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VOLUME IX.—NO. 233 NEW ORLEANS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1876. WHOLE NUMBER 2694.

GATHERING OF THE CLANS

THE DEMOCRACY IN COUNCIL

Speeches by Moncure and Ellis

LETTERS FROM GIBSON AND LEVY

Sounding the Battle Cry Anew

FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

St. Patrick's Hall was the centre of political interest yesterday. Before twelve o'clock delegates began to arrive, singly and in squads, and at that hour the space reserved for them was about half full.

At a few minutes after twelve o'clock, R. H. Marr, Esq., appeared on the rostrum, and called for silence. He said: "The hour for the opening of this convention having arrived, I will call the convention to order, in my capacity as chairman of the State Central Committee, and I nominate for temporary chairman, Hon. Albert Voorhies, of Orleans. Amidst demonstrations of approval, Mr. Voorhies advanced and assumed the chair.

He said: Gentlemen, the next thing in order is to proceed to the election of a secretary *pro tem*. I await the pleasure of the convention.

Mr. J. R. Alcee Gauthreaux, of Orleans, moved that the chairman appoint a secretary *pro tem*. Carried.

The chair expressed a desire that the nomination should come from the floor, and Mr. Ulysse Folse was nominated.

A motion to appoint a committee of five on credentials was amended to thirteen and carried.

Mr. S. J. N. Smith, of Orleans, presented a resolution that all persons holding the proxies of absent delegates to the convention must be residents of the parish or ward in which the parties they assume to represent reside.

Ex-Governor R. C. Wickliffe, of West Feliciana, made the point of order that the resolution was not in order at this time.

Mr. R. H. Marr, of Orleans, said this was not a convention at this time; and until the committee on credentials reported such and such members absent, and that such and such members held proxies, action thereon could not be had. The convention can only act when the report is before it.

The chair agreed that the resolution was not in order, and Mr. Smith asked leave to withdraw it.

The chair then announced the committee on credentials, as follows:

S. R. Thorpe, of Avoyelles.
Samuel J. Powell, of West Feliciana.
L. V. Reeves, of Tensas.
George W. McCranie, of Ouachita.
S. Choppin, of Orleans.
I. D. Moore, of Lafourche.
J. R. A. Gauthreaux, of Orleans.
E. A. Carmouche, of St. Landry.
Don Caffrey, of St. Mary.
Levi Spiller, of Livingston.
A. Tete, of Assumption.
H. Renshaw, Jr., of Orleans.
L. H. Bowden, of Franklin.

A motion was then made and carried to adjourn for one hour, to enable the committee time to prepare their report.

At half-past two, the convention again met, and received the following report of the committee on credentials, which was adopted:

Ascension—Henry Duffel, Allen Thomas, Thomas L. Brent, Dodrich Smith, William King, Benjamin Allen, R. Prosper Landry, Samuel O. Hepburn, R. A. Sims, Serving Taylor, William H. Ballard, Henry McCall.

Assumption—W. W. Pugh, C. U. Folse, F. A. Tete, C. J. Thiad, N. Blanchard, N. Vives, C. Dupaty, E. Melancon.

Avoyelles—S. R. Thorpe, G. A. Bordelon, A. B. Irion, Thomas Overton, G. P. Voorhies, Cesaire Lemoine, John O'Quin and Hon. A. D. Lafargue.

East Baton Rouge—Colonel A. S. Herron, J. W. Burgess, Charles Wieck, W. C. Annis, R. J. McCabe, John Jastremski, J. H. Halsey, W. S. Booth, T. S. Brady, P. Machet, A. L. Duncan, R. T. Young, T. B. Brown, E. S. Morgan, A. Burris, James McCullum, A. H. Miller, M. E. Martinez, T. J. Bird and G. M. Pierce.

West Baton Rouge—H. M. Favrot, B. W. Clark, N. W. Pope, James L. Lobdell, B. R. Chinn, Lewis Kirkland, William Gassel, Emile Lefebvre, Louis Hebert, O. Bernard, T. Bird, Richard Hebert.

Bienville—J. T. Sutton, T. J. Hightower, L. V. Tooke, Hon. James Brice, Judge D. F. Head.

Bossier—Not represented.

Caddo—W. H. Mays, James Hoss, Thomas R. Vaughan, W. H. Lindsay, W. E. Noel, E. M. Laughlin, C. J. Foster, W. W. Sebastian, James S. Flournoy, W. C. Ayers, A. H. Leonard, John C. Moncure, James H. Jordan, H. J. Hearsey, J. W. Pickens, D. G. Hendricks, James Marks Jr., J. M. Hollingsworth, Samuel M. Morrison, P. J. Trezevant, J. D. Canthorn, George W. Crowden.

Calcasieu—Hon. G. W. Richardson, Dr. W. H. Kirkman, D. D. Andrus, T. Mayo, James Cole, Levi A. Miller.

Caldwell—Hon. T. E. Meredith, T. J. Broadway, W. B. Grayson, A. W. Faulkner.

