THE MAINE PUZZLE.

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CHURCHES DIVIDING ON POLITICS.

The Best Men of Both Sides Petitioning for a Peaceful Solution.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

AUGUSTA, Me., Dec. 27, 1879.

The reply of of ex-Senator Lot M. Morrill to Governor Garcelon's letter is as follows:—

AUGUSTA, Me., Dec. 27, 1879.

To His Excellency ALONZO GARCELON, Governor of Maine:—

I acknowledge the receipt of of your Excellency's letter of the 25th inst., which reached me yesterday.

Your Excellency will, of course, perceive that it is quite foreign to the purpose of my correspondence to discuss the justice or the injustice of the great excitement which now menaces the peace of the State. Your Excellency agrees with me that the excitement exists, and also that it is highly desirable to allay it by means and measures which are alike honorable to all parties. It is my purpose to confine the discussion to those points which are essential, and on which we may reach an agreement, and we may therefore wisely avoid those which are non-essential and on which we might differ. To come directly to that part of Your Excellency's communication which relates to the points to be submitted to the judgment of the Court, I have to suggest the questions on the enclosed memorandum. (Memorandum below.) Your Excellency will observe that these questions, though numerous, are simple, requiring but brief answers and not calling for elaborate opinions. As Your Excellency acquiesces in the propriety of settling all disputed points in this orderly, just and constitutional manner, I beg leave to suggest, in answer to objections which I have seen elsewhere urged, that there is abundant time for the Court to consider the subject. The Court can readily convene at the capital on Wednesday next, or by Tuesday if necessary, and the question can be placed before them on either day. As it has not been the habit of the Court to have arguments on questions submitted by the Governor, there would be little doubt that by Friday, January 2, Your Excellency would receive the answer of the Court to all the questions. Even should the Court convene a day later than I have supposed necessary there would still be four full days left before the assembling of the Legislature.

THE GOVERNOR'S LOOPHOLE.

When Your Excellency asks me to indicate the points that have not already been adjudicated I reply that such an attempt would be valueless and, indeed, foreign to the whole scope and purpose of this peaceful mode of adjustment. Your Excellency must be aware that there is oftentimes much dispute among lawyers as to what has been adjudicated by the Court as there is touching that which has been enacted by the Legislature. Your Excellency will readily admit that the Court is best able to determine what has already been adjudicated, and, with the strong tendency of the judicial mind to adhere to one of its own maxims or standing by that which has been decided, there is no danger that Your Excellency's decision will not have the full advantage of any opinions heretofore pronounced by that eminent judicial tribunal.

I cannot close without urging upon Your Excellency the propriety of going forward in the course which in your communication you have indicated your willingness to pursue. It has never in the history of our State happened to any one of its chief magistrates to have it in his power to do so much for the peace and good order of society as Your Excellency enjoys to-day.

The submission of these questions to the Court will instantly allay strife, preserve order and restore harmony. Can Your Excellency give the people any assurance of what may happen should this constitutional mode of adjustment be rejected and the attempt made to organize the Legislature by force or on a basis of membership which so large a proportion of the people of Maine believe to be contrary to the actual result of the election? I will not permit myself to doubt that with the two courses before Your Excellency, one of absolute and honorable peace, the other of possible violence and dangerous disorder, Your Excellency will promptly choose and steadily adhere to the former, and in that belief I beg to subscribe myself very respectfully yours,

LOT M. MORRILL, Chairman, &c.

THE MEMORANDUM.

First—Is it the duty of the Governor and Council in canvassing the returns for Senators and Representatives to the Legislature to allow corrections therein by the record under the constitution and laws of the State, and to what cases can such corrections extend?

If not their duty, have they then the right or power to allow such corrections at their option?

Second—Is a return signed by less than a majority of the Aldermen of a city so defective that it cannot be counted as it stands? If so defective, can a duly attested copy of the record be substituted for it and be legally counted? The cases of Lewiston, Bath, Rockland and Saco are referred to.

Third—Is a return which places a number of votes opposite the word "scattering" so defective that it cannot be counted, when the whole number of votes so placed added to any minority candidate would still leave a clear plurality to another candidate? And if so defective on its face, can it be corrected by the record? The case referred to is that of the city of Portland.

Fourth—If a return has not the signature of the town clerk, as in the case of Lebanon and Albion, can a duly attested copy of the record be substituted therefor and the vote be legally counted?

