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THE KENT NEWS.

Frustra, laborat, qui omnibus, placere, studet—"He labours vainly, who endeavors to please every one.

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he Webster State Convention AT FANEUIL HALL.

OMINATION OF MR. WEBSTER FOR THE PRESIDENCY—ADDRESS OF THE CONVENTION TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

The Webster State Convention, which embled at Boston on Tuesday, was e largest political gathering ever asbled in that city. The Hon George Ashmun presided, assisted by twenty-ght Vice-Presidents, with seven Secries. On taking the chair, Mr. Ashun addressed the Convention in a forble speech, which was warmly receivd. Thomas Stephenson, Esq., of Bosn followed, and on his motion a comittee—of which the Hon. Edward Everett was made chairman—was appointd to prepare an address to the people the United States. This committee bsequently reported the following adress, which was unanimously adopted, nominating the Hon. Daniel Webster r the Presidency, and setting forth his ims to the suffrages of his country en:

ellow citizens of the Uni ed States:

At a large and respectable Convenn of Delegates from all parts of the ommonwealth of Massachusetts, assemed this day at Faneuil Hall it was re lved unanimously and with great enusiasm, to submit to your consideraon the name of our fellow-citizen, ANIEL WEBSTER, as a candidate for e Presidency of the United States, at e next election.

We think it must be generally felt at the approaching election will be ne of unusual interest; and that it may e of decisive importance to the country ince the election of 1848, a state of ublic feeling has arisen, different from ny which has heretofore prevailed to ny considerable extent. It is certain a feeling of an alarming character d tendency. There has been as yet opportunity to estimate its strength, nd to ascertain whether it is compatible with the continued existence of our onstitutional system. These important points must, to all appearance, be tled at the next Presidential elecon.

Belonging to the party of the Union, whatever other name we may be called, we believe that the preservation of he Union is the greatest political object be pursued; in fact, as far as human ffairs are concerned, we regard it as he paramount object to be sought beore all others, by every patriotic citizen; for in it is involved the continuance of the prosperity, peace and honor of the country. If the Union is preserved, we have every reasonable prospect of a future of boundless growth, mprovement of glory. It is beyond he power of the imagination to realize he blessings which will flow for ourselves and the whole world, out of this xhaustless fountain of good; subject nly to the vicissitudes incident to all uman things. If the Union is dissolved, we have every reason to anticipate ot merely all the evils resulting from he weakness and decline of its now rosperous members; and from the collisions sure to arise under any circumstances, in a numerous family of small tates brought into close contact with ach other, without any principle of ommon umpirage and control; but we re sure also of being involved in controversies of unusual bitterness, growg out of the peculiar relations between he two great divisions of the country.

Entertaining this view of the certain ffects of a dissolution of the Union, it a very alarming consideration that he ordinary associations of party, exending over the country, and by which s remotest members have been able to ct in concert in carrying on our political system, are seriously impaired, and some of the States wholy broken up. Whether there is left any feeling or rinciple to take the place of these par associations to prevent a division purely geogrifical from springing up, and the able citizens, in parts of the country remote from each other, to unite in the discharge of these primary duties by which the government is periodically reconstituted, is a momentous question which must shortly be met and decided.

With minds deeply impressed by these considerations, we now propose to you the name of Mr. Webster, as a candidate for the Presidency at the next election. We do it in the firm conviction that there is at the present time, among the distinguished statesmen who adorn the country, and whose respective merits we cordially acknowledge no one whose election would exercise so powerful an influence toward the preservation of the Union—no one to whose support our fellow citizens in every part of the United States, could be expected so generally to rally.

The non-slaveholding States would consider the nomination of Mr. Webster as a just recognition of the propriety of selecting a President from their number. Out of sixteen Presidential terms since the adoption of the Constitution, twelve has been given to the South-west. In the four other cases the Vice President has been from the South, and in one of them succeeded to the Presidency, after a month from the commencement of the Presidential term Of the four persons chosen President not residing in the Southern States, one was a native of Virginia. For three official terms only, out of sixteen, have individuals born and educated north of the Potomac been elected to the Presidency.

We are far from wishing to make the selection of a President a geographical question. Southern Presidents have never wanted Northern votes; but the only way to prevent its being made a sectional question is to prevent its be coming a sectional monopoly.

