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THE

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OF

GEN. FRANK. PIERCE,

THE GRANITE STATESMAN:

WITH A

BOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF

HON. WILLIAM RUFUS KING,

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY HERMITAGE. *Hermitage*

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TENTH THOUSAND.  
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### General Pierce.

A letter from the Crawford House, White Mountains, to the N. Y. Evening Post, says :

Among the visitors here, who came like a sudden flash of sunlight to break the monotony of a dull, misty, in-door day, was none other than the democratic candidate for the Presidency, General Pierce. His arrival was unexpected—being on his way to visit a distant friend—and he had been some hours in the house before his presence was known, except to the "familiar." When the fact was once bruited, however, everybody became eager to see the lion, especially the ladies, who are always ready, you know, with bright eyes and sweet smiles, to welcome a celebrity. As your correspondent was favored with an early and rather unexpected presentation, he found himself suddenly elevated from an agreeable obscurity into some consequence. He was even solicited to parade the "next President," as they persisted in calling him, about the drawing-room, for the particular admiration of a few friends; but neither his own modesty, nor, he suspects, that of the distinguished object of so much solicitude, would allow of the arrangement.

In due time, when the dinner bell had rung, Gen. Pierce made his appearance in public, and as he walked, with a most charming married lady from Philadelphia, into the dining hall, the anxious spectators had ample opportunity to gratify their curiosity, as to how he looked. They saw in him a small, unpretending man, dressed plainly, in striped pantaloons, and black coat, with a finely formed, intellectual head, an expressive face, and of obviously easy manners. He is a much younger looking man than I had supposed—apparently not over forty or forty-five years of age; with strongly marked features, but pleasant and vivacious. The upper part of the head, which is large and with good "phrenologies," is better than the lower, which, though not wanting force, is not so fine. One would say, not knowing who he was, that he was a clever, companionable man, but capable of strong and intense passions when aroused.

General Pierce talks with ease and fluency, using racy English, but in a soft, low voice, which gives you that impression of cautiousness and reserve habitual with almost all politicians. He is exceedingly amiable and courteous, and makes friends of those who come in personal contact with him. He has none of the *hauteur* or mock-dignity which some men would put on in this position, and, on the other hand none of the embarrassment and constraint of one conscious that all eyes are fixed upon his movements. He goes about freely, chatting with those who address him, in a playful and familiar way, and occasionally laughing heartily at some jest which he himself, or somebody else has related. In a word, then, he seems to be a plain, modest and sensible man, who will wear his honors, if successful, without ostentation, or bear defeat, if not, with equanimity.

G. Hertz

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## INTRODUCTION.

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THE reader can place implicit confidence in the statements which are made in this book. They have in every instance been derived directly from documentary history, or from other authentic sources. The writer was not only acquainted with General Pierce many years ago, (although they have not met for a long time,) but he has recently conferred with several highly respectable citizens who have known the subject of this sketch from his boyhood. Many other sketches, biographies, histories, and lives will doubtless shortly appear, and it is not to be expected that men who did not spare the character of General Jackson, or James K. Polk, will spare, if anything, the still purer character of Gen. Pierce. Slanders, the foulest and the meanest, have already been set afloat—already the sacred precincts of the General's family have been violated by falsehood and calumny. We observe, too, that many of

the most respectable and impartial journals have fallen into a considerable number of mistakes in regard to Gen. Pierce's history, but this was to be expected in the excitement and precipitancy with which they were obliged to answer the demands of the public to know something more of the candidate;—they *would* have, at the first moment, biographies, and sketches, and editors gave them the best they could.

This authentic, and, as far as we could make it, impartial sketch, has been prepared with care, and it is believed to contain as full and minute an account of the life of the New Hampshire statesman as will be necessary, to trace his military career, and illustrate his public and private character. Such as it is, written with a desire to promote the happiness and glory of a great nation, and the integrity, union, and triumph of the only National Party in America, it is respectfully offered to the confidence of his fellow-citizens by their

Humble servant,

HERMITAGE.

*New York, 9th June, 1852.*



# THE LIFE

OF

# GENERAL FRANK. PIERCE.

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## I.

### THE BALTIMORE CONVENTION.

THE announcement that FRANK PIERCE had received the unanimous vote of the Baltimore Convention, was heard with acclamations of joy by that vast Assembly; and wherever the glad news flew on the wings of the lightning, it was hailed with blood-felt enthusiasm by a great and free people.

The Convention had been three days assembled, and a nomination seemed to be no nearer than ever. Each delegation had stood faithfully by their favorite; and however severe the repulse they had after each defeat, returned manfully again to the encounter. Nor was this spectacle one over which every true-hearted American might not rejoice—for it was but the friendly struggle of brothers—all enlisted in the same glorious campaign, but each most closely attached to a beloved Leader.

Like the shining hosts of the Crusaders, each division rallied under the banner of its chief—but all went forward under the broad standard of the cross of a common Saviour, to rescue the Holy Sepulchre from the hands of the Infidels.

## II.

### FEELINGS OF THE CONVENTION.

Finally, when each delegation had done its duty, and stood by their candidates long enough to prove their attachment and resign their hopes,—Cass, Buchanan, Marcy, Douglass, Butler, Houston, and all—were bravely and generously given up. Party triumphed first over faction, and then country triumphed over party; and that imposing Convention gathered round the ark of the Constitution, and as if in the presence of Washington himself, asked the simple question, to whom of our fellow-citizens can we with most safety and confidence, repose the administration of the Government of our beloved country?—and under what Leader are we sure of victory in the approaching contest for principle?

## III.

### MORAL ATTITUDE OF THE CONVENTION.

And it certainly was a sublime spectacle to see those THREE HUNDRED REPRESENTATIVES of our great Confederacy, gathered from the cold Rivers of Maine and the glittering coast of California; from the glowing savannahs of Florida to the Great Lakes of the North, thus lay aside every sectional feeling and local interest,

to preserve the liberties and spread the glory of our Republic—a Republic which is now bounded only by the two earth-encircling oceans! On such a scene, even the spirit of Washington must have looked down with delight from a purer world.

#### IV.

##### THE SPIRIT OF UNION IN THE CONVENTION.

Such was the feeling with which these Representatives of THIRTY-ONE SOVEREIGN but UNITED REPUBLICS, went to the 49th and last ballot. But the hour had come when the struggle for *men* had ceased, to open, as was apprehended, the war of *Section*; but the Demon of Section was not there. If that high Council of Patriots could find a pure, a great, and a modest man—it mattered not from what distant corner of our continent-broad Empire he might come—whether his home was among the Orange Groves of the Gulf of Mexico, over whose bosom float the perfumed breezes of the gardens of Cuba—or whether he came from the upper waters of the Missouri; or if his infancy were cradled among the cold hills of the Granite State—individuals, sections, *cliques*, preferences, animosities—all were merged in the greatness and solemnity of the crisis. For the country and the *whole* country—the States and *all* the States—the Union and the *entire* Union—every heart was beating; and on the altar of our fatherland, the rich offering of the patriotism of her sons was laid.

## V.

## MAGNANIMITY OF VIRGINIA.

Old Virginia ! Often foremost, and always generous. She who has given us the Father of his Country, and half our Presidents, with so many other great men, that she merits the epithet of the Mother of the Gracchi of the Republic. Virginia ! Whose genial soil holds the sacred ashes of Washington, first uttered the name (through her delegation) of the man whom Providence has in a mysterious manner indicated as our next Chief Magistrate. She had illustrious citizens enough among her children. There was Houston, and Stevenson, and Hunter, with many others ; but in the wealth of her genius, patriotism, and fame, she felt that she could afford to be magnanimous—and she was. She cast her eyes away from the Blue Ridge to the rock-ribbed hills of New Hampshire, and fixed on a man whose history she knew, whose virtue had been tried, whose devotion to the Constitution had been tested long years before. From the centre of the Union to its northernmost verge, she sent the tribute of her veneration to an upright man—the very Aristides of our political world !

## VI.

## GENEROSITY OF TENNESSEE.

Side by side with Virginia came Tennessee—a state which holds the ashes of that Patriot and Hero, who bore us so triumphantly through those dark days,

when we were laying broad and deep the foundations of the Second Period of our National prosperity. Tennessee cast her vote cheerfully and unbidden for the Son of New Hampshire, whom Jackson loved so well, and who had always so manfully and unflinchingly represented and defended his political principles.

## VII.

### NOMINATION OF GENERAL PIERCE.

And side by side with both came Mississippi, that noble state which our enemies have so many times declared to be destitute of patriotism, and anxious to break up the Union—a union achieved by the blood of so many of her fathers, and consolidated by so many of their councils. Then came the other Southern States,—and their generous example was followed,—till Pennsylvania with her iron and coal, New York with her commerce, and the North, East, West, and Centre, with their heart and soul joined in a second trial, and with a shout of joy the name of Frank Pierce was declared to be the favorite of the Democrats of America.

## VIII.

### REASONS WHY GENERAL PIERCE WAS NOMINATED.

There must have been some good and valid reasons why this course was taken by the Convention; and to the reader who is not already familiar with the life of Frank Pierce, we shall endeavor to unfold them briefly. It would be preposterous to suppose that so enlightened and numerous a body of men, as the Baltimore

Convention, representing twenty-five millions of people, should have with unanimity perpetrated a thoughtless or reckless act. Such things are not done with unanimity in deliberative assemblies—such absurdities are perpetrated only by individuals or factions. The members of that convention knew who they were voting for ; and the object of this little work is to glance at the history of the man to whom they gave their confidence.

## IX:

## DEMOCRATIC ANCESTRY OF PIERCE.

Aristocrats in every part of the world are fond of tracing back their descent from illustrious ancestors. They are proud to entertain the aristocratic principles of their fathers, and hand them down unimpaired to their children. But how much prouder should a *true* Republican be, to trace his descent from a Democratic ancestry. Frank Pierce sprang from a Democratic family. He inherited Democracy with his birth—it flows in his blood—it has spoken in every act of his life—it has tinged and shaped his whole character. He was bred in the *midst* of Democracy, and in a State that never abandoned the great political principles of Thomas Jefferson. All the associations of his boyhood, and all the studies of his college days—all his connections in public life have belonged to the old Virginia school of Republicanism, which has gradually, out of a nation of monarchists, (as we were before the Revolution,) been educating us in the great principles of free government, until now we are acknowledged by mankind everywhere,

as not only the model Republic, but the model government of the earth.

## X.

## ANECDOTE OF PIERCE'S FATHER.

Gen. Frank Pierce is the son of the late Gen. Benjamin Pierce, who fought so nobly during the Revolutionary war, filled so many offices of trust and power, and who was Governor of New Hampshire in 1827 and in 1829. He was a man of more personal popularity than any man that ever lived in the State. An interesting anecdote is related of him, on the first day he undertook his duties as Sheriff of the county of Hillsborough. He went to the jail to see for himself the condition of the prisoners, among whom he found a man who had been so long imprisoned for debt, that the costs in the case amounted to a sum which he could never pay. There was a law, even at that time, in New Hampshire, which allowed a citizen to be liberated from imprisonment for debt, by a process in which he demonstrated his inability to pay; therefore the sheriff asked him why he was still there. The reply was,—“I had not even the means of paying the costs, and I have been here ever since.” Gen. Pierce, who was distinguished through life, as his son has been, for the greatest liberality of feeling and of pocket, immediately paid the bill of costs, and set the prisoner free. From that time he began his exertions to procure the abolition of those barbarous laws that seize a laboring man

in his workshop, tear him away from his family, and lock him up to rot in idleness in a dungeon.

## XI.

### CHARACTER OF OLD GENERAL PIERCE.

Old Gen. Pierce was a man of sterling integrity, unflinching courage, practical good sense, plainly educated, like almost every other man in New Hampshire at the time, fervidly devoted to the independence and glory of his country, upright in all his dealings with his fellow-men, and generous in every transaction; public spirited, and zealous in the promotion of improvements and education; nor was there a man in New Hampshire, friend or foe, that ever dreamed of impeaching his honor. He was a hard-working farmer, and got his living by cultivating his own acres. Having been one of the fathers of the American Republic, he knew what liberty was worth, for he knew what it had cost; and, to the last day of his life, he resisted, with all his heart and soul, every encroachment upon the sacred guarantees of the National and State Constitutions, and brought up his family with the same sentiment of veneration for the great Palladium of our Liberty.

## XII.

### CHARACTER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE MEN.

This veteran patriot, who had been trained in the school of Washington, and the perils of the Revolution,



brought up his children with the same high, moral, political, and social principles in which he had been trained, and he made his sons such men as himself; and such men grow in no other part of the world but in New Hampshire—men who cannot be rich, because they are honest, and their cold rocky soil gives back only a meagre sheaf to the husbandman. What a man gets in New Hampshire he works for; what education, for the most part, the New Hampshire man gets, he gets in the district school-house, to which he beats his own snow-path, in the tempests of winter, that howl among the hills. But there are no poor men in New Hampshire, for her citizens are all industrious. Such is the state to which Virginia went, and such the stock Virginia chose, to gain a guide who could be trusted, a man who could not be bought, and a Magistrate who would execute the laws of the country, come what might.

