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PUBLISHED DAILY.

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THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN

PUBLISHED DAILY.

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## THE NEW ORLEANS RIOT

### OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS, DOCUMENTS, &c., &c., &c.

The following correspondence forms an important portion of the papers called for in the resolution of inquiry adopted by the House of Representatives [illegible]. The telegram addressed to Mr. STANTON by Gen. BAIRD, July 28, asking for instructions "*at once by telegraph*," is the key to the whole difficulty. This request was made two days before the riot. Mr. STANTON never answered it, nor did he inform THE PRESIDENT that any such telegram existed until more than *twenty days after the riot!* If that dispatch had been answered as it should have been, the riot would never have taken place. Gen. BAIRD, in his official report, afterwards, complains that he never received any instructions from Mr. STANTON, as requested in his dispatch referred to. This conduct of Mr. STANTON is yet unexplained.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.
[Copy.]

The following telegram received 9 25 p. m., July 27, 1866, from New Orleans, La., July 27, 1866:

*His Excellency President Johnson:*

SIR: Governor Wells has, in compliance with the proclamation of R. K. Howell, president *pro tem.*, signed writ of election to fill vacancy in convention of 1864, and forwarded the same to the office of the Secretary of State.

(Signed) ALBERT VOORHEES,
Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana.
ANDREW J. HERRON,
Attorney General Louisiana.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.
[Copy.]

The following telegram received 2 p. m., July 28, 1866, from New Orleans, July 28, 1866:

*President Johnson:*

Radical mass meeting, composed mainly of large numbers of negroes, last night, ending in a riot. The committee of arrangements of said meeting assembling to-night. Violent and incendiary speeches made. Negroes called to arm themselves. You bitterly denounced. Speakers, Field, Dostie, Hawkins, Henderson, Heirward, and others. Governor Wells arrived last night, but sides with the convention move. The whole matter before grand jury, but impossible to execute civil process without certainty of riot. Contemplated to have the members of the convention arrested under process from the criminal court of this district. Is the military to interfere to prevent process of court?

ALBERT VOORHEES,
Lieutenant Governor Louisiana.
ANDREW J. HERRON,
Attorney General Louisiana.

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ALBERT VOORHEES,
Lieutenant Governor Louisiana.
ANDREW J. HERRON,
Attorney General Louisiana.

[Telegram.]
EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, D. C., July 28, 1866.
[Copy.]

*To Albert Voorhees, Lieut. Governor of Louisiana, New Orleans, La.:*

The military will be expected to sustain, and not to obstruct or interfere with, the proceedings of the courts. A dispatch on the subject of the convention was sent to Gov. Wells this morning.

(Signed) ANDREW JOHNSON.
5:40 p. m.

[Telegram.]
EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., July 28, 1866.
[Copy.]

*To His Excellency Gov. Wells, New Orleans, La.:*

I have been advised that you have issued a proclamation convening the convention elected in 1864. Please inform me under and by what authority this has been done, and by what authority this convention can assume to represent the whole people of the State of Louisiana.

(Signed) ANDREW JOHNSON.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.
[Copy.]

The following telegram received 8.30 p. m., July 28, 1866, from New Orleans, July 28, 1866:

*President Johnson:*

Your telegram received. I have not issued a proclamation convening the convention of 1864. This was done by the president of that body, by virtue of a resolution adjourning the convention subject to his order, and in that case also authorizing him to call on the proper officers to issue writs of election in unrepresented parishes. My proclamation is in response to that call ordering an election on the 3d of September. As soon as vacancies can be ascertained, an election will be held to fill them, when the entire State will be represented.

Your obedient servant,
J. MADISON WELLS, Governor La.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.
[Copy.]

The following telegram received 10.20 p. m., July 28, 1866, from New Orleans, La., July 28, 1866:

*Hon. Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War:*

A convention has been called with the sanction of Gov. Wells to meet here on Monday. The Lieutenant Governor and city authorities think it unlawful, and propose to break it up by arresting the delegates. I have given no orders on the subject, but have warned the parties that I could not countenance or permit such action without instructions to that effect from the President. Please instruct me at once by telegraph.

(Signed) A. BAIRD,
Brevet Major General.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.
[Copy.]

