

Followed by

The election of a President of the United States is at any time one of the most serious acts that <sup>are engaged</sup> <sup>by the</sup> <sup>great</sup> <sup>public</sup> <sup>interests</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>country</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>world</sup>. The direct Constitutional powers entrusted to the President are few in number but of immense effect in the practical operation of the Govt. The Veto of Laws he may not approve - The command in chief of the Army & Navy of the United States & of the Militia of the several States when in actual Service - The declaration of Justice - the privilege of recommending to Congress from time to time such measures of Domestic Policy as he may deem conducive to the Public Welfare - an almost unlimited control <sup>over</sup> the Foreign Relations of the Govt. - The appointment of all Federal Officers - but except in cases of inferior offices where Congress have expressly ordered otherwise - the power of removal from office - in a

2

practical views of the provisions of  
the Constitution conferring these  
powers upon the Executive Dept.  
may be seen some of the immense  
influence that can be exercised  
in the Presidential office <sup>upon</sup>  
the rights of the States - the  
peace of the Country - & the Destiny  
of the Union. The collateral  
& indirect influence to be exercised  
in an office of such magnitude  
must necessarily be very large  
not only the National interests  
& Domestic Prosperity of the  
Country to a great extent depend  
upon Executive Action but it  
may be ~~traced~~ shown that  
the Peace & Security of  
the Country in the view of the  
World's Society are substantially  
for the period of four years  
substantially in the hands  
of the President. Of this power there  
was nothing at stake but a man  
conspiring with the abstract to  
appropriate the power & to destroy

the duties of the office, the election of a  
 President for the Union must present  
 to the popular mind an act of  
 the gravest character. But there  
 are peculiar circumstances ~~existing~~  
 that impart an extraordinary interest  
 to the election now rapidly approaching.  
 I think I may venture to say ~~that~~ there  
 has been no election since the time  
 of Jefferson when the question was  
 decided that this Govt. should be  
 administered in the light of a  
 Democratic & not an Aristocratic  
 construction of the Constitution, in-  
 volving consequences of a more  
 vital ~~in the~~ nature. I am aware likewise  
 that it has become quite the fashion  
 among our political opponents  
 to declare that the two great Parties  
 were so closely approximated  
 that there is nothing of con-  
 -sequence at issue between  
 them. The assertion is utterly  
 void of truth. It is no  
 mentioning which may take or  
 more likely another attempt  
 among the many which have

therefore been made from the same  
 quarters to secure & unite the  
 People. The also views between  
 the two parties <sup>concerning</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>of</sup> which  
 the whole state ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup>  
 view questions of more ~~importance~~ <sup>importance</sup>  
 in all sort of ~~association~~ <sup>association</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup>  
 trial ~~concerning~~ <sup>concerning</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup>  
 questions now ~~before~~ <sup>before</sup> the Country  
 affect the life of the ~~Republic~~ <sup>Republic</sup>  
 the Peace & existence of the Nation.  
 Citizens - there are three propositions  
 of the last importance which the  
 People have at present to  
 consider & decide...

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Shall the People of this <sup>State</sup> ~~State~~  
 conform to the precedent <sup>established</sup> ~~established~~  
 in the case of Genl. Taylor ~~by~~  
 by the successful election of  
 Military Leaders to the  
 Presidency.
2. Shall the Govt. be administered  
 in the wholesome spirit of  
 its primitive purity & Economy  
 or shall it be put upon the  
 basis of a large & corrupt

More than heart & mark what I  
have to say for I speak truth  
& that truth contains a pregnant  
fact. The very men who com-  
piled the Galphun Libel - the  
very men who were under the  
circumstances I have related dis-  
missed by Webster & Fillmore -  
these very men with their  
friends & parasites are those  
who have against the earnest  
loyalty of the better portion of  
this party recently procured  
the nomination of Genl Scott  
at Ballston - & I for you  
to decide whether you will  
host these chadatan & traitors  
again. I appeal equally to whigs  
& Democrats for you have an  
equal stake in the country.  
Will you suffer yourselves  
again to be led blindfold to  
confer with the very venge  
of the dreadful perfidious  
& which you have just exposed.  
And if you do so again

for the American people in their  
political relations as State and  
People than the American Con-  
stitution. Then it must, it  
ought at least to be conceded  
to the plainest common sense  
that the best days of the Republic  
have already passed.