### XIII.

#### HIS BROTHER COL. BENJAMIN PIERCE.

Frank Pierce—as he signs his own name—was born in 1798, and is consequently fifty-four years old. His elder brother, Col. Benjamin Pierce, joined the army in 1812, under circumstances worth relating. He was pursuing his classical studies in Dartmouth College, where Daniel Webster was educated, and he appears to have been making creditable progress. But when the first blast of the war of 1812 was heard, he is said to have become so fractious and insubordinate, that it was

considered necessary to expel him from the college. Fired with the spirit of martial heroism—for the Pierce family have all been soldiers—he enlisted in the United States army, and it so happened that he was put in charge of a recruiting station at Dartmouth. Having now a good opportunity and a capital excuse, he took ample revenge upon the faculty. He posted himself at the gates of the college, with his fife and drummer, and up and down before the terrace he marched his new recruits, from morning till night, with the stripes and stars waving over them, and not a student passed that way, but the young officer harangued him, in the most eloquent terms, and, pointing to the flag of the country, called upon them to die in its defence. Nor did the professors themselves escape those touching appeals. They were implored, by all that they loved on earth, or hoped for in heaven, to shoulder the musket and march to the field. This all resulted, however, in something more than a joke. A large number of the students joined the army, and some of them distinguished themselves afterwards in battle. As for young Pierce himself, he fought gallantly wherever he had an opportunity through the war, was confided with many commissions and stations of importance, and died at last in the service, in 1847, (we believe,) at Governor's Island, in New York harbor.

Frank Pierce's eldest sister was the wife of Gen. John McNeil, who commanded at Lundy's Lane and Chippewa, and to whose able generalship and undaunted courage, Gen. Scott himself was so much indebted for

the success he has always, we believe, claimed to have been due entirely to his own generalship. When Gen. McNeil was once a candidate for a public office, he wittily remarked, that he supposed the Whigs did not like him very well, because he killed so many of their friends (the British) at Lundy's Lane. The second sister married Gen. Solomon McNeil, another distinguished military and political character in New Hampshire.

## XIV.

OLD GEN. PIERCE'S ANXIETY FOR THE EDUCATION OF HIS SONS.

Old Gen. Pierce was no scholar. He had devoted his life to deeds, and not to books; and it is said that while he was sitting by the kitchen fire one night, writing his annual Message to the legislature, he came to a full stop on one word he could not possibly spell. After rallying all his own literary forces, and manœuvering them as skilfully as he could, he was obliged to draw off, and ask for quarters. "Frank," said he to his son, sitting near by, "how the devil do you spell *but*?" Frank had been through college, and he very soon helped the General out of his dilemma. "B-u-t," said Frank. "Be hanged to these little words," replied the veteran, "they bother me dreadfully; but when I come to *Constitution*, I can spell that without even looking into a book!"

But the veteran General had as high an appreciation of learning as the most elegant scholar, and although his means were not ample, he determined that his children should be thoroughly educated. Frank, also, was

sent to college, and his subsequent life shows that he must have improved his opportunities; for on many occasions, on the spur of the moment, he has pronounced some of the most effective harangues and speeches we have ever heard, and often in the most refined and cultured language.

## XV.

### GEN. PIERCE ENTERS PUBLIC LIFE.

Soon after his studies were finished he began his career in public life as a deputy sheriff of his native county. At a very early age he was elected to the legislature of New Hampshire; and having for several years distinguished himself, both as a member and as the Speaker of the House, he was in 1833 sent to Congress as the Democratic Representative from the district in which he was born. At the time he appeared in Congress, the hostility which had been inflamed against Gen. Jackson, had reached and passed its culminating point. He had had to contend against a large majority in Congress, and this majority was bent upon his ruin as a public man. All the agencies that are called in to crush a great citizen rising into fame had been tried. Calumny had exhausted its venom, and hatred had belched forth all its malignity. But the heroic old man had gone through it all unscathed—the people of the country had rallied around him, and placed the seal of their approbation upon all his public acts. But there was still a very powerful organization against him, and it was a time when there was no half-way policy in

Washington. The very day that a man took his seat, he was expected to make his mark, if he had character enough to make one. Frank Pierce had; and from the moment he entered the House of Representatives it became evident enough what course he would take. He stood by Gen. Jackson from the first to the last hour of his administration. When others deserted him, Pierce only clung to him the closer—when nobody else would rise in his place, Pierce sprang to his feet, and in one of those bold, brave, fearless, patriotic and stirring speeches, in which he so much excels, he hurled back the tide of obloquy and attack upon the political foes of the greatest man who had filled the Presidential chair since the time of Washington.

His integrity of principle won the respect of General Jackson, and he reciprocated the kindness of his feelings by the most devoted attachment. He was often at the hospitable board, and by the genial fireside of that great patriot, who now sleeps in the quiet shades of the Hermitage. He loved him with an affection that is seldom felt by one man for another, and the sternness of Jackson's character was such, that he never was awed into respect for any man, unless he discovered in him simplicity, honesty, resolution and patriotism.

## XVI.

ELECTED A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

In this brief work we cannot trace his career in Congress, nor make any extract from his speeches. While he was still a member of the House of Representatives,

he was, by a very large majority of the Legislature of New Hampshire, elected a member of the United States Senate for the term of six years, commencing in 1837. Here he remained till the year 1842, when he resigned his office, entirely on account of the ill health of his wife, who suffered in the climate of Washington. General Pierce has always been distinguished for the simplicity of his habits, and his love for the quiet happiness of the fireside. He did not hesitate a moment to give up his place of honor in the national Senate, when his wife could no longer remain at Washington, and he resigned, and returned home with her to Concord, where he again resumed the duties of his profession. It is most earnestly to be hoped that some change may have taken place for the better, either in the climate of Washington, or the health of Mrs. Pierce, for it is very certain that she will be obliged to go back there—at all events, she will be a very strange exception to most of her sex, if the air of the Capitol, on the Fourth of March *next*, does not agree with her.

## XVII.

### HIS COURSE WHILE IN CONGRESS.

During his ten years in Congress, in spite of the earnestness of his debate, the unbending sternness of his political intercourse—his uncompromising devotion to the great principles of the Democratic party, his warm and earnest defense of Gen. Jackson, his unwavering adherence with regard to the feelings even of his friends to the strictest construction of the Constitution ;

yet he could hardly have made or had a personal enemy in Washington. But this can be easily explained. He always displayed a spirit of forbearance and moderation towards his political enemies. He showed respect to the feelings and opinions of men whom he could not agree with. He is a man of such integrity that his most hostile antagonist never presumed to doubt it. It is that magnetic integrity, that is written on his face, and speaks from every lineament that has all through life impressed those who saw him. He is one of those men whom you know to be honest the moment you look at them whether you know them or not; and although he is a man of great firmness of purpose, never wavers, always acts upon his decisions firmly and stably, never backs out of anything, and conservative in his feelings, yet he is always kind and conciliatory, and accords to other men in a spirit of charity that liberty of thought and action which, like a true Democrat, he equally claims for himself. We have heard many a debater whose words were full of acrimony without being half as severe as Pierce's—many whose sarcasm was nothing but calumny, and whose severity was only bitterness. This, however, is not the style of speaking that wins respect for a man in a deliberative body, particularly in the Senate of the United States. Frank Pierce and Silas Wright were in the Senate together, and in many respects they were alike. Harmonizing closely in political principles, bland and courteous and yet dignified in their manner, severe without acrimony, and satirical without personal attack, clear-headed in their con

tions, simple in their delivery, and irresistible in their logic, these two sturdy friends of Jackson sustained with matchless ability and unwavering steadiness, his brilliant administration.

## XVIII.

### CAUSES OF GEN. PIERCE'S POPULARITY AT HOME.

His retirement from the Senate in 1842, was witnessed with much regret; and when he left the Senate Chamber for the last time, every token of respect was shown to him. The Fathers of the Senate, Clay, Benton, King, Calhoun and many others gathered around him with every demonstration of high personal regard, and every assurance that he would long be remembered by them. Little did he then think, when he had resolved forever to retire to private life, that he would be called by the voice of the people to occupy the highest office in their gift. When he again touched the soil of his native State, the people whom he had served with so much fidelity, assembled to greet him, and express their gratitude for what he had done; and yet with the joy they manifested on again meeting him face to face, was mingled an undisguised regret that he had left the public council. In conversing, a day or two ago with a lady from New Hampshire, who has known General Pierce from her infancy, we asked her to explain the secret of his great popularity. "Why," said she, "it is his *kindheartedness*. If he had not been so benevolent and generous, he would now be rich in spite of himself. He loves his home and his family very much



indeed. He drives round town in his little wagon, and in works of public usefulness, in the erection of public buildings in the State, county, or town, in the election of discreet and faithful public servants, in the expedition of public business through legislative bodies and conventions, in a kind, neighborly and obliging disposition towards all around him, in unmeasured benevolence and generosity towards all who require his help, in donations to religious institutions of every description, and in an enlightened spirit without regard to the various sects whose pious efforts for the good of mankind he always sympathizes with, without raising discussions about the peculiarity of their views—in all these things,” said this lady, “Mr. Pierce has been so distinguished, that it is no wonder people love him. You cannot help loving a man like him. And then, he is a fine looking man—all the ladies will testify to that, and that goes a great ways.” It was pleasing to see with what simplicity and truth this lady spoke the praises of a man she knew so well; and it is always amusing to see how much more philosophically women can generally explain such things, than any man whatever.

## XIX.

### GEN. PIERCE'S VIEWS OF THE DUTIES OF CITIZENSHIP.

He had married Miss Appleton, the daughter of a distinguished New England clergyman, a lady of great refinement of manner and education,—and the union had been blessed with two sons, to whose education the father now looked forward with many pleasing antici-

pations. But one of them was taken away, which only linked his heart closer to the surviving brother, and now he found leisure to devote himself to his education, feeling, as all the members of his family had, and as New England men so generally do, the sacred responsibility of making every child born to them a good citizen of the State, he engaged with greater zeal than ever to this noble object. There is hardly a more touching or inspiring spectacle in the world than such a sight. "No man," says one of the ancient lawgivers of Greece, "can be a good citizen unless he is the master of a household," and we might add, that nothing can make a man feel so deeply the obligations of citizenship, as becoming the father of a family, and having sons and daughters to train up for spheres of usefulness, happiness, and honor. Everybody knows how Napoleon longed to have a son—not only an heir to his empire, but a child who would look up into his face and call him father. This sentiment of paternity lies at the very foundation of all true ideas of the relations of men, and the duties of citizens. May God long spare the noble boy of Gen. Pierce still living, and whom he is so devotedly educating in the principles and souvenirs of his ancestors and the Constitution.

## XX.

### HIS CAREER AT THE BAR.

Having, from the time his education commenced, fixed his eye upon the law as the profession to follow for life, young Pierce had given to it the intensest study

after he left college, and, although so many public offices were forced upon him, that his studies were somewhat interrupted, he kept the great object of his life in view, and not a day passed away, nor has till the present time, without adding to his legal knowledge or experience. From the beginning he was successful as an advocate. He was always clear-headed, straight-forward, acute in his perceptions, earnest in his studies, curious in his inquiries, and remembering all that he heard or read, eminently practical in the turn of his mind, he was able, without an effort, to reduce all the theories of the science of law to practical conclusions. He offers a striking illustration of a kind of intellect that seems to be somewhat peculiar to New England men—we speak of a mind curious enough to be always seeking for light, capacious enough to hold everything, and yet withal, endowed with that rare property which we will call the *chemical* power of arranging for itself, without labor to its possessor, all the knowledge he has acquired. Such minds furnish, ready for use, the whole stock of knowledge ever committed them, when called on. The moment such men have to speak, or write, or act, all that they have ever read, or heard, or known, or had a chance to know, springs to their aid in just the order they want to use it. This makes a ready speaker. This quality, possessed in so eminent a degree by Frank Pierce, makes him a great, intelligent, and practical lawyer, and from one step to another he passed all the grades that lie between the student who opens Blackstone, and the highest principles of national law.

## XXII.

## THE REAL CHARACTER OF FRANK PIERCE.

This is the kind of men who are scarce in every country. They are men, however, who never rise to speak before a bench of judges without commanding respect—men who only utter words for the purpose of conveying ideas—men who never speak until they have something to say, and always stop when they have done. There is not a man in the United States who answers this description better than Frank Pierce. For this reason, no man is better qualified to grapple with the plain but serious business of the Presidential office. He may not in the flights of his fancy inflame the imaginations of the poets—he may not gratify the dreams of young aspirants for favor or notoriety, by wringing changes upon laws and constitutions; but with the deep earnestness of his nature, the strength of his energy, and the untiring resolution of his mind, he will show that he is a man of progress, business and sense. No breath of fanaticism can spread mildew over his intellect; no dreamy or fanciful illusion will ever cloud his mind; no political tricks and juggleries will ever escape his detection. He is a man of fact and not of fancy, and yet there is a warm, deep-flowing, generous stream of fine feeling and enthusiasm running through his nature, which makes him feel the tenderest sympathy for whatever belongs to the better feelings, and the noblest and quickest appreciation of everything there is in young men, that promises to do some good to the country. He never repelled a young man who came

to him for aid. He has aided many a penniless youth of talent in the early struggle to gain education, and under his kind auspices, many an indigent young man has been encouraged to go forward nobly on the battle of life. Men talk about "Young America." It means this or it means nothing. Men talk about the wisdom of age. It means this or it means nothing. In Frank Pierce they are both united.

## XXIII.

WHAT KIND OF A PRESIDENT HE WOULD MAKE. 3

In the election of such a man, the country will achieve all that has been promised to us by all the factions and all the parties. When we come to glance at his military career, as we have at that of his father and relations, we shall see that he knows how to fight, and loves to fight when the country calls, and unlike some other generals, at no other time. He is an experienced statesman, without being an "Old Fogey." He has all the fire, without the impetuosity or indulgence of youth. Living on the very frontier of the Union, he is a national man, for all his principles grow out of the national constitution. If the flying years have slightly touched his brown hair with the gleam of silver, his blood still leaps joyously through his veins; and if his judgment has grown calm, his shoulders broad, and his frame sturdy, every movement is still made with that electric quickness which indicates the finest and most active nervous temperament. Said the young lady of whom we spoke a little while ago—"Why, one day he rode

fifty miles with the thermometer below zero without feeling it, and then came and passed the whole evening chatting with me. He is not only a true-hearted Democrat, whom all the people love, but he is a real gentleman.”

