson's terms he was one of its leading supporters, and at times, and on certain questions of paramount importance, its chief reliance. In December, 1827, Mr. Polk was placed on the Committee of Foreign Affairs, and some time after, as chairman of a select committee, he made a report on the surplus revenue, denying the constitutional power of Congress to collect from the people, for distribution, a surplus beyond the wants of the government and maintaining that the revenue should be reduced to the exigencies of the public service. In 1830, he defended the act of General Jackson in placing his veto on the Maysville road bill, and thus checking the system of internal improvement by the general government which had been entered upon by Congress.
In December, 1832, Mr. Polk was transferred to the Committee of Ways and Means, and that session presented the report of the minority of that committee with regard to certain charges against the United States Bank—this minority report presenting conclusions utterly adverse to the institution which had been the subject of inquiry.
The course of Mr. Polk arrayed against him the friends of the bank, and they held a meeting at Nashville to denounce his report. His re-election to Congress was opposed; but, after a violent contest, Mr. Polk was re-elected by a majority of more than three thousand. In September, 1833, President Jackson determined upon the removal of the public deposits from the Bank of the United States. This measure, which caused great excitement throughout the country, was carried into effect in October following; and at the subsequent session of Congress, it was the leading subject of discussion. In the Senate, the President was censured for the measure; but he was sustained in the House of Representatives. On this occasion, Mr. Polk, as chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, vindicated the President's measure; and by his coolness, promptitude, and skill, carried through the resolutions of the committee relating to the bank and the deposits, and sustaining the administration; after which the cause of the bank was abandoned in Congress.
Towards the close of the memorable session of 1834, Mr. Speaker Stevenson resigned the chair as well as his seat in the House. The majority of the democratic party preferred Mr. Polk as his successor; but in consequence of a division in its ranks, the opposition united with the democratic friends of John Bell, of Tennessee, and thereby succeeded in electing that gentleman, then a professed friend, but since a decided opponent, of the President and his measures. Mr. Polk's defeat produced no change in his course. He remained faithful to his party, and assiduous in the performance of his arduous duties.
In December, 1835, Mr. Polk was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, and again chosen to that station in 1837, at the extra session held in the first year of Mr.

Van Buren's administration. The duties of Speaker were discharged by him during five sessions with ability, at a time when party feelings ran high in the House, and in the beginning unusual difficulties were thrown in his way by the animosity of his political opponents. During the first session in which he presided, more appeals were taken from his decision than had occurred in the whole period since the origin of the government; but he was uniformly sustained by the House, including many of his adversaries. Notwithstanding the violence with which he had been assailed, Congress passed, at the close of the session, in March, 1837, a unanimous vote of thanks to its presiding officer, from whom it separated with the kindest feelings.
In the twenty-fifth Congress, over which he presided as Speaker, at three sessions, commencing in September, 1837, and ending in March, 1839, parties were more nearly balanced, (Mr. Polk's majority as Speaker being only eight), and the most exciting questions were agitated during the whole period. At the close of the term, Mr. Elmore, of South Carolina, moved "that the thanks of the House be presented to the Hon. James K. Polk, for the able, impartial, and dignified manner in which he has presided over its deliberations, and performed the arduous and important duties of the chair." On this resolution a long and excited debate arose, which was terminated by the previous question when the resolution was adopted by 94 in the affirmative, to 57 in the negative; but few of the opposition members concurring in the vote of approval.
Few public men have pursued a firmer or more consistent course than Mr. Polk, in adhering to the democratic party, in every vicissitude. In 1835, when all of his colleagues of the Tennessee delegation, in the House of Representatives, determined to support Judge White, of that State, as the successor to General Jackson, for the presidency, he incurred the hazard of losing his popularity throughout the State, by avowing his unalterable purpose not to separate from the great body of the democratic party, in the presidential election. He, therefore, became identified with the friends of Mr. Van Buren, in Tennessee, in 1836, when Judge White received the vote of that State by a popular majority of over nine thousand.
After a service of fourteen years in Congress, Mr. Polk, in 1839, declined a re-election from the district which had so long sustained him. He was soon taken up by his friends of the Administration in Tennessee, as a candidate for governor to oppose Newton Cannon, who was then governor of the State, and supported by the whig party for re-election. After an animated canvass during which Mr. Polk visited the different counties of that extensive State and addressed the people on the political topics of the day, the election took place in August, 1839, and resulted in a majority for Mr. Polk of more than 2,500 over Governor Cannon. At the ensuing session of the legislature Governor Polk was nominated by that body for Vice President of the United States, to be placed on the ticket with Mr. Van Buren. He was afterwards nominated for the same office in several other States, but at the election of 1840 he received one electoral vote only for Vice President, which was given by one of the electors in Virginia.
Having served as governor of Tennessee for the constitutional term of two years, Mr. Polk was a candidate for re-election in August, 1841. His prospect was unpromising, as the State in 1840 showed a whig majority of 12,000 at the presidential election. The result was the defeat of Mr. Polk, and the election of James C. Jones, the whig candidate, as governor, by a majority of 3,224. Mr. Polk, therefore, retired from public life at the expiration of his executive term. Two years after, in 1843, he was again a candidate for the executive chair, in opposition to Gov. Jones; but he was the second time defeated, and the whig candidate re-elected by a majority of 3,833.
From October, 1841, until his elevation to the highest office of the Union, Mr. Polk remained in private life—not, however, an inert spectator of the wild and treacherous drama of politics. Happy in the confidence of his immediate neighbors, and his numerous political friends throughout the State, and in the affectionate friendship of Andrew Jackson, he had determined to withdraw himself from the anxieties and labors of public life. But the voice of the democracy of Tennessee forbade the gratification of his wishes; as we have seen, he was repeatedly summoned to stand forward as its representative for governor of the State, and he yielded to the summons, whatever might have been the prospects of success.
Mr. Polk did not conceal his opinions on political subjects when called upon by his fellow-citizens to express them. Those who differed from him had no difficulty in ascertaining the fact of the difference.
On the 29th of May, 1844, Mr. Polk received the nomination of the Democratic National Convention, assembled at Baltimore, for President of the United States. To this high office he was elected in the fall of the same year by the people of the United States, and his majority over Mr. Clay, the whig candidate, as expressed through the electoral colleges, in December, 1844, was 65. The votes of the presidential electors were—for James K. Polk 170; for Henry Clay 105.