Cameron—A. W. Gillespie, A. J. Kearney.

Alternate—Albert Voorhies.

Carroll—E. J. Delony, D. C. Jenkins, Simon Witkowski, John A. Buckner, R. W. Williams, A. W. Roberts, J. L. Hurley.

Catahoula—R. B. Walters, Charles J. Boatner, J. U. Luce, N. Reddick.

Claiborne—W. Nicholson, T. D. Meadows, J. C. Eagan, G. W. Alexander, W. L. Oaks, B. R. Coleman, B. T. Ledbetter, John Young, H. C. Mitchell.

Concordia—Colonel G. Spencer Mayo, Judge O. Mayo, P. Wingate Chase, F. S. Shields.

De Soto—J. B. Lee, W. S. Frierson, J. B. Elam, R. L. Armstrong, Charles Schuler, J. L. Scales, J. L. Logan.

East Feliciana—Hon. William H. Pipes, R. H. McClelland, K. A. Cross, L. R. Freeman.

West Feliciana—Governor R. C. Wickliffe, Samuel J. Powell, M. Rose, V. D. Walsh, George W. Edwards, A. G. Smith, John A. Maryman.

Franklin—Hon. Duncan Buie, delegate; Hon. T. W. Norris, alternate; Colonel L. H. Bowden, delegate; A. A. Sanders, Esq., alternate; Dr. William E. Rapp, delegate; R. T. Young, alternate; Colonel S. G. Hawkes, delegate; William B. McDonald, alternate.

Grant—C. C. Dunn, T. K. Smith.

Iberia—J. A. Breaux, C. Dugas, E. B. Olivier, R. S. Perry, John M. Avery, W. F. Hudson, G. Dubroca, J. L. Burke, J. D. Broussard, Alph. Flory, F. Duperrier, E. F. King.

Iberville—Joseph Young, Isham F. Davis, Edw. Desobry, H. S. Brown, H. R. Slack, W. Barrow, J. H. Reels, G. Schlater, John A. Dardenne.

Jackson—M. Dickerson, E. E. Kidd, J. R. Kavanaugh, F. McCormick, W. M. Smith.

Jefferson—F. H. Thompson, W. M. Naudain, F. H. Hatch.

Lafayette—P. B. Roy, M. V. Martin, H. Eastin, E. Pelerin, E. E. Mouton.

Lafourche—D. K. Newell, H. N. Coulon, Alfred Lafont, R. H. Allen, R. R. McBride, Alexandre Theriot, J. D. Moore, Transimond Foust, Thomas Roussel, Alexander Folse.

Lincoln—G. L. Gaskins, H. C. Slaton, W. W. Pattison, J. J. Neilson, A. Barksdale.

Livingston—Aleck Hunstock, O. G. Brannon, H. Brignac, L. Z. Gowers, J. H. Allen, E. B. Starns, D. B. Miller, S. Le Bourgeois, Ben Wall, A. M. Davidson, Levi Spiller, R. K. Felder, J. B. Easterly and F. E. Hill.

Madison—Major James B. Corkern, Captain William R. Stone, Rev. A. W. Crandel, John S. Richardson, Colonel Samuel Sparrow, Judge Daniel Byrne, Major Albert Gibson.

Morehouse—Giles M. Croxton, J. Harvey Brigham, W. P. Douglas, Dr. E. J. Hope, J. B. Williams, James M. Sharp, W. R. Bunckley, John Lawhead, S. P. Collins, A. S. Keller, Dr. G. B. Marable.

Natchitoches—Delegate, R. E. Burke; alternate, L. Caspari; delegate, G. E. Gillespie; alternate, J. E. Keegan; delegate, D. Pierson; alternate, W. C. Ross; delegate, W. A. Ponder; alternate, M. Hertzog; delegate, J. A. Prudhomme; alternate, M. J. Cunningham delegate, H. H. Hathorn; alternate, M. Perot; delegate, L. N. Lane; alternate, W. B. Butler; delegate, Joseph Henry; alternate, W. W. Breazeale.

Orleans—First ward—John J. Mellon, Emile J. O'Brien, W. R. Richardson, M. Hinman, Peter Manning, D. C. Donovan, S. H. Buck, J. N. Healey, Henry Renshaw, Jr., E. P. Rareshide.

Second ward—Charles G. Ogden, A. Mitchell, Peter Markey, William H. Reynolds, Ed. Burke, Dr. Choppin, Jules A. Florat, L. Harding, N. Connell, Thomas Moclair, Louis Sincer, W. H. H. Brooks.

Third ward—Anthony Vizard, James Cousley, Walter Rogers, James Flynne, Charles J. Miltimore, Daniel Scully, Thomas Eagan, Sr., Remmy Clarke, Andrew McKay, William E. Uniacke, Andrew Leonard, C. F. Humbrecht, J. M. Norich, Peter Blaise, Edward Kennedy, McKinley Gibson, A. Steward.

