

**ADDRESSES ON THE
PRESENTATION OF THE SWORD
OF GEN. ANDREW
JACKSON TO THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES. PP. 3 - 39**

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Addresses on the Presentation of the Sword of Gen. Andrew Jackson to the Congress of the United States. pp. 3 - 39 by Various

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VARIOUS

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ON THE
PRESENTATION OF THE SWORD
OF
GEN. ANDREW JACKSON
TO THE
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
DELIVERED
IN THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEBRUARY 26, 1855.

WASHINGTON:
PRINTED BY A. O. P. NICHOLSON.
1855.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, February 26, 1855.

Ordered, That one hundred thousand copies of the proceedings and speeches in the Senate and House of Representatives, upon the presentation of the sword of General Jackson, be printed, under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

PRESENTATION
OF THE
SWORD OF GENERAL JACKSON.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MONDAY, February 26, 1855.

Mr. SHIELDS, of Illinois, rose and said:

Mr. PRESIDENT: The hour has arrived which has been designated for a very interesting ceremony. It is one in which ladies take as deep an interest as gentlemen, but the crowded state of the galleries excludes many of them from the Chamber. A motion to suspend the rule which limits admissions to the floor, so that those who are now excluded may be permitted to be present, I think will meet with general acceptance; and, therefore, I submit that motion.

The motion was agreed to; and many ladies were admitted to seats without the bar.

Mr. CASS, of Michigan, then addressed the Senate as follows:

Mr. PRESIDENT: I must ask the indulgence of the Senate for requesting that its usual business may be suspended, in order to give me an opportunity to discharge a trust which has been committed to me—a

trust I had not the heart to decline, but which I knew I had not the power to fulfil, as such a mission should be fulfilled. I hold in my hand the sword of General JACKSON, which he wore in all his expeditions while in the military service of the country, and which was his faithful companion in his last and crowning victory, when New Orleans was saved from the grasp of a rapacious and powerful enemy, and our nation from the disgrace and disaster which defeat would have brought in its train. When the hand of death was upon him, General Jackson presented this sword to his friend, the late General Armstrong, as a testimonial of his high appreciation of the services, worth, and courage of that most estimable citizen and distinguished soldier, whose desperate valor on one occasion stayed the tide of Indian success and saved the army from destruction. The family of the lamented depositary, now that death has released him from the guardianship of this treasure of patriotism, are desirous it should be surrendered to the custody of the national legislature, believing that to be the proper disposition of a memorial which, in all time to come, will be a cherished one for the American people. To carry that purpose into effect I now offer it in their name to Congress.

Mr. President, this is no doubtful relic, whose identity depends upon uncertain tradition, and which owes its interest to an impulsive imagination. Its authenticity is established beyond controversy by the papers

which accompany it; and it derives its value as well from our knowledge of its history, as from its association with the great captain, whose days of toil and nights of trouble it shared and witnessed, and who never drew it from its scabbard but to defend the honor and the interests of his country.

This is neither the time nor the place to portray those great traits of character which gave to General Jackson the ascendancy that no man ever denied, who approached him, and that wonderful influence with his countrymen which marked almost his whole course, from his entrance upon a public career till the grave closed upon his life and his labors, and left him to that equality which the mighty and the lowly must find at last. Still, from my personal and official relations with him—and I trust I may add from his friendship towards me, of which I had many proofs—I cannot withhold the acknowledgment of the impression which his high qualities made upon me, and which becomes more lasting and profound, as time is doing its work of separation from the days of my intercourse with him.

I have been no careless observer of the men of my time, who, controlled by events, or controlling them, have stood prominent among them, and will occupy distinguished positions in the annals of the age; and circumstances have extended my opportunities of examination to the Old World, as well as to the New. But I say, and with a deep conviction of its truth, that I

have never been brought into contact with a man who possessed more native sagacity, more profundity of intellect, higher powers of observation or greater probity of purpose, more ardor of patriotism, nor more firmness of resolution, after he had surveyed his position and occupied it, than the lamented subject of this feeble tribute, not to him, but to truth. And I will add, that, during the process of determination upon important subjects, he was sometimes slow, and generally cautious and inquiring, and, he has more than once told me, anxious and uneasy, not seldom passing the night without sleep; but he was calm in his mind, and inflexible in his will, when reflection had given place to decision. The prevailing opinion that he was rash and hasty in his conclusions is founded upon an erroneous impression of his habits of thought and action; upon a want of discrimination between his conduct before and after his judgment had pronounced upon his course.

This is not the first offering of a similar nature, which has been laid upon the altar of our country with the sanction of the legislative department of the government. Some years since, another precious relic was deposited here—the sword of him, who, in life, was first in the affections of his countrymen, and in death is now the first in their memory. I need not name his name. It is written in characters of living light on every heart, and springs instinctively to every tongue. His fame is committed to time, his example to mankind, and him-

self, we may humbly hope, to the reward of the righteous. When centuries shall have passed over us, bringing with them the mutations that belong to the lapse of ages, and our country shall yet be fulfilling, or shall have fulfilled, her magnificent destiny—for good, I devoutly hope, and not for evil—pilgrims from our ocean coasts and our inland seas, and from the vast regions which now separate, but before long by our wonderful progress must unite them, will come up to the high places of our land, consecrated by days and deeds of world-wide renown; and, turning aside to the humble tomb, dearer than this proud Capitol, they will meditate upon the eventful history of their country, and will recall the example while they bless the name of WASHINGTON.

And, on the same occasion, was presented the cane of FRANKLIN, which was deposited in our national archives with the sword of his friend and co-laborer in the great cause of human rights. Truly and beautifully has it been said, that peace hath its victories as well as war. And never was nobler conquest won than that achieved by the American apprentice, printer, author, statesman, ambassador, philosopher, and, better than all, model of common sense, over one of the most powerful elements in the economy of nature, subduing its might to his own, and thus enabling man to answer the sublime interrogatory addressed to Job, "Cans't thou send lightnings that they may go and say unto