DEMOCRACY IN RAPIDES

Two Thousand Five Hundred Democrats Meet at Alexandria.

Great Enthusiasm Manifested By the Audience.

All the Speakers Handsomely Received.

Addresses by Senator Eustis, Major Burke, Col. Boatner, and Judges Seay and Blackburn.

ALEXANDRIA, Nov. 15.—Hon. J. B. Eustis, Major E. A. Burke, Hon. C. J. Boatner and Judge W. A. Seay arrived here last night. The crowd that assembled to meet them was larger than that which greeted Gen. Nicholls, and the meeting to-day was as brilliant and enthusiastic as any held during the present campaign. It was held on the town square, and attended by over 2500 persons, among whom were about 200 ladies and children. The Washington Brass Band, composed of twenty handsomely uniformed musicians, was in attendance, and every arrangement was complete.

At noon the meeting was called to order by W. W. Whitington, Jr., who requested John W. Prescott to act as chairman, and who announced the following officers: H. L. Biossat and S. C. Sawyer, secretaries; Wm. Polk, Jr., marshal; vice presidents, J. C. Wise, A. Staples, Julius Levin, W. Sanford, E. B. Taylor, W. J. B. Thornton, B. Turner, W. D. Smith, D. H. Willis, W. W. Wisener, T. H. James, Stephen Barrett, Geo. S. Wilson, T. D. Arden, John P. Grogan, M. Moss, A. D. Havard, J. Spence Smith, G. W. Compton, J. L. Connella, W. A. Griffin, Geo. Calvit, D. Smith, Joe Levin, Jacob Geiger, W. French, N. B. Rachal, S. Cullen, B. Mayer, E. J. Hardner, E. B. Pendleton, R. B. Price.

Mr. Prescott requested Judge Blackman to introduce the speakers. Judge Blackman said: "Before proceeding to introduce the various speakers who will address you on this occasion, I am very sorry to inform you of the fact that

HIS EXCELLENCY SAM'L D. M'ENERY

is not here to-day. On yesterday a committee was appointed to meet him at the depot and found the Governor in such a condition that it was impossible for him to appear. He was not able to speak above a whisper and was threatened with pneumonia. He is now undergoing medical treatment. I am, therefore, very sorry that he cannot be with you on this occasion.

"I now take pleasure in introducing to you one of Louisiana's most distinguished sons, a man whose name is known throughout the length and breadth, not only of our commonwealth, but who has a national reputation as one of the first men in the nation, and who has always been true to the Democratic party and Democratic principles, allied as he has been with Louisiana from his infancy up, as a soldier, as a civilian and as a statesman, giving not only the best of life in her behalf, but is still serving her in the Senate of the United States, and we hope that when the election comes off in April, that the Hon. James B. Eustis will be continued in that distinguished place as Senator from Louisiana."

Senator Eustis then addressed the meeting, making a powerful speech, which was frequently applauded. The Senator said:

SENATOR JAMES B. EUSTIS.

Campaign of Calumny Deprecated—Serious Objections to Gen. Nicholls' Candidacy—Why Gov. McEnery Should be Renominated and Re-Elected.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen and Fellow-Democrats—I have been engaged in an exceedingly arduous canvass, and in all the meetings that I have had the pleasure of addressing I am glad indeed to see so many ladies gracing by their presence these Democratic gatherings. In this State the elections have more than an ordinary significance. With us we feel that the peace of our fellow-citizens is involved in every political contest, and, therefore, it is well that it is patriotic that ladies as well as gentlemen should understand the issues which we are discussing, for I have no doubt that the ladies of Rapides, as elsewhere, have very great influence over their husbands and sweethearts.

It is natural, fellow-citizens, that a great many erroneous impressions should prevail in a canvass which has assumed the regrettable features, as it were, of a family dissension and

A FAMILY QUARREL,

and I desire to state to you what I have stated not once, but repeatedly throughout this State, that I consider the followers of Gen. Nicholls and his supporters as good Democrats as are the supporters and friends of Gov. McEnery. [Applause.] I believe that they have the same interests at stake; that they have in their memories the past struggles in which they, the followers of Gen. Nicholls, have exhibited to the people as much courage, as much firmness and as much Democratic patriotism as have the followers of Gov. McEnery. [Applause.] No word has escaped from my lips to disparage or to detract from the merit of any faction or any class of the people of my State. On the contrary, I accord to every man in this State the same privilege that I claim for myself, and that is, to honestly and conscientiously support whoever you may choose and consider worthy to be the standard-bearer of the Democracy in the coming fight.

It has been said that we have charged that Gen. Nicholls intends to Africanize the State of Louisiana. Why, my fellow-citizens, what calumny that is. We all know that Gen. Nicholls is devoted to the interests of Louisiana and is as much in favor of white supremacy in this State, from his standpoint, as any man in the State of Louisiana.

This is not a question of mere personal candidacy. This is not a question whether we shall advance or promote the

POLITICAL FORTUNES OF ANY INDIVIDUAL

in this State. If that were the issue I would not be addressing you, my fellow-citizens; but I would exercise in private and in the secrecy of the ballot the privilege of selecting whomsoever I chose and considered worthy to be Governor of this State. The right of private opinion and private judgment could be exercised as it has been done in times past in the Democratic party; but it is because, in my judgment, there are policies affecting this personal candidacy; it is because, in my judgment, there are measures of public administration of supreme moment to the people of Louisiana, and I raise my voice not for the purpose, or with any presumption of instructing or enlightening my fellow-citizens, not believing that by my oratory or mere phraseology I can convert a Nicholls man into a McEnery man, or vice versa, but it is because, my fellow-citizens, we are called upon to determine who shall be the nominee of the Democratic party at

THE NEXT NOMINATING CONVENTION.

It is because Gov. Nicholls has had an administration, and it is because Gov. McEnery has had an administration, and it is because these two administrations are open and subject to the criticism of every fair-minded man in this State, that we consult each other in order to arrive at conclusions which shall be beneficial to the interests of the people and to the Democratic party.

My friends, in old times no such spectacle as we witness here to-day was presented. There were no meetings advocating the claims of any aspirant to the office of Governor in advance of a nominating convention. Gentlemen who had a right to aspire to that high office submitted their claims modestly and quietly. Their claims were advocated or discussed in the press, in private conversation or private consultation, and when that convention determined who was more worthy of the confidence and support of the Democracy, the Democrats accepted that verdict as the final judgment of the Democratic party. Therefore I have no criticism to make against the candidacy of any individual. I have no criticism to make against the classes supporting any particular candidate, but

WHAT I DO CRITICISE

is the fact that there has been in this State an unprecedented campaign inaugurated; that there has been in this State a campaign inaugurated which if repeated will imperil the integrity and the unity of the Democratic party, and whenever that is accomplished we will be again relegated to Republican rule in this State. [Applause.]