Fourth ward—Tom Bynum, E. W. Huntington, Dr. Y. R. Lemonier, Frank Herron, J. F. Sturcken, Charles E. Kells, S. D. McNeil, Charles E. Schmidt.

Fifth ward—Auguste O. Devezin, R. D. Hubbard, J. M. Lamarre, John Steinfels, E. A. Bozonier, Henry Messonier, A. Rabouin, Jr., Henry F. Plauche, Joseph Demoruelle, Justin Fremaux, Joseph Blado.

Sixth ward—Paul E. Theard, Octave Morel, W. A. Bienvenu, Albert Voorhies, G. W. Dupre, Jules Lavergne, Anatole J. Ker, Phil Gehlbach, Jr.

Seventh ward—P. Malochee, A. D. Saucier, N. H. Rightor, Victor Olivier, Edmond Breaux, Leon Holzab, T. Trutman, E. H. McCaleb, T. Fernon, A. J. Lewis.

Eighth ward—Eugene Desdunes, J. H. Castellanos, James Gibney, J. G. Roche, C. Morel, Luke Norris, John Griffin, Frank Borge.

Ninth ward—Louis St. Martins, William Clark, H. C. Miller, Joseph Llula, Louis Power, John E. Rengstorff, Alfred Delavigne, Charles Husson, Joseph Noel.

Tenth ward—R. H. Marr, B. F. Jonas, F. A. Monroe, A. D. Henriques, W. Woelper, J. Gaffney, G. H. Schreiber, W. J. Whitesides, A. R. Railley, T. H. Handy, J. Alexander, A. M. Levy.

Eleventh ward—James Brewer, Frank Jorger, Charles R. Railley, P. H. Waters, J. R. A. Gauthreaux, Peter Kaiser, J. Ad. Rozier, H. E. Upton, F. Newroth, John Hughes, I. W. Patton.

Twelfth ward—J. L. Aycock, H. Chapotin, S. J. N. Smith, F. Wintz, Sr., R. M. Haillee.

Thirteenth ward—Judge E. T. Merrick, Charles F. Buck, Esq., C. H. Allen, Esq.

Fourteenth ward—S. S. Carlisle.

Fifteenth ward—Nicholas Amann, J. O. McLain, Henry Kivelin, Thomas H. Jones, Manual Abascal.

Sixteenth ward—Louis Teller.

Seventeenth ward—Peter Mitchell.

Ouachita—Thompson Wood, Captain J. P. Crosley, R. G. Cobb, Dr. R. L. Brooks, H. Younge, A. Myatt, S. D. McEnery, G. W. McCranie, C. H. Morrison, R. Richardson, J. W. Scarborough, A. Green.

Plaquemines—Dr. J. B. Wilkinson, Ed. Smith, Quezince Martin.

Pointe Coupee—Colonel F. L. Claiborne, John H. Seibert, George Pitcher, Charles Altman, Dr. Leon Ferrier, William Mears, Dr. J. G. Archer, Paulin Deplaigne, F. J. Major, H. Patin, Jr., Arcade Major, C. Sampson, Robert Semple, Edwin Vignes, Jules Labatut, Ernest Robin, Oscar Bergeron, Etienne Major, F. L. Jewell, Dr. G. L. Balsly, Cerf Wolff, J. B. Lejeune, Sr., Marx Mayer, Thomas Sitten, C. W. Allen, S. B. Claiborne, A. L. Mahondeau, A. O. Lebeau, E. Melancon, Dr. A. J. Claiborne, Alfred Hopkins, James Innis, Adeleux Langlois, C. Cazayoux, Iverson Batchelor, H. Callahan.

Rapides—T. C. Manning, M. Ryan, L. Texada, T. O. Moore, J. C. Wise, J. A. Williams, M. Wells, K. M. Clark, A. B. C. Dean, J. G. P. Hooe, F. Seip, W. E. Taylor, G. W. Stafford, R. L. Luckett, W. F. Blackman, J. S. Butler, R. P. Hunter, J. L. Gonilla, S. W. Gordon, W. Hobby, G. W. Bolton, J. A. Cruikshank, J. J. Swan, W. C. Jamee, H. Dyer and James Jeffries.

Red River—B. W. Marston.

Richland—M. J. Liddell, C. H. Moore, J. E. Lewis, P. H. Toller.

Sabine—Not represented.

St. Bernard—Not represented.

St. Charles—Emile Rost, Leon Sarpy.

St. Helena—J. M. Nettles, T. C. Bradford, B. C. Quinn, W. A. Carter, C. E. Lea, J. M. Wright, G. W. Hatch, W. L. Tillery, W. S. Hutchinson, James Odon, J. K. Womack, W. D. J. Warner, Ed. Spiller, Bennett Watson, R. W. Roberts, G. C. Raner, D. M. Woodward, D. F. McGeehee, Hon. James H. Muse, H. M. Carter, Dan Needham, Burgies T. Young, Archie D. Harvin, John W. Powell.