Fifth—Have the Governor and Council any right to reject a return bearing the personal signatures of the clerk and a majority of the municipal officers, because from evidence *aliunde* they are satisfied it was not signed or sealed in open town meeting; or was signed by the selectmen in blank at the meeting, and, after the adjournment of the meeting, filled in by the clerk; or because one of the selectmen signed the return in blank, filling in the name of the town and county before the town meeting, the other two signing and sealing in open town meeting (the alleged cases of Jay, Stoneham, Lisbon and other towns are referred to), or because the return was sent to the Secretary of State's office unsealed, as is alleged in the case of Searsport; or because the record specified in the constitution—article 4, part 1, section 5—was not made up in the presence of the selectmen and in open town meeting, as is alleged in the cases of Webster, Lisbon and other towns; especially if a written memorandum of the persons voted for, with the number of votes for each person against his name, is made by the clerk in the presence of the Selectmen and in open town meeting, though not put upon the record book of the town until after the meeting adjourned; or because one of the Selectmen signing is an alien, as is alleged in the case of Cherryfield—all of the other signatures being regular in all respects; or because the de facto officers who sign the returns from any cause were not legally chosen, or were merely disqualified from holding the office; or because the return is attested by a clerk *pro tem.*, as in the case of Vanceboro; or by a "deputy clerk," as in the case of Scarboro, or because a second return was sent to the Secretary of State differing from the first in the numbers of votes returned for the various candidates under the facts of the Greenfield case, have the Governor and Council any right to receive evidence on either of the above points, and, if so, on which?

Sixth—Is it competent for the Governor and Council, when a return states the names of the persons voted for and the number of votes for each, and each signature is genuine, to admit evidence *aliunde* as to any neglect in the town officers, before or at the town meeting, to comply with any of the various requirements of the constitution and laws?

Seventh—Is it the duty of the Governor and Council, or have they the right to reject a return because the whole number of ballots is not stated therein, as in Otisfield and other towns, or because the number of ballots stated differs from the sum of the votes returned for the several candidates, as in the case of Farmington and other towns?

Eighth—Has a ballot with the names of the candidates printed in two columns instead of one a distinguishing mark within the meaning of the statute so that it should not be receive into the ballot box? If so received and retained, is it the duty of the Governor and Council to count it, even if a protest with a specimen ballot is annexed to and sealed up with the return by the Selectmen and the return made subject to the legality of the ballot, as alleged in the case of Skowhegan?

Ninth—Should votes returned as cast for John Burnham and John Birnam be counted for the same person or two different persons; or votes returned for Alfred Cushman and Alford or Alfard Cushman; or for James W. Clark and James W. Clarke; or for John T. Wallace and John T. Wallace, Jr., be counted as cast? Are these and all other errors in the names and initials of the persons voted for correctable by the record?

Tenth—If the vote of the first candidate named is carried out in letters and figures and the vote of the three succeeding candidates is indicated by ditto marks, thus—

Jos. A. Locke, Portland, three hundred and sixty (360)
H. C. Brewer, Freeport, do. do. do. do. do.
David Durain, Casco, do. do. do. do. do.
Andrew Haines, Dering, do. do. do. do. do.

should the votes returned for the last three candidates be rejected? If any defect exists in such a return is it correctible by the record?

Eleventh—Have the Governor and Council the right to reject a return on the ground that two or more of the signatures were forged or written by one hand, merely on an inspection of the return itself, without evidence from either of the officers purporting to sign, as in the case of Webster, Lisbon, New Sharon and other towns; or have they the right to reject such returns on any evidence submitted by one party alone, without first giving notice to the other party and giving him the right to introduce counter evidence; or have they the right to act on, or consider any protests, affidavits or papers outside of the returns unless upon them the signatures of the subscribing officers were not affixed with their own hands, or have they the right to reject any return on account of such protests, affidavits or papers taken ex parte and filed by one party without the knowledge of the other without first giving to such adverse party notice and the right to introduce counter evidence?

Twelfth—Should the return herewith annexed from the town of Gouldsboro' be counted for Oliver P. Bragdon or Oliver B. Bragdon, all the other towns in the same class being returned for Oliver P. Bragdon?

Thirteenth—When the Governor and Council decide that there is no return from a city or town on which a Representative can be summoned to the Legislature, is their duty to take such steps as will insure to the voters of such city or town a new election, by which they can secure a Representative in the Legislature? The cases of the five disfranchised cities are referred to.

Fourteenth—Have the Governor and Council the right and is it their duty to recall any certificate of election improperly or erroneously issued to any Senator or Representative, or if they cannot recall a certificate have they the right and is it their duty to issue a new certificate to the person entitled thereto under this opinion of the courts?

A STARTLING QUIBBLE.

There was a good deal of consternation among the few fusion leaders who remained in town over Sunday, caused by the discovery of a clause in the constitution which seemed to indicate that Governor Garcelon's term of office would expire on the first day of January, and that therefore J. Manchester Haynes, President of the Senate and a republican, would hold the reins during the most critical period of the approaching struggle—that is, between the 1st and the 7th of January. The article which created the scare reads as follows:—

ARTICLE 5, PART 1, SECTION 2.—The Governor shall be elected by the qualified electors, and shall hold his office one year from the first Wednesday of January in each year.

MR. PILLSBURY'S VIEWS.

