THE WESTERN ENTERPRISE.

R. L. ABERNETHY, & E. A POE, Eds. & Proprietors. "ABHOR THAT WHICH IS EVIL; CLEAVE TO THAT WHICH IS GOOD."—Romans xii: 9. TERMS: $1 IN ADVANCE

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PRESIDENT DAVIS' INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

DELIVERED IN RICHMOND, FEB. 22D, 1862.

Fellow Citizens: On this the birth day of the man most identified with the establishment of American independence, and beneath the monument erected to commemorate his immortal deeds and those of his compatriots, we have assembled to usher into existence the permanent government of the Confederate States. Through this instrumentality, under the favor of Divine Providence, we hope to perpetuate the principles of our Revolutionary fathers. The day, the memory, and the purpose seem fitly associated.

It is with mingled feelings of humility and pride that I appear to take, in the presence of the people and before High Heaven, the oath prescribed as a qualification for the exalted station to which the unanimous voice of people has called me. Deeply sensible of the people's confidence, I am yet more profoundly impressed by the vast responsibility of the office, and humbly feel my unworthiness.—In return for their kindness, I can only offer assurances of the gratitude with which it is received, and can pledge a zealous devotion of every faculty, to the service of those who have chosen me as their Chief Magistrate.

When a long course of class legislation, directed not to the general welfare, but to the aggrandizement of the Northern section of the Union, culminated in a warfare on the domestic institutions of Southern States, when the dogmas of a sectional party, substituted for the provisions of the constitutional compact, threatened to destroy the sovereignty of those States, withdrawing from the Union' confederated to together, to exercise the right and perform the duty of instituting a government which would better secure the liberties, for the preservation of which the Union was established.

Whatever of hope some may have entertained that a returning sense of justice would remove the danger with which our rights were threatened, and render it possible to preserve the Union, of the Constitution must have been dispelled by the malignity and barbarity of the Northern States in the prosecution of the existing war. The confidence of the most experienced among us must have been destroyed by the disregard they have recently exhibited for all the time-honored bulwarks of civil and religious liberty. Bastiles filled with prisoners arrested without even the process of indictment duly found, the writ of HABEAS CORPUS suspended by executive mandate; a State Legislature overthrown by imprisonment of members whose avowed principles gave offence to the President [illegible] the list of secret State [illegible] under threats of a military [illegible] officers, peaceful citizens [illegible] men incarcerated for [illegible] claimed the incapacity [illegible] to administer a government [illegible] all and humane as their [illegible] common use.

For proof of the [illegible] to maintain our ancient [illegible] may point to the Constitution of the Confederacy and the laws enacted under it, as well as to the fact that through all the necessities of our unequal struggle, there has been no action on the part of the government personal liberty or the freedom of speech, of thought, or of the press. The Courts have been open; the judicial functions faithfully executed, and every right of the peaceful citizen maintained as securely as if a war or invasion had not disturbed the land.

The people of the States now confederated, became convinced that the government of the United States had fallen into the hands of a sectional majority who would pervert the most sacred of all trusts to the destruction of the rights which it was pledged to protect. They believed that [illegible] remain longer in Union would [illegible] ject them to [illegible] describing [illegible] be inconsistent [illegible] intolerable [illegible] and establish a new Confederacy [illegible] sovereign [illegible] powers [illegible] were determined to respect no law but their own will. The government had ceased to answer the ends for which it was ordained and established. To save ourselves from revolutionary violence in the silent but rapid progress was about to place us under the despotism of government we believed to be [illegible] our condition and hope of progress for mankind, we determined to form a new association composed of States whose [illegible] interests' in policy, and in feeling. [Cheers.]

True to our traditions of peace and our love of justice, we sent commissioners to the United States to propose a fair and amicable settlement of all questions of public debt, or property which might be in dispute. But the government at Washington denying our right to self government, refused even to listen to any proposals for a peaceful separation. Nothing was left to us but to prepare for war. [Cheers.]

The first year in our history has been the most eventful in the annals of this Continent. A new Government has been established, and its machinery put in [illegible] square miles. The great principles upon which we have been willing to hazard everything that is dear to man, have made conquests for us which could never have been achieved by the sword. Our Confederacy has grown from six to thirteen States; and Maryland, already united to us by hallowed memories and kindred interests, will, I believe, when she shall speak with unbiassed voice, connect her destiny with the South. [illegible] Our people have united with unanimity to the support of the great principles of Constitutional Government [illegible] interests to perpetuate by arms the rights which they could not peaceably secure. A million of men [illegible] now standing in [illegible] war [illegible] battle [illegible]

[illegible] rise throughout the land. Never [illegible] a people [illegible] more determined [illegible] than [illegible] struggling now, [illegible] and [illegible] parts of our country.—[illegible] fly to arms; and [illegible] hands [illegible] ear of [illegible] Providence that we were to be free. If the [illegible] of our liberties by the price which we pay for them.

The recollections of this great contest with all its common traditions of glory, of sacrifice, and of blood, will be a bond of harmony and a [illegible] daring affection amongst the people, producing unity in policy, fraternity in sentiment, and joint effort in war.

Nor have the material sacrifices of the past year been made without some corresponding benefits. If the acquiescence of foreign nations in a pretended blockade has deprived us of our commerce with them, it is fast making us a self-supporting and an independent people. The blockade, if effectual and permanent, could only serve to direct our industry from the production of articles for export, and employ it in supplying commodities for domestic use.

It is a satisfaction that we have maintained the war by our unaided exertions. We have neither asked nor received assistance from any quarter. Yet the interest involved is not wholly our own.—The world at large is concerned in [illegible] opening our commerce. When the independence of the Confederate States is recognized by the nations of the earth, and we are free to follow our interests and [illegible] markets, which ever invited the commerce.

Cotton, sugar, rice, tobacco, naval stores, timber, and naval stores will furnish attractive exchange. Nor will the continuance of these supplies be diminished by war. Our Confederate strength will be more effectually [illegible] and never was there a people whose interests and principles combined them so fully to a [illegible] as those of the Confederate States. By the character of their productions they are [illegible] to agriculture without [illegible] to it—[illegible] [illegible] connect [illegible] be [illegible] the resolution [illegible] Confederacy [illegible] of no concern [illegible] Civil [illegible] States [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]