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UNIFICATION.

MEETING AT EXPOSITION HALL

THE MANIFESTO RATIFIED

Speeches of I. N. Marks, T. T. Allain, J. Davidson Hill, J. Henri Burch and James Lewis.

Exposition Hall was filled last evening at the mass meeting of the new unification party, with an audience composed of all parties and grades of society.

The beautiful room was not specially decorated for the occasion beyond the drapery of two flags on the orchestra gallery, above the platform, between which was a banner bearing the mottoes "Equal rights, one flag, one country, one people." The band played on the gallery in front of the building for some time, which attracted large numbers to the meeting.

At about eight o'clock Mr. J. D. Hill advanced to the front of the platform and said: Fellow citizens, I take great pleasure in calling this meeting to order, and in proposing for permanent chairman Mr. I. N. Marks.

On putting the question, Mr. Marks was unanimously elected.

Mr. Hill then proposed a list of vice presidents and secretaries, which was unanimously accepted:

VICE PRESIDENTS.

J. Graham,	Alex. Dimitry,
Percy Roberts,	Rosemond de Armas,
E. Boyd,	Ben Harrison,
G. W. R. Bailey,	Charles Aubert,
Dr. W. H. Holcombe,	Joseph Abelard,
Louis Schneider,	J. M. Laffray,
James H. Wingfield,	M. C. Dunn,
L. H. Joseph,	Gardane Casnave,
Dr. Alpuente,	V. l'Herisse,
Dr. Armand Mercier,	Jules Lanabere,
C. T. Buddecke,	Joseph Mansion,
Joseph Sardas,	Bernard Saulay,
Captain Vilvert,	Felix Labatut,
Alexander Hill,	E. A. Larrieu,
G. P. Blancand,	Guillaume Lubin,
H. T. Twichell,	Carl Kohn,
Aug. Bohn,	Am. Fortier,
J. A. Jorda,	H. H. Larose,
P. A. Rozier,	James Rea,
C. E. Fenner,	Jules Aldige,
François Guedyan,	Henri Porcheron,
S. Picotte,	B. Rhiel,
Jules Tuyes,	Victor Meyer,
Samuel Henderson,	Louis Surle,
A. L. Young,	Dr. J. G. Hava,
J. B. Glaudin,	Antoine Garcia,
Rev. C. H. Thompson,	T. A. Clarke,
Albert Baldwin,	Samuel Bell,
C. Cavaroc,	H. J. Leovy,
L. F. Generes,	M. R. Fernandez,
J. M. Cressy,	Philip Pijean,
P. Maspero,	W. H. Pemberton.

SECRETARIES.

Jules Bejean, Jr., E. Longpre,
E. Gauthier.

After the applause had died away, Mr. Marks said:

Fellow-citizens—I am deeply impressed with the solemnity of this occasion. We are assembled together for the purpose of endeavoring to reconcile the differences and divisions which have so long existed among the people of Louisiana. I desire to impress every man within the sound of my voice with the solemn feeling that fills my bosom to-night. This is no ordinary occasion. No political gathering. No outpouring of approval of a political party. No work of political power or political fear.

The question to-night presented for the determination of the people of Louisiana is, to come together to accomplish means to extricate our beloved State from the perils which surround it. We come to lay on the altar of our country all prejudices of the past. To recognize all citizens of the United States as equals before the law. We come together to-night, to unanimously ratify the manifesto sent forth from the committee of one hundred citizens of Louisiana, which I trust has inaugurated a new era, not only in our own State, but throughout the length and breadth of our land.

The speaker then read the manifesto, as already published.

Fellow-citizens, you will perceive that these declarations are specifically named. They are set forth in plain, fair, explicit language. There is nothing concealed. They mean just what they say, and we believe that, until these resolutions are carried into effect, there will be neither peace nor prosperity in Louisiana. I stand here to-night as I did fifteen months ago, a bold and unflinching advocate of this manifesto as the only means we have of rescuing our State. We shall present nothing to you to-night that you are not aware of or ought not to be aware of.

Mr. Marks then reviewed the several articles of the manifesto and compared their scope with the various articles of the constitutions of Louisiana and the United States, showing that they were in entire accordance with the law.

Mr. Paul Granzin made some remark to the speaker showing an antipathy to the resolution on schools.

Mr. Marks requested the gentleman to take his seat, and said if the sentiments the meeting had been held to approve did not suit, there was nothing to prevent him from leaving. We have called a meeting of those who approve of these resolutions, and those who dissent should at least give respectful and silent attention.

Mr. Marks then concluded: It is a matter of the most utter astonishment to me how our whole people can hesitate to come forward and support this great movement. We have either got to continue for long years to come to live under the present form of government, or come together and work together for the redemption of the State.

After the band had played Mr. Marks announced that a list of orators had been prepared, and that Hon. William M. Randolph would be the first speaker. Mr. Randolph not being present, Hon. T. T. Allain was called on.