The following telegram received 4 40 p. m., July 30, 1866, from New Orleans July 30, 1866:

*The President United States:*

We are in the midst of a terrible riot, caused by the assembling of the convention. Owing to the mixed condition of affairs among the State officers, I see no hope of quiet without you give us a military governor. Cannot Gen. Granger be sent here?

A. J. HERRON,
Late Major General U. S. A.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, D. C., July 30, 1866.
[Copy.]

[Telegram.]

*To Andrew J. Herron, Adjutant General of Louisiana, New Orleans:*

You will call on General Sheridan, or whomever may be in command, for sufficient force to sustain the civil authority in suppressing all illegal or unlawful assemblies who usurp or assume to exercise any power or authority without first having obtained the consent of the people of the State. If there is to be a convention, let it be composed of delegates chosen fresh from the people of the whole State; the people must be first consulted in reference to changing the organic law of the State; usurpation will not be tolerated; the law and the Constitution must be sustained, and thereby peace and order.

(Signed) ANDREW JOHNSON.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.
[Copy.]

The following telegram received 4.45 p. m., July 30, 1866, from New Orleans, July 30, 1866:

*His Excellency President Johnson:*

Convention met. A riot broke out in the city. So far the police has the upper hand. Several white and colored persons killed. Called on Gen. Baird for assistance, which is cheerfully tendered. Intense excitement. Convention broken up.

ALBERT VOORHEES,
Lieutenant Governor Louisiana.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.
[Copy.]

The following telegram received 12.45 p. m., July 31, 1866, from New Orleans, La., July 30, 9 p. m., 1866:

*Secretary of War:*

A serious riot has occurred here to-day. I have been in full consultation with the city authorities, and have kept my troops well in hand for such an emergency. The riot commenced unexpectedly, and before the troops could reach the scene of action a number of persons were killed and wounded. I have felt compelled to declare martial law, and have appointed a military governor of the city. All is quiet now. Several prominent gentlemen connected with the convention are killed or wounded.

(Signed) A. BAIRD,
Brevet Major General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA,
NEW ORLEANS, La., July 30, 1866.
[Copy.]

*Hon. Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.:*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that a very serious riot has occurred here to-day. I had not been applied to by the convention for protection, but the Lieutenant Governor and the Mayor had freely consulted with me, and I was fully convinced that it was so strongly the intent of the city authorities to preserve the peace, in order to prevent military interference, that I did not regard an outbreak as a thing to be apprehended. The Lieutenant Governor had assured me that, even if a writ of arrest was issued by the court, the sheriff would not attempt to serve it, without my permission, and, for to-day, they designed to suspend it. I ordered a steamer to be at Jackson Barracks (three miles below the city) at an early hour in the morning, and a tug to be ready to hear orders to the commanding officer of the 1st Infantry, stationed at that point. At 11½ o'clock, a. m., Lieutenant Governor Voorhees came to see me, and, after conversation, (the feeling confident at the time of the ability of the police to preserve order,) I proposed to bring to the city four companies one hour in advance of the supposed meeting of the convention, at 6 o'clock, p. m., to be kept near by, in case they should be required to keep clear the streets in the vicinity of the hall in which the convention was to meet. He agreed with me that it would be very desirable, but left me not apprehending difficulty. At 12 o'clock, m., I drove to see Judge Howell, President of the convention, to request that arrangements might be made to keep any crowd that might assemble to protect the convention out of the streets, so as to avoid an accidental collision. When I reached his house I learned that the convention was to meet at 12 o'clock, m., and that he had gone to it. Returning to my headquarters, I soon received a letter from the Lieutenant Governor, informing me that large parties of negroes were collecting from all quarters and coming into the centre of the city; yet he was not sure of his information. However, I at once sent for the troops. Very soon afterwards I learned that a riot had taken place near the convention hall, and I sent a staff officer to investigate the facts. On his return he reported having met Judge Howell, who said the convention had adjourned for want of a quorum, but would meet again at 1½ o'clock, p. m. This reassured me; but I again sent to hasten the arrival of the troops. Immediately after this the riot assumed a serious character. The police, aided by citizens, became the assailants, and from the evidence I am forced to believe exercised great brutality in making their arrests. Finally, they attacked the convention hall, and a protracted struggle ensued. The people inside the hall gave up. Some who surrendered were attacked afterwards and brutally treated. Quite a large number were injured. I cannot now say how many. Governor Hahn, Dr. Dostie, Mr. Fish, and perhaps other members of the convention, among the number.