There was mounting in hot haste, and couriers were despatched in all directions to seek legal advice. Mr. Pillsbury was met by a HERALD correspondent, and his opinion was asked as to the point raised. As a reply he handed the interviewer a slip containing an editorial to appear in to-morrow's *Maine Standard*, and in which he thus disposes of the subject:—

"As the first Wednesday of January in 1879 occurred on the first day of the month, they (the republicans) contend that his (Governor Garcelon's) year is out the first day of January, 1880, and that there is an interregnum from the first day to the seventh, which J. Manchester Haynes must fill. If their theory was true there would be an interregnum in some years, and in other years we should have two governors for a few days more or less. For instance, a Governor is inaugurated this year on the 7th. Next year the first Wednesday falls on the 5th, and on that day another one is chosen. It is explicitly stated in the constitution that the term shall commence on the first Wednesday. If the one chosen this year on the 7th holds to the 7th next year we should have two constitutional Governors for two days. Under the constitution nobody except the Governor and Council can administer the oath of office to members of the Legislature.

EMBARRASSING CONCLUSIONS.

"Apply this theory and trace back and we shall find that some legislatures were illegal for the want of being qualified, and that would leave us without any legal government at all. The political year begins and ends on the first Wednesday of January. The Legislature convenes on that day and the Governor's term of office begins at the same time. Article 10, section 2 of the constitution, as originally framed, fixed the period for which the Governor and the other officers named should serve from the last Wednesday in May, A. D. 1820, to continue until the first Wednesday of January, A. D. 1822. The amendment to the constitution, under resolves of August 21, 1850, provided that the Governor and other State officers elected for the political year commencing on the second Wednesday of May, 1851, should hold their offices till the first Wednesday of January, 1853.

"It is too late to set up any new construction of the meaning of the constitution as to the time when the political year begins and ends. Governor Garcelon will hold his office till noon on the 7th of January, if he lives, and don't you forget it."

SENSATIONS AT GARDINER.

The excitement at Gardiner to-day has been at fever heat. The scenes on the streets resembled those which were so familiar in war times. Groups of men were gathered on the corners eagerly discussing the two local sensations of the day. The first was the discovery of a large sized schism in two prominent churches of the town. The Rev. Austin L. Park, pastor of the Congregational Church, and a brother of Trenor W. Park, of Rutland, Vt., signed the call for the republican indignation meeting held here a few days ago. This incensed a large number of his flock, who showed their displeasure in various ways. About twenty-five per cent of the worshippers in his church are democrats, and they were making preparations to go over in a body to the Episcopal Church, presided over by the Rev. Mr. Bradley, a young man who has recently come from Trinity Church, Boston, where he had been an assistant of the Rev. Phillips Brooks; but when the meeting came off it was found that Brother Bradley was one of the speakers at the indignation demonstration, and so they are now without any spiritual place in which to lay their heads.

CHURCHES SPLITTING ON POLITICS.

The HERALD correspondent, on learning the difficulty, drove down from Augusta, a distance of nine miles, and called on a leading member of the Episcopal Church. He said it was true that a serious division had taken place, which threatened the existence of the society. I asked him what proportion of the congregation were democrats, and he replied that they were about forty per cent of the whole. Besides democrats and greenbackers there were staid republicans who were radically opposed to the pastor mixing himself up in politics, and they were absent from their pews to-day.

STARTLING WORDS.

Mr. Bradley said in his speech:—"I feel as though a great cloud had shut down over this State, and I know not but before a month has passed there will be fierce flashes of lightning in that cloud. I hope that it will not so happen; but I know this, that if the chosen leaders of the majority of the people of Maine shall declare some course necessary for the welfare of the State and for my welfare, I promise here, and always intend, to support them." He said further along that he hoped that the Governor and Council would yield; "but should they not yield, I can't tell what the issue will be; but this I feel assured of, that the spirit which animated our forefathers is not dead with us. As out of great afflictions great blessings often come, so out of this affliction may our State come forth stronger and better than ever."

"Now," said my informant, "I claim that I am not warranted in supporting a man for the purpose of preaching the gospel of peace who will talk like that. And I will not."

The schism in the Congregational Church will take away about twenty-five per cent of the members. The developments have caused a genuine social and political sensation.

REMOVING ARMS FROM AN ARMORY.

Leaving the religious topics the HERALD correspondent drove toward the arsenal, where another sensation was ripening. This was caused by the discovery that the Richards Light Infantry, with about sixty stand of arms, were preparing to remove their muskets. A lieutenant of the company stated that a guard of six men had remained on duty all last night, and that Captain Berry had ordered the arms to be boxed up and left ready for shipment. The captain is a republican, while his first and second lieutenants are greenbackers. The movement was made without their knowledge, the orders having been issued through the adjutant. The news spread rapidly, and this, added to a report that a company of militia from Portland would pass through the town on a special train for Augusta, had the effect of bringing out a large crowd of people.

