

Gov. Warmoth's Farewell Address.

Mr. President, Gentlemen of the General Assembly, Ladies and Gentlemen: In retiring from the office of Governor of Louisiana, I do not deem it irrelevant or improper to say a few words in regard to the unusual difficulties with which my pathway has been beset from the time I took my seat, in 1868.

Inaugurated Governor of Louisiana when but twenty-five years of age, and a resident of the State but three years, elected chiefly by the votes of a class of people who had but just been liberated and enfranchised, and against the votes of those who had always before controlled the political power of the Government; with the most intelligent classes of the people combined against me, and ready at any moment to contribute to my overthrow; with the tax-payers, the press, and the National Administration against me, I was at once encumbered with embarrassments calculated to paralyze a timid man and to require all the nerve, patience and forbearance I could summon to assure peace and to effect even a tolerable administration. The Legislature was constituted, in the main, of men who were without experience and with little aptitude to comprehend the duties and responsibilities of legislators. They were the easy dupes or instruments of the intriguing members of the lobby, and gave their votes to measures, now as their passions, and now as their cupidity suggested, there being but little difference between the members representing the two political organizations in these respects. It was no easy task to restrain excesses in legislation, limit the expenses of the Government, and prevent an increase of taxation above the rate actually necessary to meet the demands of the Government.

The expenses of the Government were necessarily large, and to meet them it was necessary to increase the rate of taxation. By the war the taxable property had been reduced one-half by the loss of the slaves, while the real estate was proportionately reduced in value by the consequent loss of labor to till the lands. The State had been in default in paying the interest on its bonded debt since 1861—then eight years. The coupons were still unpaid; the Government had collected but little, if any, taxes during all the years of the war, while, at the same time, warrants had been issued by the Auditor on the Treasury, and were in the hands of the people, to the amount of millions of dollars, demanding payment.

The levees had been almost entirely neglected for seven years and the necessities of war had contributed to cut, destroy and ruin them. The expenditure of several millions of dollars was at once necessary to save the people from inundation and ruin. The people of the State were without adequate railroad communication with the rest of the country, and wise statesmanship suggested the experience of our sister States in works of public improvement and induced a liberal, perhaps too liberal, aid from our credit and money to foster and secure the construction of lines of railway to Shreveport and Texas.

The Penitentiary had been dismantled of all its machinery and implements of industry, and hundreds of other subjects demanded attention and required money and issues of bonds to construct, replace or repair some of the public works, or to repay some debt or obligation of the State.

With greatly increased demands, and with taxable property reduced by more than one-half, taxation was necessarily greatly increased. To this necessary taxation a further increase was occasioned by the fact that but little over one-half of the taxes assessed were ever paid.

The result was that with each year to the debt of the State was added the sum of the uncollected taxes; and thus appears a sum of from four to five millions of indebtedness occasioned solely by the refusal of the taxpayers to pay, and the failure to collect the assessments deemed necessary for the support of the Government.

To these legitimate embarrassments have been added those of a political and personal character. The machinery of the National Government has not been used to promote good administration of the State Government, but the Federal office-holders have been constantly interfering with the State officers, forcing themselves into State positions and into the Legislature, and using the patronage under the Federal Government to embarrass the State administration or to further schemes of plunder and spoliation in which they were themselves interested. There have been many times when the combinations of the lobby were stronger than the Government itself, and the votes of the Governor were swept away before the irresistible rush of the legislation without discussion, and in some instances without the veto messages of the Executive being read.

During all this time party strife and race conflicts have been fierce and terrible. It seemed impossible to hold an attitude of justice and impartiality. If I selected men from the opposition party to fill offices, however important or unimportant, or vetoed an unconstitutional civil rights bill, I was at once assailed with the charge of conspiring to create a "white man's government." When I signed a just and righteous civil rights bill, passed in pursuance of a plain provision of the constitution of the State, and appointed colored men to important offices, I was denounced for trying to Africanize Louisiana; and when these extreme political elements fused together and conspired to overthrow the State Government, and I was forced to garrison the State House with troops, I was denounced as a tyrant and a usurper. When extravagant legislation was enacted, I was denounced as profligate and dishonest; and when I drove George M.