And I want to address you calmly and dispassionately—intelligently, if I can—for the purpose of reminding you that the unity of the Democratic party is paramount to the personal aspirations and personal candidacy of any man. [Applause and cheers.] You achieved those great victories in the past by unity, by discipline and by organization, when there was scarce a silver lining to the dark cloud that hovered over your firesides; when the whole power of the Federal government was exerted, its military arm invoked to suppress the wills and the voice of the white people of Louisiana. When you, my fellow-citizens, were engaged in that cause which is

MORE SACRED THAN ANY CAUSE

in which man has ever been engaged in the struggle of humanity, when you were trying to hold up in our midst the bright light of Caucasian civilization; when you stood shoulder to shoulder, never yielding to the terrors or to the allurements of the powers that threatened you, when you have engaged in that cause that armed the hand of childhood itself and rebraced the slackened sinews of timid, wearied age. [Applause.]

When you, my fellow-citizens, were united; when your ranks were serried; when you showed that indomitable courage, that unyielding devotion to the cause which you so heroically defended and maintained; you did it then as a united Democracy. You then frowned down every effort that was made to disorganize or to disintegrate that party. [Applause.] And I wish to appeal to you to remind you not only of what elements of power and of manhood you used in the past struggles; but in my judgment you are confronted with that same peril, that same danger which confronted you in the past and it will be presented to you in another form. I do not refer to Gen. Nicholls or his following, but I do refer to the

PUBLIC UTTERANCES AND OFFICIAL ACTS

of Nicholls during his administration. I have never made an allusion to what he did in order to establish his government. We were all engaged in that great effort. Whatever we did was actuated by sense of public duty, recognizing that we had in 1876 to wrest our beloved State from the thralldom of Radical rule; but, my friends, it was under the government that was established that Nicholls did two things, which, in my judgment, he ought not to have done, one as a Democratic Governor and one as a Democratic leader. I refer to his course as Chief Executive during the Tensas troubles. You must remember that you now have

A WHITE MAN'S GOVERNMENT

in this State, so far as the State government is concerned; but that so far as your local governments are concerned you may still have the heel of oppression upon your necks; you may still have those local governments which are detestable to the pride of the white people of this State. In 1878 our fellow-Democrats in the parish of Tensas did what they thought they had a right to do. They did it to protect their firesides; they did it to protect themselves against Radical domination; and they resorted to extreme measures—if you will—you may call it a revolution, if you choose; but I say that under those circumstances I regret that Gov. Nicholls, then a Democratic Governor, did not take the stand which I believe Sam McEnery would have taken, and that is to the extent of his power exercised sympathy in that struggle. [Cheers and applause.] He acted from pure and conscientious motives. He believed that a conservative policy was the best policy that he should pursue as Governor of the State of Louisiana. He believed that a conciliatory policy was the wisest policy that he could pursue as a Democratic Governor of Louisiana. He believed that Northern sentiment ought to influence the action of a Democratic Governor. I, fellow-citizens, do not believe in that doctrine at all. [Applause.]

Let me tell you that if this conservative policy had prevailed with us in 1876 when Nicholls was elected Governor—if that view of the duty of white Democrats in this State had been adopted, in my judgment we would to-day be writhing under the blighting curse of negro domination. [Applause.] It was because the Democracy of North Louisiana did not accept that view; it was because the Democracy of North Louisiana grasped that terrible problem with a firm and iron hand, that we enjoy to-day constitutional liberty. [Vociferous applause.]

I say that that was an Executive act which is open to just and fair criticism. I have seen no recantation; I have seen no withdrawal of the views and the opinions as expressed by Gen. Nicholls, and I say that I will not, until he is nominated by a Democratic convention, give my indorsement and my approval to those views.

Again, my fellow-citizens, you have heard something about

THE HUNT BOLT.

That was a case where a Democratic Convention unanimously nominated a true and tried Democrat for Congress. No one has ever questioned the regularity of the proceedings of that convention: no one has ever whispered a word of slander against the public or private character of Col. Louis St. Martin, who was unanimously nominated by that convention. On the contrary, in advance of the time when that convention met, there was a bolt from the Democratic party. The regular Democracy in that district made every proposition that could be made to those gentlemen in order to bring them back within the regular Democratic fold. They offered them primary elections; they offered them an equal number of judges and commissioners of election; they appealed to them not to disrupt the Democratic party, to stand by the colors of the Democratic party, and mind you, this was in a Presidential election in November, 1884, and yet Gen. Nicholls went into that district and made a speech justifying that bolt, and asking his fellow-Democrats to vote for Mr. Hunt, who had never been nominated, and to vote against Col. St. Martin, who was the unanimous nominee. [Applause.]

Now, my friends, in old times if a man were to do a thing of that kind he would scarcely, four years after, run for the nomination of the Democratic Convention for Governor. [Applause.] In old times, when we believed in discipline and in organization, when we believed in party fealty, a man would scarcely have got up before his fellow-citizens and told them that he had justified that bolt in a public speech. A bolt in which these reform gentlemen (and I intend to allude to them, in a minute, in a very friendly way, though,) had gone before the United States court, before a Republican Federal judge, and asked that Federal judge to issue an order striking off the names of

SEVEN THOUSAND DEMOCRATIC VOTERS

in that district. Why, I made a speech in that campaign, I made a speech in that district, and instead of advising my fellow-citizens to vote for a bolting ticket, I told them that that application to that Federal judge to strike off the names of 7000 Democratic voters in that district eclipsed in enormity and infamy the famous midnight order of Judge Durell. [Vociferous applause.] Fortunately the judge did not grant that order. He dismissed it, although he was a Republican judge, from the bench; and let me tell you that if that order had been issued the electoral vote of the State of Louisiana would have been cast for Blaine and Logan. [Applause.] Now, some people may call that Democracy. I don't. How can any one who engaged in that movement ever condemn a bolt in the State of Louisiana in the Democratic party. If we are to encourage bolts what would become of us? I have been whipped; I have had a very sore head sometimes; I have felt the keen anguish of political disappointment, but what did I do? Did I turn reformer? No, my fellow-citizens; I walked in the ranks of the Democratic party and battled as I could in defense of the principles of that party. [Applause.]

Now I understand that some of those gentlemen

OBJECT TO BEING CALLED REFORMERS.