The State authorities have been informed of the intended removal of the arms and will try to stop it. Meanwhile the great conundrum is, Where is Adjutant General Leavitt?

PETITIONS FOR A REFERENCE.

Numerous petitions were forwarded to Governor Garcelon to-night, praying that he will refer all matters in dispute touching the election of members of the Legislature to the Supreme Judicial Court. Bangor sends five large petitions, embracing in all 587 names, including men in all professions and callings in the city. Many democrats and greenbackers sign the petition. Portland sends three strong petitions, aggregating 496 names, embracing a large proportion of the prominent names in the city. Mr. William L. Putnam, with Emery S. Bidlon, sends petitions worded differently from the others, praying with equal urgency that the matters in dispute be referred to the Court. Thirteen eminent ministers of the Gospel, including Bishops Neely, of the Episcopal Church, and Rev. Thomas Hill, ex-president of Harvard College, and representatives of all the churches send the following petition:—

To Hon. ALONZO GARCELON, Governor of Maine:—

The undersigned clergymen of Portland, impelled by a deep solicitude for the good name of the government of our State and the mutual good will of its citizens, and by our belief that a widespread and deep dissatisfaction with the use of the Executive power in constituting the next Legislature is, in the highest degree prejudicial to both those sacred interests do unite in praying that said action may be referred to the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine, under the firm conviction that thereby the evils now impending will be averted and justice secured.

Your Excellency's obedient servants,
CHARLES W. HAYES.
W. E. GILELEN.
THOMAS D. ANDERSON, Jr.
WILLIAM H. FENN.
J. J. CARUTHERS.
THOMAS HILL.
EDWARD J. HINCKS.
WILLIAM H. SHAILER.
H. W. NEALY.
A. DALTON.
FRANK E. CLARK.
HERBERT W. LATHE.
JAMES McWHINNIE.

Augusta sends a petition headed by Thomas Lombard, a prominent democrat, and signed by 102 leading citizens, including three ex-Governors—Joseph H. Williams, Anson P. Morrill and Selden Connor. Skowhegan sends a petition signed by Judge James Bell and 102 others. Ellsworth sends a petition headed by ex-Attorney General Emery and Mayor Davis and signed by 112 prominent citizens. Damariscotta sends a petition headed by R. W. Metcalf, the large ship builder, and signed by eighty-two others. Bucksport sends a petition headed by H. D. Hallock, a prominent democratic lawyer, and signed by ninety-four others. Bowdoin sends a petition headed by Alonzo Purrinton and signed by sixty-four others. Franklin sends a petition signed by Joseph H. West and twenty-five others.

BLATANT PULPITS.

With one exception the pulpit was comparatively silent here to-day on the question now so hotly and feverishly discussed throughout the State. That exception was due to the Rev. H. W. Tilden, pastor of the First Baptist Church. His church was well filled this evening, owing to an announcement previously made that he would deliver a discourse on what is popularly called there the "Great Steal." After an earnest political prayer Mr. Tilden said that never before in the sixty years of Maine's history as a State, except on one occasion, had the public mind been so much excited." The excitement permeates all classes of society and all walks of life. The cause of this is that the Governor and Council have arbitrarily and contrary to the provisions of the constitution and the laws refused certificates to between thirty and forty duly elected Senators and Representatives, and have given them to as many men who were not elected. Large meetings have been held in various parts of the State to express the popular indignation against the outrage.

THE SITUATION EXTREME.

"Ministers of all denominations have departed from their usual line of action and have added their voice to that of the people. They have done so without partisanship or bias, and only to establish their claims to loyalty and to demonstrate their love for popular government. This fact shows that the occasion is an extreme one. None but the morally reckless can afford to pass by this state of affairs with a sneer. The situation is grave and should be treated with the most serious and thoughtful attention by all citizens. I hold it to be the solemn duty of every Christian man to be concerned about the public welfare. It is his duty to be on the alert at all times when his country is concerned. Should he be remiss in this and leave the direction of public affairs to designing politicians he ought to be ashamed.

A PITIABLE CHRISTIAN.

"I pity the Christian who would not be ready at all times to stand up for his country and do his utmost to preserve his own freedom and that of his fellows. It is unusual to discuss politics in the pulpit, and I have always believed that such matters ordinarily ought to be kept out of the sanctuary; but there are certain phases of politics that must come properly within the scope of the minister as the guardian and promoter of the public morals. On the question of slavery our pulpits were outspoken, and rightly, too, for it was a blot on the record of our country as a Christian land."

After further justifying himself for the position he had taken in the public discussion of the Governor's action, he said that he alone was responsible for his conduct in this regard; that the Church had nothing to do with it, and that he was not urged to speak from the pulpit on the subject. He then reviewed the counting of the votes and read extracts from the constitution and the State statutes as applying thereto, supplementing his criticism by a statement to the effect that he had carefully studied the legal aspects of the case under the direction of an able counsellor.

FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF OATHS.