## XXIV.

### HIS REPUTATION AS A LAWYER.

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## GENEROSITY AND JUSTICE OF GEN. PIERCE'S CHARACTER.

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## XXVI.

## ENLISTS AS A COMMON SOLDIER.

But his professional engagements and domestic repose were to be again disturbed by an unforeseen but momentous event. The soil of the United States was invaded, and the lives and property of our citizens sacrificed to the barbarous assaults of the stranger. The nation flew to arms. The States were called on to furnish volunteers for the war, and nobly was the call responded to. From the land of Marion and Sumpter, from the fields of the Old Dominion, from the extreme South, the far West, and the forests of Maine, brave young men came rushing from their homes to enlist under the national banner. Descended from a martial race, Frank Pierce could not resist the temptation, and breaking away from the ties of his family, he enlisted as a common soldier, to fight the battles of his country under the Union Eagle.

## XXVII.

## APPOINTED A GENERAL IN THE ARMY OF MEXICO.

But that such a man, so capable of leading an army, should serve in the ranks as a common soldier was not allowed. His country needed the aid of his mind as well as his arm, and he at once received a commission as Brigadier General of the Volunteers of New England. The people of Concord lost no time in offering to the General a fresh testimonial of their affection, and they raised the sum of \$400, and purchased for him a splendid horse to ride in battle. When they heard that



the noble steed was dead they sent him another. These sums were not raised by a few personal friends. They were made up by small but numerous contributions from the great body of his fellow citizens—men who had known him from childhood—who loved him for his virtues—who respected him for his life-long honesty, and who knew he would reflect honor upon the arms of the country.

## XXVIII.

## HIS DESIRE TO HAVE COL. RANSOM APPOINTED.

But before Mr. Pierce had been appointed to the command of the New England troops, he had written a letter to President Polk, recommending the appointment of Col. Ransom. But the reply was that this could not be done since the Cabinet had already determined to entrust the command to Mr. Pierce himself. "But," said Col. Ransom, "Mr. Pierce will not take it." "But he must take it," said the Cabinet. "We must have the influence of his name and his example. He certainly will not refuse to serve his country in any capacity." The command, therefore, of the New England Regiment was accepted by Mr. Pierce, and Ransom received the appointment of Major under him.

Before the regiment was raised a vacancy occurred in the office of Brigadier General of the Third Brigade, consisting of the Ninth, (New England regiment,) the Twelfth, raised in Texas, Arkansas, and other Southern States, and the Fifteenth, raised in Ohio and Wisconsin. He was appointed to this office ; and the other brigadier

generals appointed at the same time were Thomas Marshall, Joseph Lane, James Shields, George Cadwallader, Enos D. Hopping, Caleb Cushing, and Sterling Price. He was superintendent of the recruiting service, and took an active part in raising the troops. Previous to his leaving Concord, an incident occurred that is worthy of mention, as showing the character of the man. Captain Kimball marched, with eighty men, into the town, on Sunday evening, with fife and drum, and colors flying. This gave mortal offence to some of the Puritans, and Gen. Pierce, hearing of it, ordered the music to stop, and the company to halt and dismiss to their quarters; remarking that it was his desire to respect the feelings of all.

## XXIX.

### EMBARKATION FOR THE MEXICAN CAMPAIGN.

But General Pierce saw in the approaching Mexican struggle something more than a field for brilliant achievement in battle—something more than a succession of victories against the invaders of our soil, and the modesty with which he had enlisted as a common soldier, and the effort he had made to get command of the New England troops conferred upon Colonel Ransom, fully demonstrates this. From the most authentic sources, we know that at the time, General Pierce attached more importance to the Mexican War than almost any other man. Descended from the old Pilgrim stock, like Stark and Warren, he believed that it was the destiny of the American people to extend the empire of repub-

lican principles throughout the western world; foreseeing what must be the inevitable result of the annexation of Texas, he had favored that great measure even when vast numbers of the Democratic Party itself opposed it. He felt that the accession of that rich territory, which had been colonized by American citizens, would bring prosperity and strength to the American Union, and whatever might be in the future, of difficulty for the Republic, he had faith in the permanence of our political institutions, and he felt the pride of an American citizen in seeing her eagle of liberty winging his way towards the Pacific.

### XXX.

#### HOW GENERAL PIERCE TREATED HIS SOLDIERS.

Colonel Pierce received his commission in the beginning of March, 1847, and took command of 2,500 men. He reached Vera Cruz on the 28th of June,—a period so short as to indicate his unceasing activity and despatch. We ought here to record some anecdotes in connection with the march to the sea-coast, the assembling and embarkation of the troops, with the incidents of the voyage, and the circumstances under which they landed; but we must cut the relation short. Many of the troops on board the bark Kepler became sick, and, owing to an accident, there was a scarcity of water, and they all had to be put upon short allowance. Here Colonel Pierce's character shone out in all its excellence. When he received his allowance of water, he would take the pitcher, go around the ship, and distribute it in half

tumblers to the soldiers ; and so, from the beginning to the end of the campaign, from the time that his fellow-citizens left their homes in New Hampshire, all through the burning plains of Mexico, in the heat of battle, and in the fatigue and sufferings which followed even our victories, he never lost an opportunity of doing an act of kindness, and never uttered a word to his men which did not show that he respected them *because they were men*, and loved them because they were his *fellow-countrymen*. When they got to Vera Cruz, he gave those who needed it every dollar that he had ; and on the march, like Napoleon when he was crossing the desert, he gave his horse to aid in carrying the sick, and often relieved wearied and exhausted soldiers, by taking a musket and marching miles with it himself.

## XXXI.

## GALLANT CONDUCT OF GEN. PIERCE.

As soon as he arrived in Mexico, he found that the climate did not agree with him, and his health immediately began to suffer. But his resolution never flagged, and only a few of his intimate friends knew that he was suffering at all. His column sustained a ferocious attack from a guerrilla party at "the National Bridge," some fifteen miles from Vera Cruz, and in this first crisis, their commander displayed so much firmness, coolness, and intrepidity, that Col. Ransom himself remarked that he behaved like an old General. He gave an order for his troops to charge the chaparral, behind which the enemy were supposed to be.

Col. Ransom, with superior military experience, ventured to say that he could not approve of the movement. "I have given the order," said the General, firmly—and the order was obeyed. The enemy were repulsed, and the column resumed its march towards Mexico. They had not gone far, however, before they were attacked by another party, still more numerous, and more completely barricaded. A deadly fire was poured in upon them, and two bullets passed through Gen. Pierce's chapeau. He led his men to a fierce encounter, and again the enemy were routed. A subaltern under his command at that time, assures us that he did not believe there was a man in Pierce's column after these two affairs, who did not feel unbounded confidence in his military abilities, and who would not have fought under him better than under any other man in the world.

## XXXII.

## ASSAULTS OF THE WHIGS ON FRIENDS AND FOES.

Although we believe his political enemies had not covered him with the usual amount of calumny before his nomination which they have always been ready to heap upon their opponents; yet the very moment his name was announced from the Convention, it was the signal for falsehood, slander, and lies. Within the last twenty-four hours, the statement has gone forth from presses in this city, that he never was in a battle during the whole campaign. It has been stated that on one occasion, after the heat of the engagement was over,

fifty miles with the thermometer below zero without feeling it, and then came and passed the whole evening chatting with me. He is not only a true-hearted Democrat, whom all the people love, but he is a real gentleman.”

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## XXXIV.

## TRIBUTES OF RESPECT FROM GEN. SCOTT.

Having participated in the victory of Cherubusco, in such a manner as to win the applause of Gen. Scott, who often took occasion to speak in the highest, most respectful, and even affectionate terms of the brave soldier and true man, he was appointed one of the Commissioners to treat for an armistice. Genl. Pierce was strongly opposed to any armistice whatever, unless the castle of Chepultapac was given up as a security, and he said that he could see no use in treating with the Mexicans at all, *unless they were prepared to surrender California*. Gen. Scott did not agree with Gen. Pierce, but he gave him a chance to try, and the result proved that he was right. Indeed on this occasion, as on all others, Gen. Pierce conducted himself in such a manner, as to win the personal esteem and military respect of Gen. Scott, and he was often invited to be a guest at his table, and received many marks of his regard. It should, however, be remembered, that this was long before any body knew that it would do any harm.

## XXXV.

## SCENES IN THE CAMPAIGN.

At the battle of Molino del Rey, he rode over the field, and so near the enemy, to conduct the charge of his column, that he was called off by Gen. Worth, who told him that he must not risk himself in that manner. A little incident of interest occurred in the battle of



Chepultaptec. When the victory had been won, the South Carolinians of the Palmetto Regiment, which had left its full share of dead men on the field, met Gen. Pierce's brigade, when Pierce said to them, "Here come the heroes of the Palmetto State, from one end of the Union, and the Yankees from another, are ready to embrace them. Thus fought the men of Carolina and of New England in the battles of the Revolution, and together as they did then, we now send up our mingled shouts of victory over our foes, and cry *Union forever.*"

This fraternal meeting between the brave and free men, who had assembled in a distant country, under one common standard, to fight for the land which gave them birth, might, if the result could have been foreseen, have appeared to be the forerunner of the nomination of General Pierce for the Presidency; for it was by the noble conduct of the Southern States which first led the way, and were then followed by the whole Union, that General Pierce received the unanimous nomination of the Baltimore Convention. It is the spirit of union and nationality—this attachment to the whole country, that has always distinguished the policy, and will hereafter mark the administration of the man we are now speaking of.

### XXXVI.

#### PIERCE RETIRES TO PRIVATE LIFE.

When Mexico had been conquered, the honor of the American arms vindicated, and the gates of our golden empire had been thrown open on the shores of the Pa-

cific Ocean, Gen. Pierce with the brave men who had fought under his command, returned once more to the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, and embarked again for New England. They were greeted at their homes with every expression of admiration, gratitude and love ; and although as their thin ranks defiled through the New England villages, many a tear fell at the absence of these who left their bones whitening on the plains of Mexico, those who returned were covered with laurels and hailed with enthusiasm. The citizens of Concord, and the whole state of New Hampshire, wished to offer some testimonial to General Pierce, but he modestly declined every honor that was proffered to him, and as he had always done through life, was more ready to aid in conferring honors upon his comrades than he was to receive them himself.

### XXXVII.

#### HIS EVERY-DAY LIFE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Once more he had retired from public life, and in the domestic circle, with the charms and attractions of home, he resumed the education of his son, and the practice of his profession. He could again have gone to the United States Senate, but this he resolutely declined, and greatly to the regret of his friends ; for he could doubtless again have defeated the demagogue Hale as he had done it before, and thereby the Senate and the country would have been saved all the trouble that fanatical leader of the New England abolitionists has made.

It is pleasant to see how a plain American citizen,

who has occupied positions of high honor descends at once to the humble station of a common citizen. Gen. Pierce again resumed all the duties and engagements of private life. He was again seen in his place in the village church on Sunday, where he had for many years taught his Sabbath School. This eminent citizen had, as we have remarked, thus gone farther than many good and pure men feel it to be their duty, for they often had rather give large sums of money to benevolent objects than to put their own hand actively to the work. Once more his house became, as it had been since the day he entered it, the seat of hospitality, and there was nothing which concerned the good of the community where he dwelt, in which he did not warmly interest himself.

### XXXVIII.

#### RISE AND FALL OF FANATICISM.

Like all other enlightened and patriotic men, Gen. Pierce contemplated with alarm the progress of that spirit of fanaticism which created so just and well-founded an apprehension for the perpetuity of the Union, in the winter of 1849 and '50. It is a fact so notorious that it will hardly be denied now by any man who has the reputation of a statesman to lose, that a condition of things had been generating in the United States for upwards of fifteen years, which twenty-four months ago not only perilled the Republic, but nearly split it asunder. From the first dawning of the abolition excitement, till it reached its acme in 1850, a train

of causes was in operation, which, if they had continued without interruption or opposition, must inevitably have worked the ruin of this commonwealth.

Multitudes of individuals, and, in fact, entire communities, were drawn into the current, unconscious of the drift it was taking, or the momentous consequences that were sure to follow. Abolitionism at the North begat a spirit of secession at the South, and, ignited at both extremities by the spirit of *fanaticism*, the hardy cords that once bound the distant sections of the republic together began to give way, and a year ago the confederation was bound only with a rope of sand. It is true that on a trial of the strength of the federal government in a particular locality, as in Boston, for instance, in that excitement, there would have been no apprehension of defeat. A local outbreak against the power of Congress might have been treated as an insurrection, and suppressed without difficulty. This was the state of things at the time of the nullification affair some twenty years ago; but it is exceedingly doubtful if even so long ago as that, when the idea of disunion was an unhallowed augury which shocked without alarming the nation, the republic would have lasted till now if a drop of fraternal blood had been spilled in South Carolina. The beginnings of such difficulties create convulsions which do not soon end. If, therefore, while the Adjustment Measures of the last Congress were balancing in doubt and suspense, and it was the declared policy of the Taylor cabinet to interfere to suppress the power of Texas, in asserting her

right to the territory of New Mexico, the federal government had interposed and sent an army to the scene of discord, there is every reason to adopt the opinion of Mr. Webster, pronounced in his speech at Buffalo, that the first shedding of fraternal blood would have dissolved the ligaments of the Republic for ever. The fact is, the Republic of the United States was on the verge of ruin.