We did not give them that name; they appropriated it themselves. [Laughter.] They were proud of it in 1884. [Smiles.] In that movement all their political documents were headed, "Executive Committee of the Reform Democracy of the First District of Louisiana." They were proud of that name then, and when they went to Washington and poisoned the mind of the President against the Democratic State administration they were proud of the name of Reform Democrats. [Cheers and applause.] When Mr. Kernochan was appointed naval officer, which was the first appointment made by Mr. Cleveland, the dispatches went out to the papers of New Orleans representing it as a great victory for the Reform Democracy; "Mr. Kernochan, who supported Hunt against the St. Martin nomination has been appointed naval officer." [Applause.] The second appointment that was made was also of a Hunt supporter, and went out under the heading that the reform Democracy of Louisiana had won another victory.

Now, let me read you an extract from a letter of Col. Hollingsworth. I read it to you merely to show you, my fellow-citizens, that that is the title which these gentlemen have appropriated to themselves and of which they have been proud, but now that they find that it is grating to the ears of the true and stalwart Democrats of Louisiana they are trying to shed that name and get rid of it entirely. [Laughter and cheers.] In this letter, in which Mr. Hollingsworth was defining his position on the question of the Senatorship with reference to Mr. Jonas, he uses the following language: "On the contrary, I have visited Mr. Jonas three times, once in company with Mr. Blanchard himself, to assure him (Mr. Jonas) that the reform element would support him for the Senate," etc. And he goes on in another place and says: "Mr. Jonas told me he expected to do some work and would make some speeches on our side, and I say now that the reform element in North Louisiana is willing to support Mr. Jonas if he will align himself," etc. I make these remarks and these quotations in order to repel the insinuation that we have classified these gentlemen as the "reform" Democracy in this State. We have used that term because we thought they were as proud of it now as they were in 1884 [applause], and that is what we mean when we refer to these "reform" orators.

Now, my friends,

ANOTHER OBJECTION

that I have to the candidacy of Gen. Nicholls is this: that it implies necessarily a censure and a condemnation of the McEnery administration. You have a distinguished son in this parish, one of unsullied public and private record, one whose services to the Democratic party in the past no individual in the State of Louisiana has ever questioned; one who would confer honor upon the office and upon the people of Louisiana and upon himself if he were nominated by that convention. I refer to the Hon. James Jeffries. [Cheers and cries of "Hurrah for Jeffries."] You have in other portions of the State men equally distinguished, whose friends tell us are aspirants for that office. I say that the nomination of not one of these men would be offensive in the least sense to the supporters and friends and defenders of the McEnery administration. [Cheers.]

But when you ask me to support the candidacy of Gen. Nicholls after this campaign which has been inaugurated, I say that it would be unjust, undemocratic and unpatriotic in me to censure and condemn the administration of Sam D. McEnery because he has been faithful to that office, true to every pledge that he has made, and he is a true and tried stalwart and swayback Democrat. [Cheers.] Why, look at this campaign. A number of gentlemen, calling themselves reform Democrats, have addressed what are called Nicholls meetings, telling the people of Louisiana that Sam McEnery, who was placed in the gubernatorial office after a nomination by a Democratic convention, and after an election by an overwhelming majority of Democratic votes, has forfeited the confidence of the Democracy of this State; that he has defaulted in popular esteem; that he is unworthy to be intrusted with the responsible duties of that office, and that he deserves to be turned out of that office with the stigma of personal disgrace upon his brow and upon his reputation. These are inferentially the charges that are made upon him. Now, my friends, this was going on for six weeks. These gentlemen were trying to

POISON THE MINDS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

of this State against the Democratic administration, which had been placed in power by the Democracy of Louisiana. Could he remain silent under such circumstances; could he allow this indictment to be drawn up against his administration without making an answer to it; could he suffer these accusations and charges to go broadcast to the Democracy of this State who placed confidence in him and allow them to remain unanswered, uncontroverted and unrefuted. No, my fellow-citizens! [Cries of "Never," "Never," and applause.]

He waited for six weeks and then he went before the people; not in a boastful spirit, not vaunting his exploits as Governor of this State, but he submitted his administration to the judgment of the intelligent people of Louisiana; invited the vigilant criticism of his bitterest opponents, and appealed to the fair dealing, to the self-respect, to the patriotism of the Democracy of the State of Louisiana, whether he has been false to any pledge that he has ever made, whether he has been recreant to any duty that has been imposed upon him by the Democracy of this State or by the people of this State, and he tells these reform gentlemen, "If you can point to a single act which I have done as Governor of this State by which you can establish that I failed in the execution of my duty; that I have been recreant to the Democratic party, then I am willing to admit that I deserved the censure and the condemnation instead of the support of my people. [Applause.] He spoke to his people like a statesman. He is not a man who wraps himself in the dignity of the Executive office. He is a man of the people. Whenever he knows of the people, wherever it may be in the State, making an effort to advance their material interests, he goes among them, counsels with them, gives them the benefit of his personal and of his Executive presence and cheers them on in their career of material development and material prosperity. When I go throughout these parishes, from one to the other in the State, I ask the people what sort of

LOCAL OFFICERS

have you got? Are they good and efficient and honest? In every parish the answer has been "Yes." Are they popular men? Unquestionably. Are they Democrats? Undeniably. Then, fellow-citizens, what more can you ask of a chief Executive of this State. Some people imagine that anybody can be Governor of Louisiana. I don't believe in that doctrine. I believe that owing to the very extraordinary and exceptional condition surrounding our social organism in this State, I believe that the responsibilities and duties of the Governor of the State of Louisiana are graver than the duties and responsibilities of the President of the United States. I believe it requires a higher order of statesmanship. I believe that it requires stronger convictions upon certain questions. I believe that it requires a man who will give a stimulus to the spirit of enterprise among our people, and to uphold and encourage and cheer them on in their march of material development, material progress, and I am free to say, acquainted as I am with the history of my native State, that Gov. McEnery has given the most efficient and beneficial administration to the people of Louisiana of any Governor who has preceded him. [Cheers.]

My friends, there are other speakers and I will not detain you any longer. I hope that this bitterness of feeling which exists in some parishes, and which, I am glad to note, is not as acute here as it is in some other sections of the State, will be disciplined. I hope that the memories of the past will bring us together into a closer brotherhood of true Democracy. I hope that the grave interests which we have at stake, the momentous issues with which we have to contend, will create in our midst a holier and warmer feeling. We must remember that we are all Louisianians; that we are all Democrats; and we must remember that we are all striving for the same purpose, and to the great, supreme end of prosperity to our beloved State, the success of the Democratic party and the supremacy of the white man's government. [Cheers and applause.]

