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### PROCLAMATION

By ALBERT G. BROWN, Governor of the State of Mississippi.

### EXECUTIVE CHAMBER.

Jackson, Miss., August, 1845.

Sir:—As the period is rapidly approaching at which we shall be called upon to hold a general election to fill all the vacant offices in the state, it is your duty to make yourselves familiar with the service required of you by law in conducting this election, to the end that all things connected therewith may be done properly.

It will not have escaped your observation that in addition to voting for all the officers to be elected, it will be the duty of the electors to vote for or against two several amendments to the constitution proposed at the last session of the legislature.

The first is in regard to "slaves." The second section of the seventh article of the constitution as it now stands under the title "slaves," is in these words:

"SEC. 2. The introduction of slaves into this state, as merchandise or for sale, shall be prohibited from and after the first day of May, eighteen hundred and thirty-three; provided, that the actual settler or settlers shall not be prohibited from purchasing slaves in any state in this union and bringing them into this state for their own individual use, until the year eighteen hundred and forty-five."

This section of the constitution it is proposed to amend, so as to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. THE LEGISLATURE SHALL HAVE, AND ARE HEREBY VESTED WITH POWER TO PASS SUCH LAWS REGULATING OR PROHIBITING THE INTRODUCTION OF SLAVES INTO THIS STATE AS MAY BE DEEMED PROPER AND EXPEDIENT."

I append the act of the legislature which proposes the above amendment, marked A. From the second section of which, you will learn that the voter who is for the amendment, will write (or print) on his ticket "SLAVES amendment," and if opposed to it, he will place on his ticket "SLAVES no amendment."

The third section, to which your attention is particularly called, makes it your duty to make return to the secretary of state, of all the votes cast in your county for or against the proposed amendment—AND ALSO THE WHOLE NUMBER OF VOTES GIVEN FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. To ascertain how many votes were cast for members of the legislature, you will keep a separate tally at each box of the tickets on which the name of no candidate for the legislature appears—the whole number of these subtracted from the whole number of votes cast will give you, of course, the number of votes polled for members of the legislature. You should be particular in making your return under this section of the law, as error or inattention will vitiate all that has been done or may hereafter be done on this subject, and subject you to severe imputations.

The second proposition to amend the constitution, has for its object the separation of our judicial from our political elections. I append the act of the legislature, marked B. To the third section of this act, your attention is especially directed. Its requirements must not be neglected. It shall be the duty of the several officers holding the elections, to ask the voter as he presents his ticket, "Are you for or against amending the constitution, so as to elect judges and political officers at different times?"—and the clerks of the election will be careful to keep a record of the votes polled for and against the amendment; but no elector will be allowed to vote on this question who does not vote for members of the legislature. I append, marked C, the article of the constitution entitled "Mode of revising the constitution," from which you will see the necessity of making your returns in this case with the same accuracy as in the case first above referred to—all the instructions given you in the first instance, as to the manner of making returns are reiterated and re-enjoined in this.

The writ of election (a copy of which is appended, marked D,) contains a list of the offices to be filled. It is deemed unnecessary to give you any further instructions in regard to your duties, than merely to call your attention to the constitution and statutes directing the manner of making returns:

1. "The returns of the election for governor shall be sealed up and transmitted to the seat of government, di-

rected to the secretary of state," see sec. 2, article 5, (executive department, constitution. You will write across the seal of the package containing the returns, "election returns for governor," and sign your name officially. The package containing the election returns for governor must not contain any other returns.

2. The returns for all other state and county officers must be made directly to the secretary of state, and despatched by you, enclosed in a well sealed package, through the mail or some other safe conveyance. If sent by mail, you will place the package in the post office in time for the first post. Whether you send by mail or other conveyance, you will retain an exact copy, so that in case of loss or miscarriage, you can make another return.

3. Though you should enclose the returns for circuit judge in your general returns to the secretary of state, you must make a separate return to the sheriff of the county first named in your circuit court district, (see page 479, Howard & Hutchinson digest.)

4. You will be careful in making your returns to write out the names of the persons mentioned in full. This will be important when the commissions are made out. Write your returns in a plain legible hand, and set down the number of votes in each case in figures and also in words.

5. In making returns for members of the board of police, you must be particular to mention the district by number in which each member resides.—This, you must do on account neglect. I need scarcely mention that judges and other district officers are elected by the qualified voters within their respective districts, and though in the general writ of election hereto appended, the judge of the High Court of Errors and appeals, district chancery clerks, and other district officers are mentioned, they are not to be voted for out of their districts, respectively. You will cause copies of this circular to be posted up at different places in your county, and the officer conducting the election at each box to be furnished with a copy on the first day of the election.