## XXXIX.

## THE SACREDNESS OF OUR FEDERAL UNION.

The very thought that such a Republic as this was in danger—a Republic whose independence was achieved by the heroism, and suffering of the bravest, the purest, and the noblest generation of men; that such a Republic should be wrecked by the agitations of demagogues, filled every true American with indignation; and the thought of what might be the final result, curdled the blood with horror. The republic of France was looked upon by Americans from the beginning, as at best, but a *doubtful experiment*. The all but miraculous birth, for the hour, of a Republic in the crumbling city of the Cæsars, was an unlooked-for vision, from which no satisfactory auguries could be read; and the shout of freedom from the mountain fastnesses of Hungary soon died away. But the going down of the sun of liberty in Europe while it was yet day, left no darkness so appalling as would have shut down on the world, if the bond which united our thirty Commonwealths had been broken. Intriguing demagogues, who had

long looked for some specious pretext to make use of for their own selfish purposes, caught up the cry of abolition philanthropists, and boldly proclaimed in all quarters that unless American slavery could be abolished immediately, the Union ought to be dismembered.

## XL.

## FRUITLESSNESS OF FANATICISM.

And yet, after all, what has been accomplished by all this fanaticism? It has done no good, it is confessed on all hands, and much harm. The negro is left where the agitation found him, with this difference, that if his day of emancipation was approaching it has been retarded indefinitely. Every blow of the abolitionist leveled against the slaveholder has fallen, however unwittingly, on the unshielded head of the slave. He has thus far been the only victim in this fraternal crusade. God send that the next and last victim be not the republic of Washington itself!

## XLI.

## WEBSTER'S INVITATION TO PIERCE.

In the fall of 1850, Mr. Webster, whose course in reference to this terrible agitation had not only commanded the respect of the nation, but given to his fame as an orator and a statesman a still greater brilliancy, left his public duties at Washington for a visit, which he makes every year, to his birth-place in New Hampshire. Feeling, as he did, a desire to hold some friendly and fraternal congratulations with his old friends and

acquaintances in his native State, he invited a large number of distinguished men to meet him at his house, to partake of a banquet, which he spread in honor of the triumph of the Compromise Measures. Among others, he had invited the subject of this sketch, in the most cordial terms, because he knew that there was one seat at his hospitable board that *no other man but Frank Pierce could fill*. "Your heart," said he, "is with the perpetual union of these States, and you have devoted your public life to this great object. Come, therefore, and let us hold our friendly congratulations, now that the country has triumphed over fanaticism." Gen. Pierce could not resist this appeal, and approving, as he did most heartily, the course Mr. Webster had taken in that great speech of the 7th of March, he accepted the invitation. He remained silent until *the Union was toasted*, and looking the proposer of the sentiment full in the face as he rose to his feet, he poured forth an effusion of eloquence such as those who were gathered around that table had seldom listened to.

## XLII.

## TELEGRAPHIC FLASHES.

Every reader will remember how anxiously we used to wait, years ago, for the arrival of the news of a nomination, when it could be transmitted only by the tardy progress of the steam engine. Even four years ago, but a small portion of the inhabitants of the United States could depend upon this means for expediting the progress of public intelligence. But during the last

Convention at Baltimore, a few minutes after a ballot was declared, the news went in flashes of lightning from Halifax to the Gulf of Mexico. A friend of Gen. Pierce in the Convention knew that he was stopping at the Tremont House in Boston, whither he had gone on a visit with his wife, who was in delicate health. Within five minutes from the announcement in the Convention of his unanimous nomination, a messenger from the telegraph office in Boston, flew to the hotel with the result written on a single scrap of paper. A friend seized it, sprang into a carriage, and drove out to Mount Auburn, where the General and his family had gone for a ride. As the carriages met on the road, the General heard the astounding intelligence, which probably he could not have expected, that he had been nominated unanimously for the Presidency, by the great Democratic Convention at Baltimore. He is reported to have said—"No man has heard it with more surprise than myself."

### XLIII.

#### ELECTION OF CINCINNATUS BY THE ROMANS.

Those who have felt since they heard the news, that they must become the enemies of Frank Pierce, unable to find anything, or think of anything else to say against him, have tried to make something out of this fact. They have said that the Democrats nominated a man who did not even *expect* the office; leaving their readers to infer, that therefore he was incompetent to fill it. We do not see much force in this objection, and the



conclusion is entirely a *non sequitur*. We find, rather, in all this, matter for rejoicing. When the ROMAN SENATE laid aside their quarrels, and buried their factions, which were tearing the state to pieces, and they could not unite upon any of the prominent statesmen, or great generals or demagogues of the day, somebody proposed the name of a plain old farmer, and he was unanimously called to the helm of state. A messenger was sent from Rome, and not finding Cincinnatus in the house, he went into his fields, where he was following the plough; and we presume that Cincinnatus was as much astonished when he heard of his nomination as Frank Pierce was. The fact is, that the time had come in this country, when we had been surfeited with statesmanship, and demagoguism had nearly proved the ruin of the Republic. The struggles and the strifes of *cliques* and intriguers, the tricks of political jugglers, and the corruption of factions, had gone so far—prominent public men were either suspected or disliked in various sections of the country, or, pure and noble as many of them may have been, they had been so long before the nation, that it is not strange that the Baltimore Convention should have left the immediate circle of active and prominent politicians, and looked away to a distance, to see what man Heaven had trained up and been leading by its mysterious hand to the summit of power. We have no fear that the future historians of this country will not regard this act as one of political wisdom; nor do we feel any alarm that OUR CININNATUS because he happened to be even obscure, if you will

was not quite as well qualified for the post of honor as those men who had spent their whole lives in trying to get it.

#### XLIV.

##### PIERCE NOT AN AMBITIOUS MAN.

FRANK PIERCE never put forth an exertion for his own elevation in his life. He never asked for an office; and when he felt it his duty to run for one, no man ever outstripped him. He has frequently resigned places of emolument and honor, the very moment he felt that his chief duties were done. He never evaded a responsibility, and never accepted an honor without extreme reluctance. Even in the midst of the last Olympic race, when the civic crown was held full in view, and thirteen candidates—the number of the old states—started off post speed with their letters, promising everything to everybody, Mr. Pierce did not take the trouble to write any letter at all, as he did not consider himself one of the candidates—did not expect the nomination, he didn't want it, and had never tried to get it—but, on the contrary, when he was nominated for the Presidency by the people of his own State, last winter, out of respect to his fellow-citizens, in a very frank and manly spirit, he simply replied in the following words :

#### XLV.

FRANK PIERCE'S LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

CONCORD, *January 12, 1852.*

MY DEAR SIR :—I take the liberty to address you, be-

cause no channel more appropriate occurs to me through which to express my thanks to the Convention over which you presided on the 8th instant, and to the masses there represented.

I am far from being insensible to the steady and generous confidence so often manifested toward me by the people of this State ; and although the object indicated in the resolution, having particular reference to myself, be not one of desire on my part, the expression is not, on that account, the less gratifying.

Doubtless the spontaneous and just appreciation of an intelligent people is the best earthly reward for earnest and cheerful services rendered to one's State and country ; and while it is a matter of unfeigned regret that my life has been so barren of usefulness, I shall ever hold this and similar tributes among my most cherished recollections.

To these, my sincere and grateful acknowledgments, I desire to add, that the same motive which induced me several years ago to retire from public life, and which since that time have controlled my judgment in this respect, now impel me to say, that the use of my name, in any event, before the Democratic National Convention at Baltimore, to which you are a delegate, would be utterly repugnant to my tastes and wishes. I am, with the highest respect and esteem, your friend,

FRANK PIERCE.

HON. CHAS. G. ATHERTON, Nashville, N. H.

He also declined since the Democratic Convention met ; but it seems they will make him President, in spite of himself.

## XLVI.

## UNIVERSAL ACCLAMATIONS AT THE NOMINATION.

Although, in almost every section of the country, wherever the telegraphic news of the nomination flew, individuals who knew Frank Pierce, and communities whose sympathies were not enlisted for factions, rejoiced in the result; and the boom of cannon was heard along the whole coast of the Atlantic, and up the valleys of the great western rivers; yet the nomination was so unexpected, that the vast majority of the American people received the intelligence with silence and reflection. The motives of the Convention were not at once understood: and the announcement could hardly be believed. The Whigs had looked forward exultingly to a division, a quarrel and an explosion which would have destroyed the unity of the Democratic party—while the Democrats themselves, who knew that little could be expected by the nomination of any prominent candidate, anticipated only a heartless campaign ending in defeat. It has now become apparent, that the sagacity of the Virginia delegation discovered a man who would unite and blend in one solid and irresistible phalanx, all the separate columns and divisions of the American Democratic Party, and therefore they had, as Virginia statesmen so often had done before them, discovered the means of bringing about a grand and glorious consummation. When one southern State after another was seen wheeling in with enthusiasm to support the nomination of Frank Pierce, the accession of every State was greeted with cheers; and around every delegation, when

they rose to give their vote, bouquets were thrown in a shower from the ladies in the galleries.

The *New York Herald* finely says, that a knowledge of these facts has already brought tears into the eyes of many of the old Democrats, who had well nigh despaired of ever seeing another Democratic candidate in the field capable of being elected. It was an interesting scene—like some scenes in the days of Jefferson and Jackson. The report of the last day's proceedings, is one of those features which is more calculated to produce an impression on the country, than anything else of the kind which has been seen or heard of for a long time.

## XLVII.

### IMPRESSIONS ON THE NOMINATION.

But when a day of calm reflection had passed, and the millions who make up this vast and happy confederacy had heard the news, and thought upon it, the impression was wide, and we may say universal and profound, that the nomination was a wise one, and that it had been brought about by the arrangement of the divine and never mistaken Providence that governs the world. The next sign that was seen in the political heavens, was *the terror that was excited throughout the ranks of the enemy, from one end of the nation to the other*. A universal alarm became manifest among the Whigs. Horace Greeley—that arch agitator—the Mephistophiles of his party; and his paper, which is regarded as the semi-official organ of Gen. Scott, opened

their feeble batteries of mud, and poured slime and insult upon the fame and character of Frank Pierce. We will not soil these fair pages by even quoting Horace Greeley's words.

The *New York Daily Times*, however, in far more decent language, thus indicates its alarm :

“ But the Whigs must not suppose that this lack of conspicuous merit on the part of the Democratic candidate is to make the contest easy or the victory secure. The mistake they made in the case of Mr. Polk should warn them against such an error. There is much in the position of Mr. Pierce to make him, under the circumstances, the most formidable candidate who could have been selected.

“ In the first place, the Democratic party, North and South, is *united* in his support. Not a whisper will be heard against him from any quarter of the Democratic ranks. He will receive their united, harmonious, and energetic support. This fact alone is quite enough to show the Whigs that they have no easy game to play—no holiday fight, to be waged simply for their own amusement. They will find it essential to select their strongest candidate, put him in the strongest possible position, and secure for him the largest possible vote. And they may learn something from the *special object* which the nomination of Pierce is expected to accomplish.”

The Editor then inquires what the Whigs can do to save themselves, and goes on to say :—

“ *They are to select the candidate who will stand the*

*best chance of carrying at least two, out of the three great Middle States, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. Unless they do this, and make the selection wisely, they would save much needless trouble by surrendering in advance."*

## XLVIII.

## UNANIMITY IN ALL QUARTERS.

Another journal holds the following unexpected language :

"The nomination of Franklin Pierce and William R. King, by the national Democratic convention, gives satisfaction to the Democratic members of Congress, so far as we have learned, and it is likely to take well with the party, North and South. To the Whigs it is less exceptionable than would have been the nomination of Cass, Douglas, Houston, or indeed any of the candidates that were run. Mr. Pierce was generally esteemed, while in Congress, by his political opponents. There are no sharp or disagreeable points about him.

"He has been out of political strife for some time, and nothing can be said against him personally by his political opponents. He will hardly get abuse enough to give him an assurance of success, and must rely solely on his political principles for his election, instead of the sympathy that detraction might excite for him. He is of the strictest sect of the Woodbury school of Democracy—a school that is akin to the Virginia dogmas of 1798-'99. If the Democratic party will go in for all that, and cast their undivided strength upon the ticket,

they will make it a question of numbers with the Whigs, who will maintain different and more liberal national principles. In fact, the ticket will probably unite the Democratic party; and the Whigs, in order to bear it, must also unite, and put up a strong man as their standard bearer, in the contest. They must adopt, too, the policy which the present Administration has maintained, in regard to the compromise, in order to stand on an equal footing with the Democrats."