On the arrival of the troops I soon cleared the streets, and quiet was restored. From the evidence of bad feeling on the part of the citizens, and of sympathy with them on the part of the police, I felt compelled to declare martial law in the city and to appoint a Military Governor, from which I hope good results will ensue.

I inclose herewith copies of my correspondence with the Mayor and of a dispatch which the Lieutenant Governor claims to have received from the President.

I regret that no reply to my dispatch to you of Saturday has yet reached me. General Sheridan is still absent in Texas.

I remain, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed) A. BAIRD,
Brevet Major General,
Commanding Department.

STATE OF LOUISIANA,
MAYORALTY OF NEW ORLEANS,
CITY HALL, July 26, 1866.
[Copy.]

*Brevet Maj. Gen. Baird, Commanding Department of Louisiana:*

GENERAL: A body of men claiming to belong to the convention of 1864, and whose avowed object is to subvert the present municipal and State governments will, I learn, assemble in this city Monday next.

The laws and ordinances of the city, which my oath of office makes obligatory on me to see faithfully executed, declares all assemblies calculated to disturb the public peace and tranquillity as unlawful, and as such to be dispersed by the mayor, and the participants held responsible for violating the same.

It is my intention to disperse this unlawful assembly if found within the corporate limits of the city by arresting the members thereof and holding them accountable to existing municipal laws, provided they meet without the sanction of the military authorities.

I will esteem it a favor, General, if, at your earliest convenience, you will inform me whether this projected meeting has your approbation, so that I may act accordingly.

I am, General, respectfully,
(Signed) JOHN T. MONROE, Mayor.
A true copy:
(Signed) NATHANIEL BURBANK,
First. Lieut. and Acting A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA,
NEW ORLEANS, La., July 26, 1866.
[Copy.]

*Hon. John T. Monroe, Mayor of New Orleans:*

SIR: I have received your communication of the 25th instant, informing me that a body of men claiming to be members of the Convention of 1864, whose avowed object is to subvert the present municipal and State governments, is about to assemble in this city; and regarding this assemblage as one of those described in the law as calculated to disturb the public peace and tranquillity, and therefore unlawful, you believe it to be your duty, and that it is your intention to disperse this unlawful assembly if found within the corporate limits of the city, by arresting the members thereof, and holding them accountable to the existing municipal laws, provided they meet without the approbation of the military authorities.

You also inquire whether this projected meeting has my approbation, so that you may act accordingly.

In reply, I have the honor to state that the assemblage to which you refer has not, so far as I am aware, the sanction or approbation of any military authority for its meetings. I presume the gentlemen composing it have never asked for such authority to meet, as the military commanders, since I have been in the State, have held themselves strictly aloof from all interference with the political movements of the citizens of Louisiana. For my own part I have carefully refrained from any expression of opinion upon either side of the many questions relating to the reconstruction of the State government.

When asked if I intended to furnish the convention a military guard I have replied: "No! the mayor of the city and his police will amply protect its sittings." If these persons assemble, as you say is intended, it will be, I presume, in virtue of the universally conceded right of all loyal citizens of the United States to meet peaceably and discuss freely questions concerning their civil government—a right which is not restricted by the fact that the movement proposed might terminate in a change of existing institutions.

If the assemblage in question has the legal right to remodel the State government, it should be protected in so doing; if it has not, then its labors must be looked upon as a piece of harmless pleasantry, to which no one ought to object.

As to your conception of the duty imposed by your oath of office, I regret to differ with you entirely. I cannot understand how the mayor of a city can undertake to decide so important and delicate a question as the legal authority upon which a convention, claiming to represent the people of an entire State, bases its action. This doubtless will be decided upon in due time by the legal branch of the United States Government. At all events, the Governor of the State would seem to be more directly called upon to take the initiative in a step of this kind, if it was proper and necessary.