Mr. Allain said in the conclusion of an eloquent address:

I am a native of the soil of Louisiana, and sufficiently acquainted with the political history of our State to indorse the statement that there is now an unnatural division among her guardians—the children of her soil and her adoption. The resolutions which have been read will heal those divisions. That portion advocating ownership in the soil is an admirable point. When a man becomes a landowner he becomes conservative in his political opinions. For two centuries the colored people have administered to all the wants of the whites. They have been their domestic servants; they have labored to raise accumulated wealth for their masters. When an overwhelming array of Northern soldiers flooded the South, who was it that raised supplies for the Confederate armies, and who were the trusted protectors of the maids, wives and widows whose nearest and dearest relations were doing yeoman's duty on the field of battle? Was it not the colored man whose claims upon your gratitude we are now discussing? This is the dawn of a brighter day. I believe we shall reach the creed of the writer of the declaration of independence—"Equal and exact justice to all men." Thanks, thrice thanks, that I, who was born a slave in West Baton Rouge, can appear in this city, and in this place, before this assemblage of Southern gentlemen in the honorable and dignified character of an American citizen.

Mr. Marks then announced that Colonel J. D. Hill would be the next to address the audience, and would read the resolutions.

Colonel Hill said: Fellow-citizens of Louisiana, I have been called upon in the absence of Mr. Randolph to read these resolutions, and, by the way, Mr. Randolph bade me express his deep regrets that the severe illness under which he is suffering enforces his absence. Before proceeding to read the resolutions I will make one remark on the practical situation in Louisiana at this hour. Nothing is more destructive in any camp than two followings at war with each other. They are the prey of any force which may venture to assail them. In other words, there must be between those who defend the same cause an undercurrent of sympathy. The sympathy between the two races which inhabit our soil must be cultivated to its fullest extent. We are nearly three quarters of a million nearly equally divided. What we desire is a sympathy between black and white for a common purpose and for the material interests of our State. I indorse this movement because I can see no other mortal plan to extricate ourselves from the terrible evils that surround us. I believe this movement will be the redemption of my State.

Colonel Hill then read the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the preamble and resolutions adopted by the Committee of One Hundred meet with the approbation of this mass meeting.

Resolved, That we, the people of Louisiana, white and colored, assembled in mass meeting, pledge ourselves, so soon as the existing opposition to the enjoyment of the civil, political and public rights of all citizens, irrespective of color, shall have ceased, to unite all our influence and energies and co-operate in a common movement to reduce taxation to a rate conformable to the resources of the country; to investigate and correct the public debt; to suppress unnecessary offices; to diminish the high salaries and exorbitant emoluments attached to public office, and to secure in Louisiana as soon as possible the establishment of an honest, economic and patriotic government.

Resolved, That the president be authorized to appoint an executive committee of thirty to advocate, maintain and develop throughout this State the principles hereinbefore set forth; and to convene the people and take other measures for the purposes of the hereinbefore recited resolutions.

Mr. Marks then asked what was the pleasure of the meeting, and on motion the resolutions were adopted.

Mr. Marks then called on Hon. J. Henri Burch, Senator from Baton Rouge, who said:

Mr. President and Fellow-citizens—When startling and peculiar innovations upon the settled customs and usages of a people are proposed, I conceive it to be the duty of those directly interested to inquire into, first, the motives which have actuated the movers of the new measures, and secondly, the benefits to all which will inevitably attend its practical operations.

In my remarks I shall make an humble effort to picture to the whites of Louisiana the great and lasting benefits which must certainly accrue to this State should the intents and purposes for which this meeting is convened be carried out fully, fairly and justly.

Intelligence, wealth and influence speak louder, clearer and more fully than I can, and furnish better arguments in favor of the white man of America than I can.

You are the descendants of a race of men to whose intelligence, industry and physical strength the modern age is indebted for nearly everything which makes life desirable.

Civilization, art, science and literature have been fostered, preserved and brought to a great perfection by this race, and in every country there are erected, along the pathway of time's history, grand and imperishable monuments of their prowess and greatness. Barbarism, heathenism, inhumanity and barrenness have gone down before the onward march of the Caucasian. The forest has disappeared and the plain become a city, the barren soil has been made to yield a productive crop, and the savage being and savage brute have been driven beyond your path. All this, and more, are in the catalogue of the great benefits which have come to the Caucasian at an early period of his existence. Only one unrighteous blot dimmed the lustre of their greatness, and that was slavery. But country after country wiped the foul blot from their escutcheons, and America followed their blessed examples, and to-day the sun does not rise nor set upon a single slave in all her wide domain.

But, sirs, with all their present greatness, there is, in the time of the history of the Caucasian race an epoch that was not so grand. There was a time in their history when they, too, were slaves, as ignorant, degraded and bereft of human sympathy as was the poor African. They, too, formed an article of export for the Roman market, and in the slave market of Rome there could be found, a few centuries ago, the original Briton, taken from his native soil and sold as a slave in the Roman market. It seems to me, Mr. President, that some Roman senator, pointing to the ancient Briton—like some of our American senators who have stood up in the American Senate, and pointed to the slaves of America, declared that they would never be advanced by emancipation—could with great confidence have declared from his seat in the forum, that the ancient Britons, as slaves, were a race of people "destined never to rise above the level of brutes, would never be able to provide for themselves nor their families, and so merged in barbarity and ignorance that the effulgent light of liberty could never light up the Egyptian darkness of their pathway."