A. G. BROWN.

### [A.]

### AN ACT to amend the Constitution of the State of Mississippi.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, (two thirds of each branch thereof concurring.) That the second section of the seventh article of the Constitution of the State, under the title or head "Slaves," be so altered and changed as to read as follows, to-wit:—Sec. 2. "The Legislature shall have, and are hereby vested with power to pass such laws regulating or prohibiting the introduction of slaves into this state, as may be deemed proper and expedient."

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of State, at least six months preceding the general election in November, eighteen hundred and forty-five, to give notice, by advertising in three or more public newspapers printed in this State, of this act, and the alteration hereby proposed to be made to the Constitution of this State, and at said election, the qualified electors voting for members of the Legislature, shall vote for or against the alterations herein proposed to be made in the Constitution, in the following manner, to-wit: Those voting for the alteration herein proposed, shall write on their tickets the words "Slaves, amendment;" and those voting against it, the words "Slaves, no amendment."

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of Sheriffs of the several counties in this State, to make returns of the votes given for the members of the Legislature, to the Secretary of State, to be by him laid before the next succeeding Legislature; if it shall appear that a majority of those voting for members of the Legislature shall have voted for the alteration herein proposed, the alteration or amendment contained in this act, shall be inserted by said Legislature in the Constitution of this State, as a part thereof.

Approved Feb. 24, 1844.

### [B.]

### RESOLUTIONS to amend the Constitution of the State of Mississippi.

RESOLVED, by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, That the following article be added to the Constitution as an amendment thereto: Elections, article 5th:

SECTION 1. The Legislature, at the regular session thereof in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, shall pass a law fixing the time of holding elections of Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of Public Accounts, State Treasurer, members of the Legislature, and Representatives in Congress; which law shall provide that said elections shall not be held at the time when other public officers are elected.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of State shall give public notice of the foregoing amendment at least six months previous to the next general election, according to the provisions of the Constitution.

SEC. 3. That it shall be the duty of the several officers holding the next general election, to ask the qualified voters, whether they are for or against said amendment; and the several clerks shall make record thereof, as the answer may be; and the same shall be returned to the Secretary of State, in the time and manner now prescribed by law.

Approved Feb. 23, 1841.

### [C.]

### Mode of Revising the Constitution.

Whenever two-thirds of each branch of the legislature shall deem any change, alteration, or amendment necessary to this constitution, such proposed change, alteration, or amendment, shall be read and passed by a majority of two-thirds of each house respectively on each day for three several days; public notice thereof shall then be given, by the secretary of state, at least six months preceding the next general election, at which the qualified electors shall vote directly for or against such change, alteration or amendment; and if it shall appear that a majority of the qualified electors voting for members of the legislature, shall have voted for the proposed change, alteration, or amendment, then it shall be inserted, by the next succeeding legislature, as a part of this constitution, and not otherwise.

### [D.]

### Albert G. Brown,

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,  
To the sheriff of ——— county, and state aforesaid.—GREETING:

Whereas, the first Monday and day following, in November, 1845, (being the third and fourth days of the month) is the time appointed by law for holding an election in this state—and whereas, it is made my duty to issue a writ, requiring you to hold the said election at the time and places appointed by law.

Now, therefore, I, ALBERT G. BROWN, Governor of the state of Mississippi, do issue this my writ, requiring you to hold an election at the several election precincts in your county, on the first Monday and day following (being the third and fourth days) in November, 1845, for the following officers, to serve the terms prescribed by law, to-wit:

- One Governor.
- One Secretary of State.
- One Auditor of Public Accounts.
- One State Treasurer.
- One Attorney General for the State.
- One Chancellor for the State.
- Four Members of Congress.
- One Judge of the High Court of Errors and Appeals, for the third district, composed of the counties of Lafayette, Lowndes, Octobbeha, Choctaw, Carroll, Tallanatchie, Chickasaw, Monroe, Itawamba, Marshall, Tippah and Tishomingo.
- One Judge of the ——— judicial district, composed of the counties of ———
- One District Att'y for the same district.
- One Clerk of the Vice Chancery Court for the district of ———
- One Senator from the senatorial district, composed of the counties of ———
- Representative to the state legislature.
- One Sheriff.
- One Clerk Circuit Court.
- One Judge of Probate.
- One Clerk of the Probate Court.
- One Coroner.
- One Assessor of taxes.
- One County Treasurer.
- One Ranger.
- One County Surveyor.
- Five members of the Board of Police; and a Justice of the Peace and Constable, to fill each vacancy in your county.

And I do moreover enjoin it upon you to conduct said election in all respects conformably to law, and to make due return thereof as the law directs.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the state, at the city of Jackson, September 1st, 1845.

A. G. BROWN.

By the Governor,  
Wm. HENNINGWAY, Sec'y of State.