What we most want at the present time is the maintenance of perfect order and the suppression of violence. If, when you speak of the projected meeting as one calculated to disturb the public peace and tranquillity, I am to understand that you regard the number of persons who differ in opinion from those that will constitute it, so large, and the lawlessness of their character so well established, that you doubt the ability of your small force of police to control them, you have in that case only to call upon me and I will bring to your assistance not only the troops now present in the city, but if necessary the entire force which it may be in my power to assemble, either upon land or water.

Lawless violence must be suppressed; and in this connection the recent order of the Lieutenant General, designed for the protection of citizens of the United States, deserves careful consideration. It imposes high obligations for military interference to protect those who, having violated no ordinance of the State, are engaged in peaceful avocations.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed) A. BAIRD,
Brevet Major General,
Commanding Department of Louisiana.

A true copy:
(Signed) NATHANIEL BURBANK,
First Lieut. and Acting Asst. Adj't. Gen.

[From a New Orleans Newspaper of Monday Morning, July 30, 1866.]

PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND THE CONVENTION—THE MILITARY EXPECT TO SUSTAIN, NOT TO OBSTRUCT, THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURTS.

The following dispatch from President Johnson to Lieut. Gov. Voorhees is one from which, in the circumstances that called it forth, satisfactory deductions may be drawn. We cannot doubt that the President gives no countenance to the pretensions of those members of the defunct convention of 1864 who are endeavoring to reinstate it; and we can only believe, as Commander-in-Chief, he will see that, on proper occasion, the judicial and other authorities of the State, as now constituted, will be protected by the military against violence from within or from without:

"WASHINGTON, D. C., July 27, 1866.

"*To Albert Voorhees, Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana:*

"The military will be expected to sustain, and not obstruct or interfere with the proceedings of the courts.

"A dispatch on the subject of the convention was sent to Gov. Wells this morning.

"ANDREW JOHNSON."

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.
[Copy.] (Cipher.)

The following telegram received 4.30 p. m., July 31, 1866, from New Orleans, La., July 31, 1866:

*Hon. Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War:*

All is now quiet in the city, but I still have the troops under arms, and shall keep them so for some days. Nearly all unite in attributing the chief blame to the police for the troubles yesterday. Thirty-seven persons are reported as killed, all belonging to the convention or friendly to it.

(Signed) A. BAIRD, Maj. Gen.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.
[Copy.] (Cipher.)

The following telegram received 8.50 p. m., July 31, 1866, from New Orleans, La., July 31, 1866:

*To the Adjutant General U. S. Army, Washington:*

Comparative quiet has been restored in this city by the military, who still occupy the streets. There is, however, apprehensions of slight disturbances in the lower fauborg of the city.

In consequence of the limited force at my command, I am compelled to make use of the city police, whose conduct in the riots of yesterday is most reprehensible. There is every reason to fear the imminent peril to which the lives and property of Union men of this city will be subjected by restoration of the reins of power to the present civil authorities of the city.

(Signed) A. BAIRD, Maj. Gen.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.
[Copy.]

The following telegram received 11.15 p. m., July 31, 1866, from New Orleans, La., July 31, 1866:

*Major General O. O. Howard:*

The riot has been suppressed. I have declared martial law in the city. About forty persons have been killed, and a large number wounded, nearly all being friendly to the convention.

(Signed) A. BAIRD,
Brevet Major General.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.
[Copy.] (Cipher.)

The following telegram received 10 p. m., July 31, 1866, from New Orleans July 31, 1866:

*His Excellency President Johnson:*

Your dispatch received. General Baird has declared martial law in this city. The grand jury has indicted the members of the convention, who met yesterday, as an unlawful assembly. Process for their arrest in hands of sheriff suspended by General Baird until he receives direct instructions from Washington. I showed him your dispatch to me.

ANDREW J. HERRON,
Attorney General.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.
[Copy.] (Cipher.)

