

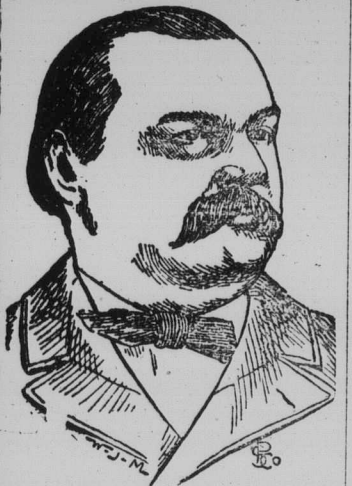
PRESIDENT CLEVELAND

Delivers a Message Bristling With Aggressiveness.

TARIFF REFORM HIS MAIN SUBJECT.

Abuses of the Pension System to be Corrected—Combines to be Swept Away—A Tariff for Revenue Only Promised—The Silver Problem to be Boldly Met.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—Grover Cleveland, of New York, was on Saturday successfully inducted into the high office of President of the United States for his second term, with all appropriate ceremonies, amid the gathering of a mighty multitude. In his inaugural address he spoke as follows:—My fellow-citizens: In obedience to the mandate of my countrymen, I am about to dedicate myself to their service under the sanction of a solemn oath. I deem it fitting on this occasion while indicating the opinions I hold concerning public questions of present importance to briefly refer to the existence of certain conditions and tendencies among our people which seem to menace the integrity and usefulness of their Government. While every American citizen must contemplate with the utmost pride and enthusiasm the growth and expansion of our country, the



President Cleveland. sufficiency of our institutions to stand against the rudest shocks of violence, the wonderful thrift and enterprise of our people, and the demonstrated superiority of our free government, it behooves me to constantly watch for every symptom of insidious infirmity that threatens our national vigor.

It cannot be doubted that our stupendous achievements as a people and our country's robust strength have given rise to a heedlessness of those laws governing our national health which we can no more evade than human life can escape the laws of God and nature.

Manifestly nothing is more vital to our supremacy as a nation and to the benefit of our purposes of our Government than a sound and stable currency. Its exposure to degradation should at once arouse to activity the most enlightened statesmanship, and the danger of depreciation in the purchasing power of the wages paid to toil should furnish the strongest incentive to prompt and conservative precautions. In dealing with our present embarrassing situation as related to this subject, we will be wise if we temper our confidence and faith in our national strength and resources with the frank concession that even these will not permit us to defy with impunity the inexorable laws of finance and trade. At the same time, in our efforts to adjust differences of opinion we should be free from tolerance of passion and our judgment should be unimpaired by alluring phrases and unwearyed selfish interests.

I am confident that such an approach to the subject will result in prudent and effective remedial legislation. In the meantime, so far as the executive branch of the Government can intervene, none of the powers with which it is invested will be withheld when their exercise is deemed necessary to maintain our national credit and avert financial disaster.

Closely related to the exaggerated confidence in our country's greatness which tends to a disregard of the rules of national safety, another danger confronts us not less serious—I refer to the prevalence of a popular disposition to expect from the operation of the Government special and direct individual advantages.

The verdict of our voters which condemned the injustice of maintaining protection for protection's sake, enjoins upon the people's servants the duty of exposing and destroying the brood of kindred evils which are the unwholesome progeny of paternalism. This is the bane of Republican institutions and the constant peril of our Government by the people. It degrades to the purposes of witchcraft the plain of rule our fathers established and bequeathed to us as an object of our love and veneration. It perverts the patriotic sentiment of our countrymen, and tempts them to a pitiful calculation of the gain to be derived from their Government's maintenance. It undermines the self-reliance of our people, and substitutes in its place dependence upon governmental favoritism.

It stifles the spirit of true Americanism, and stifles every ennobling trait of American citizenship. The lessons of paternalism ought to be unlearned, and the better lesson taught that while the people should patriotically and cheerfully support their Government, its functions do not include the support of the people. The acceptance of this principle leads to a refusal of bounties and subsidies, which burden the labor and thrust of a portion of our citizens, to aid ill-advised or long-continued enterprises in which they have no concern. It leads also to a challenge of wild and reckless pension expenditure which overleaps the bounds of grateful recognition of patriotic service and prostitutes to vicious uses the people's prompt and generous impulses to aid those disabled in their country's defence.

tures should be limited by public necessity, and that this should be measured by the rules of strict economy, and it is equally clear that frugality among the people is the best guarantee of a contented and strong support of free institutions.