Time would have proved the utter falsity of such an argument, and the present proud positions of the Europeans and American people, descendants of the ancient Britons, demonstrates the utter absurdity of such arguments.

But, Mr. President and fellow citizens, my purpose is not to sing the praises of the Caucasian, but, if possible, to speak for the race of people with whom I am identified.

We are the descendants of another race. I shall leave it to the student of history to read whether or not this race ever occupied the proud and honorable position now occupied by the Caucasian.

My remarks will concern that race, of the present time, and under present circumstances. I shall ask your indulgence whilst I speak of him briefly, in his present condition.

From a mere chattel and slave, the colored man has moved forward to the more responsible and dignified position of an American citizen. The nation that has thus advanced him has moved forward with no uncertain or hesitating step, but has, with wonderful rapidity, advanced in the career of progress. So rapidly has this nation moved, that it is hardly realized, how much has been achieved for freedom, improvement and humanity.

The hitherto oppressed colored man has not been allowed the natural steps of advancement; he was not allowed to creep first, and walk afterwards, but, by the emergencies of the times, he was ushered suddenly from the degrading effects of bondage to assume the responsibilities of manhood and citizenship.

This was no slight undertaking. When Mr. Lincoln first issued the immortal proclamation of emancipation, not only the entire Democratic party decreed its utter failure, but thousands of true and ardent Republicans folded their arms, stood still, and refused to follow in the path marked out by their great chief. And what was their argument?

Why, they said, pointing to the slaves who were to be set free, "there is a race of people who were born to be nothing but slaves; never destined to rise above the level of the brute creation; that they were ignorant, filthy and lazy; and that they should be kept under the civilization, Christianity and supervision of—slavery; that if freed, he would become a helpless burden to the community in which he lived, and unable to take care of himself and family." These were among the few untrue arguments used by the American people in part when President Lincoln first pronounced for the emancipation of American slaves. But thanks to an Almighty God and the true, steadfast friends of liberty, humanity and justice, the colored man has been advanced to a moving, living member of the body politic.

Congress found this mass of people in the South who needed something for their defense. Believing that, as a subject, the negro would yield his allegiance to his government, in proportion as that government a orded him protection, it said to them:

"President Lincoln has emancipated you, and you are no longer slaves. We will clothe you with the ballot; we will confer upon you the exalted prerogative of citizenship. You have done your duty in the struggle just finished; you have been loyal to your country; you have fought and prayed for it, and your future hopes are bound up in the Union. Now, we will give you the means of protecting yourselves, and of assisting in governing the country."

Clothed with full political equality, which is conceded by all parties and classes alike, he now stands, asking for an acknowledgment of those civil rights guaranteed to him by the constitution and organic laws of his State; and this, Mr. President, brings me to one of the divisions of my subject.

I remarked in the opening part of my speech that it was our duty to inquire first into the motives which have actuated the movers in this, what I may term, new departure, from the usages and customs of this State. I need not refer you to the resolutions adopted at the meeting of the committee of white and colored men of this State and city, on the evening of the seventeenth of June.

By them we observe a novel and startling innovation on the usages and customs of Louisiana. The question naturally arises, what are the motives which have induced the leading representatives of the white men of this State to come boldly forth and adopt the extended and unmistakable language of these resolutions?

Cromwell said to his painter, "Paint me as I am. If you leave out one scar or wrinkle I will not pay you a shilling." Now, fellow-citizens, I think it best that we should paint this picture just as it is. I do not desire to go over the scars and wrinkles for the purpose of making them bleed afresh, or appear hideous, but only to present the picture in all of its different phases. Let us, therefore, for a brief period, refer to the past history of Louisiana.

It appears almost impossible from natural causes, to convey to one not a citizen of this State a correct idea of the condition of your society, your customs, your traditions and usages, especially in reference to the white and colored race. Generations schooled in the poisons of slavery predominated in the very fountain of your beings, and caused you to exercise an unjust and unreasonable prejudice against a wronged, unprotected, unoffending, and by you, a hated race.

Years of strife against the Abolition party and its increasing strength intensified this prejudice against us, and it received a quickening impetus by the great internecine struggle, through which the nation has passed.

This great struggle culminated in the overthrow of slavery and the securing to this wronged and hated race his political rights, through and by the legislative enactments of our national Congress.

Need I say here what great party achieved these unparelleled triumphs? I think it needless; but a great party had struggled, and struggled successfully, with unreasoning prejudice and passion, and the consequence is that a race of bondsmen have been elevated to the proud position of American citizens. Their bonds have been broken and their fetters destroyed, and from the degradation of chattels they have passed to the lofty level of manhood and American citizenship.

Nearly 5,000,000 slaves have been made free, and to-day they stand forth redeemed, regenerated and disenthralled. It is indeed a theme of gratification and glorification to know that so much has been accomplished for impartial liberty and equal rights; but there is yet, and has been, ever since our recognition as citizens, an opposition to our civil rights.

Not alone is the Democratic party responsible for the slowness of their recognition of this essential privilege, but, sirs, the great party whose boast and glory it is that it broke the fetters of American slaves and ushered them inside the living circle of manhood and citizenship, and made the American nation a free one indeed, has not been, and is not to-day, wholly free from the cruel and wicked prejudice engendered and fostered years ago by the enslavement of the negro.