The following telegram received 6.15 p. m., August 1, 1866, from New Orleans, La., August 1, 1866:

*U. S. Grant, General:*

You are doubtless aware of the serious riot which occurred in this city on the 30th. A political body styling itself the convention of 1864 met on the 30th for, as it is alleged, the purpose of remodeling the present constitution of the State. The leaders were political agitators and revolutionary men, and the action of the convention was liable to produce breaches of the public peace. I had made up my mind to arrest the head men if the proceedings of the convention were calculated to disturb the tranquillity of the Department, but I had no cause for action until they committed the overt act. In the meantime official duty called me to Texas, and the mayor of the city, during my absence, suppressed the convention by the use of the police force, and in so doing attacked the members of the convention and a party of two hundred negroes with firearms, clubs, and knives in a manner so unnecessary and atrocious as to compel me to say that it was murder. About forty whites and blacks were thus killed, and about one hundred and sixty wounded. Everything is now quiet, but I deem it best to maintain a military supremacy in the city for a few days, until the affair is fully investigated. I believe the sentiment of the general community is great regret at this unnecessary cruelty, and that the police could have made any arrest they saw fit without sacrificing lives.

(Signed) P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General Commanding.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT,
[Copy] [Cipher.]

The following telegram received 6:40 p. m., August 1, 1866, from New Orleans, Louisiana, August 1, 1866:

*U. S. Grant:*

GENERAL: You need feel no uneasiness about the condition of affairs here. I think I can arrange matters without difficulty.

(Signed) P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General Commanding.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
[Copy] WASHINGTON CITY, Aug. 1, 1866.
[Cipher.]

*Maj. Gen. Baird, New Orleans:*

Please report immediately the condition of things at New Orleans, in cipher.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

Sent 2:30 p. m.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
[Copy] HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.
[Cipher.]

The following telegram received 9 a. m., August 3, 1866, from New Orleans, Louisiana, August 2, 1866:

*Hon. Edwin M Stanton, Secretary of War:*

All is quiet upon the surface, but there are still slight disturbances in some localities. The police are still afraid to go upon their beats singly, and some radical citizens are afraid to sleep in their houses. The proclamation of martial law was necessary, because the police are regarded by a large portion of the community as the rioters, and were feared. I am confident it saved many lives and great excess. Its administration extends only to holding the city authorities and the police under the supervision of the Military Governor. It should be kept until military investigation can determine whether any of the city officers are guilty. I would then advise its withdrawal. The Governor felt compelled to ask for a military guard for his protection.

(Signed) A. BAIRD,
Brevet Major General.

[Telegram.]
EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, Aug 1, 1866.
[Copy]

*Maj. Gen. Absolom Baird, Commanding, &c., New Orleans, La.:*

You will not interpose any obstacle in the way of the civil authorities, but render whatever aid may be required by them for the preservation of public peace.

The foregoing telegram is transmitted to you by order of the President. You will acknowledge its receipt.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, August 1, 1866: Received 6:10 p. m. Sent 7 p. m.

[Cipher.]
OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
[Copy] HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.

The following telegram received 9:20 a. m., August 3, 1866, from New Orleans, La., August 3, 1866:

*Brevet Maj. Gen. E. D. Townsend, Assistant Adjutant General:*

Your dispatch received. No obstacle will be imposed in the way of the civil authorities.

(Signed) A. BAIRD,
Brevet Major General.

[Telegram.]
EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
[Copy] WASHINGTON, Aug. 1, 1866.

*Albert Voorhees, Lieutenant Governor, or Andrew J. Herron, Attorney General, New Orleans:*

Were the civil authorities, State or Federal, conferred with by Gen. Baird before he declared martial law? Could not the civil authorities, State and Federal, enforce the law and preserve order with the aid of the military, without the aid of martial law? I hope that order has been restored, and the riot not as disastrous as represented. Please show this dispatch to Gen. Baird.

The foregoing telegram is transmitted to you by order of the President. You will please acknowledge its receipt.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, August 1, 1866: Received 6:10 p. m. Sent 6:50 p. m.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
[Copy.] HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.

The following telegram received 3 40 p. m., Aug. 2, 1866, from New Orleans, La., Aug. 2, 1866:

*Brevet Maj. Gen. E. D. Townsend, A. A. G., Washington, D. C.:*

Dispatch received. Civil authorities were not, to our knowledge, conferred with by Gen. Baird as to propriety of declaring martial law. Civil authorities could easily enforce the law and preserve order with the aid of the military. Martial law wholly unnecessary. Order fully restored before arrival of troops. The rioting was almost entirely confined to immediate vicinity of Mechanic's Institute, and suppressed by police in less than two hours, and before arrival of troops. Left copy of your dispatch at Gen. Baird's headquarters.

