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Box 13; Folder = Speech Drafts:

Remarks on Andrew Jackson and the Hermitage, November 1934

Speech Drafts: Remarks on Andrew Jackson and the Hermitage
November 1934.

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DRAFT

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 ^{man of action} ~~warrior~~ who built it, a place of rest, to
 which he came after his battles ^{of arms and his battles} ~~with the Indians and after the war~~ of
 politics. It was dedicated to the renewal of his hope and to the re-
 building 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~~ in the deepening of his patriotism, because from
 here he saw ^{As a whole} the country that he loved as a whole, ^{Here} ~~and~~ he saw the human
 aspirations of ^{the} ~~that~~ nation apart from the ~~immediate passing~~ selfish pur-
 poses of ~~the~~ ^{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~~

A *militant* believer in democracy, he possessed to an infinite degree sympathy and

understanding of the pains and ambitions and injustices of the ~~average~~ *men and women*

whom he thought of as neighbors in every part of the Union,

~~His body had suffered for thirty-one long years, when nothing but~~

~~his indomitable will kept life within him. and so~~ *H* 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~~

A ~~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 ^{*to*} 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} ~~power~~. 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 purposes and needs of man. An area larger than~~ ^{by restless pioneers.} the original Federal Union had been opened up west of the Alleghenies. 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 ^{above} ~~upon particularistic and~~ narrowly limited conceptions of national welfare, a wider, more powerful and

more adequate ^{and more just} government ~~in keeping~~ ^{to keep pace} 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 government humane in its purposes, strong in execution and sufficiently flexible to serve the needs of a growing national life.

No government so reconstructed ^{can} ~~does not~~ 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, ^{in method or in detail,} ~~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 were due to the fact that Jackson was blazing a path through the wilderness.~~
^{in chief part}
~~But because~~ ^{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 ^{simple} ~~clear~~ and humane

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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.*