No, sirs, there has been, and there is now, a small portion of the Republican party who have doubted, hesitated and even faltered, and not only shunned these measures, but have actually joined their political enemies in their wicked attempt to defeat the passage of civil rights measures. It has taken, and it will continue to take time, education and necessity, to educate all Republicans up to the high moral standard of right, before we will find even them willing to unconditionally recognize the civil rights of colored men.

If this is true of that party who have done for us all enumerated above, is it to be wondered at that those who combatted this party from first to last, and on this very account, should be found refusing to acknowledge our civil rights? Is it to be wondered at that the Southerners, who from the very foundations of his being, as I before remarked, were filled with unreasoning prejudice and wicked hate against us, have still put forth all their great powers to render inoperative the laws passed for the benefit of his former slaves? No. The greater wonder is that to-day he is found in his native State, standing side by side with his former slaves, extending to them his hand, and saying: "Let bygones be bygones. For us is the future. Henceforth, hand in hand, we go together in the race of life. We, as white men, cast to the ground the prejudices of our forefathers, and of ourselves. Recognizing in your deliverance the inscrutable disposition of Almighty God, and the irrevocable decree of destiny, we will no longer throw obstacles in your pathway, but, by our influence, aid and countenance help to light up your future pathway, which has hitherto been so dark. Even as the fetters of slavery have been stricken from your limbs and dashed to the ground, so have the fetters of prejudice and hate been torn from our minds and dashed to the winds, to be known no more forever."

Instead of shrinking from your bounden duty, you would approach it hopeful of success. Instead of wantonly suppressing the dictates of an unquieted conscience you would manfully accept the issue, and cherishing sound convictions, based on justice, humanity and truth, appeal to the hearts, minds and consciences of your people, to rise above the unreasonable prejudice of the past, and to do unto us what you would have us do unto you.

And now, secondly, what would be the effect of such an action on your part? Why, sirs, this vexed question would be easily solved. It would lead to a full and unconditional recognition of the civil rights of the colored man as a member of the great human family and as a part of the body politic.

In acknowledgment of their just claims for services rendered in days gone by, and a full reparation for injuries done them heretofore, and according to them full and entire equality of human rights, with no discriminating laws or proscriptive actions on account of their color, then would your State and her people take courage, slowly, possibly almost imperceptibly, and by degrees she would emerge from her troubles and adversities, and, under the guidance of her best citizens—white, colored, native or by adoption—of ability, honesty and moral worth, she would arouse from her lethargy, and, under the fostering care of all whose interests are alike, present a picture of contentment, unity, happiness and prosperity. When, and only when you will do this, the people of this State will have a claim upon her colored citizens.

Having performed your whole duty in yielding your influence and protection to them, you can then consistently demand their allegiance. Remove every cause of our complaints against you and destroy every pretext of policy or evasion; first protect, and after secure allegiance. You have used the crushing process, now try a conciliating one.

But, gentlemen of Louisiana, you must not expect to accomplish all this without trials and troubles. You will find men who will heap obloquy upon those white men who have initiated this "beginning of the end." They will be stigmatized as losing all love and homage for their ancient customs and usages of ante-bellum times, and as being lost to all honor, integrity and devotion for the Lost Cause; that they have sunk so low as to be compelled to seek the level of the negro, and a hundred other such sensational, unnatural charges; but meet them with determination and firmness. Tell these croakers that in surrendering your prejudices and recognizing the civil rights of the colored man, you only yield to him as a freeman of the United States, that to which he is entitled as such.

Ask him who would upbraid you, what has the negro done? They have committed no sin; you cannot say that they deserve punishment for sins never committed.

We, the colored people, are, I repeat, guilty of no crime. You, the white people of this State, if you had taken the proper course, would have easily acquired the confidence of the colored people, and you would have had the government in your own hands, and the Northern man who would have been placed in office, would have been placed there because of his moral worth and not as he has been from necessity. But to the contrary, your course was such as to satisfy the colored man that he could not trust you and he firmly believed, of his own accord, that the moment you came into power you would deprive him of his civil and political rights. You by your own action forfeited entirely the confidence of the colored people of this State.

Your exclusion from office, and from participating in the government of her affairs, was the result of your own conduct and your hostility to the advancement of the colored man. Then it is you who have heretofore held aloof from him, and not him from you. I rejoice that an era has dawned upon us when a few patriotic white citizens have resolved to break over the fetters of prejudice which have so long cramped every free movement and estranged the people of your State.

When the opponents of progression ask you why you have taken this step, tell them that on account of your great prejudice against the colored people, and your downright refusal to act for and with them, that your State has become heavily burdened with debt, her credit impaired, her commerce dwindling down to almost nothing, and her lands almost worn out by the war. Education is leaving her seat, and your children are growing up in ignorance. Religion is threatened, and her altars are in danger of being deserted; and while we hug to our bosoms these unnatural and wicked prejudices, justice is hindered in her high privileges, and the law of the strongest will become the law of the land; and rather than see your beloved State go down to destruction you prefer to surrender your prejudices, and that, come weal or woe, having stood upon the banks of the Rubicon and plunged in, you are determined not to undertake a retreat.