Wickliffe from office—a man who had robbed the State of millions of dollars—I was denounced as a tyrant and a despot, and it took me a whole year to convince the people that Wickliffe was not persecuted and oppressed. When Boke, Secretary of State, published as a law, an act which he knew I had in my possession and would veto at the meeting of the Legislature, and was by me suspended, my motives were misconstrued, and my action was imputed to the most dishonest and dishonorable reasons.

Thus, Mr. President, I have been embarrassed, suspected, misunderstood and misrepresented for nearly five years of the most eventful administration ever known in this State. No one is to blame for this. It arose out of the anomalous condition of affairs. It could not have been otherwise. A stranger, hardly more than a boy, elevated to the highest office in the gift of the people by a population until but recently held as slaves and made free by war and against the will of the people who had always controlled the Government before; with all of the prejudices of race and of section stirred up by a long and terrible civil war, could not have been reasonably expected to perform the duties of Governor except under the most trying circumstances. Yet we have much to congratulate ourselves upon. If we have increased the debt of the State we have built 468 new and substantial levees, containing 9,514,417 cubic yards, and nearly 200 miles in length. Over 300 miles of new railway, the best built in the country, are running in and to the State. In addition to this, we have 100 miles more graded, and 2500 men are busy to-day in grading and laying track as fast as can possibly be done to connect New Orleans with Shreveport and with Houston in Texas.

The State Penitentiary is well supplied with the best machinery, and is not only self-sustaining, but is yielding the State a yearly revenue. Our State debt is limited by constitutional amendment to \$25,000,000, and with all that has been said to the contrary it has not yet reached \$20,000,000, and will not and can not by past legislation exceed \$21,000,000, and during my administration the interest has been promptly paid.

I have said thus much partly in vindication of myself. I have been the best abused man in this Commonwealth, if not in the Union; but have seldom felt it necessary to reply to the wild and baseless charges that have been made against me. I now venture to ask a friendly attention to this somewhat remarkable fact, that, with all the charges made against me, no man has ever produced a scintilla of evidence implicating me in a single act of official corruption or dishonesty. My conduct was investigated by a legislative committee in 1870, and by a Congressional committee in 1872. It is now undergoing another investigation by what is styled a process of impeachment, by the body sitting in Mechanics' Institute. Every one of these investigations has been prompted by the most determined hostility, has been aided by the ablest legal talent, and has been carried on with the most unrelenting vigor, yet the reports of these committees and the charges themselves preferred by the managers of the pending impeachment (so called) stand to-day as the best vindication of an integrity which has been attacked, I might say, every day for the last five years. In not one of these penetrating inquiries has a human being dared to raise his hand in the presence of God and deliver a jot of testimony against my official honor.

And now, fellow-citizens, I surrender the office to my lawful successor. Its responsibilities have been onerous, its duties trying and thankless. I regret that even graver complications appear to surround my successor. The same band of Federal office-holders and office-seekers who, in August, 1871, packed the Gatlin Gun Convention in the Custom House of New Orleans with deputy marshals and troops; who, in January, 1872, maliciously arrested opposing members of the Louisiana Legislature to prevent them from voting, and concealed their partisan friends of the same body on a revenue cutter to break the quorum; who, in June, 1872, packed the Baton Rouge Convention with office-holders and marshals; who, in December, 1872, under cover of an illegal order from an inferior Judge of the United States, seized the State House of Louisiana and placed it in charge of the United States Marshal, with deputies and troops, will continue their desperate conspiracy against law, decency, liberty and good government.

The Mechanics' Institute, used for some time as a State House, is possessed tortiously to-day by the United States Marshal, with the help of United States soldiery. Arms are stacked in its halls, and its corridors ring with the tread of troops. Not a person is allowed to enter there except by permission of the United States Marshal. The order by which he took possession is still in force, and it makes the Marshal the sole judge of the question of who shall be admitted, from the Chief Justice, who sometimes presides there over what is called a "Court of Impeachment," down to the youngest page who frolics in the halls or the humblest spectator who loiters in the lobby, there is not a human being in the building whom the Marshal cannot, at any moment, drive out at the point of the bayonet.