JUDGE W. A. SEAY

was the next speaker. He took up the campaign and discussed it fully. He found this contest going on when he returned to America, and found two honorable men as aspirants. One of the gentlemen he was present to advocate, and that was McEnery. He had nought to say against Nicholls. It will be a sad day for Louisiana when men like Nicholls are abused. His platform is a simple resumé of the memorable 1876. The backbone of the Radical party had been broken long before 1876, and if he had to single out any one man who broke that backbone he would point to Gen. Fred N. Ogden. [Cheers.] He had no objection to Nicholls taking the credit to which he is entitled, and in which every man in the Democratic party did his share. We know S. D. McEnery by what he has done. The speaker explained at length what improvements and advancements have been going on during McEnery's administration. He next spoke of the charge of personal government alleged against McEnery, and contended that every man would appoint his friends and not his enemies. George Washington appointed Hamilton and Jefferson in his Cabinet, and told them to fight out their differences, and the result was that Jefferson left the Cabinet and formed the present Democratic party.

In speaking of McEnery's appointments, he said that any one not pleased with them may call at the Executive office and see the record by whose indorsement and recommendations they were appointed. The third term was discussed at length, and the speaker held that if it were a third term there could be no harm done in electing McEnery to it. The way for prosperity in the South is to keep the Democratic party in power. The speaker was well received and applauded.

Col. C. J. Boatner, who was the next speaker, delivered an exhaustive address, which consumed fully an hour. It was listened to with marked attention and was enthusiastically applauded. Col. Boatner said;

COL. C. J. BOATNER.

Some Striking Contrasts Between the "Reform" and "Common Manhood" Democrats—The Responsibility for the Present Heated Contest.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Fellow-Citizens of Rapides Parish—When a few days since I received a telegram from the McEnery Campaign Committee asking if I could be with you to-day, I at once availed myself with pleasure of the opportunity to address the people of historic Rapides, a Democracy which has never faltered and has been as true to its party as the needle to the pole.

We cannot forget the galaxy of great names, of heroes and of statesmen which Rapides has furnished to Louisiana, nor cease to remember that your ancestors, having wrested this fair land from savage beasts and more savage men, have always and at all times been true to the principles of civil liberty, and regarded them as the most priceless legacy they could transmit to posterity. They have come to us unimpaired through the throes of a gigantic civil war.

The genius of the Anglo-Saxon race, purified and exalted by the perfect, and I might say, lawful liberty which we enjoy under the Constitution of the fathers, enable us to rise triumphant from a contest which to a people less accustomed to self-government, less thoroughly imbued with the principles of republican institutions, would have been totally destructive of the last vestige of constitutional government. Every citizen of this grand nation—the grandest and greatest among men—may congratulate himself that the principles of liberty and guarantee of human rights embodied in the Constitution of his country are so thoroughly and deeply rooted in the hearts of his countrymen North and South, East and West, of all parties and all religions that no human power or human agency can shake them; and we may further congratulate ourselves that whatever be the result of our struggles and contentions among ourselves, our country's march to the accomplishment of its glorious destiny will not be in the least retarded or arrested.

Although we of Louisiana are to-day engaged in a controversy among ourselves, which has engendered a great deal of heat and bad blood, there is nothing at issue, in my humble judgment, to alarm any one for the safety of the country, or to justify the fierceness of the contest now raging around us. We are about to elect delegates to a convention which is to name the Democrat who shall guide the destinies of Louisiana for the next four years.

OUR PRESENT EXECUTIVE,

nominated four years ago, is a candidate for re-election, and solicits our suffrages. He has said: "The trust reposed by the Democracy of Louisiana in its nominee for the highest office in its gift, is of such dignity and honor, that it might well fill the measure of any man's ambition."

Ex-Gov. Francis T. Nicholls has consented to receive the nomination, if tendered, and has said: "I do not want the office, but have consented to accept it if tendered, as I am told I am the only man who can unite the party."

Gov. McEnery has been in office for four years of his own term, and nearly three of his predecessor's, the lamented Wiltz, and we may now judge of what his administration will be by what it has been. His friends claim and opponents admit, that he has brought to the discharge of his duties great executive ability; and that so far as it was in the power of the Executive office, he has forwarded the material interest and welfare of the people and country. His personal and political integrity is not questioned by the rank and file of those who are opposed to him, and it is admitted by the more conservative of them that only questions of policy are involved in the issue before them.

Gen. Nicholls is admitted by all parties to have been a gallant soldier, an honorable man and Christian gentleman. It is admitted by all parties that as Governor, during the critical period in which we were restored to the full rights of citizenship and our State government was restored to the control of those lawfully entitled to it, he displayed judgment, tact and statesmanship; that his entire administration was pure, honest and conscientious, and that he went into the retirement of private life with the deserved esteem and respect of his fellow-citizens.

It would seem that with only such issues before them the people might well

HAVE BEEN LEFT ALONE

to determine for themselves without agitation or excitement which of these two sons of Louisiana they would trust with the reins of power, and upon which they would confer the high honor of being Chief Magistrate of this commonwealth.

But there were men in and of Louisiana who were determined that no such peaceful and satisfactory solution of this question should be allowed. They had interests to subserve; they had enmities and wrongs to gratify; they had old scores to pay off and ambitions to subserve, and so they came to the front and organized. As early as 1885 we were frequently informed that the President had made this and that appointment from the reform Democracy of Louisiana. We learned that Mr. Blanchard, Mr. Gay, Mr. King and Mr. Irion had joined forces with the senior Senator from Louisiana, and that they, as the representatives of the reform Democracy, would control all the patronage; and that all, or nearly all, of the appointees as suited these gentlemen would be reformers: and that the "ring," by which was meant the State administration and its friends, would under no circumstances receive any consideration at the hands of the President.

The gubernatorial campaign has been practically open for two years. The opposition press has been consistent and continuous in its attacks upon the present Executive, and has exhausted all means, legitimate and illegitimate, to break down and destroy whatever hold Gov. McEnery might have on the affections and esteem of his fellow-citizens.

Finally, when it was supposed that the public mind was ripe for the movement, the Warwick of the Northwest writes a letter to his candidate and receives a reply, both of which, in my humble judgment and opinion, are offensive, if not actually insulting, to the people of Louisiana.

Mr. Hollingsworth solicits Gen. Nicholls to become a candidate and to accept the nomination, not as an honor to himself, not for the public good, but as a rebuke to the present Executive. He is not invited to enter a friendly contest and engage in generous rivalry for the honors of the republic and of his party, but is made the champion of the vindictive and personal conflict which has been waged against Gov. McEnery by this coterie of politicians since the day of his inauguration, and who will be satisfied with nothing less than the political destruction of himself and his friends.

BUT FOR THIS CANCEROUS GROWTH,

this abnormal excrescence which has been fastened upon our party by the politicians leading, and I might say forming, the "reform" party, we would to-day be engaged in discussing the past glories of our country and our party, and deciding the contest between two of our trusted and valued leaders without malice or resentment, and without the possibility of any division of sentiment or permanent disruption resulting from the action of the convention, whatever it might be.