St. John the Baptist—M. A. Becnel, James W. Godberry, Amilius M. Havdel, Lucien Montegut, L. D. Martin, F. E. Smith.

St. James—Alfred Roman, F. P. Poche, J. J. Guthraux, L. S. LeBourgeois, Emile Leanet, J. R. Winchester.

St. Landry—M. D. Kavanagh, Joseph M. Moore, J. L. Estorge, H. L. Garland, C. B. Andrus, J. Massie Martin, A. Bailey, Lewis Prescott, F. Savoie, E. T. Lewis, Edward M. Millard, Theophile S. Fontenot, L. S. Howard, E. A. Carmouche, Yves Vidrinne, James Webb, E. D. Estilette, William A. Robertson.

St. Martin—Alexander DeClouet, Martin Voorhies, Alcibiades DeBlanc, Charles Guerieniere, E. Ducham, F. Olivier, O. Broussard, J. B. Bergeron, S. Domingeau, V. A. Fournet, U. A. Gribeau and Valery Thibodeaux.

St. Mary—Don Caffrey, Fred Gates, A. L. Tucker, T. J. Foster, J. H. Acklin, G. B. Shepherd, A. A. Pecot, H. Cranford, A. C. Dumontrait, M. J. Foster and A. G. Frere.

St. Tammany—J. M. Thompson, J. R. Hosmer, Milton Burns, James Pierce, L. L. Thomas, William Parker, William Hutchinson, Morris Talley, Maxieme Cousin, W. G. Davis, W. C. Morgan, Frank Rebaria, Jackson Morgan, George Keep, H. Y. Hoffman.

Tensas—Alexander Cohn, Thomas P. Farrar, Frank Watson, Adolphe Lewis, Judge J. L. Winters, Thomas J. Hays, L. V. Reeves.

Terrebonne—Duncan S. Cage, J. P. Viguerie, W. A. Shaffer, V. Buron, Ernest Bonvillian, Charles W. Du Roy, J. M. Robichaux.

Tangipahoa—William Akers, L. W. Connerly, C. E. Kennon, O. H. Amaker, Dr. J. D. Ford, H. W. L. Lewis, Judge J. W. Addison, G. P. McMichael, G. P. Bailey, Daniel Edwards, G. T. Raoul, E. Bennett, V. Bahm, W. H. Webber, W. H. Holden, T. M. Terry, B. H. Robertson, James Cooper.

Union—Thomas F. Gilbert, O. P. Smith, Captain Moseley, C. W. Hodge, Prister Hayes, B. F. Dillard.

Vermilion—Judge William Kibbe, Hon. A. Nunez, Isaac Wise, Severin LeBlanc.

Vernon—W. S. Smart, M. C. McAlpine, James W. Franklin, F. J. Franklin.

Washington—Robert Babington, Jacob Magee, William Magee, John P. Wood, Charles Ott, B. B. Barnodo, George Knight, F. A. Adams, W. G. Stovall, Caswell Chiles, A. McMillon, J. J. Slocum, D. Magee, John Wadsworth and Hardy Richardson.

Webster—T. B. Neal, B. L. Carr, F. M. Freeman, W. W. Carloss, A. B. George, G. W. Tompkins, J. D. Watkins, A. J. Colbert.

Winn—George A. Kelly, William A. Strong.

The committee recommended that no proxies shall be admitted, except when presented by persons residing in the parish or wards in the city of New Orleans whence the proxies emanated.

On motion of Mr. Deloney, of Carroll, the convention went into a permanent organization.

A delegate from North Louisiana nominated Hon. John C. Moncure, of Caddo, and Dr. Robertson, of St. Landry, nominated Duncan S. Cage for president of the convention.

Mr. Moncure received 240 votes; Mr. Cage 134 votes.

On motion of Mr. Cage, the election of John C. Moncure was made unanimous. Each of the candidates voted for the other.

A committee then escorted Mr. Moncure to the chair, after which the following named gentlemen were unanimously chosen vice presidents in the order named: Duncan S. Cage, Alf Roman and Henry L. Garland.

Messrs. O. Arroyo, and A. D. Henriques were appointed secretaries, and Charles Carroll sergeant-at-arms.

The organization having been completed, Mr. Moncure addressed the convention as follows:

Gentlemen of the convention, I should be more than human if I were not flattered, intensly flattered, by the vote which you have given me as your permanent presiding officer. I am flattered, gentlemen, at being called upon to preside over such a body of men as I see before me. Gentlemen from every portion of the State—representative gentlemen from every portion of the State, and I can not but presume that the deliberations of this convention will surely result in good to our State. This convention, gentlemen, is an important one—important because it is the first expression of public sentiment in view of the approaching campaign of 1876; a campaign in which Louisiana is more deeply interested than in any that has preceded it, because in all preceding campaigns, by one device or another, Louisiana has been defrauded of her just rights. It is to be hoped, at all events, whether by those machineries we may incur the hazard of again being deprived of the fruits of our success. It is at least to be hoped that the good people of Louisiana who are represented on this floor to-day will be a unit in that coming campaign. Gentlemen, I have to earnestly urge you to permit no element of discord to enter into the deliberations of this body, and I call upon those gentlemen who voted for me, and of whom I may be considered the representative, to frown down all elements of discord, and to look alone to the union of the white people of Louisiana, and to the marshaling of those people in one solid body, without one single missing man, against the vile cohorts of radicalism that are sapping, and are continuing to sap, the very life-blood of us.

