

SPEECH OF HON. HENRY CLAY, OF KENTUCKY, DELIVERED JULY 27th, 1840.

On the occasion of a Public Dinner, given in compliment to the anniversary of the native county of Hanover, in the State of Virginia.

The sentiment to which Mr. Clay was followed with long continued applause. This sentiment is, that the Union is not a mere confederation of States, but a single people.

I think I should be glad to see, that availing itself of the privilege long reserved to the public councils, was asserted to the resolution, which I have adopted, is not unnecessary, of leaving to younger men, generally, the execution of the duty and enjoyment of the pleasure, of addressing the people in their primary assemblies.

But the occasion forms an exception from the rule which I have prescribed to myself. I have come here not merely to pay the compliment to the citizens of Hanover, but to speak to you on the subject of the Union, and to discuss the principles which should govern us in our conduct towards it.

When I speak of the Union, I mean the Union of the States, and not the Union of the people. The Union of the States is a political union, and the Union of the people is a moral union.

The late President of the United States, Andrew Jackson, has been accused of having violated the Constitution, and of having usurped the powers of the Senate.

It is the duty of every citizen to be vigilant in the protection of the Constitution, and to resist any attempt to subvert it. We must be true to the principles of liberty and justice for all.

The measure proposed may be described in a few words. It is a bill to amend the Constitution, and to provide for the election of the President and Vice-President.

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The twenty per cent, which it stipulates, cash duties, the value, and the list of free articles inserted in the tariff, will be for the particular advantage of the manufacturer, who will be enabled to produce more cheaply, and to sell more readily.

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