The colored people are keenly alive to the obstacles besetting your pathway leading from your old beaten tracks of prejudice and injustice, and deeply and heartily will they sympathize with you in all that you may be elected to undergo.

They may not be able to help you in your determined efforts to overcome these deep-rooted hereditary prejudices, the common enemy of us all, but, like the helpless pilgrims of old, who, when "Christian" engaged in deadly combat with the "dragon," prayed to God to give him the battle, so will the colored people of this State stand by you in your honest efforts to overthrow the dragon of prejudice, and sincerely will they pray that God will vouchsafe to give you a victory.

Year after year have we waited and hoped for the consummation of the last closing act of our great life's drama, the full and unconditional recognition of our civil rights.

Year after year you who have kept us from the full enjoyment of them have been swimming in the charmed circle of policy and temporary expedients, but to-day we feel that, by your present action, these questions are to be no longer evaded.

You can not shut your eyes, nor close your ears to the demands of your State, and so deep are these interests bound up in the preservation of your State that you must meet the issue fairly and fearlessly.

Let all those, both white and colored, having an interest in the future welfare and prosperity of the State put aside faint-heartedness, and openly and boldly stand upon the grand principles which must and will live, despite the efforts of tyranny to overthrow them or a prejudiced policy to check their expression.

The general scope and tendency of this movement must be beneficial if carried out in an honest, manly manner. It has for its object the downfall of hereditary prejudices, the obliteration of past usages and customs, and the full acknowledgment of the civil rights, privileges and immunities which pertain to any man created in the image of his Maker, and guaranteed to him by the constitution and laws of the land. Said laws are and must be fundamental in all just free governments, and it is impossible for any one to stand by and see them ignored or permit them to be violated or denied.

You, gentlemen of Louisiana, can not stand still, and indulge in constitutional hair splitting as to the legality of laws enacted for the protection of the black, nor the right of our national Congress to enact such laws; neither can you stand poring over the questionable tenets of your old-time usages, customs and hatreds of by-gone days, for whilst you are so engaged, there is one portion of your citizens who are becoming more and more estranged from you, and you by your actions are making a chasm that it will be almost impossible to bridge.

Meanwhile these fundamental principles of a free, just government are growing and progressing rapidly; and soon they must be the recognized laws of the land, despite the opposition that may be put in operation against them.

Whilst you are meeting together to strengthen each other in your hereditary prejudices, and studying out and devising means to make these laws inoperative, and the equal protection of the laws only a glittering generality, the development and restoration of your State is being neglected; your commerce crippled; your citizens deprived, either by option or compulsion, from participating in the government of your State, and confusion, turmoil and discontent reign supreme.

Can you, in simple justice to yourselves, your State, your families, allow a partisan feeling to possess you all, and, hugging this destructive phantom of the past to your bosoms, refuse to abandon that policy which, if persevered in, must eventually paralize and hinder your State in her future? when, by a surrendering of all mercenary, selfish, hereditary prejudices to characteristics of an ennobling and righteous nature, you place yourselves in connection with another class of citizens of this State, and all together, having one common interest, unite in placing this State side by side with any State in the Union, and she will take her stand with no fear of being outstripped in the race. This is your duty. You can not avoid it; you can not nor must not shrink from it. To-day you meet to make a new page in the history of Louisiana. Shall it be to her credit and benefit? or shall it be recorded thereon that, blinded by the passions and policies of the past, lost to all the advantages and benefits now within your grasp, you are content to pursue your wonted way?

A great responsibility is now upon you, and a grand trust is committed to your keeping. Betray it, and you must answer at the bar of future public opinion, and an offended, deserted, betrayed and outraged posterity—gaining knowledge and experience, and being ruled by wisdom and justice—will anathematize those who left them such a blasting, deadly heritage, and they will never respect the memory of the betrayers of their trusts who went before them.

On the contrary, let the immortal language of Magna Charta, which declares that "we will not deny to any man right or justice," be your motto in practice as well as theory, and, sirs, if this be your action I affirm that by the equal justice of her laws, grouping together the interests of all her citizens, the strength of the united energies, minds and sinews of her whole people, the experience and maturity of the intellect of her true sons, and the willing, eager thirst after knowledge of her unfortunate wards no longer debarred from the blessings of protection at home and educational advantages by the examples of the past and the hopes of the future, and above all, by the complete ignoring of all that has gone to make this State a by-word and reproach, viz: intimidation, fraud, violence and bloodshed, Louisiana must eventually become one, if not the foremost State of the Union. Remember, gentlemen of Louisiana, that "a people to be great must be just."

When reason and justice shall have assumed their sway, and the safeguards of citizenship vouchsafed to all men alike, intelligence and love of State will predominate, and vice and corruption disappear from our borders, confusion and discord give way to peace and harmony, and the races which now inhabit this State will encounter no more turmoil, witness no more scenes of bloodshed. In short, with an unqualified recognition of the rights of the colored man the last lingering vestige of slavery will be swept away; violence and fraud will no longer be employed to carry political issues; the State will become a paradise when all men coequal, one with another, will employ all their efforts and energies to restore her to her pristine beauty and prosperity; her citizens rescued from the threatened danger of internal strife and continued commotion; her commerce restored to its wonted position; her finances the pride of her citizens; the load of taxation shall roll from their shoulders, and the love and devotion of all her inhabitants shall be the avant couriers of her future greatness.