I beg of you, gentlemen, one and all. I know there are elements not of discord, I hope, but of differences of sentiment among the gentlemen who compose this convention, but I would fain believe, and I earnestly hope, that these differences are merely differences in respect to policy, and where we differ only on questions of policy, differ only as to the means of attaining a common end. Surely there is liberality and intelligence enough in the gentlemen composing this convention, whom I see before me, to sink those differences, and to unite upon a common plan to attain an end devoutly to be hoped for by all.

I earnestly hope that it shall be the purpose and the object of every member of this convention, at the first appearance of any element of discord, if it does not involve a matter of principle, to suppress it, and let our deliberations in this convention be harmonious, as they should be; harmonious, because we are suffering under burdens that never before oppressed a people.

Gentlemen, I beg you will bear and forbear with me. I will promise you that while I have distinct convictions upon all matters of principle—and I have distinct convictions upon all matters of policy—I am no partisan among my own people. I thank you most earnestly for the honor conferred upon me, and I will strive earnestly to discharge those duties imposed upon me to your satisfaction; I will certainly discharge them according to my own conviction of what is right. [Loud cheers.]

On motion a committee of eighteen on resolutions, consisting of three from each congressional district, to be selected by the delegates of the respecting districts, was ordered.

Colonel John McEnery was on motion of Mr. E. Bozonier, of Orleans, invited to a seat on the platform and was escorted to it by a committee of three, and a like courtesy was extended to Colonel D. B. Penn, on motion of Robert McClelland, of Feliciana.

A special committee was ordered on motion of Mr. R. H. Marr to inquire into and report upon the subject of municipal and State taxation. All resolutions offered hereafter were on motion of E. H. McCaleb Esq., ordered to be referred without debate to the committee on resolutions, and on motion of Mr. Marr, a committee of nine was created on "memorial and address to the Congress of the United States upon the condition of Louisiana affairs."

On motion of ex-Governor Wickliffe the convention then adjourned until seven o'clock this evening.

Evening Session.

The convention was called to order at a quarter past seven o'clock in the evening, Hon. John C. Moncure in the chair.

The secretary announced the committees as appointed under the resolution adopted at the morning session:

Committee on State and municipal taxation—Daniel Scully, of Orleans, chairman; A. Mitchell, of Orleans; Amedee Tete, of Assumption; J. L. Scales, of De Soto; General John Young, of Claiborne; Thomas M. Moore, of St. Landry.

Committee on Resolutions—A. Voorhies, of Orleans, chairman; Dr. J. B. Wilkinson, of Plaquemines; McKinley Gibson, of Orleans; J. Ad. Rozier, of Orleans; B. F. Jonas, of Orleans; F. P. Poche, of St. James; General A. Thomas, of Assumption; Edward Mouton, of Lafayette; Don Caffery, of St. Mary; L. T. Texada, of Rapides; A. H. Leonard, of Caddo; A. B. George, of Webster; E. E. Kidd, of Jackson; C. H. Moore, of Richland; L. V. Reeves, of Tensas; E. T. Lewis, of St. Landry; Robert J. Wickliffe, of West Feliciana; J. H. Muse, of St. Helena.

Committee to prepare an address to the Congress of the United States in relation to Louisiana affairs—Robert H. Marr, of Orleans, chairman; J. Jeffries, of Rapides; H. J. Hearsey, of Caddo; E. T. Merrick, of Orleans; G. W. McCranie, of Ouachita; E. N. Huntington, of Orleans; Martin Voorhies, of St. Martin; W. R. Richardson, of Orleans.

On motion of several members of the convention, the following named gentlemen were invited to take seats upon the platform: Hon. Louis A. Wiltz, Robert M. Lusher, Hon. E. D. Estilette and Hon. Robert H. Marr.

Mr. Marr, in declining the invitation, said that he was a member of the delegation from the tenth ward of this city, and it was necessary for him to vote with his delegation, which he could by no means do should he take a seat upon the platform. He would therefore have to decline the invitation.

Mr. Marr, of Orleans, said:

Mr. President—I have in my possession two letters, one written by the Hon. Mr. Gibson, one of our Representatives in Congress, and the other by the Hon. Mr. Levy, another of our Representatives in Congress. These letters give an account of the condition of our case in Washington City, and I think that both of the letters were prepared in reference to this convention, and with the expectation that they would be read before this convention. These letters are not addressed to me; they are addressed to Governor McEnery. They were placed in my possession with the understanding that at a suitable time they should be called up and read before the convention.

