

feel that I had rendered to our common country. I have, indeed, been deprived of half their value, in my own estimation, from the necessity resulting from my situation as a candidate, of speaking of them at all. On the other hand, it is for you to decide whether I ought to sink in your estimation for the part I did take as a citizen who was incapable of going himself into the ranks.

"Being at present, though in good health, not in a condition to ride, and, of course, very much confined, permit me, fellow-citizens, here to remark finally, that should other reports be made to my injury, at a period so nearly approaching the election, it could not be expected that a reply from me could reach you. I commit myself, therefore, to the friendly consideration of those who know me. Although I have erred in many ways, as it falls to the lot of humanity to do, yet I trust it will be accorded to me that I have ever maintained the character of an honest man and a useful citizen. I am a farmer and a cultivator of the soil. To a judicious application of labor and industry—in this way alone, do I look for a support for myself and a numerous family. My interests, therefore, are identified with those of the great body of the people. I will further add, that, should I be favored with your approbation and confidence, such talents or capacities for advancing the general welfare by legislation, as I may on trial be found to possess, shall be faithfully and zealously devoted and applied as your representative. Respectfully,

"Your fellow citizen,

"LOUISVILLE, July 17, 1827.

JOHN SPEED."

In 1828 Judge John Speed wrote a series of articles upon the political topics of the day, which were published in a paper, in Louisville, called "*The Focus*." They were signed "Plain Farmer." They are strongly written, showing that the writer was a man of wide information and of vigorous thought. In a time of great political excitement he counseled calmness and the exercise of reason, and deprecated violence.

The following is an extract from the last article of the series:

"The purpose of my last essay was further to show that Congress has not only *the right*, but she is *in duty bound* to use it for the *purpose* of protecting our infant manufactures. To prove this, I have necessarily to rely on such simple sources as are within the reach of men entirely unlearned in political research. I have reasoned upon the principles and considerations which have led to and must always be found in the very institution and existence of government, and I