(Signed) ALBERT VOORHEES,
Lieutenant Governor.
ANDREW J. HERRON,
Attorney General.

Gen. Baird's headquarters.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
[Copy.] HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.
[Cipher.]

The following telegram received 6 p. m., Aug. 2, 1866, from New Orleans, La., Aug. 2, 1866:

*U. S Grant, General, Washington, D. C.:*

The more information I obtain of the affair of the 30th, in this city, the more revolting it becomes. It was no riot; it was an absolute massacre by the police, which was not excelled in murderous cruelty by that of Fort Pillow. It was a murder which the Mayor and police of the city perpetrated without the shadow of a necessity; furthermore, I believe it was premeditated, and every indication points to this. I recommend the removing of this bad man. I believe it would be hailed with the sincerest gratification by two thirds of the population of the city. There has been a feeling of insecurity on the part of the people here on account of this man, which is now so much increased that the safety of life and property does not rest with the civil authorities, but with the military.

(Signed) P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General Commanding.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
[Copy.] HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.
[Cipher.]

The following telegram received 10 p. m., Aug. 3, 1866, from New Orleans, La; Aug. 3, 1866:

*U. S. Grant, General, Washington, D. C.:*

I have the honor to report quiet in the city, but considerable excitement in the public mind. There is no interference on the part of the military with the civil government, which performs all its duties without hindrance.

I have permitted the retention of the military governor appointed during my absence, as it gives confidence and enables the military to know what is occurring in the city. He does not interfere with civil matters.

Unless good judgment is exercised there will be an exodus of Northern capital and Union men which will be injurious to the city and to the whole country. I will remove the military governor in a day or two. I again strongly advise that some disposition be made to change the present mayor, as I believe it would do more to restore confidence than anything that could be done. If the present Governor could be changed also it would not be amiss.

(Signed) P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES UNITED STATES,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 3, 1866.

*Maj. Gen Sheridan, New Orleans, La.:*

Continue to enforce martial law so far as may be necessary to preserve the peace, and do not allow any of the civil authorities to act if you deem such action dangerous to the public safety. Lose no time in investigating and reporting the causes that led to the riot, and the facts which occurred.

U. S. GRANT, General.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.

The following telegram received 5:05 p. m., Aug. 4, 1866, from New Orleans, La., Aug. 4, 1866:

*Gen. U S. Grant, Washington, D. C.:*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the date of August 3d, 5 p. m.

(Signed) P. H SHERIDAN,
Major General Commanding.

[By U. S. Military Telegraph.]
EXECUTIVE MANSION,
[Copy] WASHINGTON, D.C., Aug. 4, 1866.

*To Major General Sheridan, commanding, &c., New Orleans, La.:*

We have been advised here that prior to the assembling of the illegal and extinct convention elected in 1864, inflammatory and insurrectionary speeches were made to a mob, composed of white and colored persons, urging upon them to arm and equip themselves for the purpose of protecting and sustaining the convention in its illegal and unauthorized proceedings, intended and calculated to upturn and supercede the existing State government of Louisiana, which had been recognized by the Government of the United States. Further, did the mob assemble and was it armed for the purpose of sustaining the convention in its usurpation and revolutionary proceedings? Have any arms been taken from persons, since the 30th ult., who were supposed or known to be connected with this mob? Have not various individuals been assaulted and shot by persons connected with this mob without good cause and in violation of the public peace and good order? Was not the assembling of this convention and the gathering of the mob for its defence and protection the main cause of the riotous and unlawful proceedings of the civil authorities of New Orleans? Have steps been taken by the civil authorities to arrest and try any and all those who were engaged in this riot and those who have committed offences in violation of law? Can ample justice be meted by the civil authorities to all offenders against the law? Will Gen. Sheridan please furnish me a brief reply to the above inquiries, with such other information as he may be in possession of?

Please answer by telegraph at your earliest convenience.

ANDREW JOHNSON,
President United States.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
[Copy.] HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.
[Cipher.]

The following telegram received 8:50 a. m., August 6, 1866, from New Orleans, La., August 5, 1866:

*His Excellency Andrew Johnson, President U. S.:*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of August 4th, and will reply speedily.

(Signed) P. H. SHERIDAN,
Maj. Gen. Comd'g.

OFFICE U. S MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
[Copy.] HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.
[Cipher.]