But it is not merely as one of their number that the election of Mr. Webster would gratify the people of this part of the country, They have long regarded him as their first citizen; first in talent, first in eloquence, first in influence, first in public service, first in all the high qualities of statesmanship.—They have delighted to honor him. No one is disparaged at the prominence given to a name whose superiority all acknowledge.

The South may well accept the nomination of Mr. Webster. Admitting that a candidate is to be sought beyond their own limits, to whom can they turn their thoughts, all things considered; with a firmer confidence that their constitutional rights and just expectations will be respected, and that the government will be administered in the spirit of conciliation, in which it was originally framed?

There is another portion of the country—the growing West—far too important to be overlooked in this reference to the different sections of the Union? Of all the leading statesmen of the day, who is there that has evinced a clearer perception than Mr. Webster of the important relations of the West to the rest of the Union? Who has more uniformly supported a line of policy more favorable to its growth? Who has more resolutely combatted the error that the benefits of the Constitution are limited to tide water? Who has more strenuously demanded for the West a full participation in all its provisions for the protection, improvement, and advantage of the whole country?

We feel warranted, fellow-citizens of every part of the country, in proposing Mr. Webster as a candidate for the Presidency, on the score of merit. "Let it be given to the worthiest," is not only the great principle of moral justice, but one of the fundamental laws of republican government. In what is elective government superior as a system to hereditary government if it be not in the application of this principle? Let not the highest office in the State [we are wont to say] be held by the accident of birth, which is but another form of chance. But why not be bestowed by chance or birth, if it is to be given to any but the worthiest? There is no other principle on which elective republican government can be defended.—Shake the public faith in the great idea that by virtue of the elective system to be conferred on the most worthy, and you open the door to intrigue, to fraud, and eventually to violence. There does not exist a grosser mockery of free popular government, than the employment of its great organic agencies, to confer the highest honors and trusts on any but those best qualified and most worthy

Do we wish to convince the world that we are republican in deed as well as in profession; that popular elections are what they claim to be, a system by which an intelligent people designate their wisest and best citizens for places of influence and power, let them be bestowed on merit so distinguished that all will feel the justice of the choice.

We make these remarks, fellow-citizens, without intending the slightest disparagement of other honored names in various parts of the country. We are proud to acknowledge our respect an admiration of them. We feel grateful to Providence that, at a momentous juncture of affairs, so many able and patriotic men have been raised up for the public service. We especially acknowledge the deep obligations which the country owes to the intelligent and patriotic members of the last Congress, both in the Senate and House of Representatives, who, forgetting party divisions, and looking only to the general good, united their exertions to allay the dangerous excitement then prevailing. But it was remarked by a Western Senator, on yielding the floor to Mr Webster on the 7th of March, 1850, for the delivery of his great speech in favor of the Union "that there was in his judgment but one man capable of bringing together the vast assembly then convened." May we not, without being deemed invidious, say that in the same individual are united, at the present time, claims to support, in all parts of the country, not possessed in the same degree by any other person.

The limits of this address will not permit us to engage in a detailed review of Mr. Webster's career. To do this would be to write the political history of the country for more than a quarter of a century. We may, however, refer to the all important services rendered by him in 1830. That, fellow-citizens, was surely an eventful period. A theory of the constitution was brought forward in one of the Southern States and sustained with great ability by a distinguished statesman lately deceased, which, if it had prevailed, would have turned our admirably adjusted political system into an ill-compacted league of petty sovereignties. Destructive as this theory appears to us of the vital principles of the constitution, it was not without friends in several of the States, and that among men eminent as lawyers and politicians. Had it been successfully maintained in the Senate, and finally established in public opinion, the constitution, as bequeathed to us by our fathers, could have retained but a nominal existance. At this crisis Mr. Webster appeared as its champion and advocate, and established the true theory of of the government on a basis not to be shaken The people were the tribunal which he addressed, and the public mind fully grasping the question, settled it forever.

