Journal and Statesman.

Friday Morning, January 4 1861.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

The Constitutional requirements having brought you together for deliberation as the Representatives of the People, it becomes my duty to communicate to you such information as rests within my knowledge, pertaining to the affairs of the State, as are legitimate subjects for your investigation, and to suggest such measures as in my judgment demand your consideration.

But, in the meantime, I must congratulate you and our fellow citizens generally, upon the unexampled prosperity of our own State and the country at large for the past two years. Never, perhaps, in the annals of its history, have the many inestimable blessings of the beneficent Providence been more abundantly lavished upon us. The hand has yielded to the husbandmen a rich reward for their labor, filling their granaries with its various products, which found a ready market at the most liberal prices, while all other branches of industrial pursuits have prospered in a corresponding degree, each and all being so intimately connected and interwoven with each other in their great and general interests and operations, that the one advances or retrogrades in the same ratio with the other.

But how deplorable is the fact, that whilst we were thus happily and peacefully moving along on the tide of prosperity, surrounded by peace and plenty, the lowering clouds of a purely political panic have suddenly overshadowed our happy condition and all the interests of our future, as they still do to their faith in the "immense value of the national union, to their collective and individual happiness," they cannot but feel conscious that the people and the Government of some of the States have either forgotten, or wilfully violate their constitutional obligations and fraternal duties to each other, and every of the co-equal sovereignties that compose the United States.

There has been a remarkable and expressive admission of the truth of these statements in an address lately published as an appeal to the people of Massachusetts, emanating from a voluntary council of her ablest and best citizens, in which they openly declare, that "we believe the State of Massachusetts has violated our great national compact by knawnow on her statute book, which conflict with the constitution and laws of the United States," and in further reference to the nullifying legislation of the State, they say "they (that is, those laws) stand as conspicuous and palpable breaches of the constitution, and are designed as affording justification to themselves, (that is the State proposing to secede,) to the world and to the posterity, for the destruction of the most perfect and prosperous government which the providence of God has ever permitted the wisdom of man to devise."

In an area so extensive, and United States so diverse in the origin of their people, their habits, requirements, and pursuits, it is with much amazement and more than equal gratification, that we find collisions of interests so few in number and so comparatively easy of reconcilement. The beauty and adaptability of our form of government, leaving the inhabitants of each State to their own laws and laws of internal occupation, with a prudent supervision and control of foreign relations and common property, has exceeded the fondest anticipations of its founders. Whence then the cause of so much disquietude among the different States? What is it that now shakes our whole commercial system to its centre, crushing individual credit, and causing from a community of industrious and confiding people that confidence which is the very soul of human interchanges—which now on the verge of a severe winter, will throw thousands of honest workmen with their families out of employment, and deprive them of the means of earning the bread which they desire for their labor, and which they must have or perish?

The answer is too plain and immediate to admit of a doubt with any one who has observed the progress of the passing events in this nation for the last twenty years. The undeniable cause of the existing sentiment of disunion, which now threatens to destroy and break up our national government, is the war which an anti-slavery, fanatical sentiment has waged upon more than two thousand millions of property—a war waged for so long a time from the pulpit, from the political rostrum, by the press and in the schools—all teaching the sentiment that slavery is a crime and a sin, entitled "An act proposing an amendment to the Constitution for the abolishment of hereditary slavery." On the passage of this act, it received upon me, in the exercise of the sound discretion reposed in the Executive of the State, to give to, or withhold from the proposed amendment my official approbation. It would afford me pleasure at all times to carry out the views and wishes of those whom we represent, when clearly expressed through the proper channels; consequently, could do so by a conscientious discharge of my responsible duty; but with a decided conviction of the inexpediency of this measure, I could not approve of it.

With all due deference to the last Legislature, without intending for a moment to reflect on their motives or wisdom, I cannot but believe that every large majority of their constituents did not, and do not now desire any such amendment as that proposed.

The constitution, as drafted by our hundred and fifty-three made a material change in the judicial system, which upon forty submitted to the people for ratification was rejected by an overwhelming majority and from the principles of the Democratic party and the leaders of the Judiciary, rendered it more obnoxious than any other measure that has been before the people. It was the expectation that the minds of the people, however, would not be long and so deeply agitated the subject, as to require any legislative action in the premises, and that the desired change by means of a convention, they reported and submitted, would be the only other method in which that cursed instrument could be reached.

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