Mr. Dupre, of Orleans, moved that the letters be read at the present time. No objection being made, the secretary was instructed to read them.

The secretary experienced some difficulty in reading the letters, when Mr. S. J. N. Smith, of Orleans, moved that the further reading of the letters be dispensed with, and that they be given to the reporters, with the request that they be published in the morning papers.

Mr. Leonard, of Caddo, opposed the motion, and said it was due to the gentlemen who had written the letters to give them all proper respect and attention, and he, as a delegate from the parish of Caddo, wanted the letters read now.

Mr. Smith insisted on his motion.

The chairman said: "I would suggest to the gentleman who offered that motion, that we have no public printer to call upon to print them; and that if they were given to the reporters I don't know that in that case they would be printed. I will, however, put the motion."

The motion being put and lost, a motion was offered that the letters be read at the present time. The motion was carried.

A motion was made at this time that the convention adjourn until such time as the letters could be printed.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Jones, of the fifteenth ward called for the reading of the letters; and, the call being largely seconded, the secretary was instructed to read them:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., December 27, 1875.

Governor John McEnery, New Orleans:

MY DEAR SIR—The action of the House of Representatives on the first day of the session has caused much surprise to our friends, especially in Louisiana, and a statement of the facts connected with the presentation of Mr. Wood's resolution and of the reasons given by the Democrats who opposed its passage, are necessary for a full understanding of the matter, and also in explanation of the non-participation of Messrs. Gibson, Ellis and myself in the debate on the resolution.

After deliberation and consultation by the Democratic members from Louisiana with many of our older and more experienced fellow members, viz: Speaker Kerr, Hon. Fernando Wood, L. Q. C. Lamar, S. S. Cox and others, all of whom expressed their approval of the course which we had agreed upon, Mr. Wood, on account of his long service, parliamentary experience and thorough acquaintance with all the features of the Louisiana question, was selected to introduce the resolution for reference of the credentials of Messrs. Spencer and Morey to the Committee on Elections, and assume its conduct and management on the floor. These friends counseled that the Louisiana members should not engage in the debate, but those from other States should take the matter in hand and press the passage of the resolution, preferring that it should not be presented by the local Representatives from the State directly interested, but by those from other States and sections, thus giving it a broader and more national inauguration and support.

We believed that there would be unanimity among the Democrats in favor of the resolution, and were strengthened in this belief by the approval and concurrence of the prominent gentlemen whom we had consulted. Our belief in the unanimity of the Democratic members was erroneous, as the subsequent action of the House developed, and even after its modification, at the instance of Mr. Lamar, requiring only the reference of Mr. Morey's credentials, the resolution was voted down, in a full House, in which the Democratic majority is nearly seventy, and on Mr. Blaine's motion Mr. Morey was sworn in. The contest of Mr. Morey's seat by Mr. Spencer will therefore be had on the merits of the case involving the facts of the election of 1874.

During the debate it was charged on the Republican side, and admitted by many of our Democratic friends in the House, that at the last session of Congress there was an implied understanding and tacit agreement, though not formally expressed, that the proposed Wheeler compromise should operate as an acquiescence in the Kellogg government, and further action or discussion on that subject by Congress should not be had.

In the debate, the following propositions were submitted by the supporters of the resolution:

That the understanding or tacit agreement above referred to in the preceding Congresses, was not binding on this, a new body.

That the passage by the House, in the Forty-third Congress, of the resolution recognizing William P. Kellogg as the Governor of Louisiana, did not, and ought not to control the Forty-fourth Congress, the resolution of recognition having passed the House by a party vote, most of the Republican members voting for it and the Democratic members against it.

That the election returns of 1872 had not been canvassed by the congressional committee of investigation, a portion of which committee had undertaken the compromise of 1875, involving only the election of 1874.

That this compromise, assuming to recognize Kellogg as Governor, has not the approval and ratification of the people of Louisiana, and does not conclude the claims of John McEnery as legal Governor.

These propositions, incidentally submitted, the House did not decide upon, and its action was decisive only of this, that as Kellogg was exercising the functions of Governor, and was recognized as exercising such functions by the co-ordinate branches of the State government, his certificate, *prima facie*, entitled Mr. Morey to be sworn in as a member of the House on its organization.

It is clearly the sense of the House, as shown by these proceedings, that the issue, "Who is the legal Governor?" should not be raised collaterally, and, therefore, it can only be considered as a direct and independent question.

As an abstract proposition, it seems to me clear that if the preceding House of Representatives had the right to declare its opinion on the subject, the present one, fresh from the people, has the same right, and its declaration should have more weight than that of its predecessor, especially if based upon the returns of the election in 1872.

