

This portion of the country embraces the Mississippi river, which not so many years ago was the great highway of commerce between St. Louis and New Orleans. This is the country that has given birth to so many of the hot blooded orators and champions of the South, whose eloquence and deeds have won for them names which will always be cherished and remembered.

In order to illustrate the benefit derived by the United States from this territory, I have only to state that one half of the cotton production of the world comes from the Mississippi valley.

When the Florida purchase was being discussed it had its enemies also; but the wisdom of our government in purchasing that territory from Spain has not only given to us a tropical land of flowers, but is now one of the wealthiest states in the Union.

Delicate people from all parts of the United States spend the cold seasons there, and so famous has it become as a winter resort that it is the rendezvous of all the society people of the South.

We cannot overestimate the trade that is carried on between Florida, the West Indies and South America. It has assumed such enormous proportions that they have their own steamship lines with which to carry it on.

In 1844, the great question of the annexation of Texas agitated the minds of the public of the United States. Mr. Clay, the idol of his party and who was opposed to the annexation of Texas was the presidential candidate of the Whig party. Mr. Polk was the candidate of the Democratic party, which strongly favored the annexation of Texas to the United States. Notwithstanding the eloquence and personal magnetism of Mr. Clay and the distinguished services he had rendered his country, both in the halls of congress and the Cabinet, he was overwhelmingly defeated, and Texas was admitted to the Union. And has the United States had cause to regret it? Whenever troops were needed in defense of the Nation's honor,