We have not, however, fellow-citizens, been permitted to come together in this way. No sooner had Gen. Nicholls consented to become the candidate of the opposition than a campaign committee was formed and a regular campaign was inaugurated as if a contest was to be made with an opposite political party.

The ex-Governor, with a party of distinguished gentlemen, announced appointments throughout the State, and went before the people in a savage attack upon the administration of Gov. McEnery. They boldly announced that persons asking office at the hands of the people should declare themselves as Nicholls men before they would give their support. From constable to Congressman the qualifications should not be an unquestioned fealty to the Democratic party, but allegiance to themselves as represented in the person of Gen. Nicholls, their candidate.

In the Sixth District Mr. F. P. Kernan, a young man of brilliant attainments, and who was a candidate for Congress, was forced as I am told to declare for Nicholls. The selection of a Congressman ought not to have been in any way complicated with the gubernatorial issue.

With their ablest speakers they went into the district and camped, but the results of the primary elections drove them out in inglorious defeat.

Hon. B. F. Jonas, a gentleman who has represented you with signal ability in the Senate of the United States, who has been as true a Democrat as ever trod the soil of Louisiana, who has in season and out of season stood by his people and his party; whose fealty and motives never have been or can be questioned, receives notice that he can obtain the support of the reformers only on condition that he shows his colors, and consents to be elected as the colleague of Gen. Gibson.

While Gov. McEnery is charged with being

A PERSONAL GOVERNOR,

and while the opposition claims to be a "reform" movement, its leaders have inaugurated a campaign, which for intolerant declarations and proscriptiveness has no parallel in the politics of this State.

We are not left then to decide merely which of our leaders we shall honor, which of them we shall trust with power, but it is demanded at our hands that we pass a vote of censure upon one who has heretofore enjoyed our esteem and confidence, and who has done nothing to forfeit either, in order that we may gratify the political animosity and satiate the revengeful feelings of those politicians who have made a personal war upon him.

Can you as patriotic men and Democrats indorse any such proposition. Can you consistently and truly say that Gov. Nicholls must be elected because he is the only man in the State who

CAN UNITE THE PARTY.

If the party is divided, who made the division? Who is perpetuating that division? Who is it that accuses the Executive of the State of conduct unfit for his position and office? Who is it that assails private citizens who dare express their preference for Gov. McEnery? I say it is the organs of the reform group who aspire to rule according to their own will, and to subordinate the party machinery to their own purposes.

They propose unification of the party by the nomination of Gov. Nicholls, on the plan of the lion and the lamb, when they lay down peacefully together the lion, comfortable and drowsy from the effects of a good dinner the lamb, comfortable because when he made friends with the lion he lost the capacity for suffering.

So it is with the "reformers." They are determined not to unite on any man acceptable to the friends of the administration.

They want a man of their own. They are determined that no man shall go into the Executive office untrammeled by the obligations incurred in a heated political contest, and, however, they demand that we shall harmonize and unite by suffering ourselves to be swallowed whole.

In 1884 the "reformers" of New Orleans

ORGANIZED A PARTY.

They met in a convention composed of self-elected delegates. They had no primaries, held no credentials, but, claiming to represent the "Reformed Democracy," proceeded to nominate a candidate for Congress, in advance of any action on the part of the regular constituted authorities.

When the Executive Committee of the common, unwashed Democrats got itself together, it was amazed, and honorably pleaded with its aristocratic brethren to be reconciled and state upon what terms the offended relations would consent to a family reunion and reconciliation, the haughty response came back through Mr. Kernochan: "The Reform Democracy has spoken. Mr. Hunt is its nominee. Go and support him."

The regular—I should have said common—Democrats mustered up courage enough to hold a convention of delegates elected by the people and nominated a candidate.

In the contest which followed, and which imperiled the electoral ticket in the State, Gen. Nicholls supported the "reformer" on the ground that he would unite with anybody to defeat the ring.

The cause of this revolt, or bolt, was that Messrs. Fitzpatrick, Mealey, Davey and Duffy, and others of their associates, were reported to have sold or agreed to sell the regular nomination, and without waiting to see whether they would or could consummate so foul a transaction, without investigating to ascertain whether the report was true or false, the friends of Mr. Hunt proceeded to put him in the field.

The most curious feature of this transaction is that while a formidable bolt was organized because of the alleged political turpitude of the ring—of which Messrs. Fitzpatrick, Mealey, Davey and Duffy were then leading members—and while Gov. Nicholls considered it justifiable to unite with any movement to accomplish their defeat—those same disreputable ringsters, as then denounced by the reformers, are now welcome guests and valued leaders in the so-called "reform" camp, and bring to them the strength upon which it relies to succeed.

In other words, the Big Four are to give us relief from the intolerable oppression of the McEnery ring.

I thank you for your kind attention.

Mr. Boatner was warmly applauded, and when he concluded he was presented with several bouquets.

Judge Blackman, in introducing Major E. A. Burke, spoke as follows:

"Let me introduce to you a man whose name is known throughout the State by every man, woman and child who reads a newspaper; a man who is fully identified with the material progress and prosperity of your State, and, in my humble judgment, has done as much, or more perhaps, than any other man to redeem Louisiana and to place her upon the highway of progress and prosperity. I allude to the Hon. E. A. Burke."

Major Burke was received with enthusiastic applause. He spoke for fully an hour and was generously applauded. Major Burke said:

MAJOR E. A. BURKE.

Review of the State's Advancement Under Gov. McEnery—Reasons for Opposing Gen. Nicholls' Candidacy—Answer to the Charge of Personalism.

Ladies and Fellow-Democrats—I have had several most difficult tasks set for me since the commencement of this campaign, but none perhaps quite as difficult as the one now before me. I do not recollect having had set to me a more pleasant task at any time since the opening of the campaign, but it has fallen to me heretofore, as in the present case, to follow the distinguished gentlemen who have traversed the political ground and sometimes under the most difficult circumstances. Down in Southwestern Louisiana the other day I found I had to talk against a horse race, and I resolved that I would never try that again. Up in North Louisiana on one occasion I found a hungry audience with a barbecue waiting, and I resolved I would never try that again; but upon this occasion I not only find a barbecue, but I find myself laboring under the difficulty of trying to speak without a voice, suffering from a severe sore throat, quite hoarse and in considerable pain, and I shall have to ask my audience to bear with me while I glance rapidly at some of the questions that I think I ought to discuss before the people to-day.

It is a grateful task for me to have the opportunity to go before the people of my State and acknowledge the great obligations which I am under, having held a commission from the Democracy of this State, either in a political or official capacity, for the past fifteen years. It is true that I have endeavored to discharge my duty to the satisfaction and benefit of my people, but it is nevertheless true that the uniform kindness that I have received at the hands of the people has created a deep impression upon me.