Then in the future, white and colored men of this State, with common interests and objects in the advancement of their State, binding all in one common bond of unity and harmony, learning a bitter lesson from the mistakes of the past, will guard more zealously and well the priceless heritage of a restored and redeemed State; and proudly exclaim from the inmost recesses of their hearts, and in the full flush of pride, I am indeed a citizen of redeemed and regenerated Louisiana.

E. J. Ellis, Esq., was then loudly called for, but did not appear.

Colonel James Lewis was then introduced and said:

After hearing the eloquent remarks of the gentlemen who have preceded me, I think that enough has been said. But some of my friends have suggested that I ought to say a few words on the action of the press. Article after article has appeared in the newspapers, stating that the gentlemen who signed the manifesto have had no pledges from the colored people. I think the colored speakers who have preceded me have said enough to satisfy any one of the falacy of that idea. It has been made plain that if the promises made by them are carried out, the colored people will do their part. But my friends have asked me to present to you a document which I hold in my hands.

Colonel Lewis then read a pledge signed by some of the most prominent, respectable and public spirited of his people, incorporating the manifesto of the Committee of One Hundred and the resolutions passed at this meeting, and guaranteeing their support.

After reading the pledge Colonel Lewis merely said: "That is all I have to say," and sat down.

After Colonel Lewis sat down there were loud calls for General Beauregard and others, but none of them appearing, a motion to adjourn was made, put and carried.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Second Day's Proceedings.

The board met yesterday pursuant to adjournment.

Members present: Hon. William G. Brown, president; Superintendents Williams, Stoddard, Loud, Keating, Brewster and Boothby.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The president announced the following committees:

Teachers Institute and Educational Conventions—Superintendent E. S. Stoddard, chairman.

Model, Grammar and High Schools—Superintendent Charles W. Boothby, chairman.

Superintendent Stoddard called for the communication of Hon. E. Filleul, attorney of the State board, relative to the free school fund, alienated by act No. 81 of 1872, which was read by the secretary.

Superintendent Stoddard presented the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the president of the board be authorized to direct the attorney of the board to institute such proceedings as may be necessary to protect the interests of the free school fund as indicated in his communication of the seventeenth instant.

An interesting discussion relative to the appointment of school directors was participated in by Superintendents Keeting, Stoddard, Loud, Brewster and Boothby.

A communication from W. F. Loan, of Algiers, fifteenth representative district, city of New Orleans, relative to the residence of Mr. C. L. Sweet, removed from the district, and therefore not entitled to represent the school interests of the fifteenth representative district on the city school board, was read by the secretary.

On motion of Superintendent Loud the communication was referred to Superintendent Boothby for examination and report.

The following ad interim appointments of school directors for the city of New Orleans were presented by Superintendent Boothby for confirmation, viz:

A. W. Broadhead, first representative district.

Rev. C. H. Thompson, third representative district.

P. B. S. Pinchback, fourth representative district.

Henry L. Rey, seventh representative district.

Thomas Carey, ninth representative district.

James Longstreet, tenth representative district.

Dr. Julius Clark, first municipal district.

E. C. Billings, second municipal district.

James H. Ingraham, third municipal district.

James F. Casey, fourth municipal district.

T. W. DeKlyne, fifth municipal district.

J. B. Gaudet, sixth municipal district.

Appointments confirmed by vote.

Superintendent Brewster opened a discussion on the subject of granting teachers certificates, which was participated in by the several members of the board.

The board adjourned to 12 M. to-day.

SALE CONTINUED.—The sale by the sheriff of the contents of store No. 48 Chartres street, consisting of ladies' fancy articles, millinery goods, ribbons, etc., will be continued to-day at 10:30 A. M.

AUDITOR CLINTON SUCCESSFUL

Purchase of $143,236 83 in Warrants

$58,931 89 SAVED TO THE STATE

For several days past Auditor Clinton has published an advertisement to the effect that he would yesterday, through the agency of Messrs. Van Solinger & Carpenter, auctioneers, sell to the highest bidder the cash on hand or in the course of being turned into the State Treasury to the credit of the general fund, amounting to $103,000, payment to be made in State warrants. The lots were $500 with a privilege of $5000.

At the designated hour, the auction room in the St. Charles Hotel was pretty well crowded by capitalists, speculators and seekers after sensation, for the subject had created considerably controversy.

Treasurer Dubuclet had opposed Mr. Clinton in this movement, and yesterday finding that the Auditor would certainly proceed with the sale made two attempts to stay Mr. Clinton, but his efforts proved futile. Mr. Dubuclet applied for a writ of sequestration, and for an injunction to prevent the sale, but Judge Hawkins refused to grant the requests.

Certain bondholders, claiming to represent $98,000, applied for an injunction, but they too failed in their attempt, consequently Mr. Clinton is victorious in the face of all opposition.