I feel it my duty to state that many of our friends in Congress indicate an unwillingness to reopen the Louisiana case. The apparent and superficial quiet in the State is misinterpreted by them as the result of the "Wheeler compromise," and as manifesting tacit acquiescence in Kellogg's government; and hence they contend it is our best policy to abstain from agitation of this question, but rather to bend our energies toward carrying the election in November, 1876, and thus effect the installation of the government of our choice.

A full understanding of the real situation, of the feelings of the people in regard thereto, and a recital of the oppressive and odious laws blotting our statute books and paralyzing the energies of the Commonwealth, which were enacted by past Legislatures for the purpose of suppressing the sentiment and voice of the voters, and which, under the existing usurpation, we are powerless to repeal, are necessary to disabuse the minds of these friends and cause them to give the subject the serious consideration and healing relief which it demands, and to which it is justly entitled.

A memorial of the people of Louisiana, through representatives of its most intelligent classes, assembled in convention, setting forth the grievances under which they labor, the wrongs which have been heaped upon them, and the sacred rights which have been violated by high-handed usurpation, could hardly fail to command the serious attention of Congress; and even should it fail to accomplish the desired relief, it would, at least, bring to the knowledge of our brethren throughout the whole Union the facts and truth of our case, and place us on the record in the proper attitude of continued hostility to the wrongful government forced upon us by the strong arm of the federal government and of earnest appeal to the spirit of right and justice which should animate our fellow-citizens of every section of the republic.

In this connection I feel at liberty to speak for my colleagues, and assure you that the Democratic Representatives from our State in this Congress, are fully alive to the importance of the questions at stake, and their most zealous efforts will be to put forth toward securing such action as will redress the wrongs of oppressed and unfortunate Louisiana, and guarantee her right under a "republican form of government," to regulate her domestic household, and enjoy those privileges and franchises to which she is entitled under the constitution, and which are her birthright as a sovereign State.

With highest consideration, I am, truly yours,

WILLIAM M. LEVY.

CONGRESSMAN GIBSON'S LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 31, 1875.

Governor John McEnery:

SIR—Illness in my family prevented me at the moment from from acknowledging your favor of the twenty-third instant. Having freely interchanged opinions with Colonel Levy, I requested him to reply to it, and I most cordially indorse his communication, a copy of which I favored me with to-day.

The Wheeler adjustment, it is true, did not bind the Democratic members of the Legislature to a recognition of Kellogg as the lawfully elected Governor of Louisiana.

The last Congress, upon the report of a committee confessing that no examination had been made of the election of 1872, proceeded to recognize Kellogg as Governor of the State of Louisiana. They regarded his recognition, I suppose, as but a fair equivalent for securing the admission of the Democratic members of the Legislature after its dissolution by Lieutenant General Sheridan. The last Congress expired under the shadow of force bills and military governments for the Southern States, reflected from the White House. Its last moments were agitated by apprehensions of a vast military domination, to extend not only over Louisiana, but over several other Southern States. The leaders of the Democratic party, and notably Hon. Samuel Randall, with the aid of the more moderate Republicans, achieved one of the most signal victories in the history of constitutional government against the encroachments of executive power. Having defeated this policy they voted against the resolutions of the Republicans with regard to Louisiana, but at the same time they gave positive assurances that they would regard them as a final disposition of the Louisiana case. They justify themselves somewhat after the following manner: "We had just saved you, by an extraordinary struggle, from martial law. The Legislature of Louisiana elected by the people had declared their acquiescence in Kellogg as Governor; the Democratic party had a majority in the Legislature, and therefore control of the money of the people, and quiet and peace resulted from the adjustment. We thought it best, then, to accept the situation as it was, and to agree not to agitate the election of 1872, but let it drop out among the many dead issues of the past. There will be no more military interference, no more presidential Governors installed by United States marshals aided by United States soldiers, no more Sheridans marching their troops into your legislative halls. In a few months you will have another election, and if you are wise, united and energetic you can carry your State. Our party is opposed to interfering in the affairs of the States, even to right a wrong if there be a chance of its being done by local action. We can not afford to convert this body into a canvassing board for the States to determine their elections. We can not afford to follow the example of the executive, to displace one Governor and to put another in his place. It has been more than three years since the election of 1872, another Legislature has been elected, new Congressmen have been returned, new office holders all over the State have come into office. Moreover, the country has made its mind up against any further agitation of the Louisiana case; it may give the President another pretext to invoke military power and do harm to the Democratic party in the next election."

Now, these are the views entertained by nearly all the leading Democrats here from the South, as well as the North; and they express them, or similar ones, with great frankness and firmness. No candid statement of the Louisiana case could be made that did not give these views prominence. The truth of this is not only to be ascertained in daily conversations, but it was made manifest when it was proposed to refer Spencer's credentials, as being *prima facie*, equal in dignity to Morey's, to the Committee on Elections.

It might sound better if I were to make a flourish of trumpets and indulge in pleasing illusions, but it is wiser for us to realize the truth as it is, so that we may not deceive ourselves.