## XLIX.

## OPINIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT PRESS.

In order to show how the Baltimore nominations are likely to be regarded by independent and honest citizens, we extract the following paragraph from a very able and clear-headed article in the New York Herald:—

"A great many of the supporters and partisans of Gen. Scott have put him forward under the mistaken view that the contest of the present year is to be a contest based on military humbug and military glory, without reference to principles affecting the future history of the country. In this view of the matter, there is a deep, palpable, unquestionable mistake. The great bulk of the intelligence forming the Whig party, have been disgusted and betrayed by military humbug and military heroes in former contests. During the existence of this republic, four military Presidents have been elected—Washington and Jackson, Harrison and Taylor. Two of these men—Washington and Jackson—acquired their popularity and sustained their influence



more by intellectual and civic qualities than martial renown—more on popular measures and enlightened statesmanship, than on the humbug and delusion of military glory. The two other Presidents—Generals Harrison and Taylor—were sad blunders and inconceivable mistakes—examples of the error of taking military popularity on trust, without its subject possessing the slightest qualifications for statesmanship or governmental talents. With these experiences before the Whig and Democratic parties, the availability of military glory has passed away like an unsubstantial shadow; and the mere hero of the battle-field, devoid of the intellect, sense, and talent necessary in an occupant of the presidential chair, is looked upon as a sort of Tom Hyer in a high station, or a successful Yankee Sullivan in white kids—all muscle and animal courage, without brains or mind capable of conducting the affairs of a great nation. But yet, in point of military renown, General Pierce, of New Hampshire, without claiming any merit for that vulgar quality of fighting—for those Tom Hyer accomplishments, or Yankee Sullivan genius, has shown himself in the campaign of Mexico as brave as his competitor, Gen. Scott; and far more modest, discreet, wise and patriotic, after the victory had been won and the conquest of Mexico completed. Now, with the exception of a few miserable demagogues, who have other and desperate objects to carry out—such demagogues as Clayton and Seward, and their associates—all the intelligence, and patriotism, and good sense, of both parties, in this country—Whig and Democratic—are

alike determined that the coming contest shall not be one between bull-dog and bull-dog—between a higher-priced order of Tom Hyer and Yankee Sullivan—but that it shall be a contest for elevation to the White House, and to the place once occupied by Washington and Jackson, men who have intelligence and sense, and courage and patriotism, and common honesty and discretion, and all those qualities requisite for a high and dignified administration of the public affairs in this country.”

## L.

## THE TWO PLATFORMS.

“The contest, therefore, now commencing, from this day forward, between General Pierce of New Hampshire, and General Scott of New Jersey, is a contest, between the great principles promulgated by the two parties who make these distinguished men their representatives; it is a contest between those principles which, on one hand, will lead this country secure and undisturbed to the highest pinnacle that ever nation attained, or will, on the other hand, alienate the two sections of the country from each other, dissolve the constituent parts of this glorious republic, and produce hereafter a series of convulsion following convulsion, caused by the anti-slavery agitation of such men as Seward and his compeers. The platform of principles and measures put forward by the convention at Baltimore, is the platform of General Pierce, and that on which they will support, and intend to elect him. The

platform and principles of Gen. Scott and for his party, are those which he has himself promulgated in advance, through his four famous political letters, which we have recently placed before the world. They are principles which are directly in the teeth of, and opposed to, those of the democratic party. Gen. Scott avows himself in favor of a United States Bank—a measure which has been decided against by the people of this country, as fraught with danger and injury to their independence, and to the purity of the government and its institutions. Gen. Scott has also avowed himself in favor of modifying or abolishing the naturalization laws; and therefore he means to be in favor of restoring the old alien laws of John Adams, which created the first great breach between the two great classes of the population of this country, and originated those differences which have agitated its councils ever since. Gen. Scott has avowed himself against any exercise of the *veto* power, thus declaring that he will be entirely in the hands of any clique that may choose to regulate and manage Congress, without reference to general principles, the provisions of the constitution, or the duties imposed on him by his office. Gen. Scott, among other principles—which we have not time to enumerate to-day—has, above all, declared his unalterable hostility to the continuance of slavery at the South; and although he points out no practicable mode, within the limits of the constitution, for abolishing the institutions of the South, he yet looks forward to a solution of the question at some future day, and leaves the inference that that so-

lution—for it can be nothing else—will be either insurrection or civil war, produced by the alienation of the North and South on these delicate relations. The principles and measures, therefore, of the whig party, as promulgated by the leading and only candidate they have any chance of electing, are such principles and such measures [as, if carried into practice by his success, will alienate still more the South from the North—will produce bickerings of the most dangerous character, and ultimately lead to insurrection, civil war, and entire and final separation.]”

## LI.

## THE REAL ISSUE IN THE APPROACHING STRUGGLE.

“On the contrary, what are the principles associated with the name of Gen. Pierce, in the contest now approaching? They have been enunciated by the Baltimore Convention, and they are of exactly an opposite character, and antagonistic to those which have been put forward by Gen. Scott, under his own signature, and which, no doubt, will be adopted by the Convention that will nominate him next week—opposition to any construction of financial power in the government, by the creation of a national bank—opposition to any change in the naturalization laws, or any hostility to the increase of the population of this country by emigration from Europe or elsewhere—a due regard for the recent compromise acts, and particularly for the Fugitive Slave law. All these measures, with many others which have been already published in our columns, are

identified with the success and name of Gen. Pierce. They are principles and measures which will now—as they have heretofore done—bind these States in closer union, and lead this country into harmony, more concentrated action, more power, and more glory as a republican nation, than was ever yet seen in all past time.

“ Such are the first views which we can take of this contest, now approaching, between the two great candidates—of the principles linked with their several names, and of the results to the future history of the country growing out of these principles. Gen. Scott is a gallant military leader—a man of high honor in private life—a soldier of unquestioned courage; but he is vain, empty, proud, and silly. He conceives that this country is his property, and that no other man has a right to be a candidate for the Presidency but himself. He is, moreover, entirely in the hands of a coterie of the most dangerous demagogues that every controlled any party, or afflicted any country. His election would lead to evils of the most dreadful kind, paralyze industry, and strike with alarm both North and South at the progress of those principles which only tend to the alienation of the two great sections. General Pierce, on the contrary, is the true compromise candidate—the modest man—the man of sound, good sense—the man of courage in the day of battle, and of wisdom in the day of peace—the man to propose nothing that is not sensible, and to act nothing that will not redound to the prosperity and glory of his country. He is certainly the

man for the occasion; and there is every appearance, from the delight with which the announcement of his name has thus far been received throughout the country, by all parties, that he is the 'man that is coming.' ”

## LII.

### MODE OF LIFE.—FAMILY CHARACTER.

Frank Pierce lacks two inches of six feet. He has a robust and vigorous frame, inured to fatigue, and capable of great endurance. He lives (just as a man ought to live, before he is nominated for the Presidency of a great Republic,) in a small white house, near Main street, in Concord. In front of it is a yard of beautiful green trees and little flowers-beds, purifying and refreshing the air, and loading it with fragrance. He is a man of moderate means, as that expression is generally understood by the American people. He has been so generous through life, that he has never laid up much money. The Pierces generally, as a family characteristic, never have amassed or regarded money for their own purposes. They have always been politicians, but they have never used the public money except for public purposes. None of them have ever been rich; none of them have ever been poor. Frank Pierce will spend every dollar of his salary in keeping a hospitable house, when he goes to Washington. There will be no show, or parade, or sham; but there will be hearty cheer and cordial greeting to all, as far as his time and means enable him to go.

Such is his personal character, and such are his per-

sonal habits. If these, with his eminent qualities as a public man, and a statesman, do not qualify him to administer the government at Washington with ability and acceptance, we honestly confess that we do not know of a man who could. In every State of the Union, the democrats, and the lovers of their country, will rally to his support. He will not only bring out the entire democratic strength of the Nation, but tens of thousands who stand aloof from partisan warfare, will come forward to elevate so pure, upright, and noble a man to the Chief Magistracy. FRANK PIERCE WILL BE OUR CITIZEN PRESIDENT.

## HON. WILLIAM RUFUS KING.

### I.

#### THE OBJECT AND SPIRIT OF THE CONSTITUTION.

AFTER Washington, and the men who had gone shoulder to shoulder with him through the Revolutionary struggle, had achieved the independence of the old Thirteen Colonies, it required seven years more to unite them in the bonds of the Federal Union. All those conflicting interests were discussed and arranged, which have since agitated the country. Patriotic, wise, and good men, from every one of the thirteen states, understood these questions quite as well as men ever have since ; and on the whole, they decided that it was wise and best to enter into a great and solemn compact, by which, upon the Tables of the Constitution, the rights, the privileges, and the sovereignty of every state should be clearly, intelligibly, and eternally written. The Compromise Measures of 1850 were only a re-enactment of the original provisions of the Constitution. Therefore, every good and intelligent man rejoiced in that Great Adjustment which gave repose to the Confederacy, and drew the *cordon* of union closer than ever around the Republic of Washington.



## II.

## WHO IS SENATOR KING?

WILLIAM RUFUS KING was Vice-President of the United States, and presiding officer of the Senate, when these great statutes were inscribed upon the Records of the American Republic; his name was written at the bottom of these laws. He had given to them his sympathies and his support. As an extreme Southern man, he was willing to compromise, to yield, to give up every thing except cardinal principles, to preserve unimpaired for our latest posterity the priceless heritage we had received from our fathers.

Long in public life, devoted from his youth to the good of his fellow citizens, and the public interests of his own state, incorruptible during a long life of public honor, patriotic, and generous, compromising, but firm, he had become distinguished for his great services to his own and to the whole nation, and he is so well known to the body of the American people, that it is but a formality we yield to, in saying anything about him at all. Almost every intelligent man in America knows his history, as well as we do ourselves.

## III.

## HIS POLITICAL HISTORY.

William Rufus King was born in North Carolina, and is now we believe about sixty-five years of age. Having at an early period of life taken up his residence in that part of the country which was afterwards known

as the state of Alabama, he was elected one of the first Senators of that state, when she was admitted into the Union, and he took his seat in the body over which he now presides, thirty-three years ago. He is therefore, since Colonel Benton and Henry Clay are no longer there, the father of the American Senate. For a period of a quarter of a century without interruption (1819 to 1844) he Represented Alabama in the highest legislative seat on the continent. During the meantime, he had inspired such universal confidence in his ability—in his zeal for the good of the nation, and in his clear conceptions of international law, that he was appointed in 1844 to represent this country as Ambassador at the Court of Louis Phillippe. The very moment he was presented to the King of the French, that monarch greeted him with great favor, and is reported upon authority we do not doubt to have said, in addition to the commonplace greeting extended to every new ambassador! “ Mr. King, I am not unacquainted with your eminence in the American Republic—I know with how much ability you have filled many posts of honor ; and I am now really glad that a man of so much experience and so much fame as a statesman, represents that great Republic of yours at this Court. Be assured that I shall lose no opportunity of extending to you my confidence and demonstrating to you my respect. Happily there are no causes of difference between our two governments, and I give you my honest assurance if a question of embarrassment should arise during your residence here, that I will endeavor the very moment

it comes up to remove every occasion of difficulty. I have lived in the United States, I know your people, and I am glad to greet you here.”

## IV.

## THE CATO OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC.

Very many of our readers have seen this long-trying, upright, and noble man in his official chair. The great simplicity of his character, his learning, his patriotism, the candor and frankness of his manner, the openness and generosity of his disposition, his strenuous efforts to calm the excited passions of the nation during a period of turmoil and peril, the respect and attachment felt for him by all who have enjoyed the honor of his acquaintance, the blandness and interest of his conversation, and the classic simplicity of his republican character, stamp him the very CATO OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC.

## V.

## THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM OF THE NEXT CAMPAIGN.

Our political enemies, who have never been able to establish any political platform, upon which they could all stand, or which commended itself to the judgment, good sense, and confidence of the nation, for a long time ridiculed the idea of establishing any platform whatever. They know that their party never have, and never can unite upon any great political principles, which command the confidence and respect of the American people. At one period, indeed, they staked every-

thing upon a Mammoth National Bank, and fought, election after election, and made issue after issue, till they had been so often defeated, they pretended no longer to desire the Bank themselves. At another time, under the able championship of Henry Clay, and with all the power of the old United States Bank to back them, they tried to saddle upon the country the odious policy of a Protective Tariff—which simply meant a law that compelled you and me to pay thirty, or fifty, or five hundred per cent. more for every article we consumed, than was necessary—interposed every possible barrier to the friendly intercourse of nations—overstocked our markets with home productions to such an extent, that on every revulsion, even the manufacturers themselves, with all their protection, went to ruin every few years. And so, from time to time, they have got up various cries, and alarms, and monopolies—but they never have and never can settle on a national policy. Whiggery does not admit of it. Even now, there is a terrible alarm everywhere for fear that they will be obliged to proclaim their principles. They know that General Scott is, at heart, an Abolitionist—they know that he is a Native American of the most odious type—that he is determined, if he can, to break up the balance of power between North and South, and commit the government to the Free-Soilers—they know that, at all events, he *has* held these opinions, and that they are now held and proclaimed by his confidential advisers and friends. The Whigs know that neither Mr. Fillmore nor Mr. Webster entertain any such views, and

yet they have not probably the honesty or courage to come out in their Convention, and lay down a platform of political principles which either can command or deserve the support and confidence of the country.

## VI.

But the Democracy always has held a clear, well defined, substantial, and well-settled policy. They have always proclaimed it from the very foundation of the Government, and they always will.

Below, we give the platform on which they stand for the next struggle—so plain that every man can understand it.

## FRANKLIN PIERCE UNANIMOUSLY NOMINATED.

Franklin Pierce was then declared the unanimous choice of the Convention, as the candidate for the Presidency.

Repeated cheers went up, together with other demonstrations of joy.

The committee on the platform then submitted their report, through Mr. Brown of Tennessee, the Chairman. It was read by Major French.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

The Committee on Resolutions then submitted their report, through Mr. Brown, of Tennessee, the Chairman. It was read by Mr. French, as follows :

*Resolved*, That the American Democracy place their

trust in the intelligence, the patriotism, and the discriminating justice of the American people.

*Resolved*, That we regard this as a distinctive feature of our political creed, which we are proud to maintain before the world, as a great moral element in a form of government springing from and upheld by the popular will ; and we contrast it with the creed and practice of federalism, under whatever name or form, which seeks to palsy the will of the constituent, and which conceives no imposture too monstrous for the popular credulity.