The following figures, kindly furnished by Mr. Peter Mooney, tell the results better than anything else.

Names.	Amount.	Price.	Cash.
J. Herdandez	$5000	59¼	$2961 25
J. Hernandez	5000	59½	2975 00
J. Hernandez	5000	59¼	2962 50
J. Bernandez	5000	58¼	2912 50
J. Hernandez	5000	58¼	2914 50
J Hernandez	5000	58¾	2937 50
J. Hernandez	3500	58	2030 00
P. P. Carroll	1017	60	610 00
John Lockwood	5000	59⅞	2993 75
John Lockwood	5000	59¾	2986 51
P. O. Fazende	2500	60	1500 00
P. O. Fazende	1000	60	600 00
P. O. Fazende	500	60	300 00
P. O. Fazende	5000	58⅞	2943 75
P. O. Fazende	500	59	259 00
P. O. Fazende	2500	58	1450 00
P. O. Fazende	1000	58	580 00
P. O. Fazende	1000	58⅛	581 25
P. O. Fezende	1000	58	580 00
P. O. Fezende	1000	58⅜	583 75
P. O. Fezende	1000	59	590 00
New Orleans Republican	5000	60	3000 00
New Orleans Republican	5000	58	2900 00
New Orleans Republican	5000	58⅛	2906 25
J. Newman & Brother	5000	60	3000 00
J. Newman & Brother	5000	59⅞	2993 75
J. Newman & Brother	5000	58¾	2937 50
J. Newman & Brother	5000	58½	2925 00
J. Newman & Brother	5000	58¼	2912 50
J. Newman & Brother	5000	59	2950 00
H. W. Benjamin	500	59⅝	287 75
H. W. Benjamin	865	59¼	512 51
John Klein & Co	2500	59⅞	1496 87
John Klein & Co	2000	58⅞	1177 50
John Klein & Co	1000	58	580 00
John Klein & Co	1500	58⅛	871 88
John Klein & Co	1000	58¼	582 50
John Klein & Co	1000	58⅜	583 75
N. Bunoy	1125	59¾	672 20
Moore, Janney & Hyams	5000	59¼	2961 25
Moore, Janney & Hyams	5000	58⅞	2943 75
Moore, Janney & Hyams	5000	58⅛	2906 25
Moore, Janney & Hyams	3125	58⅛	1816 43
H. Soares	500	59⅝	298 12
E. Chassaroi	605	58½	253 92
N. Trepagnier	1000	58½	585 00
Timothy Dougherty	5000	59	2950 00
Total	$143,236		$84,304 94

The Police Warrant Question.

Colonel R. A. Bray, treasurer of the Board of Police Commissioners, publishes a card in the *Herald* in answer to the charge made in that paper that the board had been guilty of bad faith in its financial transactions with the city. Colonel Bray admits that the arrangement made by the board with Administrator Schneider was not carried out, but alleges that the failure was owing to individual members of the force claiming warrants, after having agreed to turn them in for ninety cents on the dollar, in order to dispose of them to brokers at two or three per cent advance. It was this short-sighted policy on the part of a few men that resulted in the breaking up of arrangements with the city government, and has had the effect to send warrants down in the market to sixty-eight and seventy cents on the dollar.

We very much regret the course pursued by our contemporary in implying breach of faith on the part of the treasurer of the board, whom we believe is entirely blameless in the matter. But the fault of this probably rests with the board itself, after all, for since its members have adopted the plan of transacting all of their business in secret session a naturally suspicious public can hardly be blamed for imputing almost any motive to their actions. The sooner they rectify this mistake they have made the better it will be for their own reputations as public officers.

That Gravel Experiment.

The City Council at its meeting yesterday voted unanimously to rescind the action formerly taken in authorizing Messrs. Higgins & Wilson to experiment with their Natchez gravel on Canal street, between Liberty and Claiborne streets. The reason given was that this experiment, if it proved successful, would cost the city more than $500, and that as the residents on the street in question had not petitioned for repairs, in conformity with the charter, they could not be called upon to bear any portion of the expense, but the whole amount would have to be paid by the city. It was understood, however, that another street would be selected, and that the length of one square therein would be assigned to Mr. Higgins, another to General Sewell, and another to Mr. Casey, each contiguous to the other, in order to test their different systems of paving. The street where these experiments are to be made has not yet been agreed upon, but it is fair to presume the claims of St. Charles avenue to repairs may be taken into consideration—unless, as one Administrator remarked, in a sort of jocular way, it is the intention of the Council to wall the Fourth and Sixth Districts out.

The River.

The water in the river opposite this city is falling very slowly—much slower, in fact, than before for several years. Yesterday it stood—where it has for some days—five feet four inches below high water mark. At this date a year ago the water was ten feet six inches below the mark and falling rapidly, and the year before it stood nine feet nine inches below the mark.

St. Michael's School.

The second annual exhibition of the pupils of St. Michael's School was commenced last evening at the school house opposite Annunciation square, and will be concluded this evening. The exercises are very entertaining and attract a large attendance.

The Temperature.

The thermometer at Louis Frigerio's, No. 50 Chartres street, yesterday stood as follows: At 8 A. M., 80°; at 2 P. M., 90°; at 6 P. M., 85°. Lowest point during the night of July 14, 75°.