### Business Cards &c.

**UPTON MILLER**  
WILL devote his entire attention to the practice of the Law, in the Counties of Attala, Leake, Winston, Neshoba and Choctaw. Any business entrusted to him will receive prompt attention. Office in Kosciusko.  
August 1, 1845 1y\*

**THOM. PROCTER HOY, Attorney & Counselor at Law, KOSCIUSKO, MISSISSIPPI.** Will practice in this and the adjoining counties.  
May 20, 1845. 48:1f

### FAREWELL TO SUMMER.

The Summer is over—farewell!  
The surf of the sea is roaring,  
The winds moan low in the dell,  
Like those for the absent deploring;  
The Mountain grow russet and gray,  
For the season, like man, pass away.

There's a world where winter comes not,  
Where a farewell enters never,  
Where no clouds the atmosphere blot,  
And no change our friendships sever;  
That world is the home of the soul,  
And how swiftly it flies to its goal!

### AN ODD FELLOW'S INITIATION.

BY ABEL KLETCHER.

Having been previously proposed and elected, I started one evening in company with a friend to go to the lodge for the purpose of being initiated. My friend, who was already a member of the Order, took me through many narrow streets and dark alleys turned several corners, and finally brought me to a strange looking building at the extreme end of a long, narrow and crooked alley in a remote part of the city, where I could not recollect of ever having been before.—From the dim lights which were reflected from the windows of the adjacent buildings, the one to which my friend had conducted me, and in which he informed me the Lodge met, appeared to me an antique structure, which seemed to partake both of the Gothic and Egyptian orders. At any rate it was an odd looking affair, and seemed to be a fit place for the assemblage together of a society of Odd Fellows.

I followed my friend up a long winding staircase, through several narrow passages and then up another flight of stairs. Every thing as I advanced appeared peculiarly odd and gloomy. The walls were covered with hieroglyphics and drawings of a singular character, which could only be seen by the dim light of a few tapers which were burning feebly at considerable distances. At the head of the stairs, was a long dark passage, at the extreme end of which could be just discerned the feeble glimmerings of a small blue light. All seemed calculated to excite terror and notwithstanding I had often boasted of my courage, yet I began to tremble at the thought of proceeding farther. My friend took me by the arm and bid me in a low whisper not to be alarmed. At the entrance of the passage a broad sword hung suspended from the ceiling, and as we advanced I read inscribed upon the wall, apparently in letters of fire, "Secrecy or Death." Struck with horror, I now determined to return and proceed no further. I accordingly wheeled suddenly around and resolved to flee for my life. But lo! the entrance of the passage was closed; a strong iron door had been suddenly shut and locked by some invisible hand, and to escape was impossible. My friend again grasped me by the arm, and assured me that if I would follow him and make no resistance that I should not be harmed. Finding that to turn back was impossible, and to proceed was my only chance, I summoned all my courage and determined to go forward let the consequences be what they might.

We proceeded together until we arrived at the extreme end of the passage. Here I discovered by the blue light of a taper, a small iron door on which was portrayed a human skeleton. Over the door was inscribed these words: "Should thou prove treacherous remember thy end." Again, I involuntarily started back, but a low whisper sounded in my ear, "Remember Lot's wife." My friend now wrapped at the door which was answered by a hollow sepulchral voice from within, which demanded, "who art thou that knockest?"—"A brother of the mystic Order with a friend who wishes to be initiated into its mysteries," said my companion.

A small slide on the door was now pushed aside which made an opening at which my friend placed his mouth, and whispered something to the person within. The door was then opened, upon which my friend entered, pulling me after him. Instantly the door closed and bolted after me. I now found myself in a small room, whose walls furniture, floor and every thing were painted black. A singular odor filled the room. In the center stood a small altar, on which was burning a flame of peculiar cast. I now turned to see the person who opened the door for our entrance.—His body was enveloped in a white gown or surplice that nearly reached the floor; on his head he wore a white turban; a long silver beard flowed from his chin to his waist, and on his face was the paleness of death. In his hand he grasped a spear upon which he leaned as upon a staff.—Never shall I forget the emotions which passed through my breast at that moment! Trembling with fear I turned to my friend, when lo! there sat upon his countenance the ghastly paleness as the countenance of him who guarded the door. I looked upon my hands, they also wore the same deathly hue. Every thing around me was frightfully still, and I was fully convinced that the Society well deserved its name.

My friend now bid me be seated: then clothing himself in a white apron and collar, he advanced to another door and rapped. After passing through the same ceremony as at first, he was permitted to enter. I was now left alone with the Guardian to imagine through what other scenes I should be called to pass. But I was not left to meditate upon the matter long. Shortly the door through which my friend had passed was opened, and four men with drawn swords in their hands, entered from within, followed by a fifth holding a burning torch in his right hand and in his left the Holy Bible with a cross stretched upon it. They were clothed in aprons and collars, and their countenances wore the same pale and deathlike hue as did that of the Guardian.