*Resolved*, Therefore, that, entertaining these views, the Democratic party of this Union, through their delegates assembled in a general Convention of the States, coming together in a spirit of concord, of devotion to the doctrines and faith of a free representative government, and appealing to their fellow-citizens for the rectitude of their intentions, renew and reassert, before the American people, the declaration of principles avowed by them when, on former occasions, in general convention, they presented their candidates for the popular suffrages.

1. That the Federal Government is one of limited powers, derived solely from the Constitution, and the grants of power made therein ought to be strictly construed by all the departments and agents of the government ; and that it is inexpedient and dangerous to exercise doubtful constitutional powers.

2. That the Constitution does not confer upon the general Government the power to commence and carry on a general system of internal improvements.

3. That the Constitution does not confer authority upon the Federal Government, directly or indirectly, to assume debts of the several States, contracted for local internal improvements, or other State purposes, nor would such assumption be just or expedient.

4. That justice and sound policy forbid the Federal Government to foster one branch of industry to the detriment of any other, or to cherish the interests of one portion to the injury of another portion of our common country; that every citizen and every section of the country has a right to demand and insist upon an equality of rights and privileges, and to complete and ample protection of persons and property from domestic violence or foreign aggression.

5. That it is the duty of every branch of the government to enforce and practise the most rigid economy in conducting our public affairs, and that no more revenue ought to be raised than is required to defray the necessary expenses of the government, and for the gradual but certain extinction of the public debt.

6. That Congress has no power to charter a National Bank; that we believe such an institution one of deadly hostility to the best interests of the country, dangerous to our republican institutions and the liberty of the people, and calculated to place the interests of the country within the control of a concentrated money power, and above the laws and the will of the people; and that the results of democratic legislation, in this and all other financial measures upon which issues have been made between the two political parties of the coun-

try, have demonstrated to candid and practical men of all parties, their soundness, safety, and utility, in all business pursuits.

7. That the separation of the moneys of the government from banking institutions, is indispensable for the safety of the funds of the government, and the rights of the people.

8. That the liberal principles embodied by Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence, and sanctioned in the constitution, which makes ours the land of liberty and the asylum of the oppressed of every nation, have ever been cardinal principles in the democratic faith; and every attempt to abridge the privilege of becoming citizens, and the owners of soil among us, ought to be resisted with the same spirit which swept the alien and sedition laws from our statute-book.

9. That Congress has no power under the Constitution to interfere with or control the domestic institutions of the several states, and that such states are the sole and proper judges of everything appertaining to their own affairs, not prohibited by the Constitution; that all efforts of the abolitionists or others, made to induce Congress to interfere with questions of slavery, or to take incipient steps in relation thereto, are calculated to lead to the most alarming and dangerous consequences; and that all such efforts have an inevitable tendency to diminish the happiness of the people, and endanger the stability and permanency of the Union, and ought not to be countenanced by any friend of our political institutions.



*Resolved*, That the foregoing proposition covers, and was intended to embrace, the whole subject of slavery agitation in Congress; and therefore the democratic party of the Union, standing on this national platform, will abide by and adhere to a faithful execution of the acts known as the Compromise measures settled by the last Congress—the act for reclaiming fugitives from service or labor included—which act being designed to carry out an express provision of the Constitution, cannot with fidelity thereto be repealed, or so changed as to destroy or impair its efficiency.

*Resolved*, That the democratic party will resist all attempts at renewing in Congress, or out of it, the agitation of the slavery question, under whatever shape or color the attempts may be made.

*Resolved*, That the proceeds of the public lands ought to be sacredly applied to the national objects specified in the Constitution; and that we are opposed to any law for the distribution of such proceeds among the States, as alike inexpedient in policy and repugnant to the Constitution.

*Resolved*, That we are decidedly opposed to taking from the President the qualified veto power, by which he is enabled, under restrictions and responsibilities, amply sufficient to guard the public interest, to suspend the passage of a bill whose merits cannot secure the approval of two-thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, until the judgment of the people can be obtained thereon, and which has saved the American people from the corrupt and tyrannical domination of

the Bank of the United States, and form a corrupting system of general internal improvements.

*Resolved*, That the Democratic party will faithfully abide by and uphold the principles laid down in the Kentucky and Virginia resolutions of 1792 and 1793, and in the report of Mr. Madison to the Virginia Legislature in 1799; that it adopts those principles as constructing one of the main foundations of its political creed, and is resolved to carry them out in their obvious meaning and import.

*Resolved*, That the war with Mexico, upon all the principles of patriotism and the laws of nations, was a just and necessary war on our part, in which no American citizen should have shown himself opposed to his country, and neither morally nor physically, by word or deed, given aid and comfort to the enemy.

*Resolved*, That we rejoice at the restoration of friendly relations with our sister republic of Mexico, and earnestly desire for her all the blessings and prosperity which we enjoy under republican institutions, and we congratulate the American people upon the results of that war, which have so manifestly justified the policy and conduct of the democratic party, and insured to the United States indemnity for the past and security for the future.

*Resolved*, That in view of the condition of the popular institutions in the Old World, a high and sacred duty is devolved with increased responsibility upon the democracy of this country, as the party of the people, to uphold and maintain the rights of every state, and

thereby the union of the states, and to sustain and advance among them constitutional liberty by continuing to resist all monopolies and exclusive legislation for the benefit of the few at the expense of the many, and by a vigilant and constant adherence to those principles and compromises of the constitution which are broad enough and strong enough to embrace and uphold the Union as it is, and the Union as it should be, in the full expansion of the energies and cagacity of this great and progressive people.

## RATIFICATION OF THE REPORT.

Directly after the reading was completed, Mr. Saunders, of North Carolina, moved the adoption of the platform, and demanded the previous question.

A similar motion was made by Mr. Wilder, of Louisiana.

A division of the question on the resolution was called for by one of the New-York delegation.

Mr. Saunders said, "There's no use in a division—we're all united. Go ahead—take the question."

The demand for the previous question was seconded, and there were loud and impatient cries of "Take the vote."

The vote was accordingly taken, and the platform was adopted.

Terrific applause again burst forth, and continued several minutes.

The Committee on Resolutions made the following report, namely :

*Voted,* That the next Democratic National Convention be held at Cincinnati, in the State of Ohio.

*Voted,* That in constituting the future National Convention, the Democratic Committee, in order to secure the respective rights of the States, each State shall be entitled to twice the number of delegates it has in the electoral college, and no more; and the Democratic committee, in making arrangements for the next Democratic Convention, provide such number of seats, and secure the same to the delegates elected.

It was resolved that the time of holding the said Convention be designated by the Democratic National Committee, and that in their call the above be inserted as the rule to be observed in choosing delegates.

The report was adopted by yeas 167 to nays 97.

The Committee appointed to inform Mr. Pierce and Mr. King of their nomination was announced as follows: Erastus Corning, of New York; J. S. Barbour, of Virginia; Jacob Thompson, of Mississippi; Governor McClellan, of Michigan; and Pierce Soule, of Louisiana.

#### NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

The National Democratic Committee was elected as follows:

Hastings Strickland, Maine.  
Charles G. Atherton, New Hampshire,  
David A. Smalley, Vermont,  
B. F. Hallett, Massachusetts,

Welcome B. Sayles, Rhode Island,  
 James T. Pratt, Connecticut,  
 John P. Beekman, New York,  
 Joseph C. Potts, New Jersey,  
 James Campbell, Pennsylvania,  
 George R. Riddle, Delaware,  
 Robert M. McLane, Maryland,  
 William H. Clarke, Va.,  
 Warren Winslow, North Carolina,  
 S. T. Bayley, Ga.,  
 Edward C. Betts, Alabama,  
 T. R. Adams, Mississippi,  
 A. G. Penn, Louisiana,  
 Alfred P. Edgerton, Ohio,  
 Travais P. Stone, Kentucky,  
 George W. Jones, Tennessee,  
 Alexander F. Morrison, Indiana,  
 Isaac Cook, Illinois,  
 Ferdinand Kennett, Missouri,  
 N. B. Barlow, Arkansas,  
 Thompson C. Brodhead, Michigan,  
 Thomas Bothell, Florida,  
 James W. Scott, Texas,  
 Joseph C. Knapp, Iowa,  
 Benjamin L. Henning, Wisconsin,  
 William N. Gwin, California.

## VII.

## LAST FRATERNAL APPEAL.

Such, Democrats of the American Union, is our platform ; and under the standard we have so many times

unfurled in triumph, let us go into the next crusade, and, with united hearts, rescue the ark of the Constitution from the hands of our enemies.

It is not a time for disunion. Let, therefore, every good citizen continue to frown down everything which bears even the appearance of a revival of that accursed agitation which proved so fatal to us in the last struggle. Let the states and the whole nation combine their energies on one common point; and let that point be an undying adhesion to the cardinal principles of the Democratic party, which are the principles of the confederation. Let us act worthy of the members of a great fraternity, whose interests are as boundless as the continent is wide, and whose prejudices and passions are generated by a land which begins on the north in sight of eternal snows, and extends to the south, where we see the flappings of the wing of our eagle over the heated line of the equator, and from the Atlantic coast, with its teeming cities and freighted argosies of the world's commerce, over the Rocky Mountains and through the vast solitudes of the prairies of the west to the tranquil waters of the Pacific Ocean. With such a country, with so many interests to subserve, with so vast a hope for mankind freighting the ship of state as she moves down the century, let us, in God's name, all be brothers! Let us forget, overlook, embrace, forgive, and love. And so we shall last; and amid the wrecks of other nations, and the desolations of republics which have strewn themselves along the shores of ancient empires, we will erect to mankind an example that will

encourage the millions of the Old World who, amid the chaos of despotism, are struggling for a brighter and a better age.

## HISTORIC SKETCHES.

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### I.

WE now furnish our readers with some valuable Historic Sketches, for which we are mainly indebted to the *New York Herald*, which has with so much zeal and ability investigated the whole subject.

*Biographical Sketch of Governor Benjamin Pierce, the father of General Franklin Pierce.*

*His Early Life—He enters the Army of the Revolution—He becomes a Captain—Removes to New Hampshire—Is appointed Brigade Major—Sheriff of Hillsborough County—Elected Representative—Councillor—Governor—Retires from Public Life—Dies at Hillsborough—His Character—His Monument.*

Benjamin Pierce, the father of General Franklin Pierce, the democratic candidate for President of the United States, was born at Chelmsford, a town near Lowell, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in 1757; and, as he was the son of a farmer, his early life was devoted to agriculture. He was descended from a respectable Irish family, who originally emigrated, along with many other Irish emigrants, from Londonderry, in the north of Ireland, and settled in New Londonderry, in New Hampshire. On the memorable 19th of April, 1775, the revolutionary committee of Boston sent out couriers in every direction, and one of these messengers came up to the door of the farmhouse, while young Pierce, then only eighteen years of age, was plowing in his father's field; and having delivered a brief message, hastened on to arouse the country to action. It was the news of the battle of



Lexington which the stranger was commissioned to proclaim, and which, like a trumpet's voice, roused all the inhabitants of the land. Young Pierce left the plough, and, shouldering his musket, proceeded on foot towards Lexington, where he found, on his arrival, that the troops had fallen back upon Boston; and he proceeded to Boston, and enlisting as a private soldier in the Army of the Revolution, was assigned to the regiment commanded by Col. Brooks. In the battle of Bunker Hill, which occurred on the 17th of June following, Pierce took a part, and from that time to the close of the Revolution, he continued in the service of the country, and followed the fortune of his regiment, fighting when it was called into action, and attracting the notice and winning the commendation of his superior officers for his gallantry and good conduct, by which means he rose gradually to the command of a company, so that at the disbanding of the Revolutionary Army, in 1784, he held the rank of captain. The leaders of the revolution had been driven, by necessity, to the issuing of paper money; and in that currency, already depreciating, the troops were paid off. Pierce was amongst the sufferers; and when he set out to return to his native village, he found the continental money which he had received from Congress so far depreciated, that the whole amount in his possession, the arrears of his pay for eight years of service, would not suffice for the purchase of a farm. He was obliged, like many other officers of the Revolution, to go into the wilderness, where lands were cheap, and begin the cultivation of wild land. He removed to the State of New Hampshire, into the town and county of Hillsborough, and having made a clearing, erected a rude habitation, felling the trees with his axe, and procuring food for sustenance with his gun. In that town his son, Franklin Pierce, was born, and there lived until he removed to Concord, the capital of the State, where he now resides.

In the autumn of 1786, General John Sullivan, who

was then a resident of New Hampshire, and whose grandson, John Sullivan, is now Attorney General of that State, determined to form the militia of the county of Hillsborough into a brigade, and having sought out Benjamin Pierce, commissioned him as a brigade major; and he being a veteran soldier, immediately took the necessary steps for the perfect organization and discipline of the several regiments. He had already served eight years in the regular army, and he continued for twenty-one years in the militia, leaving it finally in the station of brigadier general. General Miller and General John McNeil (who was a son-in-law of Benjamin Pierce), both of whom served with so much distinction in the war of 1812, and the latter of whom recently deceased at the city of Washington, both belonged, when they were young men, to the militia regiment commanded by the father of the democratic nominee; and it is said that several other valuable officers who have distinguished themselves, have been proud to declare that they received their first lessons in military discipline from Gen. Benjamin Pierce, in the militia of Hillsborough.