I am not before you as a man seeking for promotion, nor do I come to defend my past political acts. I believe that my record is before the people of the State to speak for me, and if after fifteen years of arduous service it now requires explanation, I have lived to little purpose. [Applause and cheers.]

In returning acknowledgment to the people of this State for the political honors they have bestowed upon me, I recall with especial pleasure and gratification the kindness and support that I have received at the hands of the people of Rapides parish. I number among the earliest and best friends that I have had in my long political career many of the most distinguished and honored sons of your parish, and I may be permitted to recall a fact which I am reminded of here to-day, that when I

FIRST TOOK MY OFFICIAL COMMISSION

at the hands of the people of this State, one of the Democrats of this parish, the Hon. Ed. G. Hunter, upon the floor of the Democratic convention, in that memorable contest of 1878 against Col. Richardson, and that gallant gentleman, John C. Moncure, sent the resounding words down the aisle of that convention: "Rapides, small in numbers, but great in her Democracy, casts her vote for E. A. Burke." [Cheers and applause.]

My labors for some years past, as you know, have not been in political fields. When the State had been redeemed, when at last the people were free to pursue the development of their material resources, I set myself another task. Taking up the profession of journalism, I bent my efforts through the press to align Louisiana with that great, progressive movement that was swelling and gaining in volume throughout the South. Every hour that could be given from my official duties was bestowed upon that work from 1880 to 1883. Then came the work of the World's Exposition. You know that for two long years my life and my services were devoted to that great industrial movement. You must therefore see, my friends, how impossible it is that these allegations that have gone throughout the State that I was at your capital aiding, assisting, abetting, controlling or in any form having connection with the distribution of public patronage. It is utterly out of the question. My relation with Samuel Douglas McEnery has been in the discharge of the duties that the people of this State had put in my hands. On the question of patronage I stand perhaps to-day an isolated instance among men who have occupied prominent positions in the State who have never received from the Executive of this State any patronage whatever. No man stands in the State of Louisiana to-day holding a commission from the Executive of this State at the solicitation of E. A. Burke. No, not only that, but no man in any parish of this State holds his commission

THROUGH MY URGENCY

or solicitation.

I make that statement not alone in justice to myself, but in justice to the gentleman who occupies the Executive chair and in view of the assertions that have been sent broadcast throughout this State. As I said before, my feelings, my interests and my inclinations were wrapped up in that great industrial movement that was springing up all over the South. I observed that with the inauguration of these Expositions (and I touch upon that for the reason that I understand the appropriation made by the General Assembly of this State for the World's Exposition has been subjected to criticism.) I found that the Exposition that had been inaugurated at Atlanta in 1880, Louisville in 1881, the World's Exposition in 1884 were rapidly directing toward the South capital, causing great industries to spring up, and I find as a result of those Expositions that the South has gained in wealth $900,000,000 in the last seven years. I find that she has increased investments in factory products of $210,000,000; 19,700 factories have sprung up throughout the Southern States; that we are gaining wealth at the rate of $128,000,000 a year, and I longed for opportunities to contribute by every means in my power to aligning Louisiana in that great movement of Southern industrial independence. I believe that the experiences of the other States, and I believe that the experiences of Louisiana fully justify the expenditure of the money of the people made in 1883. Although the increase has been within the last seven years, still the increase has been more marked since the Exposition. We have increased in values within the last seven years $61,000,000. We have increased $12,500,000 in product, and we have increased in the value of crops $15,500,000. New industries have been opened up, not only to the men of this country, but through those Expositions there has been opened up not only in the parishes, but down in New Orleans there are now 6000 more women earning independent livelihoods than there were in 1880, and if that result alone had been accomplished by the expenditure of the $100,000 it would have been well bestowed.

It is proper that I should touch in this campaign upon the efforts of the State administration—being a member of it—in

THE RESTORATION OF THE CREDIT OF THE STATE.

When I came into office we found the State credit was down forty-two cents on the dollar. Treasury warrants of Gov. Nicholls were worth twenty-five and thirty-five cents on the dollar, and it was seldom that you ever found an officer who was able to collect his warrants at the State Treasury. I remember one of my first discoveries under the policy that had been adopted by my predecessor—"first come, first served." Brokers or others who could obtain information of settlements made and money paid into the treasury were able to demand and obtain the first moneys, and the district judge, serving in Rapides and other parishes, never was able to collect salary from the treasury of the State.

That system was broken up—a system under which men have been paid to hold on to the door-knob of the treasury all night long in order that they might be the first to present their warrants for payment in the morning. We adopted the system of pro rata payments, and everyone fared alike, whether serving in Caddo or in Orleans parishes. Happily, all that is now changed, and for the first time in the history of this State since the war the public officer discharging his duty receives his warrant and simultaneously from the treasury a check for his salary, and every institution of the State is enabled, through the fiscal arrangements that have been perfected, to receive the money necessary for carrying them on, and the warrant of no public institution is placed upon the market. Gradually we have seen the State credit rise from forty-two cents on the dollar to ninety-two cents. Soon you will see it reach par.

I have heard it charged against Gov. McEnery that he was responsible for the recent debt settlement. Of course he was responsible to the extent of having recommended that settlement to the General Assembly for submission to the people of the State.

Why should the friends of Gen. Nicholls bring that question into this campaign as a charge against Gov. McEnery?

Do you not know that when that message was sent to the General Assembly recommending the adoption of that settlement that it was accompanied by a letter or petition signed by Francis T. Nicholls,

RECOMMENDING THE SETTLEMENT,

and requesting Gov. McEnery to recommend it to the General Assembly?

Referring to the finances of the State I hear it said, "Ah, true, you have raised the credit of the State; you have enabled the banks and the merchants of New Orleans to secure money at lower rates of interest, and when the State credit is at par then we can look forward to lower rates of interest for the people; but," they say, "how about those warrants of 1884 and 1885 and 1886 outstanding?" It is true that there are warrants of 1884, 1885 and 1886 outstanding to the extent of $200,000 or $300,000, but there is this to be said with respect to the administration, that if it had not been for the fact that the McEnery administration has had to apply $528,000 to the payment of the old debts of the Nicholls administration, and $420,000 more to the building of the State House and other extra expenditures on public institutions, etc., we could have wiped all those warrants out and have had a large surplus in the treasury. [Applause.]