Behind this order and hedge of steel

a pretended Legislature has been organized and now takes its cowardly refuge. As "the thief doth fear each bush an officer," so these frauds upon the people, covering behind the gallant soldiers of the Republic, imagine every word from you to be a menace against their miserable existence and see the air filled with phantoms daggers.

Nor have they been slow in their deeds of mischief. They have pretended to impeach and suspend the Chief Executive of the State, without an affidavit or an examination, well knowing that such course was in flat violation of the law which has stood upon our statute book for nearly twenty years. They have put in his place, as a pretended Lieutenant and Acting Governor, a person whose term of office had long ago expired. They have passed resolutions to blackmail the most important corporations of the State by pretended investigations from which they desire to be bought off. They have organized new and strange schemes of plunder. They have bullied and intimidated the judiciary by abolishing courts of justice. They have created a new court with exclusive jurisdiction of questions of office and procured the appointment thereto as Judge, a member of their pretended Returning Board who is pledged to decide every question in their favor. And their daily boast is that they are sustained in all this by the Federal office-holders, who, it may be also remarked, are largely represented in their ranks.

The whole story of this usurpation, commencing in August, 1871, and culminating in this capture of the State House of Louisiana, is one of the saddest in the history of the country.

I had hoped that to-day I might have surrendered my trust to my successor with the cheerful confidence that it would be a pleasure to him and a delight to you; but graver responsibilities, perhaps, than I have ever had will go with it to him.

He is, I believe, equal to the emergency, and he will, from his long residence, his known honesty of purpose and knowledge of the wants of the people, be able to command at once the confidence and support of the good people of the State.

And now, fellow-citizens, forgiving all in the past, and asking you to remember the good I may have done and to draw the mantle of charity on my shortcomings, my mistakes or my follies, if any I have committed, I bid you farewell.

Governor McEzery's Inaugural.

Fellow-Citizens:—I present myself before you under extraordinary circumstances. Returned, as your elected Governor in the manner and according to all the forms of law hitherto recognized in this and in the other States of the Union. I find my right to this high office disputed on grounds altogether novel in the history of the Republic. An actual majority of the votes of the people, ascertained and reported by the lawful election-officers of the State, duly returned to the Governor and Secretary of State, canvassed and declared by a board of legal canvassers having possession and control of the only lawful evidences of such returns, has been uniformly regarded heretofore as conferring on the candidate proclaimed as the one receiving such majority, the indisputable right to occupy the office to which he has been elected, and to exercise the duties thereof. The right to hold and continue in such office may be questioned and contested by another claimant upon certain grounds. But from the nature of our Government and of all civilized governments, it has been found essential, to prevent a hiatus therein, that the claimant holding the certificate of having received the largest vote, possessing the prima facie evidence of a title, should be accepted and recognized as the lawful incumbent, and should hold the same, until it be shown, in an issue made, that the vote received by him was not a legal or honest one.

Even the technicalities and formalities of the law are frequently disregarded, in order to ascertain and give effect to the clearly expressed will of the people. And under no circumstances is the voice of the majority permitted to be hushed by mere informalities or doubts as to the legal authority of the officials proclaiming the same. Such informalities may sometimes justify the setting aside an election, and the ordering a new one, but they were never before regarded as giving to any tribunal or authority the right and power to elect a minority candidate to office, and to usurp the power which belongs to the people of choosing their own agents and representatives.

These just and simple rules, this uniform practice, under our republican system, have been entirely ignored by the wicked conspirators who seek to set aside the election returns of our late State election.

A candidate who does not pretend that he received a majority of the votes, but expressly admits that the returns of the legal officials exhibit the contrary, and place him in the minority, sets up a claim to the office of Governor of Louisiana.

He bases this claim upon certain statements that a large number of qualified voters were illegally excluded from registration or from voting, which, if registered and permitted to vote, would have reversed the result.