Two years afterwards, these constitutional heresies were revived by the same eminent statesman, whose brilliant career has but recently closed; and the country was threatened with an example of practical, direct, and probable belligerent nullification. Against this proceeding General Jackson raised the strong arm of power, a necessary resort, as he thought, in the critical condition of affairs. But even his overwhelming popularity might not have maintained him in the principles of his Proclamation, had they not been engraved upon the popular mind and heart by Mr. Webster's speech two years previous, when according to Chancellor Kent, the true theory of the Constitution "was recued from the archieves of our tribunals and the libraries of our lawyers, and placed under the eye, and submitted to the judgment of the American people."—When called upon a second time to put forth his full energies in reply to the great Corolonian, it was done with a vigor and effect not inferior to those displayed in the former debate. Of the power of this effort and its potent effect on the public judgment and public feeling, the history of that day has well assured us. The people of the United States proclaimed their estimate of his exertions by hailing him as the "Defender of the Constitution."

But these Senatorial services, however important form but one of the titles of Mr. Webster to the public confidence and gratitude. No one can have forgotten the extraordinary ability with which in 1841 and 1841 he filled the chief place in the executive government as Secsetary of State. We were at that time involved in a controversy with England, relative to boundary, which dated from 1783, and which with every year seemed more difficult of adjustment. It had baffled the skill of the ablest Secretaries of State, and the strength of the most popular Presidents. In addition to the embarassments arising from this question, the affair of the "Caroline" and the arrests of McLeod, and the detention of American vessels on the Coast of Africa, and between our shores and the Bahama Islands, were all accumulated in 1842 upon the hands of the department of State. So imminent was the danger of war just before the accession of General Harrison, in March, 1841 that the American Minister in London had deemed it necessary to make a communication to the Commander of the United States squadron in the Mediterranean, that he might govern himself accordingly. British troops had been poured into the Canadas, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to the number of seventeen regiments. Mr. Webster filled the office of Secretary of State a little more than two years, and all this time under circumstances of peculiar embarrassment. In that short space of time, however, the boundary question was settled honorably and advantageously for both parties, the affairs of the Caroline and McLeod satisfactorily disposed of; and an arrangement entered into for suppressing the Slave trade, without endangering the independence of our flag, which has put a stop to all complaints on the Coast of Africa, and has been adopted as a model for treaties on the same subject by the leading powers of Europe.

The Oregon question was still in reserve, and was rapidly becoming urgent. Mr. Webster had retired from the department before it could be adjusted.—The country and Congress had become impatient. The President had declared our title to the whole territory to be "clear and unquestioned;" and a strong disposition was manifested in Congress to terminate the convention of joint occupation—a step which could hardly have failed to produce an appeal to the right of the strongest. It was a moment when war was by many persons deemed inevitable. Resolutions of enquiry into the military and naval defences of the country were moved in the Senate by a leading friend of the administration. At this critical period, Mr. Webster addressed a letter to a gentleman (Mr. McGregor) not belonging to the British ministry, but possessing their confidence, in which the real merits of the controverso were treated with equal strength and candor. When the error of the English envoy was pointed out in rejecting the offer of the forty-ninth degree, in consequence of which that offer was withdrawn by our government, it was firmly stated that no American administration would ever agree to a boundary more favorable to England than the parallel of latitude The influence of this statement from Mr. Webster—though not in office, was decisive and the two governments agreed on that boundary. Such is the account given, of this affair, by the gentlemen referred to, now a member of parliament for Glasgow.

In this way, fellow-citizens, within the space of four years, the country was twice saved, with honor and without the evils of war, by the talent, prudence and influence of Mr. Webster.

But even the eminent services connected with the foreign relations of the country sink into significance, compared with Mr. Webster's more recent agency in adverting a convulsion at home. We allude, of course, to his memorable speech of the 7th March, 1850. What effort ever did so much to stay the progres of dangerous opinions to expose the inevitable tendency of the spirit of disunion, to rouse a national feeling, and to prostrate the hopes of those who, being on opposite principles, in different parts of the country, harmonized only in the endeavor to destroy the Constitution? Few persons, not at Washington at the time, are aware of the height to which sectional excitement and animosites had risen. To those who are well informed as to the real state of things, it is known that a condition of affairs of the most formidable nature existed. The disruption of the Union was an event which stared men in the face. Had that session of Congress passed over with nothing done calculated to allay the discontent of the Southern States, and to check the progress of extreme opinions in other parts of the country, it may be doubted whether another session of Congress could have been held.