There is but one way in which the election of 1872 can be brought before the lower house of Congress, and that is by memorial or petition. The issue on the certificates did not and could not embrace the case.

Our only hope for redress is under article four, section four of the constitution: "The United States shall guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government."

Surely no government can be republican which was created and is maintained by military force. The "guarantee" clause is clearly a guarantee against usurpation by rulers, the most frequent cause of the overthrow of republican governments and of liberty. Again, the legislation passed by the minority after the disruption of the Legislature by General Sheridan, and which was swiftly approved by Kellogg during the consideration of the Wheeler adjustment, and in plain violation of both its spirit and its terms, intended to perpetuate the power of Kellogg and his Radical successors, and to defeat any elections hereafter, is wholly inconsistent with republican government. Nor is the action of the last House binding upon the present Congress.

A memorial and petition, setting forth our grievances, the infamous laws to prevent any elections by the people, the confiscating taxation, the crushing burdens imposed upon the city of New Orleans by the State government, consuming her substance and banishing her industry, trade and commerce, and the denial of all remedies for public wrongs, might be presented to Congress.

If it do not bring relief, it will at least make known to our countrymen the wrongs of which we complain, and that so far from being factionists our people are the most moderate, conservative and forbearing in the Union. Even should any measure of relief pass the House it would be idle to expect the concurrence of the Senate, and bitter experience has taught us how little is to be hoped from an executive who holds out political rewards to those in our midst who most boldly plot against the peace, the prosperity, the laws and the liberties of our unhappy State.

In haste, yours respectfully,
R. L. GIBSON.

The reading of the letter having been concluded, Mr. Jonas, of Orleans, moved that the Hon. E. John Ellis, who was upon the floor of the convention, be invited to a seat upon the platform.

This motion was received with loud cheers, during which Mr. Ellis was escorted to the front.

A motion being offered that Mr. Ellis be invited to address the convention, he spoke as follows:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Convention—I most sincerely thank you for the honor and distinction you have conferred upon me by asking me to come to your council hall to address you. I find myself in the presence of men who have grown gray in the service of the State. I find myself surrounded by young men representing the heart and brain of the State, and its honor and courage, too; and I judge that I stand here simply because you wish to learn from me how we discharged our duties in Washington—by we I mean General Gibson, Mr. Levy, Mr. Spencer and myself—in regard to the settling of our case. I will endeavor to do so, and that, too, as briefly as possible.

Upon our arrival in Washington, as you have been told, we made it our first duty to go and see the leaders of the Democratic party. We went first to Mr. Kerr, Mr. Morrison, Mr. Randall, Mr. Wood and Mr. Lamar. We said to those gentlemen that we had come there for the purpose of making this fight in behalf of the recognition of the legally elected Governor and other State officers in Louisiana. We told them that on the twentieth of this month we should try and seat Mr. Spencer, who is your Representative from the Fifth District, upon the credentials given him by Governor McEnery, and not upon those received from the usurper Kellogg. We proposed, then, to open this contest, upon the arrival of those credentials. Mr. Wood, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Randall and Mr. Lamar advised us that, as we were all new members, and as there was a question of parliamentary law which grew out of the question of double seals and double signatures, the question should be left to an impartial discussion.

The hour came. Mr. Wood then moved the resolution, "that whereas Mr. Spencer, from the fifth district of Louisiana, had presented and filed his credentials received from John McEnery, claiming to be the Governor of Louisiana; and whereas, Mr. Morey had filed his credentials received from W. P. Kellogg, occupying the gubernatorial chair of Louisiana—that they be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and that they be instructed to inquire as to which of these gentlemen was entitled to be sworn in and take his seat." And upon this he called for the previous question.

Now, my friends, when the Wheeler compromise was effected the people of the State of Louisiana did not intend that that compromise should settle this question, as to who was the legal Governor of Louisiana, but that it should simply settle the status of the lower House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana. No, gentlemen, that compromise was never accepted by the people of this State as settling the splendid contest that was made in 1872, and for the maintenance of which that glorious fight was made on the fourteenth of September. No, sirs! That contest can not be abandoned. [Loud cheers.] The man, sirs, who can accept that compromise as settling our Louisiana affair would not hesitate to spit upon the graves of those heroes who fell on the fourteenth of September. [Loud cheering.] No, sirs! it was never contemplated or accepted by the people of this State as a final settlement of this question, and I would hurl back the lie to those who dare assert to the contrary. It was never thought by Blaine nor Garfield that the question of who was the legal Governor in Louisiana would ever be brought up again to trouble the dreams of Grant, or the dreams of the Republican party. They thought that no one would dare to do it; but it will be done by the convention that is assembled in this hall to-night. [Cheers.] And one gentleman in the House went so far as to address his God with the hope that the question might never be brought up again. But, my friends, if we should let the matter rest where it is, we would be false to the trusts that have been confided to us by the people of the State. No, we must never abandon the struggle. [Cheers.] You can not abandon it and be