The following telegram received at 8.50 a. m., August 6, 1866, from New Orleans, La., August 5, 1866:

*U. S. Grant, General, Washington, D C:*

I have the honor to report quiet in the city yesterday and to-day, but many unfounded rumors afloat which excite the timid. The exciting reports will be in circulation for a day or two yet.

(Signed) P. H. SHERIDAN,
Maj. Gen. Comd'g.

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.

The following cipher telegram received 4:30 p. m., August 6, 1866, from New Orleans, La., August 6, 12 m., 1866:

*His Excellency, Andrew Johnson, President United States:*

I have the honor to make the following reply to your dispatch of August fourth, (4th): A very large number of the colored people marched in procession on Friday night, July twenty-seventh, (27th,) and were addressed from the steps of the City Hall by Doctor Dostie, Ex-Governor Hahn, and others. The speech of Dostie was intemperate in language and sentiment. The speeches of the others, so far as I can learn, were characterized by moderation. I have not given you the words of Dostie's speech, as the version published was denied; but from what I have learned of the man, I believe they were intemperate.

The convention assembled at twelve (12) m. on the thirtieth, (30th,) the timid members absenting themselves because the tone of the general public was ominous of trouble. I think there were but about twenty-six (26) members present. In front of the Mechanics' Institute, where the meeting was held, there were assembled some colored men, women and children, perhaps eighteen (18) or twenty (20,) and in the Institute a number of colored men, probably one hundred and fifty (150.) Among those outside and inside there might have been a pistol in the possession of every tenth (10th) man.

About one (1) p. m. a procession of, say from sixty (60) to one hundred and thirty (130) colored men, marched up Burgundy street and across Canal street towards the convention, carrying an American flag. These men had about one pistol to every ten men, and canes and clubs in addition. While crossing Canal street a row occurred. There were many spectators on the streets, and their manner and tone towards the procession unfriendly. A shot was fired, by whom I am not able to state, but believe it to have been by a policeman, or some colored man in the procession. This led to other shots and a rush after the procession. On arrival at the front of the Institute there was some throwing of brickbats by both sides. The police who had been held well in hand, were vigorously marched to the scene of disorder. The procession entered the Institute with the flag, about six (6) or eight (8) remaining outside. A row occurred between a policeman and one of these colored men, and a shot was again fired by one of the parties, which led to an indiscriminate fire on the building through the windows by the policemen. This had been going on for a short time, when a white flag was displayed from the windows of the Institute, whereupon the firing ceased, and the police rushed into the building.

From the testimony of wounded men and others who were inside the building, the policemen opened an indiscriminate fire upon the audience until they had emptied their revolvers, when they retired, and those inside barricaded the doors. The door was broken in and the firing again commenced, when many of the colored and white people either escaped throughout the door or were passed out by the policemen inside; but as they came out the policemen who formed the circle nearest the building fired upon them, and they were again fired upon by the citizens that formed the outer circle. Many of those wounded and taken prisoners, and others who were prisoners and not wounded, were fired upon by their captors and by citizens. The wounded were stabbed while lying on the ground, and their heads beaten with brickbats in the yard of the building, whither some of the colored men had escaped and partially secreted themselves. They were fired upon and killed or wounded by policemen. Some men were killed and wounded several squares from the scene. Members of the convention were wounded by the policemen while in their hands as prisoners, some of them mortally.

The immediate cause of this terrible affair was the assemblage of this convention. The remote cause was the bitter and antagonistic feeling which has been growing in this community since the advent of the present Mayor, who, in the organization of his police force, selected many desperate men, and some of them known murderers. People of clear views were overawed by want of confidence in the Mayor and fear of the thugs, many of which he had selected for his police force. I have frequently been spoken to by prominent citizens on this subject, and have heard them express fear and want of confidence in Mayor Monroe. Ever since the intimation of this last convention movement I must condemn the course of several of the city papers for supporting, by their articles, the bitter feeling of bad men. As to the merciless manner in which the convention was broken up, I feel obliged to confess strong repugnance.