In a word, a moment of imminent peril had arrived, and a MAN was needed for the crisis. It was necessary that he should be one of the highest standing and character; of the most commanding eloquence and influence, fearless at once and prudent, and ready to risk favor and fame in the discharge of conscientious duty to the country. Such a man was found in Mr. Webster; and, cordially as we acknowledge the merit and services of many other distinghished individuals, we ask with confidence whether another could have been found, uniting the same qualities in the same degree, and so circumstanced as to perform with equal success, the arduous duty required by the critical condition of the country? Does any one now see, or can any one now point out another member of Congress, fitted by local position, by character, talent and political association, to discharge the duty which was berformed by Mr. Webster, on the 7th of March. 1850.

His speech of that day is to be regarded not more as a parliamentary effort, than as in an event in the history of the country. Everywhere at the South it was welcomed with enthusiasm and gratitude, and produced an instantaneous and powerful effect on the public sentiment. Reflecting men at the North who had been not only doubtful, but fearfully anxious in regard to the preservation of the Union, found in it the exposition of those principles, on which this greatest of plessings might be hoped for. It cannot be denied that it presented views repugnant to the preconceived opinions of a large number of well-disposed and patriotic citizens of the North; but it is believed that time and the opportunity of further reflection have convinced many even of them that the doctrines of the speech are those of the constitution and laws and that if these are departed from a separation of the States is inevitable.

The influence of this speech throughout the country was so manifest. Letters and addresses, signed by hundreds and thousands of persons of the highest respectability, pouren in upon Mr. Webster from every quarter, pledging the suppert of their signers and cheering him onward in his career. It is impossible that he should not have been aware of the hazards he was about to run or, that the duty could he had undertaken was no pastime. But he has been nobly sustained, and often from quarters the most unexpected. Meantime his strength seems to have increase with the labors and exertions demanded by the condition of affairs. His various addresses to public meetings, and his answers to letters receive by him throughout the remainder of the year 1850; have displayed an energy of thought, a power of writing and speaking, and a general vigor and activity of mind, such as he had never evinced in his earlier years.—The occasion has seemed to call forth every faculty of his mind, and to warm every patriotic feeling in his heart. In the midst of the excitement incident to the state of affairs, while called upon to address the people on public occasions of every discription, with an overwhelming correspondence, and under the burden of the current duties of the Department of State, he found time to write the letter to Chevalier Hulseman; for which Legislatures have returned him votes of thanks; which has gratified every American heart, and which has been printed, translated and read, at home and abroad, more extensively, we presume, than any other American productions.

Nor did his labors cease with the immediate occasion which called them forth. Public opinion seemed still to demand the continuance of his exertions, and who has not witnessed with astonishment his speches and letters during the present year, especially those speeches which were delivered by him in New York from Lake Erie to the seas, following each other with unexampled rapidity, and exhibiting a power of reasoning a force of eloquence, and an order of patriotism never surpassed, unless by himself in the great and crowning effort on the occasion of laying the cornerstone of the capital on the fourth of July.

Let us not be thought to claim exclusively for Mr. Webster the praise of a great and patriotic effort in which others participated. We freely and cheerfully admit that, in order to accomplish the great work of national conciliation, the patriotic co-operation of other distinguished men and leading statesmen, in other parts of the country, was indispensibly necessary. Such co-operation was rendered with the warmest zeal and the highest ability: too large a measure of praise cannot be accorded to the patriotic statesmen who, without distinction of party, contributed their efforts to rescue the country from the impending catastrophe.

We would, in an especially manner, bear witness to the wisdom and firmness of President Fillmore, and to the steadiness, prudence and courage with which he has administered the government, in a season of unexampled difficulty.