The current expenses of the State government, when this administration came in, were $850,000; now they are $500,000, showing a reduction of $300,000 a year. I do not claim that all the credit for these facts is due to Gov. McEnery, but what I do claim is this, that the reduction of expenditures, the stoppage of the creation of a floating debt, that was the key to the financial situation, and to all the measures tending to retrenchment and reform that have been carried out by recent Legislatures, and each and every one of those measures has had the cordial recommendation and the cordial co-operation of the Executive of the State. Your own representative, R. P. Hunter, will bear testimony of that fact, because I recognize him as one of the most earnest and indefatigable members of that Legislature, where more good laws were passed, and less bad ones than in any Legislature before, within my knowledge of the history of this State. [Applause. A voice—"That's so, Major Burke, and to you, also."]

In regard to

THE LEVEE POLICY OF THE GOVERNOR,

I have only this to say: It is useless for me, before an intelligent representative community to go over the facts and figures that have been repeated time and time again. You will, perhaps, say that Gov. McEnery is not entitled to any special credit for the reconstruction of the levee system, and that any good citizen would have done the same with the means at his disposal. What I desire to impress upon the people of this State, is the fact that Gov. Nicholls had a three-mill levee tax when he was Governor, and Gov. McEnery has had but one-mill tax in his administration to work on. What do we find? We find a very much larger amount of work accomplished during Gov. McEnery's administration. We find it done at cheaper rates.

We find the declaration made in the Constitution of this State that a one-mill tax may be levied, which shall continue until the United States government shall take charge of the levees. We find that when that declaration was made no intelligent citizen of the State believed that with the means at the disposal of the State the levee system could be constructed within fifteen or twenty years. But what is the result worked out? Why, we find that not only has the levee system throughout Louisiana been reconstructed and placed in better condition to-day than at any time since the war, but that we have actually gone up into the State of Arkansas and assisted in the construction of levees there that protect our people on the Macon and the Tensas. [Applause.]

Do you know how that was accomplished, and why it is that Gov. McEnery is entitled to especial credit? It is because when he found the one-mill tax inadequate to the accomplishment of that purpose; when he found it impossible to protect the levees and the property of the citizens by the means that were at his disposal, he had the brains and the courage to devise and execute a plan and a policy born of himself, whereby he enlisted the people of the State interested in [illegible] protection, together, and by securing the co-operation of the citizens living along the banks of the river, applied the State [illegible] one mill, secured the co-operation [illegible] Mississippi River Commission, and [illegible] combined action he was enabled to interest the United States government to such an extent that we see this work almost completed within five years instead of fifteen. That shows, in my estimation, the difference between a passive Governor and an active, energetic, live, determined, brainy Governor. [Whoops for McEnery.]

I do not say that in derogation of Gen. Nicholls. I respect him as much as any gentleman in this audience, but as a public man, acting for my people, called to choose a leader, I have the right to the exercise of my judgment, and my judgment is based upon my experience and my observation.

Suppose Sam McEnery had rested his efforts upon the Revised Statutes when these emergencies came upon the people? Would the levee system have been reconstructed? Suppose Sam McEnery, when these people over here on the Black and the Tensas were driven from their homes, floating upon their housetops, had laid his hand upon the Revised Statutes, what would have been the result? Did he not call upon the people of the State

TO COME TO THE RESCUE?

Nay, did he not do more? I know it because I was present. He, a poor man, not owning more than $7000 worth of property in the world, went to the bank and made his own note, and borrowed the first $5000 that went to the relief of the people near Catahoula. [Great applause.]

He has been equally earnest in educational, agricultural and all other matters. He has given his time carefully, earnestly and uniformly to promote the interest and welfare of his people, and that is the reason why I am here on the stump supporting Samuel Douglas McEnery. [A voice: "Yes, and we can't throw him away."]

Did you ever know the public institutions of the State to be in a better condition than they are to-day? Gen. Nicholls was a brave soldier and his friends are appealing to the soldier element for their support in this campaign; but we have all been burnishing the stars that glittered upon the shoulders of the Generals ever since the war, and I for one am willing and ready to keep it up till I die [applause], but how about the private? Sometimes there ought to be a little done for him. [Laughter.] However much he may have thought of the private soldier during his administration, he didn't seem to know the way to carry his feelings into practice quite as effectively as Gov. McEnery. There was the bill for the Soldiers' Home, but it never took shape or form until Samuel McEnery, in his resolve to build up the public institutions of the State, took hold of that question and caused to be erected the Soldiers' Home in the City of New Orleans.

Under whose administration, I ask you, was it that 160 acres of land were granted by the Legislature of Louisiana to every disabled ex-Confederate, or his widow? McEnery's.

In the last campaign we heard a great deal of noise about the Fiscal Agency. Where did

THE FISCAL AGENCY

come from? Don't you know it came down to Sam'l D. McEnery from Francis T. Nicholls' administration? The Fiscal Agent that served under the Wiltz administration and that term served out by McEnery was elected by the Board of Liquidation presided over by Francis T. Nicholls, and came down to Samuel D. McEnery as a contract. When we found the "reformers" were not satisfied that the money of the State should remain in one bank, it was Samuel D. McEnery and the present Board of Liquidation that made the recommendation to the General Assembly to divide the money out into different banks, and away went that campaign thunder. [Prolonged laughter and applause.]

We heard in the last campaign that there was a Penitentiary ring, and that Gov. McEnery was working the convicts of the State in competition with free labor. Where did the Penitentiary lease come from? It originated under Gen. Hancock's military administration. But there was a time when the Governor of this State had an opportunity not only to take possession of the convicts, or even cause a modification of the lease if the State were not in a position to do that. That was under Gen. Nicholls' administration. There was never any law in this State allowing a convict to be worked in competition with free labor. It is in that lease. The Revised Statutes prohibit it, but in that lease is a clause that enables convicts to be worked in agricultural, mechanical or other pursuits. In 1878 the lessee had violated his contract, and the Governor was at liberty to take possession of the convicts. He did not feel (and I do not criticise him for it) that the State was in a position to take charge of the convicts and to maintain them, and he recommended to the General Assembly that the obligation should be compromised and the lease extended, and that lease exists to-day. Gov. McEnery has simply carried out the existing contract and obligation he could not change. But upon that point, what would McEnery have done if he had had an opportunity to terminate or modify the lease? The answer is in this fact, that last year the lessees went to the City of New York and there entered into contracts and obligations to farm out the convicts of the State to be worked by a foreign corporation. A New York corporation to work the convicts of Louisiana! Instantly upon the interview of the lessee appearing in the New Orleans papers, Gov. McEnery wrote peremptorily: "I have instructed the State engineer to

TAKE POSSESSION OF THE CONVICTS

and place them at work upon the levees of the State." [Loud acclamations.]