We are therefore that  
we may clearly understand  
the position we occupy in  
reference to the great propo-  
sition about which I propose  
to make a few remarks at  
this time. It is necessary that  
we look a little into the Past.  
When Genl Taylor's nomination  
was effected, in what a prominent  
Whig called the "Slavery & Home  
Conventions at Phila," the most  
men in the country united the  
principles on which it was  
made with undivided assen-  
sance. This assent was not  
not confined to the States men  
in to the various parts of the

of the Democratic Party, but it is well known that Mr Clay understood his strong party attachments gave to the nomination a calm & sufficient support & that Mr Webster pronounced it to be a nomination "not fit to be made. Well - Citizens when George Taylor was nominated on the anti-slavery platform of our party - he being a Delaware acknowledging his entire want of civil qualification to the extent even of deciding that he had never voted in his life I thought no doubt then, that the ruling Party had crossed the narrow straits & vicious morasses they had advocated (pretending without effort) with an art still more reprehensible & receiving than all the rest. The object to be effected by this unprincipled movement was not even plausibly masked. It was simply to attain power at all hazards. It was an

clear unguessed, indisputable  
 spirit to obtain possession of the  
 power & spoils of Office at  
 the expense not only of the  
 fortune of the present generation  
 & of the most sacred principles of the  
 Govt but of the reputation & the  
 character of the Country. The  
 occurrences of that Day are com-  
 paratively recent & I appeal  
 to your recollection & to your  
 to bear me out in the truth  
 of what I say. I have ascertained that  
 the Whigs appeal evidently  
 to the popular feeling of respect  
 & gratitude for the then recent  
 military services of Gen Taylor  
 that they deliberately neglect  
 the claims of Mr Clay, Mr  
 Webster - We have heard much of  
 many other states men in  
 their party & that they expended  
 hundreds of thousands of  
 Dollars in a too successful  
 effort to delude the Public  
 mind into the support of



The Presidency of an officer and the  
 regular Army without any  
 pretense of civil qualifications  
 of admittedly indifferent standing  
 who had taken no other interest  
 in public affairs - either  
 this negligence or incapacity  
 that he had never ~~been~~ put  
 a ballot in the ballot box in  
 his life. This for the first  
 time in the Nation's history  
 the stercorine doctrine was  
 publicly announced & publicly  
 advocated then the Congress to the  
~~benefit~~ benefit of the Union  
 that civil qualifications were  
 not needed by the incumbent  
 of the Presidential chair.  
 Alas! Then could be no idea  
 more dangerous to this than  
 could be <sup>any</sup> result to the  
 formation of the Govt. This  
 would be no longer states em-  
 phatic on the political morals  
 of the country. No doubt  
 the Whig Party would be



<sup>upheld</sup>  
Yes <sup>and</sup> truly <sup>and</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>nomination</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>Gen</sup> <sup>Taylor</sup> <sup>was</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>fitting</sup>  
climax to that series of measures  
beginning with the Alien &  
Sedition Laws & a Bank of  
the U States & ending with a  
huge National Debt "as a public  
shaming" & the entire abrogation  
of the Naturalization Laws  
to which there was an "awful  
reversing" some few years ago,  
by which the Federal Party  
and in its various <sup>disregarding</sup>  
have sought to put <sup>down</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>country</sup>  
upon the country on a narrow  
Jefferson & Aristocratic Policy,  
& to prevent the diffusion  
of knowledge & power among  
other masses of the People. Very  
well Gen Taylor was nominated &  
elected & what was the result  
of the experiment, owing to the  
Van Buren defection in the State of New  
York in 1848 he was elected by  
a minority of the American