It is quite evident, however, to any one who will attentively consider the state of opinion in and out of Congress in 1850 that all other influences, however important, would have been unavailing, but for the assurance afforded by the speech of Mr. Webster, that the persons of the greatest influence and highest standing of the North might be depended on as firm friends of the Union, and ready to carry the Constitution faithfully into effect, even when its provisions are least in accordance with the public opinion of that part of the country. Who can doubt that the speech of Mr. Webster, and his subsequent efforts have been chiefly instrumental in exposing the baneful effects of systematic agitation, in impressing upon honest and patriotic citizens a sense of constitutional duty, and in reassuring good and faithful men, throughout the country, that the Union of the States is destined to endure? We believe that all persons who take an impartial view of our politics will concur in this opinion, that while the existence of this agitation formed the chief source of danger to the Union in 1850, the speech of Mr. Webster, more than any other cause, contributed to avert the catastrophe. It may be left to the intelligent and candid to decide whether the recent suspicious result of the Southern elections is not mainly owing to the belief that Mr. Webster's course, on this occasion, has been sustained by the mass of the two great political paties in the non-slaveholding States, with whatever violence it may be denounced by the third party recently formed on the basis of anti-slavery agitation.

The conduct of Mr. Webster, as a public man, for a full generation is now before the public. The greater part of that time he has passed in Congress, with what honor to his immediate constituents and what benefit to his country at large need not be said. Twice he has been called to an important executive position, as Secretary of State. We have already spoken of the manner in which he performed the duties of that department in 1841 and 1842. We have pointed out the success with which he disposed of controversy alike inveterate and imbarrassing, and preserved the peace of the country on honorable terms, at a moment when it seemed all but hopeless to avoid a war. On the lamented decease of General Taylor he was again invited to the Department of State by President Fillmore. We are confident that the whole country will bear us out in saying, that when in the extremely dificult crisis of affairs which then existed, he took charge of the department, there was no one of the leading statesmen of the country, so clearly indicated by public opinion for the office. That this administration has greatly won upon the confidence of the country, it is superfluous to say. The people are satisfied that if the Union is to be preserved it is on that platform upon which the administration has placed itself, the platform laid down by Mr. Webster in his speech of the 7th of March. They are not less satisfied that the honor of the country abroad may be safely trusted to the statesman who has so ably at all times vindicated the freedom of the seas; to the author of the letter to the Austrian charge d'affairs already alluded to.—We are confident that no person in the country would bear more willing testimony to the manner in which Mr. Webster has administered the department, than the President of the U. States, between whom and the Secretary of State the most unreserved confidence has ever existed.

With this experience of his ability, does any one doubt that if Mr. Webster was chosen President he would do honor to himself and the country? For ourselves, we feel confident that he will give the country and the world an example of a Chief Magistrate, such as will reflect new credit upon the leading Republican government, that, as the Head and Representive of the country, he will pursue a course of which all its citizens will be justly proud, returning to the office as much dignity as he will derive from it. We believe that all parts of the Union will feel that the government is in hands eminently safe and well entitled to their respect and confidence, and foreign countries will own that Republics are not always ungrateful for the services of their most distinguished citizens.

We are pursuaded, at the moment when we put forth this address, that there is no man in the country in whom the great masses of our fellow-citizens have higher confidence, and we cherish with equal confidence the conviction that in the judgement of the civilized world, there is not more than one American name entitled to stand higher than his. We feel a just and elevated pride as Americans, that one whose name is thus known and respected throughout the world; whose thrilling eloquence has roused and encouraged the oppressed wherever they have been struggling to be free; who has best defended the constitution of the country and done most for its permanence, is an American patriot, worthy the highest honor his country can bestow, and whose election would be regarded as one of the purest triumphs ever achieved by our republican institutions.

We have endeavoured, fellow-citizens, without over statement and without injustice to others, to discharge the duty which has devolved upon us on this occasion. We have sought to disparage no other candidate; we endeavored to enlist no support on party grounds.—The time has come, we think, in which the welfare of the country requires that mere party claims should yield to higher considerations; and we feel that in the support of Mr. Webster, good citizens of both parties and in both the great sections of the country, may cordially and consistantly unite.

Fellow citizens of the United States—On the 7th of March, 1850, Mr. Webster said, in commencing his speech.—"I speak to day for the preservation of the Union. Hear me for my cause. I speak not as a Massachusetts man, nor as a Northern man, but as an American" To-day, fellow-citizens, we also speak for the Union. We also speak not as Massachusetts men, but as Americans. We speak for that great cause so highly transcending all local considerations, and all merely party objects, the cause around which our hearts and our hopes all cluster—the cause of our common country.

Dobbs says there is an advantage about plaid trowsers—every time he gets asleep, the doarders rob him over and plays checkers on him.

The defects of the mind, like those of the face, grow worse as we grow old.