He charged the Governor and Council with openly and flagrantly violating their oaths of office, and said that they had themselves defined an interpretation of the constitution which was contrary to a long line of decisions given by the Supreme Court. "Assuming," he said, "that they had legal authority to back them up, is there to be no attention paid to the moral aspects of the case? Are men who have been intrusted with the direction of the public affairs to sacrifice honor, honesty and morality to the mere consideration of party advantage? What would a man say if he were to approach the ballot box on election day and find a body of men openly preventing him from casting his vote? Would he not be indignant? Would he not protest in the strongest and most forcible way against the outrage? And if this were done to 100 men, would they not meet together and denounce the perpetrators? And yet Governor Garcelon has done this in effect. He has, to be sure, allowed the men to deposit their ballots; but he has nullified their effect. He has done what would make him a dictator.

MAINE'S IDEAL DESTROYED.

"I have been sorely grieved," said Mr. Tilden, "over this wanton attack on the liberties of the people. I have refused to believe it possible until the result was declared. But the worst has been done. I blush for my native State of Maine. I have loved her for her political purity and her high moral tone; but there is a stain on her fair record. I think of her tall pine trees with sadness. The men who have committed this outrage on her liberties do not even set up a moral defence. There have been rumors and reports of bribery having been practised in the late election. The Governor and Council do not mention a single case as a justification; but even bribery pales before their conduct. The man who buys the vote of another simply injures one man, but the men who reverse the popular will commit a crime against the State, against public and private morality and virtue. I do not hold any party responsible for this startling lapse from virtue and rectitude. The eight men who have reversed the popular will stand alone in the infamy.

BAD BLOOD IN THE PUBLIC VEINS.

"There is bad blood in the public veins," continued the speaker. "It has broken out in several places. I have often had occasion to criticise the republican party for its shortcomings as well as the democratic; neither is free from blemish; both have fallen from the high pinnacle of political morality. Our campaigns have ceased to be struggles for principles; they are merely battles for party supremacy, and campaign material is sought in the very vilest and lowest methods. Each tries to see how much it can excel the other in smartness. If parties would depend upon truth instead of tricks for success there would yet be hope of a brilliant future for the Republic. But there is danger ahead. Monarchy is talked of openly throughout the land. I hear that there is a paper in New York which openly advocates it. This would not have been tolerated twenty years ago. But now it has become a fit matter for public discussion, and unless our statesmen can raise a higher standard, unless we can have a return to the sturdy virtue of our forefathers our country will degenerate into a monarchy.

THE RIGHT OF PROTEST.

"What shall we do in the present emergency?" is asked. I am in favor of exhausting every peaceful method before recourse is had to force. It is right and proper that the people should assemble in their respective cities and towns and enter their protest against the attempt to encroach on their rights as free men. Every lover of the right should take a bold stand against the wrong. The women should use their influence in their own way with their husbands, brothers and friends. They should labor incessantly to aid in creating a public sentiment so powerful that no man and no body of men in this State could resist it. The greenbackers and democrats who were not elected, but to whom certificates of election have been issued, should rise up, as some of them have done already, and decline to accept the favor bestowed on them by unlawful proceedings. By this they will secure to themselves the universal respect, confidence and gratitude of all loyal men.

AN ALTERNATIVE.

"Let the opinion of the Supreme Court be asked immediately on the constitutionality of the laws and other disputed points and the people of Maine will acquiesce in the verdict. If none of these methods succeed force will undoubtedly be used. You remember the fable of the man who caught the boys in his apple trees. First he tried persuasion, then he threw tufts of grass at them, and, finding them still obstinate, he tried stones, which brought the boys down. The question is not 'Who shall be our next Governor?' but 'Shall we sacrifice our birthright as citizens of a free State?' I say no! never—never, at whatever cost! The blood of our forefathers, I hope, is still in our veins. It will assert itself.

THE CRISIS AT HAND.

"I do not care to say when the crisis will come, but it must come soon and we must be prepared. I would be in favor of appealing to the ballot box again if we had any assurance that our rights would be respected and our privileges secured. But we have not, and the people, believing that their liberties have been threatened, are bound to seek redress in the way that may be expected to be most effective. They cry out, 'Give me liberty or give me death!' That is the sentiment on which this nation was founded and on which it now rests. We ought not to talk of mob violence, but of lawful procedure. We ought not to talk intemperately, and we ought not to speak more than the truth. We need to be judicious in all our words and acts, and we must not be partisans. But let us bear in mind that as citizens of Maine our liberties have been grossly assailed. If nothing but force will secure redress let us have force. But let it be open, honorable warfare, and not a riot; no stabbing in the dark, no mob violence, but square, manly actions.

NO RECEDING.