But I am told the laboring men say the convicts should not be worked upon the levees. Every laboring organization in the City of New Orleans favors the working of the convicts upon the levees, because if they are worked in the Penitentiary upon industrial and mechanical trades and callings, then their work comes directly into competition with free labor. [Applause.] Moreover, the State Democratic Convention settled that question at its last session, where, by a vote of 239 to 67, it recommended that the convicts should be worked upon the levees. So I think we ought not to hear much more upon that question.

Now, what was the course of Gov. McEnery's friends in placing him before the people of this State for renomination? Did they come out and assault any gentleman whose name had been mentioned for that office? Was it not simply a modest submission of his name along with the names of other distinguished citizens of the State, and expressly declaring that we did not desire to take from any citizen any credit to which he was entitled, but invited a calm, fair and dispassionate discussion of the administration over which he presided? How was that met? In the first place, we are told that a circular had been sent out by Mr. Jastremski, a friend of Gov. McEnery's, before the letter of Col. Hollingsworth to Gen. Nicholls. Why state that to those who know the interior history of the politics of the State? We know that that candidacy was decided upon in 1885, and that every agency that could be brought about to invoke the strong arm of the Federal power and patronage to come down here into Louisiana and control our local politics has been at work ever since 1885. We were notified at Washington in 1885, when this question of the distribution of Federal patronage was under discussion, that Gen. Nicholls would be the next Governor of this State, and that was accompanied by the declarations that if necessary we would

BE BEATEN BY THE COLORED VOTE.

But we are met by the declaration that the nomination of Gen. Nicholls is necessary for the redemption of the State. No man in this State will go further than I in paying tribute to Gen. Nicholls as a soldier, as an honest civilian, who will execute the duties of that high office honestly and faithfully to the best of his ability. Of that I have not the slightest doubt, and I will take this opportunity to meet the question put to me by a distinguished gentleman of this parish. "Why do you charge Gen. Nicholls with an intention to Africanize this State?" The answer is, I never made such a charge, and no man speaking from the stump from which I have spoken has made such an assertion. That was simply another man of straw put up to be knocked down again by their own people. We have never made that charge.

But, when you ask me as a man who has given the best years of his life to secure the redemption of this State from Radicalism, to choose a political leader, then I have got the right of criticism. It is an honest criticism. I do not intend it to be an unkind criticism, but, nevertheless, I have my convictions, and as a man who has earned his right to speak his views, as a man who has a family in this State and children growing up, I have a right to consider the effect not only of the Executive function, but the effect of his political leadership. I will tell you the reasons why I am not willing to invest Gen. Nicholls with the political leadership in this State. I do not believe, as I said before, that it is his intention to Africanize the State, or to restore those memorable conditions from which we have escaped, but I do believe this: I believe that under a white man's government the colored people of this State have prospered, and they are living at peace with their neighbors. They are building schoolhouses, or the white citizens are building them for them. They are turning their efforts toward the industries, and at last they have an opportunity of bettering their condition and bettering the condition of the families that they are raising. I have not heard it charged that under Sam'l D. McEnery's administration the property or rights of any colored man have been affected. I have heard universal testimony from the leaders of that race that he has never failed in an opportunity to promote their welfare.

It is not to the

INTEREST OF THE COLORED PEOPLE,

nor the interest of the white people of this State that the conditions that prevailed in the unhappy past should be restored in part or in whole.

You ask me how are the policies of Gen. Nicholls to be conducive to the restoration of any of those old conditions?

I answer that I do not believe that Gen. Nicholls desires that in whole or in part those conditions shall be restored, nor do I think that he believes they would be under his policy, but the inevitable political conclusion that I reach is that when Gen. Nicholls declares, as he did in 1877 to the Hayes commission, that he believes in the obliteration of the color line in politics, such would be the result of its practical application. For myself, for my family, for those I love and for those for whom I labor, the intelligence and civilization of this State shall rule [applause], and I will not consent that there shall be injected into the party to which the redemption of this State is due an element that is bound to work its disintegration. [Applause.] You are living happily and at peace with your colored neighbors; those who have affiliated with the Democratic party have done so under influences or for concessions to their material welfare that have not heretofore been seriously prejudicial to the public good or party organization, but with this hope of the restoration of political power in proportion to their numbers, held out to them, under the declaration that the color line is to be obliterated in politics in this and other parishes of this State, will come the organization, under selfish leadership, that will place the balance of power in the hands of the colored voters wherever the Democrats are divided, and that is unfortunately the case in many parishes of this State. Followed out to its logical result the colored vote would decide the choice of the Democracy of the State from constable up to Governor, or at least could override the voice of the majority of all the white Democrats of the State. [Applause.]

The worst men in your own ranks to secure power will make these combinations, organize these people, and then again will partially be restored the condition from which I would preserve my State and my party. [Continued applause.]

THERE IS ANOTHER POLITICAL ACT

of Gov. Nicholls to which Democrats and citizens of the State have a right to object. You all know that although the State victory was won in 1876 the leading Radicals fled into their strongholds in the richest parishes of the State where they continued to carry on their reign of spoliation, so that only in 1878 was the final victory won. When the whole State was redeemed, charges were made against citizens of Tensas and against many leading citizens of the State, and eighty or ninety of them were dragged before the Federal courts. These men were not desperadoes, or men whose names had been tarnished. They had led blameless lives, and some of them were then wearing the judicial ermine of Louisiana.

In the Tensas case Gov. Nicholls was swift to condemn his fellow-Democrats before they could be tried by a jury of their countrymen, and this premature judgment brought down upon the State and her citizens the furious assaults of the Radical leaders and Radical press throughout the country.

When you ask me to choose a political leader I should prefer one who will not make such mistakes.

But now we come down to another question. It was asked me last night why it was that the supporters of Gov. McEnery were attempting to read good Democrats out of the party. So far as I am concerned, and so far as all of the gentlemen with whom I have been associated in this canvass are concerned, I deny the statement. No such attempt has been made. If we have attached to the leaders who are supporting Gen. Nicholls those who seem to be leading his campaign, the name of "reform" Democrats, it is because they were proud of that name in 1885, when they filled the ears of the Democratic President, that had been elected by the assistance of our votes and efforts, with the idea that the Democratic administration of Louisiana was unworthy of recognition at the hands of a Democratic President.

They were proud of the name of "reform" Democrats then, and they have kept it for three years past. They were proud of it in

THE HUNT BOLT

of 1884, and if we have accorded it to them and applied it to them it has been their own selection. But there has been no disposition on our part to read them out of the Democratic party. We condemn the policy adopted in this campaign by Gen. Nicholls, who has not confined himself to the discussion of the claims of a Democratic Governor, but has leveled his charges against the party that put him in power. It was the organization of the party and the tone of the party and the administration of the party and the party management that he leveled his shafts against. Therefore, as Democrats and members of the administration, we have a right to criticise the lan-