From 1789 to 1802, he was a representative of the people in the Legislature of the State; and, in 1803, was first elected a member of the Governor's council, where he continued six years, five of which were passed in the council of the celebrated Governor John Langdon. This brings us to the year 1809. Soon after that time, he was appointed Sheriff of the county of Hillsborough, which office he held till 1813. In that year, at the June session of the Legislature, a change was made in the judiciary system of the State, which resulted in abolishing the offices of the existing judges, and gave to the dominant party an opportunity to appoint their successors upon the bench. The name of the highest court of the State, which had been styled the Superior Court of Judicature, was, by the new law, changed to the Supreme Judicial Court. Arthur Livermore, Chief Justice of the former court was retained as an Associate Justice

in the new one. Jeremiah Smith, of Exeter, who had resigned his seat on the bench to accept the office of Governor, was again appointed chief justice. The remaining seat was filled by Caleb Ellis, of Claremont, a young but distinguished member of the bar. This nominal change in the courts was made, as the republican party contended, for the sole purpose of getting rid of the old court, and was unconstitutional. A warm controversy ensued, and both courts sat and claimed a right to administer the law; during which time the public business was thrown into confusion, by the jurors and witnesses sometimes obeying the summons to attend one court and sometimes the other. In consequence of the confusion resulting from this unsettled state of things, Governor John Gilman, then chief magistrate of the State, convened the Legislature on the 27th day of October, several weeks earlier than the day to which it had been adjourned. At an early period of this session, Josiah Butler, sheriff of the county of Rockingham, and Benjamin Pierce, sheriff of Hillsborough, were removed by address. Pierce, however, was elected four years successively to the Governor's council, and ultimately again appointed sheriff of Hillsborough county. While holding that office an event occurred, which strongly marked his character, and erected for him an enduring monument in the hearts of the people.

It was in the year 1818, at the time when the enormous abuses of the creditor over the debtor were exciting the attention of the people, and calling forth execrations from the philanthropic and liberal everywhere. In some instances, the father of a poor family was for years immured in a dungeon for the amount of the prison charges, and his family, meanwhile, were reduced to pauperism and beggary. No age, no condition, was exempt. The poor and decayed veteran, whose best years had been spent in the service of his country, was often confined with felons, and year rolled on after year, leaving him in hopeless imprisonment. In Am-

herst jail there were three aged prisoners, one of whom had groaned in confinement almost four years. When Pierce was appointed sheriff, he gave these prisoners notice that they were to be released, and appointed a day for their deliverance, the 20th of November, 1818, the more grateful to the prisoners that it was to occur just at the coming on of winter. The inhabitants thought the occasion worthy of public demonstrations; and when they had assembled together at the prison to witness the release, the sheriff, Benjamin Pierce, having opened the prison door, thus addressed the three prisoners:—

“Moses Brewer, Isaac Lawrence, and George Lancy—By the return made me by Israel W. Kelly, Esq., my predecessor in the office of sheriff for the county of Hillsborough, it appears that you, Moses Brewer, was committed, December 13, 1814; and you, Isaac Lawrence, was committed, December 27, 1815; and you, George Lancy, July 2, 1817.

“My unfortunate fellow citizens:—The feelings excited by a view of your situation are inexpressible. That those heads, silvered by age and hardship, and those hearts throbbing with kindly emotions, should be held for this long period of time by their fellow citizens, without the imputation of a crime, in a captivity unparalleled even in the annals of the French Bastile, or Algerine slavery, always viewed by us with sentiments of inexpressible horror, is more than my nature is able to endure. To be immured in a dungeon, standing on the very soil of liberty and in the midst of men boasting its high privileges, is, in my mind, with which the ideas and the value of freedom are closely interwoven, infinitely worse than to be enslaved in a foreign land by enemies and barbarians, from whom nothing better could be expected. But as an officer of the county, I have a duty to perform. I must either be governed by the law and suffer you still to remain, the devoted victims of unavoidable misfortune and honest poverty, shut out

from the genial light of heaven and the vital air, God's equal to gift all ; to endure, perhaps perish under the privations incident to our situation and the stern ravages of approaching winter ; forlorn and destitute, with no friend to comfort, no society to cheer, no companion to console you—or, I must be directed by the powerful impulse of humanity, pay the debt myself, and bid you leave this dreary and gloomy abode.

“ My unfortunate fellow citizens :—My duty to myself will not suffer longer to remain here an old companion in arms, who fought for the liberty of which he is deprived, for no crime but that of being poor. My duty to my country, whose honor is deeply implicated by your sufferings—and it is one of my first wishes that it should be untarnished—and my duty to my God, who has put into my power to relieve, irresistibly urge me to the latter course. This, I am sensible, takes from me a large sum of money ; however the liberal and generous people, among whom it is my happy lot to reside, may participate ; if not, none but my children will have any right to reproach me ; and I am confident they will do no more than say their father was generous to a fault. In this view, go ; receive the uncontaminated air which is diffused abroad for the comfort of man ; go to your families and friends, if you have any. Be correct in your habits. Be industrious—and if your tottering and emaciated frames are so far exhausted as to prevent your getting a comfortable support, apply to the good people for relief—and may the best of heaven's blessings accompany you the remainder of your days.”

In 1827, Benjamin Pierce was elected Governor of the State of New Hampshire ; but in 1828, when the republican party in the North became divided between the partisans of General Jackson and John Quincy Adams, the larger part sustaining Mr. Adams, Pierce, who declared for General Jackson, was defeated, but was re-elected in 1829, when the star of the hero of the

hermitage rose into the ascendant in New Hampshire. After this he lived in comparative retirement, on his farm, in Hillsborough. At the commencement of the last war with Great Britain, his spirit entered into the contest, but the infirmities of age admonished him that he could hasten no more to the battle-field. Two of his sons, with his consent and advice, entered the public service.

Endowed by nature with a strong mind, Governor Pierce had overcome the obstacles springing from a want of education, and, by practice and perseverance, had acquired a knowledge of business, and a skill in the conduct of public affairs. It was not from his high public station that he acquired a commanding influence, but from his integrity of character, his benevolence, hospitality, and love of justice. Cheerful in his disposition, and delighting to contribute to the happiness of all around him, youthful vivacity found in him a congenial spirit, while sedate manhood and sober age discovered in his conduct nothing to reproach. When he was removed by death, the public felt the loss of a man who had sincerely loved and faithfully served his fellow-men, and his country. He died in the town of Hillsborough, where his remains are deposited, and over them a monument of plain hewn granite has been erected, which stands in a prominent position, in the burying ground of the town, which is on the brow of a hill, and in full view of the traveler, when passing on the stage route from Amherst to Hillsborough.

Such is a faithful outline of the life and public career of Gov. Benjamin Pierce, the father of Gen. Franklin Pierce, the nominee of the Baltimore Democratic National Convention, which assembled at Baltimore on the 2d day of June, 1852, and selected its candidate on the forty-ninth ballot.

#### ADDITIONAL INCIDENTS.

After completing his academical studies, Frank

Pierce entered college, and graduated at Bowdoin College, in Maine, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Immediately on leaving college, he entered the office of Judge Gould, a jurist of distinction at Litchfield, Connecticut; but subsequently returned to his native State, and finished his studies at Amherst, the residence of Hon. Charles H. Atherton, father of Hon. Charles G. Atherton, late Senator, and is the shire town of the county of Hillsborough. He was admitted to the bar, and commenced the practice of law in his native town, Hillsborough. But he had not been in practice two years, when he was elected a representative in the Legislature of the State, and during his second year of service in that body, was elected Speaker of the House, in both of which positions he manifested so much talent and so admirable a capacity for legislative business, and so thoroughly won the confidence of the democratic party, that in the year 1833, while yet hardly more than a youth, he was elected to a seat in the House of Representatives of the United States. As a member of the House, he was not of that number who appear to desire to distinguish themselves by much speaking. He was rather quick to hear and slow to speak; modest and unassuming, but attentive to business, and strongly marked even then by what he has displayed so much of in his later life—that is, good common sense.

He was an unwavering supporter of democratic measures—was a ready though not a frequent debater; and during his four years continuance in that body, steadily advanced himself in the warm friendship of almost all with whom he came in contact, and rose rapidly in the general confidence and good will of the people of New Hampshire. In 1837 he was elected, by the Legislature, a Senator from that State. In all these various and responsible stations, and during the succeeding five years on the floor of the Senate, good sense, caution, prudence, modesty, attention to business, and a certain chivalrous and lofty tone of manners, with kindness and good tem-

per, rather than frequent speech-making, enabled Gen. Pierce to quit the Senate in 1842, with an amount of popularity which few men have ever possessed on leaving the Senate of the United States. He had now been more than ten years in public life, and having entered it very young, felt the necessity of devoting himself to his private affairs, which had suffered while he was absent. He resigned his seat in 1842, one year before his term expired, with the frankly avowed purpose of devoting himself to his profession, in order to earn a competence for his family; and with this view, removed his office to Concord, the capital of the State. In the Senate Gen. Pierce ranked amongst the high-minded and honorable men of that body. In private life, seldom has a political man been more beloved, even by his opponents; and very seldom, if ever, has a retired Senator been able to look back with more satisfaction on his career. Integrity, business habits, industry and magnanimity, were the great secrets of his success in all the various and high stations which he had occupied. His speeches were generally short and to the point—he never rising unless he had something to say, and leaving off when he had done. When he resumed his practice at the bar, it was with a firm resolution to be withdrawn from public life, and the offices of Governor of the State and Senator, which were more than once offered to him, he declined. President Polk urged upon him the acceptance of the office of Attorney General of the United States, and afterwards that of Secretary of War, both of which he declined, with a declaration that he had no desire for public office, and would not consent to leave his home again, unless, in case of war, his country should demand his services. If it be asked, “What is he as a speaker?” it must be replied, General Pierce is an Orator.

Reasoning power and pathos are the characteristics of his addresses to juries, in which he is known to have had, during his practice, such remarkable success,



Those brilliant flights of imagination, for which Mr. Choate, the great orator of the Massachusetts bar, is so much distinguished, do not belong at all to Gen. Pierce. He goes at once to convince the reason, or to move the heart; and where the case admits of combining the two, he wields a masterly power. His clear, good common sense and knowledge of the human heart, must have struck every one who has had frequent opportunities to see him in the management of trials before a jury. These marked features in his forensic efforts have made him sought after, and his professional services to be in demand, in all the counties of the State of New Hampshire.

The breaking out of the Mexican war brought about the contingency for which he made a reservation when he rejected the overtures of President Polk, so honorable to him, and so flattering to his professional pride; and he at once enrolled himself as a volunteer, in the capacity of a private soldier. As soon as the New England regiment was raised, he was elected colonel, and his military services from that time till the American army entered the Halls of the Montezumas in triumph, have already been given in detail in the columns of the *NEW YORK HERALD*. His treatment of the brave and lamented Ransom was magnanimous in the extreme. Ransom was a military man by profession. He was educated at Norwich, Vt., under Capt. Alden Partridge, who for many years kept a military school there, for the education of young men. Ransom was one of his pupils; and after Captain Partridge retired, continued to form classes and give instruction in military tactics. He was every inch a soldier. Brave, and knowing himself competent, he naturally desired a position in which he might show his military talents. Pierce felt this, and generously urged upon President Polk the appointment of Ransom to the command of the New England regiment. But President Polk, having been associated with Pierce in Congress, knew his man, sent him a commission as

colonel, accompanied by one for Ransom as major of the same regiment. Ransom was shot through the head while rushing on upon the enemy in one of the most bloody fights in the whole war. Poor, gallant Ransom!—the very soul of honor and valor—even now we seem to see his erect and elegant, but slender form, driven on by a spirit seemingly too mighty for the flesh in which it was encased, leading up, up the fatal hill, in the face of that deadly fire to which, in the very pride and exultation of his daring, he fell a victim.

General Pierce was made a brigadier-general by a commission dated March 3, 1847, and his brigade consisted of the Ninth regiment, New England men, the Twelfth, men from Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, northern Mississippi, and Louisiana, and the Fifteenth, raised in Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, and eastern part of Missouri, and the western part of Indiana. Thus Gen. Pierce saw ranged under his banner 2,500 men, assembled from all sections of the Union; and at the head of this command, he landed at Vera Cruz, from the bark Kepler, on the 28th of June, 1847. His career from that time till the American army entered the city of Mexico in triumph, has all become matter of history. In general, it may be remarked that he was lavish of personal sacrifices, and magnanimous towards others, when laurels were to be bestowed. As soon as the restoration of peace between the two republics became a thing settled, Pierce resigned his commission, left the city of Mexico, and returned home, leaving others to settle preliminaries, and quarrel over the distribution of honors. His personal courage and his ability to command had both been repeatedly displayed. He had rendered all the service required of him by the exigencies of the country; he had won the good will, nay, the enthusiastic love, of the troops under his command. The men looked upon him as a friend and a father. There was no hardship he was not willing to share with them; no allowance of food or water in his possession, how-

ever small, which he was not willing to divide with a sick and wounded soldier, although few suffered more than himself from the diseases of that deadly climate. He now stands before the world, with health and strength renewed, and honors thick upon him, a candidate for President of the United States; and should he be elected, there is one immense advantage which he possesses over Gen. Scott. viz: experience in public affairs. As representative to the Legislature, Speaker of the House in New Hampshire, representative to Congress, Senator, and, lastly, Commissioner in Mexico, he has seen, and been through, the whole routine of public business. He has passed nine years at least at Washington as a legislator, and has, therefore, thoroughly seen the working of the machinery of our government.