"Perhaps the Governor and Council expect us to recede. They would be glad to see our mouths closed, but we have wrongs, and we will not cease till they are righted. Neither jeers nor taunts will turn me aside. I follow where duty calls and will keep on that line. I have learned this lesson under the stern discipline of war, and it has not yet left me. All patriotic men will regard their duty in the same light. It is a long step from peace to war. It is a weary and a dismal one, and I hope Governor Garcelon and his Council will render it unnecessary by restoring to the people their liberties."

After again apologizing for his long discussion of political questions the speaker closed his discourse. It is understood that some of the leading politicians of the city assisted in the preparation of the sermon, and the declaration of war is therefore regarded as semi-official.

A PARTISAN HARANGUE IN A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HOUSE—THE REV. DR. GEORGE W. FIELD VITUPERATING THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL—THE RIGHT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT IN DANGER.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

BANGOR, Dec. 28, 1879.

One of the strongest indications of the depth of feeling prevailing in the State is the tone of the Protestant clergy and their immediate followers. There was a union prayer meeting this afternoon in the Second Baptist Church. The house was filled, and a much larger proportion of the audience than usual was composed of men. Orthodox, Congregationalist, Baptist and Methodist clergymen were in attendance, together with laymen of those and of other denominations.

PARTISAN WORSHIP.

The Rev. S. P. Fay presided, and Professor John S. Sewall, of the Theological Seminary; the Rev. Messrs. Bolton, Haselwood and others took part in the exercises. "America" and one or two hymns of similar sentiment were sung. The universal assumption was that a great crime had been committed, and that Divine Providence must be called upon to interfere "for us and through us," which means the republican party. Of course if some hundreds of republicans choose to get together and pray for their party, that is their privilege. But an interesting question arises here. The majority of the members of the evangelical churches are republicans. It is their right to meet and pray for the success of their cause; but a majority of the Roman Catholics are democrats. Suppose prayers had been offered to-day in the Catholic churches for the success of the "count out," what an outpouring of indignation there would have been, not only through the State but the country! This union prayer meeting was as fully a partisan gathering as ever assembled in Maine, no matter how pure the intentions of its projectors may have been.

GARCELON AND HEROD.

But the great religious sensation of the day was reserved for the evening. The popular preacher of the city, and in fact of Eastern Maine, is the Rev. Dr. George W. Field, of the Third Congregational Church. He was years ago a Boston pastor, but has lived for some time in this vicinity. Dr. Field announced this morning that he should help out a sort of Christmas concert, arranged by the choir, with an address on the political situation. The afternoon meeting helped to increase the interest and the third parish church was crowded to-night. Dr. Field began his remarks by referring to the slaughter of the children ordered by Herod. This was the act of the wisest and best government then existing. It was a government of the better class and its officers were considered the anointed of the Lord. So now, secular government has the highest sanction, but its foundation lies in our right to choose our own rulers.

"UNBLUSHING TRICKERY."

Upon the right of electing our own officers rests the government which God has ordained for us. In their violation of this right lies especially the wickedness, the nefariousness of the act of our Governor and Council. They have taken a step leading to the subversion of all our institutions. They have substituted seven or eight men for the whole people. The repetition of such an act elsewhere would overthrow our government. The guilt of this act is aggravated by the circumstances. It will have fatal weight as a precedent, and will lead other officials into temptation. There was no exigency to demand it. During the war the constitution was stretched to save it; but this crime has been committed through hatred, the love of power and the desire of revenge. Unblushing trickery has balked the popular will.

Dr. Field then touched upon a very delicate and interesting point. He referred to Mr. John B. Foster, of the Governor's Council, who is a member of his church, saying that he was perhaps the ablest member of the Council, and had been in the past a kind friend and a pleasant associate. "During the war and in the days following," said Dr. Field, "he applauded my boldest utterances. Never did I speak a word too strong for him to indorse. His present course cannot be explained, much as we might like to extenuate his guilt."

A PREDICTION.

Dr. Field then went on to say that the Council's act of usurpation was the most atrocious and unprovoked political crime of the day. Mr. Garcelon was a weak man, and, like other weak men, an obstinate man, but he will yet be constrained to leave the question at issue to the Supreme Court. That would satisfy the people. It would satisfy also honest democrats, whose patriotism will yet defeat the vileness of their leaders. An urgent appeal was made to the young men in the democratic ranks to leave their shameless associates and come over to "us"—and by which the reverend orator always meant the republican party. Glittering prospects of advancement were held out to these innocent youths if they would only come. "This is the latter end of our hydra headed rebellion," said the Doctor, "and if we put this down the war will be pretty nearly over, but if the worst comes to the worst 'our party' must avail itself of every parliamentary resource." He hoped it would go no further, and would refrain from violence and bloodshed.

It may look to some readers as if considerable space had been devoted to this partisan harangue, but when a speech about "our party" and "their party" can be delivered in a New England meeting house on Sunday evening with the approval of those most concerned, and when applause at the telling points can hardly be restrained, the fact is worth dwelling upon as an indication of the prevailing public sentiment. By such instrumentalities as sermons and prayer meetings our New England communities are wont to be stirred.