These are mere *ex parte* statements, allegations, which have never been examined, and rest upon mere surmises, speculations, loose rumors, and partisan fabrications. No opportunity has been afforded to expose their false and flimsy character. If entitled to any consideration or weight at all, it certainly will not be pretended, by any just and intelligent mind, that they would authorize the denial of the right to enter upon an office of the person who holds the *prima facie* evidence—the

broad seal of the officers, who have been designated by the law to ascertain and return the result of the election.

And yet, upon such vague and unsupported averments of interested parties, and under the deceitful guise of a chancery proceeding, a United States Court has undertaken to avoid, set aside the regular returns of the lawful officers of the State and proposes to induct into its high offices the minority candidates therefor. And this is done without an investigation or trial and by the aid of the military power of the Federal Government. That aid has been given on the technical ground of the duty of the Federal Executive to enforce the orders of a judicial tribunal, without inquiry or any regard to the legality or equity of such orders.

The eminent military chieftain who fills the high office of Chief Magistrate of the Republic, acted, doubtless, in conscientious fidelity to his views of duty and the obligations of his oath and office, in thus affording the military aid to execute the unrighteous orders of the Federal Judge. It would be unjust to the President of the United States to presume from such action his approval of the wrongful conduct of a partisan judge or his insensibility to the wrongs and grievances of this people, which have been so fully and eloquently presented to him by a large delegation of our best citizens. Nor should we on that account distrust the justice, the equity and patriotism of the Executive and Legislative Departments of the Federal Government to afford us relief from the wrongs which have been done to our people and State, when they shall be placed in full possession of all the facts relating thereto.

This moment of an entire cessation of national political strifes, the great desire of the people of all sections, and especially of the South, to afford a generous support to the Federal authorities, and to the constitutional policy of the dominant political party of which the President is the chief, are peculiarly favorable for such a response to our petition and claim for reparation and intervention, in order to maintain the equal political and civil rights of the State and people of Louisiana in the Union and under the Constitution.

Let us not, therefore, my fellow-citizens, despair of the just and equitable action of the Federal Government, in our defense against the conspiracy and wrong doing of its own unworthy officials.

And that we may show ourselves entitled to such relief, let us be true to ourselves, and go forward consistently, firmly and peaceably, to assert our constitutional rights and fulfill our constitutional obligations, by the full and complete organization of that republican government, which is guaranteed to all the States of this Union.

It is in this view of my duty I now appear before you to accept the honor and assume the responsibilities of the Chief Executive of this State. Nominated and supported by a combination of citizens of various shades of political opinions, all united upon the common object of reforming the government of the State and relieving the people of the burdens and evils of several years of mal-administration, I have employed no other means of influencing the opinions and votes of all classes of citizens than by appeals to their intelligence, their morality and patriotism. I have invoked no prejudices or passions, have countenanced no fraud or violence, injustice or intimidation towards any portion of my fellow-citizens; and if any such or other unworthy and improper influences and arts have been employed in my behalf, I repudiate and disown them. As highly as I appreciate the honor and distinction of the Chief Magistracy of a State endeared to me by so many sacred ties, I would never consent to accept and occupy the office unless with the full conviction that it was bestowed by the honest vote of a majority of the suffragans. In this conviction, I shall enter upon the duties of the office without partisan prejudice, without uncharitableness to any class of our people, or any other passion that would divert me from the devotion of my faculties and energies to every measure which has in view the amelioration and advancement of our political, social and material condition.

To this end, I shall strive to incite feelings of mutual good will, fraternal confidence and respect for the equal rights of all and an oblivion of all past feuds and controversies among all classes of our people. The great changes in our constitutional and social systems resulting from our civil war, will be faithfully and earnestly adhered to and maintained by me. And to that large class of our citizens who have been elevated by these changes to a perfect equality of civil and political rights with those to whom they once stood in relations of inferiority and servitude, I pledge my unswerving devotion and defense of their rights, and my support of all wise and just measures to promote their welfare and happiness.

To all classes of citizens, without regard to race, color or previous condition, or to political and party distinctions, I pledge the faith and honor of a loving son of Louisiana to use my best efforts to restore our State to that prosperity, peace order consideration which she once enjoyed among the States of this Union. Nor shall I forget amid the severe duties and labors which will devolve upon me, as Chief Magistrate of Louisiana, the obligations of an honest citizenship and true loyalty to the great Republic whose national authority and power are now so securely established over this vast confederacy of indissolubly United States and Territories.