He has also seen the working of that other machinery—the distribution of patronage—and this will be of immense service to him in the bestowing of appointments and the distribution of government patronage—points in which some of our best Presidents have signally failed, and have involved themselves thereby in inextricable difficulties with their personal friends and their party. At the time when the offer of a seat in the cabinet was tendered to General Pierce, by President Polk, an occurrence took place characteristic of Pierce, and to which we have not seen any allusion made in any of the attempted sketches of him with which the press has teemed for the last four days. That was the acceptance of the comparatively trifling and unimportant office of District Attorney for the district of New Hampshire, which office he actually held, and the duties of which he was discharging when he received his military commission, and was called upon to set out for Mexico. That office, at the departure of Gen. Pierce, fell to his law partner, Mr. Minot. Very seldom do human annals afford an instance of a man declining a high, honorable, and lucrative station, like that of Attorney General of the United States, for one like that

(though a very honorable one certainly,) which General Pierce accepted ; but the one would not interfere with his plan, fully determined upon—to pursue the practice of his profession at home ; the other would ; and therefore it was declined. It was then that the eloquent and almost unequalled Ichabod Bartlett, for many years the acknowledged head of the bar in New Hampshire, began to withdraw gradually from the harder duties of the profession, and General Pierce, by common consent, took his place at the bar, though Mr. Bartlett still occasionally bursts forth in all the intellectual glory, and light, and beauty, of other days, and no one witnesses with more delight than himself the professional triumphs of General Pierce. If there be one thing more than another redeeming in poor and infirm human nature, it is the mutual regard held towards each other by men like these.

General Pierce, at the bar, is one of those, who, though they do not hold with Lord Brougham that “ though the world should come to an end my client must be acquitted,” yet make the case of a client their own, and enter with the whole energies of their nature into the contest which the rights of a client are involved. Yet so uniform in his courtesy at the bar that his deportment might be cited as an instance to show how much is uniformly gained, and how little is ever lost, by observing on all occasions a generous, kind, and courteous demeanor to others.

Such is General Franklin Pierce, the candidate of the democracy—in private life a gentleman—in his legislative career distinguished for ability, possessing the highest characteristics of an efficient and powerful advocate and popular orator, crowned with laurels won by fighting the enemy rather than by wrenching them from the brows of other men ; and lastly, crowned, at the age of forty-eight years, with a unanimous nomination, which has been hailed by the democracy with one spontaneous outburst of enthusiasm throughout the entire length and breadth of the Union.

THE RETURN OF GEN. PIERCE FROM THE MEXICAN WAR  
—HIS RECEPTION AND SPEECH.

The following account of the reception of General Pierce on his return from the Mexican war, is taken from a New Hampshire paper :

CONCORD, (N. H.) Jan. 27, 1848.

A committee was appointed to conduct General Pierce into the hall. He was accompanied by Lieut. Thomas P. Pierce of the ninth infantry, his acting aid, and Lieut. Gove, of the same regiment. After the ceremony of introduction, General Low, the president of the day, addressed the assembly, in an off-hand manner, substantially as follows :

Fellow-Citizens—You have not come here to-day to hear me speak, but to listen to the tones of him whom you have so often heard with pleasure and delight. You have come to unite in a patriotic and grateful service ; not to discuss any of the great political subjects of the day, or the fitness of this or that man for public office. Ours is the more agreeable duty of paying the tribute of respect and gratitude to the gallant soldier who has fought the battles of our country upon the blood-stained fields of Mexico, and to tender to him our thanks for his services, and also to express our thanks for the services of the brave men whom he has led in those actions. Of the high motives, of the profound sense of honor from which he acted, I can bear witness. After I had been informed that he had accepted a commission as colonel of the New England regiment, I took the liberty of asking him if it was true that he had decided to sunder the tender ties of husband, father, and give up the peaceful enjoyments and comforts of home, which he possessed in such an eminent degree. He replied—“ I have accepted of the commission. I could do no otherwise. I was pledged to do it. When I left the Senate, it was with a fixed purpose of devoting myself exclusively to my profession, with the single reservation, that if my coun-

try should become engaged in war, I would ever hold myself in readiness to serve her in the field, if called upon to defend her honor and maintain her rights. War has come, and my plighted word must and shall be redeemed." He did redeem his pledge. His commission of colonel was superseded by that of brigadier-general, and he went forth with the sons of New England. Well we remember how we followed him and his command in our minds, through the pestilential camp at Vera Cruz, then step by step to the National Bridge and Jalapa, where a curtain, as it were, was shut down upon him and his brave band, and cut them off from our view.

Every breeze, every whisper, every report which the power of lightning could waft to us, was sought with avidity. Great was the anxiety from the uncertainty that rested on the fate of our friends. But the curtain was lifted. The black cloud rolled away, and the battle-field lay revealed to us. Then what admiration and astonishment did we feel! There we beheld nine thousand troops driving before them thirty thousand of the best appointed army ever raised in Mexico. They are pursued over ravines and artificial trenches, cut by the labor of a hundred thousand peons, by one small but gallant army, rushing on line upon line, hill upon hill, overwhelming redoubts, storming fortifications, capturing the capital of the enemy, and planting the flag of our country upon the principal palace. Here we see our friend triumphantly leading on his command. But this is not all we see of him. We behold the camp after the hour of battle has passed away. We behold it wrapped in the silence of night. We see the killed and the wounded, and we look for our friend. We find him passing unattended through the long line of tents, in which were to be seen the palid cheek and exhausted frame of the dying soldier. To minister to them is the business of his lonely rounds. He visits the tents; he hears their last words, and receives their last mortal requests, and expends upon them his last shilling to

procure for them necessaries which they could not, in such a place, otherwise obtain. Is not such a son worthy of the State that gave him birth? (Cheers.) Turning to Gen. Pierce, he continued: I can say no more, sir. Your services are understood here; and now, in the name of this meeting, and in my own behalf likewise, I bid you a hearty welcome home to your adopted town. And in the name of all the people in every town in this State, I congratulate you upon your safe return to the capital of your native State.

General Pierce now advanced to the front of the platform to reply. He was evidently laboring with deep emotions, the nature of which could well be gathered from the tone and topics of his remarks. Although one of the most forcible and fluent speakers in the country, he on this occasion avoided every thing in the shape of speaking for effect. He talked right out on matters which intensely interested his audience.

He said, whatever had been his portion of the danger encountered, or exposure endured, or the long, sad days and sleepless nights of those he had left behind, none of which would have occurred to him but for the remarks of the President, he had been more than compensated by the reception he had met, setting aside the consciousness of duty performed. He felt an embarrassment in addressing the meeting he could hardly account for. He felt profoundly grateful to that Being, who not only watches over the nations of the earth, but over the welfare of the humblest individual. He did not take to himself the honor of attracting such a numerous and excited assembly as stood before and around him. The gathering was on account of the great number of their gallant sons, brothers, and friends, that had formed a part of his command. They had come to hear not only of those who live, but of those who, having displayed their devotion to their country, now repose on a foreign soil. A set speech to an audience actuated by the feelings which he perceived, would be altogether out of

place. It would be a sort of desecration to attempt any display on such occasions. Upon the main topic which they must be anxious to hear about, he could not frame a set speech. They wanted to hear of the Ninth regiment, the glorious New England regiment, which was assembled in such hot haste, and in such hot haste met the enemy. There was not a generous or just man in the State who had not pronounced in favor of their motives. Laying aside all the ties of home, and the fair promises of youth and its enjoyments, and suffering the partings which press the life-blood from out young hearts, they responded to their country's call, with a high moral purpose that could not be exceeded.

During the three weeks at Vera Cruz, caused by a want of mules and wagons for transportation—a delay aggravated by wide-spread sickness—he never heard a murmur from a soldier under his command. A more cheerful set of lads they could not have been if they had been at home by their own firesides. Their subsequent exploits had been read in the official reports. He would not detail them. On the march, in the fight, everywhere, one predominant feeling animated them. The question was not, who should be ordered forward; but which corps should be allowed to go forward first. The only dispute was upon claims to be first led against the enemy. At night they were cheerful in their tents, and longing for the morning, which should bring with it the order to move forward to battle. New Hampshire had no occasion for any other feeling than that of pride in regard to her sons who belonged to the command. They had proved themselves brave, devoted, self-sacrificing spirits. And Concord, too, was well represented among them. There was Henry Caldwell, one of the bravest and most determined soldiers in the army. There was Sergeant Stowell, who was shot, plump through the heart, at Churubusco. As his last breath flowed, he whispered to me—"Do the boys say I behaved well? if I have, write home to my people."



Then there was Sergeant Pike, who had his leg shot off in advancing along on a causeway swept by three batteries. Two amputations, which did not answer the purpose, were performed, and a third was deemed hopeless. Die he must, it was thought. "I know better than they do," he said. "I'll try another; and when they cut it again I hope they will cut it so that it will stay cut." A third amputation was performed, and he lived through it. He and the others named were printers. In the new levies, the printers exceed by twenty per cent. those of any other vocation; and on account of their intelligence and high spirit they have proved the most efficient soldiers in the field.

General Pierce also named Brown and Swett, of Concord, as particularly distinguished; and Captain Cady and Lieuts. Potter and Dana, of the old line. Nor did he forget sergeant West, of Manchester, who fell at the head of his column; and was always there when there was any fighting to be done. But in mentioning the men of New Hampshire, or of New England, he would claim for them no superiority over others. The present army was made up of artillery, cavalry, the old army, and the new levies, representing every State of the Union, and it was not in the power of man to say which had done the best service. To many it had been matter of great surprise that the new levies had fought as they had done. But it is in the race. He would take from the audience before him a regiment who would do the same. In executing manœuvres and in forming combinations in front of an enemy, by wheeling, counter-marching, &c., old soldiers are undoubtedly better; but when it came to close fighting, as in storming or charging, it was the man that did the work, and not the manœuvring; and in such work, the men who had never before been under fire or handled a bayonet, stood well side by side with the long trained soldier. Another cause of the success of our troops, new and old, was the conduct of the officers, who, from the highest to the

lowest, led and cheered on their columns. Hence the disproportion in the loss of officers and men. Hence the loss of that most brave and accomplished of officers of the ten new regiments—Colonel Ransom. He kept pressing up—pressing up—till he was shot dead at the head of his column. The same was true of Colonel Martin Scott, the first shot in the army—a son of New Hampshire. He raised himself above the protection of a wall. A brother officer begged him not to expose himself unnecessarily. He replied—“Martin Scott has never yet stooped.” The next moment a shot passed through his heart. He fell upon his back, deliberately placed his cap upon his breast and died. Colonel Graham, after receiving six severe wounds, continued at the head of his men, and upon receiving a seventh through the heart, slowly dropped from his horse, and as he fell upon the ground, said—“Forward, my men!—my word is always—forward!” And so saying he died.

Having referred to Lieuts. Foster and Daniels, and to several officers of the old army, General Pierce proceeded to say he had to retract opinions he had formerly entertained and expressed in relation to the military academy at West Point. He was now of the opinion that the city of Mexico could not have been entered in the way it was but for the intelligence and science in military affairs of the officers of the old army, mostly from West Point. Services were rendered by the officers of the topographic engineers and ordnance which could not have been rendered but by men who had received the most complete military education.

Having renewed his expressions of gratitude for his reception, General Pierce now sat down.

THE RECEPTION OF GEN. PIERCE'S NOMINATION AT HOME.  
ENTHUSIASTIC DEMONSTRATIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

*From the Concord (N. H.) Patriot, June 7th.*

As soon as it was announced in Concord that Gen. Pierce was the nominee of the Baltimore Convention, the citizens called a meeting to express their gratification. Speeches were made, and a general rejoicing took place. One of the speakers was a Mr. Peabody, a resident of Hillsborough, Gen. Pierce's native town. He said:—

He had but the moment before arrived in town from Hillsborough. It was not two hours since when the joyous news of Gen. Pierce's nomination to the chief magistracy of the United States, first greeted the ears of his delighted fellow-townsmen—the yeomanry of old Hillsborough. The announcement thrilled like an electric touch through the hearts of the sterling democracy of that fine old town, the birth-place of Franklin Pierce. The school-mates of his boyhood, the companions of his youth, and the friends of his maturer years, grasped each others' hands in an ecstasy of delight, and called down blessings upon the head of him in whose honors they shared as in the honors of a brother.

They had watched his growing fame with unmeasured delight. They had seen wave after wave of popular applause, bear him onward towards the proud position which he now occupies in the face of the whole world. As a statesman and a soldier, his praises had been recorded on every heart in the land; and at every step of his course, his townsmen had exclaimed, "His wisdom and his virtues have merited it all—his blushing honors rest upon a noble and deserving brow, and in his triumphs we rejoice!"

Not only his native town, but the whole State, rejoiced in this nomination. The warm heart and splendid talents of Gen. Pierce had long been recognized and admired throughout our whole borders; and every son of the old

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Granite State was ready to assume the mantle of so many illustrious predecessors—rest upon the shoulders of the great men of the past—New Hampshire, the Cilleys, and the Pierces—New Hampshire, the public defender of our nation's liberties, the foremost in her love of our glorious Union—had at last received the reward that was her due.

During all this time, the town bells had been ringing incessantly—their chimes being now and then, at close intervals, partially broken to the ear by the booming of cannon from the hill in rear of the State House. There were 282 guns fired—one in honor of each member of the Convention who voted for General Pierce, and one for that remarkably persevering friend of Mr. Dickinson, whose vote was cast for his favorite candidate up to the last balloting, solitary and alone, with one or two exceptions.

The assemblage in the State House yard was large, and the greatest enthusiasm characterized its proceedings to the end. Joy beamed from every countenance; all seemed to feel and appreciate the distinguished honor conferred upon our State, through her most eminent son; all regarded his nomination as the certain prelude to his triumphant election. And such will be found to be the case throughout the State; and the gallant and true-hearted democracy of New Hampshire, in their heartfelt joy at this event, return their grateful thanks to their brethren throughout the Union, for the honor thus done them, the confidence thus reposed in them; and the country needs no guarantee that that confidence is worthily bestowed.



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