A great historian has reminded us that if we would know Napoleon we should begin by studying Corsica. For the same reason, he who would know the sources of the pervading influence of Andrew Jackson in the course of American history will look to this quiet place, this Hermitage. It was, for the warrior who built it, a place of rest, to which he came after his battles with the Indians and after the war of politics. It was dedicated to the renewal of his hope and to the rebuilding of his purposes.

It was, moreover, a place of vision where, a little apart from the unceasing rush of public affairs, he might see the broad outlines of national policy untouched by the distortions of the immediate passing event. It helped in the deepening of his patriotism, because from here he saw the country that he loved as a whole, and he saw the human aspirations of that nation apart from the immediate passing selfish purposes of the few.

His gracious personality was full of the majestic dignity that
is born of sincere and intense honesty. A man of the people, and a great
believer in democracy, he possessed to an infinite degree sympathy and
understanding of the pains and ambitions and injustices of the people
whom he thought of as neighbors in every part of the Union.
His body had suffered for thirty-one long years, then nothing but
his indomitable will kept life within him. And so he knew what physical
suffering meant in the lives of the people. He had endured the life of a
frontiersman, with no fortune to protect him except the resources of his
own mind and hands, and so he knew what poverty meant, and injustice and
economic insecurity. In the development of a primitive country, he knew
that because the race went to the swift and the battle to the strong, the
swift and the strong often forgot their obligations to the less fortunate.
And so his life was given to the achievement of a greater justice for all.
He knew what the planter suffered from the vicissitudes of climate and
economic chance, and he strove to stabilize these cruel circumstances. He
knew that in a great and expanding country, the parts were so dependent
one upon the other that some power must be found great enough to resolve
the differences among the parts and achieve national harmony. He saw,
moreover, the importance of the general recognition of the sanctity of the
law and the observance of public obligations. Finally, he saw perhaps more than anyone of his time, the necessity for a constantly reiterated insistence upon an enlightened patriotism in the face of a discordant world.

Andrew Jackson came into national prominence as the embodiment of an enlarged conception of national duty. Great as was the contribution of those who had built the institutions of free government on the Eastern Seaboard, the time came when the successors of these builders conceived of the nation within too narrow limits. Almost without their knowledge, the restless pioneers had pushed through into the west and had subjected a great wilderness to the purpose and needs of men in an area larger than the original Federal Union had been opened up west of the Alleghanies. Its people demanded recognition in the councils of the nation. They earnestly sought the enlargement of its economic policies so that they too might enjoy the benefits of a common government. Whether they were right or whether they were wrong, they thought that their privileges had been unfairly limited by those in the high places in the councils of the nation. They sought a spokesman, a leader, and they found Andrew Jackson.

His policies were designed to build upon a particularistic and narrowly limited conceptions of national welfare, a wider, more powerful and
more adequate government in keeping with the physical and moral greatness
of the nation. He wanted to give to the widely scattered population of
this great country a government to be respected and to be loved, a govern-
ment humane in its purposes, strong in execution and sufficiently flexible
to serve the needs of a growing national life.

No government so reconstructed can grow to perfection
overnight. Wisdom in high places is still human wisdom. It has been
easy in the one hundred years since Jackson's great effort to point out
how his policies might have been improved, how his methods might have been
more finely adapted to his policies, and how in driving corruption from
the national banking system, less damage might have been done to the system
itself, and how, in the sudden expansion of business that resulted from his
policies, there might have been a more effective and less disturbing check
imposed by government upon speculation.

But with passing of time we remember
all these are matters of method and degree, whose imperfections
in chief part
were due to the fact that Jackson was blazing a path through the wilderness.

His goal was clear
His courage hacked its way through, we can all find ways to the
same goal—ways more direct and less costly to all concerned.

The greatness of Andrew Jackson's vision and his...
purposes we cherish among the imperishable treasures of America. Here, in
the place where his great achievements were planned and perfected, are the
secrets of his simplicity and power. The Hermitage is and
will become increasingly one of America's

Temples of inspiration.