It is a cause of congratulation and confidence to me that in the course I thus propose to myself, I shall have the counsel and aid of a General Assembly, which will compare favorably with any of its predecessors in the history of the State. The citizens are justified by the previous records of the gentlemen composing this important department of our State government, by their known and well established reputation for moral worth, intellectual ability, conservative views, experience in public affairs, and thorough identification with every interest of our State, in looking to them as the chief sources of relief and reform of the many evils which oppress our people and State, and for which there is no other efficient corrective but wise honest and just legislation.

With these pledges, and with the aid of Divine Providence, and your kindly countenance and co-operation, I trust to make some return for the generous confidence which you have manifested in me. Whether I succeed in this or in the other aspirations cherished by me, let me here express to my fellow-citizens of this State and city the profound gratitude with which my heart and memory are filled to overflowing for their unnumbered kindnesses, their large charity, their unbounded good-will.

Such tokens of popular favor are far higher incentives and rewards to the honest and patriotic public official, than all the trappings, the dignities, and emoluments of office.

Trusting that I may never by any act or omission, forfeit the regard and confidence of the good people of Louisiana, I shall proceed with honest zeal and honest purpose to enter upon the practical duties of Chief Executive of the State of Louisiana.

A New York paper contains a criticism upon the present fashions prevailing among the ladies. It is particularly hostile to low-necked dresses, and says the demoralization in this respect has almost reached the degree of depravity which existed at the most corrupt period of French history. There is undoubtedly much in the present styles that is objectionable to the sober sons of reason and judgment; and the improper advances which we are told young men sometimes make toward young ladies may to some extent be traced to this evil. Party dresses are now cut solely with a view to exhibit the rotund neck and well-developed bust to the greatest advantage. Both should be enveloped in thick gauze—impenetrable to the eye—or the dresses should be cut high-necked. Ladies cannot act upon a safer plan than that adopted by the traveler who wisely hides from view his most costly jewels lest they tempt the cupidity of the robber on the plains.

A Cincinnati youth who persisted in visiting a young lady in Louisville, well knowing the local prejudices between the two villages, was seen a few days since in a doctor's office inquiring what a piece of court plaster eight inches by twelve would cost; and how much "skin-grafting" cost by the square yard.

NEW THIS DAY.

SECOND GRAND ANNIVERSARY BALL

Stonewall Hook and Ladder Co.

EXCHANGE HOTEL,

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd, 1873.

ADMISSION.....\$1.50

Tax Sale.

U. S. Internal Revenue—United States vs. Estate of Mrs C. Dark.

BY VIRTUE of the authority vested in me by section 28, Act of Congress, dated July 13th, 1866, I have seized and will sell in front of my office in the Town of Alexandria on THURSDAY, 13th of FEBRUARY, 1873, at 12 o'clock M—the following described property, to-wit:

- 3 Mules,
- 2 Horses,
- 8 Cows and Calves,
- 1 Wagon,
- 1 Baggy,
- 5 Bales Cotton, more or less,
- 1000 Bushels Corn, more or less,
- One tract of land containing 320 acres, more or less, bounded as follows: On the North by lands of Henderson Estate, on the East by lands of Joseph Hoy, on the South by Bayou Jean de Hou and on the West by lands of E. J. and Rosana Henderson.

Seized and sold for the Succession Tax of the Estate of Mrs. C. Dark.

TERMS—CASH in U. S. Treasury Notes. A. J. WHITTIER, Deputy Collector. Jan 22. 4t Printer's Fee \$10.

NOTICE! FOR RENT OR SALE.—One-half square ground with dwelling and out houses. Apply to Mrs. C. SULLIVAN. January 22-4t.

For Sale. THE ALEXANDRIA Ferry. Possession given immediately. For terms and particulars, apply on the Ferry boat to J. F. GRAHAM. January 22-3t.

JOB PRINTING NEATLY DONE AT THIS OFFICE ON THE MOST REASONABLE TERMS.