It is useless to attempt to disguise the hostility that exists on the part of a great many here towards Northern men, and this unfortunate affair has so precipitated matters that there is now a test of what shall be the *status* of Northern men—whether they can live here without being in constant dread or not; whether they can be protected in life and property and have justice in the courts. If this matter is permitted to pass over without a thorough and determined prosecution of those engaged in it, we may look out for frequent scenes of the same kind, not only here, but in other places. No steps have as yet been taken by the civil authorities to arrest citizens who were engaged in this massacre, or policemen who perpetrated such cruelties. The members of the Convention have been indicted by the grand jury, and many of them arrested and held to bail. As to whether the civil authorities can mete out ample justice to the guilty parties on both sides, I must say it is my opinion unequivocally that they cannot. Judge Abel, whose course I have closely watched for nearly a year, I now consider one of the most dangerous men that we have here to the peace and quiet of the city. The leading men of the Convention—King, Cutler, Hahn and others—have been political agitators, and are bad men. I regret to say that the course of Gov. Wells has been vacillating, and that during the late trouble he has shown very little of the man.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General Commanding.

OFFICE U. S MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
[Copy.] HEADQUARTERS WAR DEPARTMENT.
[Cipher.]

The following telegram received 4.10 p. m., Aug. 7, 1866, from New Orleans, La., Aug. 6, 1866:

*U. S Grant, General:*

I have the honor to report a rapid change for the better throughout the city. There was much excitement on Sunday and Monday in consequence of an unfounded rumor that there would be a collision between the whites and blacks yesterday. There was no good reason to expect such an event, however.

(Signed) P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
[Copy.] WASHINGTON CITY, August 7, 1866
[Telegram.]

*To Major General P. H. Sheridan, Commanding, &c., New Orleans, La.:*

The President directs me to acknowledge your telegram of the Sixth, (6th,) in answer to his inquiries of the fourth, (4th,) instant. On the third (3d) instant instructions were sent you, by General Grant, in conformity with the President's directions, authorizing you to "continue to enforce martial law so far as might be necessary to preserve the public peace, and ordering you not to allow any of the civil authorities to act if you deem such action dangerous to the public safety, and also that no time be lost in investigating the causes that led to the riot and the facts which occurred." By these instructions the President designed to vest in you, as the chief military commander, full authority for the maintenance of the public peace and safety, and he does not see that anything more is needed pending the investigation with which you are entrusted. But if in your judgment your powers are inadequate to preserve the peace until the facts connected with the riot are ascertained, you will please report to this Department for the information of the President.

(Signed) EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

NEW ORLEANS, 31 August, 1866.

*His Excellency President Andrew Johnson:*

SIR: Your Excellency is in possession of the main facts as regards the conspiracy which, by reviving the convention of '64, purposed to subvert the civil government of the State of Louisiana.

An informal meeting of twenty-nine members—one hundred and fifty being the whole number and seventy-six a quorum—proceeded to depose the president of the convention, (who considered the convention as extinct and himself *functus officio*,) and to elect R. K. Howell as president *pro tem.* They adjourned to meet again, and a proclamation was issued by R. K. Howell, president *pro tem.*, convening the convention to meet on the 30th of July last, and directing his Excellency the Governor of the State to issue writs of election to fill vacancies.

So far the whole matter was looked upon as a harmless experiment, although mischievously intended. The people were confident that the Governor would not condescend to notice this proclamation, and it once the convention would commit any illegal act of interference that he would have it dispersed at once.

Unfortunately, however, after a lapse of nearly a month, the Governor issued writs of election to fill up fifty-one vacancies in that body. This document, to which the Secretary of State refused to give his attestation under the seal of State, was issued under the attestation of the private secretary of the Governor.

The people of the State became alarmed when no doubt could be entertained as to the fact that their chief magistrate had given willing aid and assistance to subvert the Government, the preservation of which was especially intrusted to his keeping.

On Friday, the 27th of July, a large meeting was held in the hall of the House of Representatives, professedly for the advocacy of universal suffrage, but in reality to organize for the meeting of the convention on the Monday following. The object of this meeting was to arouse the passions and prejudices of the colored population, so as to make them the victims of a riot by urging them headlong into a conflict with the State and municipal authorities.

On the other hand, we were determined to prevent all riots and bloodshed by pursuing such a course as would baffle the nefarious calculations of these agitators. Our remedy, and the only remedy, must be by pursuing the usual process of law, and even then to proceed in such a way as to