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George M. Dallas was elected Vice President by the same majority over Theodore Frelinghuysen. The votes were counted in the House of Representatives on the 10th of February, 1845.
In person, President Polk was of middle stature, with a full angular brow, and a quick, penetrating eye. The expression of his countenance was grave, but its serenity cast was often relieved by a peculiarly pleasant smile, indicative of the amenity of his disposition. His private life, which had ever been upright and pure, secured to him the esteem and friendship of all who had the advantage of his acquaintance. He married a lady in Tennessee, who is a member of the Presbyterian church, and well qualified, by her virtues and accomplishments, equally to adorn the circles of private life, or the station to which she had been called. They had no children.
[Mr. Polk, at the time of his death, was 54 years 7 months and 13 days old.]

For the North Carolina Standard. TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: This is the age of revolutions and of progress. Europe is throwing off the shackles of antiquated ideas, which have bound her for centuries. Every where the masses—the people, are re-asserting those rights and those privileges which the God of nature granted them. Will the good people of the Old North State lag behind the rest of the world in its onward march? Have we no antiquated abuses into which it becomes us to inquire? I believe we have. Our judiciary system needs reform.
Our Judges ought to be elected by the people. The alarum will cry out and tell you let us preserve the purity and integrity of our judiciary. So we say too. To preserve its purity and maintain its integrity is our object. To accomplish this purpose let us make it feel its responsibility upon those who gave it its authority, and over whom it exercises its powers. It is a distrust of your capacity for self-government, to deny you the privilege of electing your Judges. You vote for the Chief Magistrate of the nation, the members of Congress, your Governor, and the members of the Legislature who make your laws; are you less competent to decide who is qualified to judge of their import?
By the change of our Constitution, all power is inherent in, and derived from the people. The greatest happiness of the greatest number is the principle by which we are guided. Let us carry out these principles in practice.
Are not the people of the State interested in having good judges? Surely, I should think so, since their lives and their property frequently depend upon their decisions. Would not the election be as safe in their hands as in those of a Legislative Caucus? Do these Legislative Caucuses look always to merit or qualification for office? The system of log-rolling by which they frequently elect the candidates for their offices, is notorious. The division of one county of the State has elected a Senator—may not the division of another elect a Judge?
To elect the Judges for a term of years is now the practice of a majority of the States of this Union. Wherever it has been tried it has been found to equal, if not to surpass the most sanguine expectations of its friends. In the State of Mississippi, the judiciary is very able, crime is punished, and justice administered with as much impartiality as in North Carolina.
Have not some of our Judges acted occasionally quite arbitrarily and capriciously? Ought this to be the case whilst so much power is entrusted in their hands? And what is our remedy for the evil? We have none. They will tell you impeachment is open to you. I will simply reply to this by asking—where is the example in the country of a Judge having been removed by impeachment? An unjust, incompetent, or superannuated Judge may be upon the bench, and there he remains, whilst many persons well qualified to fill his station are excluded.
This measure will no doubt be unpopular with those who hold office and some members of the bar. This is natural. It is a fine berth for a lawyer who wishes to retire from the fatigues of practice. Was the office constituted for this purpose? No—it was for the good of the people at large, and not of the occupant; and I appeal to you, fellow-citizens, Whigs as well as Democrats, all who have a North Carolina heart and a North Carolina feeling, and who have a deep and abiding interest in this question, to ponder it well. It is one which rises superior to the dictates of party. Those now elected to office feel as if they had a life estate in it and act accordingly. They are raised above the people, and have no feelings, nor sympathies, nor interests in common with them. They consider themselves, no doubt, the peculiar guardians of the honor and welfare of the State. And have you no interest in it—you who gave it life and being—you for whose benefit, and not for those of the possessors alone, these very offices were constituted? Will your ideas of independence brook this assumption of superiority? I do not believe that you, "the bone and sinew of the land," who create its wealth and constitute its strength, will much longer desist from asserting your rights in this matter.