Mr. Polk — Pikeville Marion Cty Alabama
4th July 46.

I am a virginian born, this makes me a member of the great community over which you preside and imposes the duty also, of acting best I can for the general welfare, The task to all as the price of liberty and good government, is constant and universal, The same eternal battle, virtue and fitness against vice, folly and corruption, as the farmer on the grass in his fields, It must be noticed and cut up, or the crop is lost, What I say is in good feeling and in due respect to the president, I speak only as I believe at this crisis, an American should do,

For my country and for the army the Mexican war alarms me, our arms have been victorious tis true, But sir, In all the avocations of life, has not good fortune too often rendered us unthinking, precipitous, and dashed the drunk victim into ruin, Matamoras reduced, mexicans retreating without the fire of a gun, The army summering at Monterey, the land of fruits and flowers, Is this right = will it end well, Sir the mexicans have rights well as america, and there rights the great families of the earth, forming the law and the court of nations — most likely, will compell us to respect, Does not the laws of God, of nations and of common good faith direct, The line between Texas and mexico should, by honest negotiation be fixed before we send our cannon into mexicos interior, Let war be the last resort, Tiedell was rejected tis true, but not before, a vast sweep of Mexican Territory and people were claimed by the Texas annexation, and our army actually, in occupation, of this disputed ground,

Let us turn the quakers wallet before and examine the bucket well, our doings are before the world, will justice defend, all we have done, Has not a strong nation oppressed a weak one, If we have other wrongs on mexico, settle them rightfully, The crowns of Europe have no regard for our institutions, will they permit this without interference, Is it not most likely the coalition will say to us as said to Bonaparte,

"you must stop, The Emperor did stop in Elba — He did die an exile in Helena, yes sir, I fear to exercise power unjustly, because God is very apt not only to stop, but to punish the wrong.
The words must stop among giants, and used on such an occasion, what human sagacity can fathom the terrible consequences, Will not the pursuit of common sense and common Justice save us from all such difficulties, Let us have Justice, never touch a hair beyond it.
The war party in the House will never fight our battles, It is the plough men who say to fight, If our rulers will bring on an unholy war, How can we look for ultimate success, The people of Texas will be driven, to think and to act for themselves — West to the true line of Texas when a Mexican State in 1824, I think might have been correctly occupied by our army, no further, but by treaty with Mexico, Was Louisiana in convention, as she has a right to do, declare herself out of this union, By resolution or paper prescribe her boundaries, embracing Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois Iowa, away to the rocky mountains, covering a region over which as a government de facto and de jure, she never pretended to claim, Her laws nor her people were never there, By resolution, annex all to Mexico, and Mexico by a like resolution amply this annexation and sends her army to occupy this disputed ground like from the Nueces to the Rio Grande, What would America think, feel, or do, I think good cause for war and fight to the death, Is not this a case in fac simile, with that which brought on this war, With this difference only, that Texas by arms, did obtain and had a right to dispose of some country, but no further than her proper State line no more right than Louisiana in the above case, If this be so, was not Taylor's position on the Rio Grande and his crossing that stream premature
I am an old man, I have passed two wars, the revolution and the last, If I could, I should think correctly and care much for the happiness of my country, True happiness now

come by chance, true means and due energy must be used, or the crop in all human matters will fail,
The army summers at Monterey, 10.20.50.000 men, In blood and in money, what will be the cost, and above all what the true cause of this calamity,
When high duties, loans, Treasury notes, or direct taxes come, will this nation enquire and think back
The mexican nation goes, right into its bosom, They the mexicans retreat, and retreat, till they lead us to a fit spot for advantage slaughter, During this retreat will not all mexico run to arms.
Is this the french army at moscow, for better, for worse will not our brave boys by hundreds of thousands be surrounded and cut up, In the whole nature of the thing, what can save them, and as I think, still more deleterious is that torrid zone, almost under the tropics,
The mexicans are born there, ready animated, fighting for everything dear to man, Have every munition of war, know all the country, possesses many strong advantages whilst every breath inhaled by our invading army, carries into the lungs with it, a native, deadly malaria which seems to me certain, will kill more men, than all the mexican guns.
No sir — give us a good cause for war, and fight at home, we fear not five times our numbers,
If this army from any cause should be defeated, what then will the Texas line or any other difficulty be any better settled than before Taylor crossed the river,
Should this army unhappily be lost, the pride and boast of America slain, what then, national honor must be maintained, fight again, with new and bigger armies, when will this war end, What European power may be drawn into it, When can America and the world look for peace and at what price —
Mexico is indeed, a drivling, convulsed nation, yet in the world, she ranks, an independent people, and as such, has as clear national rights as other nations,

and when taught at home — will unite, all their resources and all their strength,
will not a wary foresight at once forbid, putting ourselves within their close power,
should the army meet the adversities of war, will not the world ask, Did not the American government set the trap, crossed the Del Norte, and spring the trigger — by the laws of gravitation, it fell on her army — on her nation, as the government itself, fixed it to do,
A Tuscaloosa paper remarks, a spirit of Conservatism is abroad in the land, and it is proper to notice it in such a high quarter as the Charleston Mercury — which concludes an article on the war with Mexico in the following sensible language, What can we do with Mexico if we conquer her, Do we expect that we can melt into our population, eight millions of men at war with us, by race, by language, by religion — manners and laws, Do we hope to make citizens of seven millions of Indians that are bigoted, ignorant, idle, lawless, slavish and yet free, a more pestilent element to let loose among our population could not be imagined, we could not exist in such a copartnership
What we want then, is, sturdy peace, as the fruits of valor and skill, and that our victory be stained, neither by injustice nor ambition,
I again ask, what do we want, what can we do with Mexico if conquered, Conquest has never been, is not now, and Heaven is implored to forbid, it never should be our policy, Is it worth while, Is it good common sense, for us to spend millions on millions no money to loose by bullets and disease, thousands of good fellows to fore this herd, no Sir. Is all Texas, Is all Mexico worth half our sacrifice, Now, to maintain a character like Cæsar's wife, must be just, The same with nations would it not better accord with our national character give us more dignity and worth at home and abroad
to work —