BY TELEGRAPH.

EXTENSION OF SIGNAL SERVICE

FIRE AT THE NAVY DEPARTMENT

DEATH OF A CUBAN PATRIOT

MONMOUTH PARK RACES

KATE STODDARD'S LETTERS

THE COTTON CROP

DESPONDENT REPORT

A SMALL AVERAGE CROP

LATEST CUBAN INTELLIGENCE

Spanish Officers Oppose Reform

EXCITEMENT IN KINGSTON

THE DISORDERS IN SPAIN

CARLIST VICTORY AT BERGA

COMMOTION IN THE FRENCH ASSEMBLY

DENIAL FROM JACOB THOMPSON

Industrial Congress at Cleveland

SEVERE STORMS IN OHIO

WASHINGTON.

Signal Service to be Extended—Bullock the Defaulter—Fire at the Navy Department—Dispatch from Secretary Robeson to the President.

WASHINGTON, July 15.—The signal service is to be extended to the West Indies and the Windward islands and along the eastern and western coasts of South America. Stations have already been fitted up and manned at the following ports: Havana, Santiago de Cuba, Kingston, Porto Rico, St. Thomas, Antigua, Guadaloupe and St. Vincents on the Windward islands, from whence the observers are sending postal records of their observations.

It is stated that General Bullock, late of the Freedmen's Bureau, has placed his property in his wife's hands, beyond the reach of the government.

A fire at the Navy Department this morning damaged the building to the extent of $10,000 or $12,000. It is thought the greatest damage is by water. The Secretary's office is completely flooded, and the entire department is unfit for occupancy.

There were several valuable records burned, but most of them can be replaced.

The log book library of the Navy Department suffered most. Nearly all the logs were damaged by the fire and water. The fire was confined to the third and fourth stories of the south wing.

Nearly all the records of the bureau of steam engineering were lost. The bureau of ordnance lost heavily in records and papers. The printing room was entirely destroyed.

It is supposed that the fire originated from an accidental combination of chemicals in the bureau of ordnance. Nearly the whole building is flooded, and at least half of it is unfit for occupancy.

The following was received from Secretary Robeson by the President:

To the President:

A fire broke out at about half-past five this morning in the third story of the back building of the Navy Department, probably originating in the printing room. The fire department was promptly on hand, and, working with great efficiency, soon had the fire under control and put it out finally before seven o'clock. Only a few drawings, and no important records, were destroyed. The principal damage is by the flooding from the water. The business of the department is not seriously interrupted.

GEORGE M. ROBESON,
Secretary of the Navy.

George A. Matile was to-day appointed secretary of the American-Spanish commission, vice George Moore.

NEW YORK.

Colonel Green to be Democratic Candidate for Governor of Massachusetts—Death of Mayorga, the Cuban Patriot—Pacific Mail Steamship Company—Monmouth Park Races.

NEW YORK, July 15.—A *World* special says Colonel Green, of the Boston *Post*, will be nominated for Governor of Massachusetts on the straight Democratic platform.

M. Mayorga, a leading and well-known Cuban, who, with others, fitted out the Fannie expedition in 1871, and acted for a time as vice president of the Cuban republic, and who was condemned last year by an order from Valmaseda to be immediately garroted when caught, died after a brief illness, at midnight, in Lexington avenue, aged fifty-five.

E. A. Mills, president of the Brooklyn Trust Company, and well known throughout the country, was drowned while bathing at Coney island this morning.

The directors of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company have authorized the president to settle with the Union Pacific Railroad Company, to sell the steamship Montana for $60,000, another steamer for $30,000, and to borrow $700,000 on the company's real estate to meet the debts immediately due, amounting to $800,000. The company also requires $600,000 to put their steamers in a sea-worthy condition.

The specie engagements for to-morrow are $900,000.

James Jackson, the negro who killed his white paramour, pleaded guilty of manslaughter in the fourth degree. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

In the Monmouth Park races, Duffy won the hurdle race. Time, 4:01½.

Artist won the mile race. Time, 1:46¾.

Boswell's gray filly won the mile and three quarter race. Time, 3:12.

Tom Bowling was the favorite, four to one, against all the others.

The fourth race was won by Falladeen. Time, 1:47½, 1:54¼. The first heat was won by Valley Brook. Time, 1:46¼.

COTTON CROPS.

Reports of the Department of Agriculture—The Crops Generally Behind Time—Delayed by Wet Weather—Reports Despondent—Worms and Lice Appearing—The Average Crops of the States.

WASHINGTON, July 15.—The report of the condition of the cotton crop to the Department of Agriculture for July 1, indicates as follows: Owing to the causes reported in June, the crop is generally from two to four weeks later. Throughout the cotton States the weather was unprecedentedly wet for a period varying from twenty-five to thirty-five days, ending about the twenty-fifth of June.

The area of cotton planted was sufficient to tax the available labor to the utmost under the most favorable circumstances, consequently the excessively wet weather preventing work, stimulating grass and weeds, has not only caused poor stands and a grassy and otherwise unfavorable condition quite generally, but has necessitated

[CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.]