

happy. His whole aim and effort was through life to oppose and put down whatever he believed injurious to liberty, and to uphold whatever, in his judgment, would promote the freedom and safety of his country. A man who has sacrificed most to secure the glory and independence of his country, need not be excluded from a participation in the civil advantages and happiness which his valor and discretion have secured to his fellow-citizens. To the army and navy of the country, do you in a great measure owe the splendid destiny which makes you the envy of the Old World. What encouragement would it be to men to brave the front of battle where danger lowers, and to charge through the serried ranks of opposing thousands, to expel the invader from your soil, to know that the moment he had achieved the victory and sheathed his sword, he was for those very deeds to be proscribed from civil honors and posts of profit and distinction, and that the brave soldiers who fought under his orders, and by his example, were to be excluded from the lowest magistracy in the land! The dread of military chieftains will never induce me to avoid a war that may be necessary for the defence of my country's rights.

I admit freely that there are many would-be heroes who have been the most pestiferous members of a civil community, and the greatest curses of their country. I would give to military men no special advantages. I would let them enjoy like rights and privileges with others, and no more. The

dread of the mischievous influences to arise from war to civil liberty, in the United States, would never induce me to vote either for or against the now proposed.

I do not believe that this question has been introduced with any view to operating on the next presidential election, nor with any other ulterior object, to secure the best interests and peace of the country. I trust in God the American people have the prudence to select a man for themselves who will promote the interests and glory of the republic, and the selection will be made with no view inconsistent with the great principles which should govern the independent action. I trust that a measure of so much magnitude as the present will never be diverted to material for electioneering purposes. Certainly, views of this kind will ever influence me, either on this or any other occasion, to vote for or against a measure. I shall vote on the questions presented me in this body upon their merits alone; on the present occasion I will vote in favor of the measure because I believe it to be necessary to enable the Executive to secure harmony in our foreign relations. If peace is to be preserved, I believe the measure to insure it. If war springs from it, it will be because war was inevitable in any case. My vote in favor of the measure will be an ear that I have not sought to embarrass the Executive or failed to strengthen his hands while toiling for honor, the interests, and the glory of his country.