One mode of the misappropriation of public funds is avoided when appointments to office, instead of being the rewards of partisan activity, are awarded to those whose efficiency promises a fair return of work for the compensation paid to them. To secure the fitness and competency of appointees to office, and to remove from political action the demoralising madness for place, civil service reform has found a place in our public policy and laws. The benefits already gained through this instrumentality, and the further usefulness it promises, entitle it to the hearty support and encouragement of all who desire to see our public service well performed, or who hope for the elevation of political sentiment and the purification of political methods.

The existence of immense aggregations of kindred enterprises and combinations of business interests, formed for the purpose of limiting production and fixing prices, is inconsistent with the fair field which ought to be open to every independent activity. Legitimate strife in business should not be superseded by an enforced concession to the demands of combinations that have the power to destroy, nor should the people to be served lose the benefit of cheapness which usually results from wholesome competition. These aggregations and combinations frequently constitute conspiracies against the interests of the people, and as in all their phases they are unnatural and opposed to our American sense of fairness, to the extent that they can be reached and restrained by federal power, the general Government should relieve our citizens from their interference and exactions. Loyalty to the principles upon which our Government rests positively demands that the equality before the law which it guarantees to every citizen should be justly and in good faith conceded in all parts of the land. The enjoyment of this right follows the badge of citizenship wherever found, and, unimpaired by race or color, it appeals for recognition to American manliness and fairness. Our relations with the Indians located within our borders impose upon us the responsibilities we cannot escape. Humanity and consistency require us to treat them with forbearance, and in our dealings with them to honestly and considerately regard their rights and interests. Every effort should be made to lead them through the paths of civilization and education to self-supporting and independent citizenship. In the meantime, as the nation's wards, they should be promptly defended against the cupidities of designing men and shielded from every influence or temptation that retards their advancement.

The people of the United States have decreed that on this day the control of their Government and its legislative and executive branch shall be given to a political party pledged in the most positive terms to the accomplishment of tariff reform. They have thus determined in favor of a more just and equitable system of federal taxation. The agents they have chosen to carry out their purposes are bound by their promises, not less than by the command of their masters, to devote themselves unflinchingly to this service. While there should be no surrender of principle, our task must be undertaken wisely and without vindictiveness. Our mission is not punishment, but the rectification of wrongs. If in lifting burdens from the daily life of our people we reduce inordinate and unruly advantages too long enjoyed, this is but a necessary incident of our return to right and justice. If we exact from unwilling minds acquiescence in the theory of an best distribution of the fund of governmental beneficence treasured up for all, we but insist upon a principle which underlies our free institutions. When we tear aside the delusions and misconceptions which have blinded our countrymen to their condition under vicious tariff laws, we but show them how far they have been led away from the paths of contentment and prosperity. When we proclaim that the necessity for revenue to support the Government furnishes the only justification for taxing the people we announce a truth so plain that its denial would seem to indicate the extent to which judgment may be influenced by familiarity with perversions of the taxing powers, and when we seek to re-instate the self-confident and business enterprise of our citizens by discrediting an abject dependence upon governmental favor we stimulate those elements of American character which support the hope of American achievement.

Anxiety for the redemption of the pledges which my party has made and solicitude for the complete justification of the trust the people have reposed in us constrains me to remind those with whom I am to co-operate that we can succeed in doing the work which has been especially set before us only by the most sincere, harmonious and disinterested effort. Even if insuperable obstacles and opposition prevent the consummation of our task we shall hardly be excused, and if failure can be traced to our fault or neglect we may be sure the people will hold us to a swift and exacting accountability.

English Editorial Comments. LONDON, March 6.—The Daily News says editorially of President Cleveland's inaugural address:—"It was worthy of the occasion which is recognised universally as by far the greatest one that Americans have known since the civil war. He read his countrymen a lesson on some faults of the national character, while doing full justice to their splendid qualities, the faults of which are but defects. The merit of the address lies in the courage of it. What other ruler in Mr. Cleveland's place would have dared to avoid the safe path of obscurity and platitudes and give sixty millions of people a piece of his mind?"

The Daily Telegraph says:—"Mr. Cleveland's brave words would have been more convincing to our minds of great reform if he had not already been in power and failed to do much to root out the plagues of American life. Tammany and kindred associations laugh at any efforts to purify politics."

The Daily Graphic says:—"Mr. Cleveland's confession of faith is full of good sense and is arranged in very harmonious style. It is a admirable sermon on political self-reliance."

The Morning Post says:—"The address breathes throughout a resolute, practical tone. The most striking feature of it is the contrast between the vulgar adulation of wealth that characterised the utterances of the Republicans and this fair promise to attempt vigorously to restore the finances and improve the general tone of public life."

The Daily Chronicle says:—"It is a long time since an American President has had the courage to speak such words to his countrymen who are accustomed to be addressed from Washington with sprawling dexterity."

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