A PORTLAND DIVINE DRAWS A LESSON FROM THE EXAMPLE OF THE WICKED FUSIONISTS.

PORTLAND, Dec. 28, 1879.

The Rev. James McWhinnie, pastor of the Free Street Baptist Church, preached to-day from the text:—"Thou art weighed to-day in the balance and found wanting." He said, in the course of his remarks, that we have just had an election on the question of fulfilling our promises to those who lent us money to put down the rebellion. The question of public honesty was at stake, and every honest man supposed the election had settled it. But that decision has been set aside by the Governor and Council. The rest of his discourse was based upon the above premise.

GOVERNOR GARCELON'S SPEECH AT LEWISTON—STRIKING PASSAGES—OBLIGATIONS TO THE LAW.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

LEWISTON, Dec. 28, 1879.

Several of the most striking passages of Governor Garcelon's speech of last night were omitted in the general press report, and I therefore reproduce them. In reference to the premature alarm of the republicans, immediately after the election, he said:—

"The cry had gone forth that the Governor and Council could not go behind the returns. Every republican paper was demanding that the Governor and Council should confine themselves to the returns. They were fearful that under their law of 1877 the Governor and Council would make themselves a returning board and count in anybody, and this would be possible under this law if there was no regulation but their own discretion instead of amendment by the record. It occurred to me that the object of this bulldozing expedition to instruct and control the Executive was to get at their returns, see what they said, and then go home and see that their records were made in accordance therewith.

PORTLAND'S PREDICAMENT.

"Almost the first sample of this came up from Portland. I regret most exceedingly that Portland is placed in the position we find her in. There were five representatives for that city, and upon its vote depended almost entirely the county Senators. But the city clerks had failed to comply with one of the mandatory provisions of the constitution, which declares that the name of every person voted for shall be returned with the number of votes put against his name, and it makes no difference whether that vote is for Nelson Quigley, Jr., Alonzo Garcelon or Sam Crush. (Applause.) He returned a number of votes as scattering. It was desired to amend the returns, and a certified copy of the record was sent up and the record read just the same as the return! Everybody acknowledged that the return was unconstitutional and so certain were they of the correctness of our position that they forthwith called a meeting of Aldermen, who instructed the clerk to hunt up, if he could, the returns of the wards and find out who had been voted for and returned as 'scattering,' and the clerk went out upon the streets and found out after a while in some wards the names of men that had received a certain number of votes, but in others he failed and then brought this amended record. What right had we to accept an amended record three months after, when the law says it shall be made up in open town meeting?

BULLDOZING A TOWN CLERK.

"In one of the towns, instead of Charles A. Rolfe having being voted for, it was Mr. Charles Rolfe. 'But,' said they, 'these men certainly meant to vote for Charles A. Rolfe, and of course the intentions of the voters must be carried out, regardless of constitution or law.' But they thought the law of 1877 would cover their case. The republican selectmen of the town of Danforth had the presumption to demand of the clerk that he should amend his record and then give us a certified copy of that record. He declined to do it. He said his record was right, and was made from the list as given him by the selectmen. They then sent to Calais and got George B. Curran, a republican lawyer, to indite a letter to their chairman, which has been published. The clerk wrote us after finally amending his record:—'You will be surprised at receiving an amended record which I have this day made. The record as first made and which was returned to you was, according to the minutes, given me by the selectmen, and, in my opinion, was right. But they gave me a letter from G. B. Curran, threatening me with fine and imprisonment if I did not alter the record. Through fear I have done this.' (Applause.)

OBLIGATIONS TO THE LAW.

"Towns and cities should be held strictly to the law and the constitution in the interest of the people. As the Supreme Court says, 'The design of a representative government is not only that the will of the people be expressed, but that it shall be legally and constitutionally expressed.'

"The republicans talk about the will of the people, without regard to the constitution or law. Where is their boasted majority? If the returns for Governor correspond with the returns in the office of the Secretary of State then the republican party is in a minority in this State and this claim about the will of the majority is a myth. Mr. Blaine says in his letter to the people of Gardiner that it had taken the Anglo-Saxon race some centuries to learn the importance of a single vote. You probably recollect what importance was attached by the republicans to single votes in the close districts in the last election.

THE THREATS AGAINST HIS PERSON.

"I have not told you one hundredth part of the circumstances which have come to light, not only during the present, but during the past counting of the votes."

In reference to the letter warning him of attempts to assassinate and poison, received by him on Friday night, the Governor said:—"This is only a sample of what I have received, and I know beyond the shadow of a doubt where it was concocted and the Postmaster who put his seal upon it."

THE GOVERNOR TO SPEAK AT BELFAST.

BELFAST, Dec. 23, 1879.

Governor Garcelon and Attorney General McLellan will address the law and order meeting here on Monday evening.

MAINE AS A PATTERN FOR HER SISTER STATES—SERMON BY DR. FULTON.