The Bible was placed upon the altar in front of the flame. I was commanded to kneel down before it, and to place my left hand upon the bible and cross, and my right hand upon my left breast. One of the men now placed the point of his sword against my breast, another against my right side, the third my left, and the fourth against my back. In this awful attitude I was told by the man with the torch that I must take a solemn oath never to divulge any of the secrets of the Order that might be revealed to me.

The oath was administered, but I trembled to repeat it. I will not shock the reader with its repetition nor with the blasphemous penalties attached to its violation.

I was now stripped of my clothing and then blindfolded. A halter was next placed round my neck, and in this defenceless and obscene condition I was led with some ceremony into the Lodge room.—On entering the brethren commenced a song, during the singing of which I was marched round the room for them to gaze at.

When the song was finished I was placed astride of a rail, which I was told was the odd fellows goat, and that I could never become an Odd Fellow until I had first to ride a goat. In this barbarous manner I was carried three times around the room finally stopped in front of the wardens chair. Here my blinder was raised sufficiently for me to see, when one of the brethren having on a mask resembling a goat's head butted me smack off the rail on the floor. Enraged at such cruel treatment, I bawled out most lustily, when instantly a cap was pulled over my head and drawn around my neck so tight that my noise was at once stopped.

After I had become silent, the

string was loosened sufficiently to allow me to breathe. I was then conducted to another part of the room, when I was suddenly knocked down upon the floor, and on attempting to get up, I found myself so completely entangled in cords, that I was unable to rise. At length I was helped up and asked what I most desired. I was told to say "clothing" upon which I was dressed in a kind of gown resembling a shirt. I was next conducted to the Noble Grand's chair when I was again asked what I most desired. I was this time told to say "light." Suddenly the cap was lifted off my head, and a bright light was burning before my eyes, that for a time almost blinded me. As soon as I recovered my sight, I discovered before me an altar from which a dense smoke arose that perfumed the hall. On each side of the altar was burning a brilliant red light that gave a strange appearance to every thing around me. Even the very smoke seemed tinged with a scarlet hue, when suddenly in the midst I saw a human figure pierced through with a dart, and with its head severed from its body. And from the altar there came a voice saying, "See there the fate of him who violates the vow of an Odd Fellow."

Suddenly the vision vanished, the lights were extinguished, and a peal of thunder shook the building. A loud demoniacal laugh now rang through the room, and the horror of the darkness, words of awful import were seen written in letters of fire upon the wall around me. Figures of unearthly shapes were seen moving through the room with tapers in their hands that barely emitted light to disurn the beings who held them. Clanking of chains, and low sepulchral groans were heard as if coming up from beneath the floor upon which I stood. A voice was now heard saying "listen to the agonizing groans of those who have violated the vow of an Odd Fellow." The groans grew louder and finally died away in a low murmur.—Another peal of thunder jarred the building to its foundation, suddenly the darkness vanished & light was restored. The smoke from the altar ceased to ascend.—Behind it stood three figures, clothed in the scarlet robes, with veils drawn over their faces, with mitres on their heads. The two others leaned upon spears which they held in their hands. The inner one held in his right hand a book from which he read the following: "Stranger, at your own solicitation and request, you have been elected a member of this Order and have been so far initiated into its mysteries. The scenes through which you have passed are full of instruction and are designed to make a deep and lasting impression upon your mind. The pale visage which you first saw upon entering, should remind you that you are mortal, and must soon quit the busy scenes of life, to join the pale nations of the dead. As you were stripped of your clothing, blinded and haltered, and in this condition led about at our will, but was finally clothed and restored to light at your request, so you should remember that when a brother is stripped of his property by his creditors, and persecuted by his foes and calls upon you for assistance it is your duty to clothe his nakedness, feed his hungry wife and children, and to aid him even to the half of your property.—Your being required to ride our goat, should teach you to ride fearlessly across the stormy sea of life, to endure with fortitude the troubles and difficulties with which you may be called to encounter, in your pilgrimage through the world.

The other scenes through which you have passed are all designed to impress upon your mind the various duties of life, and what you may expect should you dare to divulge the secrets of this Order. It now remains for me to instruct you in the pass word grip and sign.

"The pass word of the current quarter is 'Fun,' the explanation is 'Deviltry,' which will admit you into any Lodge of Odd Fellows in the universe."

"The grip is given by hooking the fingers together."

"The countersign is given by partly closing the hand placing the end of the thumb against the tip of the nose."

"As you advance into the higher