hostile to our plan's honest scheme of  
 your Govt. - it is the idea of placing  
 incompetent men in <sup>high</sup> public  
 office with the expectation that  
 he may learn on other men in  
 the discharge of his duties.  
 Of this nature you will profit  
 from the history of Genl Taylor's  
 short administration - if <sup>you</sup> ~~the Govt~~  
 will examine of that administration  
 you will convince our people  
 of the folly & danger of appointing  
 Public Agents who in the face  
 of their incompetency may be  
 a Compote, as poor Genl Taylor  
 did to quit themselves to the  
 direction of competent tho' re-  
 sponsible & conscientious  
 capable persons then it will  
 be difficult for our People  
 to appreciate the lesson expe-  
 rienced. You should recollect that  
 for some months before Genl  
 Taylor's death the war with  
 Mexico <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>its</sup> ~~its~~ <sup>height</sup>  
 at its height. You should recollect

that amidst all their exertions & unceasing  
 efforts to avert a calamity  
 that depair for the peace & safety  
 of the country had welling  
 & rivind upon the hearts of some  
 best & wisest statesmen - that  
 in the <sup>then</sup> "displac'd state of public  
 opinion the safety of the union  
 seem'd almost to hang upon  
 a breath - & that at this perilous  
 crisis the compromise measures  
 were devised by the united  
 wisdom of all our leading  
 statesmen as the only practi-  
 cable means of preventing  
 a dreadful result. Nevertheless  
 the golden sword latent in  
 Genl Taylor under its hideous  
 impulsive serenity oppos'd  
 every effort at conciliation  
 & adjustment. On the contrary  
 they brought every power  
 they could command in the  
 East & strain'd every nerve  
 like ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> prevent the passage thro'  
 the ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> these salutary &  
 health-giving measures

from which the Country has since  
 so much profited, & by which  
 a sentiment of peace & fraternity  
 has been so happily diffused  
 thro' all its parts. For instance  
 Citizens - so far from endeavoring  
 to adjust the various difficult  
 claims made by Texas to the Territory  
 since purchased by the Govt. from  
 that State, it will permit that  
 Genl Taylor under the wil-  
 lingness of his <sup>Advisory</sup> ~~Cabinet~~ had  
 resolved to send to the disputed  
 Territory, a body of Govt Troops  
 with orders to drive out the  
 Texas State Militia - if any  
 should be found there - at  
 the point of the bayonet. Now  
 who does not feel - who does  
 not know that if a body  
 of United States Troops has  
 fired into a company of  
 Militia in any <sup>at that time</sup> ~~any~~ <sup>of religious, political, ecclesiastical</sup> ~~any~~  
 State, that a close edge had  
 become inevitable. I biline  
 at the time & I get finally

161

believe that we to have <sup>2</sup> God's blessing  
Seward & that Cabinet were men  
had intended to prevent the  
Civil War in the <sup>best</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>country</sup> <sup>at</sup> <sup>that</sup> <sup>time</sup>  
if they could not recover the  
lost confidence of the country  
at least to retain their ill-gotten  
gains & their ill-gotten Power  
in the midst of the circumstances  
incident to such a state of things.

But there was but  
one way of averting this terrible  
Calamity. God in his almighty  
Providence saw it. Beneath  
the protecting power of his  
broad mighty hand this  
Nation had sprung into its  
happy & glorious life. He  
resolved that it should  
not be thus wrecked by these  
two bad men in the early  
days of its mighty history.  
We have to Jesus and his faith.  
The worship of the Golden  
Calf by the Jews of old for  
which they were so severely  
punished in the wilderness, was  
not worse than in the worship





about the councils of prudence &  
 wisdom & the veil of suffering  
 & terror. But Heaven will not  
 often draw before - interposed in  
 behalf of our beloved country.  
 It interposed too in the early  
 war when it should it would not  
 meet the same time with the  
 advancing words of nature & the  
 joy of our people. Gen. Taylor  
 mortal cancer was closed by  
 sudden illness - the scheme of  
 the Gallatin expedition to purchase  
 perpetuate their power in the  
 midst of a civil & general war  
 to change the <sup>of the</sup> ~~of the~~ <sup>of the</sup> ~~of the~~ <sup>of the</sup> ~~of the~~  
 was defeated. Mr. Fillmore  
 assumed the Presidential office.  
 He disarmed the sword cabinet.  
 He changed the policy of the  
 administration in reference to the  
 unpopulous measures with  
 Mr. Webster as Secretary of State.  
 They became laws & the country  
 soon to begin to breathe freely  
 again & in a short time after  
 settled down into that condition  
 of happy tranquillity in which  
 it now exists.