The announcement that Dr. Fulton would preach on "Fraud in Maine or Anywhere" brought crowds to the Brooklyn Rink last night. Those who went to hear a sermon of the most recent Maine pattern were much disappointed, for the Doctor's effort was tame compared with the hot clerical eloquence so lately propounded in the Pine Tree State. Dr. Fulton found a text for what he had to say on the subject of fraud in Proverbs xi., 3—"The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them." There are times, said the preacher, closing the book, when all things are lit up, and many indistinctnesses brought to view by the blazing of some particular event. Such an event has lately transpired in the State of Maine, and in the light of that event we may see many things very plainly. Maine, the star of the East, whose fair fame has never before been sullied, is now under a cloud and her name may be dimmed, for not since the cannon boomed at Sumter has such an excitement stirred the people as that growing out of recent events there. By the happenings of the last few weeks we are enabled to see that a dangerous and daring spirit is abroad among the enemies of the people, looking to the perversion of the majority's will. In the old time it was openly stated that men desirous of power could go in public places and purchase votes and the scandal was great. Unprincipled men found that there was no use in spending money and creating scandal when they could accomplish the same end by changing their returns. It matters not who practices this villany of stifling the voice of a free people; it should always be awarded condign punishment and be stamped out. You will observe that in speaking of the Maine trouble I have refrained from mentioning any names, for I wish what I say to have a wider significance than the criticism of a faction would here. There is not much to fear from the Maine trouble, let me assure you, for there is a healthy tone of public opinion there which will eventually adjust all existing differences. At present that tone is not felt, for great excitement prevails; but the health of the public mind is such that it will soon recover from this fever, and then all the citizens of the great State will see that the fraud now in suspension there was deliberately planned. Let me say that this new method which superseded selling votes is portentous of danger to our institutions. Let it once happen that a few men succeed in reversing the will of the people and we stand before the world convicted of inability to govern ourselves. When a day so full of calamity as that shall come the consequence no man can tell. You know and I know that to us are looking millions of men all over the globe, as we may look at some far star of hope. Russia knows our power, Germany feels it—in fact, every nation in Europe feels it—and our success thus far has emboldened the advance guard of liberty in Russia to take a forward step. Our nation is a living evidence of the beneficent influence of liberal institutions, to which all lovers of human rights may point with pride; but once smirch the name of the State with such a fraud as that attempted in Maine, and our light goes out forever. Who can tell the dreadful results of such an occurrence? They would not be local, they would not be national, they would be universal. Darkness would ensue for an indefinite term for the millions of men in Europe who are to-day struggling toward the light. No, it must not be, and it will not be, mark me. The State of Maine will show an example to the world worthy of her traditions. The excitement there did not come too soon, and it will not last too long.

A MORAL ATMOSPHERE.

There is a divine providence in the fact that the attempt at fraud was made in the State of Maine, for in that clear atmosphere a lesson to all States will be taught out of the present difficulty. Almost the same condition of affairs has existed elsewhere under various titles, bulldozing among others, but no particular lesson was evolved. There is indeed a providence in all that has recently taken place, for our institutions will be strengthened by the result. The people of Maine will show the world that they will walk on the razor edge of the law and yet not transgress it. It is grand to contemplate these men in such feverish times as these maintaining their position on the extremest limit of legality and never being betrayed by heat to break the laws. Theirs is an extreme example of restraint and respect. They are showing the Southern people how to do this thing. It has been said that the Republic itself was in danger, but not while such people as those of Maine exist. No, while such men are at work there is no reason to fear for the country's safety. The people of Maine understand what the fraud they are afflicted with means. They know that if it succeeds in Maine it can also succeed in Washington, and they will look out for us all. I have said this much about a political subject for the benefit of the young people, for much talk of fraud has made them too familiar with it, and they might be inclined to overlook the matter. Fraud is a detestable thing, whether in political, moral or religious life, and should be combated.

GENERAL HATCH IN DANGER.

FAILURE OF THE UTE COMMISSION—THE WHITES EXPOSED TO ATTACK—A WAR THREATENING.

DENVER, Col., Dec. 28, 1879.

A special to the Denver *Tribune* from Los Pinos, dated 25th inst., represents that the situation is very serious there. General Hatch was to have started from Los Pinos yesterday and spend the night at Cline's ranch, on the Cimarron. On the 30th he will start from there for Alamosa, which is the last railroad station. General Hatch has given up all hope of securing the Indians, and as his departure is tantamount to a declaration of war much anxiety is felt as to his fate. There are several hundred braves near Los Pinos, and the whites, all told, do not number over twenty-five. The roads are blocked with snow, and only passable for light "buckboards."

THE WHITES TRAPPED.

The Indians have the whites completely trapped. Those in the bowl are General Hatch, Lieutenant Valois, W. F. Saunders, of Virginia; the Denver *Tribune* correspondent, fifteen soldiers and