

*Sickle  
Address*

CITY

CELEBRATION

OF

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE

NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE,

AT

LAFAYETTE SQUARE,

New Orleans, La.,

JULY 4th, 1864.

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NEW ORLEANS:

PRINTED AT THE ERA STEAM BOOK AND JOB OFFICE,

1864.

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**Phonographically Reported by S. W. BURNHAM, and A. L.  
BARTLETT.**

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**JOHN F. COLLINS,**

*Chief Marshal.*

# THE CELEBRATION

OF THE

## FOURTH OF JULY, 1864,

LAFAYETTE SQUARE, NEW ORLEANS.

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Early in the morning the streets and the Square itself began to fill up with people, and at the hour for commencement of the exercises the Square was crowded.

The arrangements made were very complete; on the Camp street side of the Square a large platform had been erected for the use of the speakers and the accommodation of the ladies and the officers of the City and State. Seats had been arranged both in front and on each side, enabling thousands to sit down and listen to the speakers. To the right of this and in front of it a large platform had been erected to hold the Bands, and in the rear of this platform were planted the 17th Ohio Battery, Capt. C. S. Rice, and 15th Massachusetts Battery, Capt. T. Pearson, who were to assist in the music.

The music consisted of the City Band, under the leadership of Charles Jaeger; the Port Hudson Post Band, under John Lallin, and the Drum Corps, 1st United States Infantry, under Drum Major Chas. D. Beyer. The whole was under the direction of Capt. F. N. Scott.

The speakers' stand was handsomely decorated with flags; and bouquets of flowers, soon after the commencement of the speeches, began to accumulate on the speakers' table.

About 9 o'clock the music struck up "Hail to the Chief," during which a Major General's salute of 13 guns was introduced in time with the music, and the procession, headed by Gov. Hahn, began to file out from the Mayor's Parlor in the Executive building.

Among others were Generals Banks and Sickles, with their Staffs, Mayor Hoyt, C. W. Hornor, Esq.—one of the orators of the day—the City and State Officers, members of the Convention and others. After they had all taken their seats on the platform, Gov. Hahn stepped forward and addressed the assembled multitude as follows :

### ADDRESS BY GOV. HAHN.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

In selecting me to preside over this assemblage on this interesting occasion, the Committee of Arrangements did not impose upon me the task of dwelling on the glorious recollections of this anniversary, or to arouse in your breasts the pleasurable emotions incident to occasions of this kind. That duty has been appropriately assigned to others, who, from their known talents or eminent public services, are admirably fitted for it, and in whose keeping I gladly leave that interesting portion of our exercises.

I cannot, however, resist the expression of the pleasure which I experience in witnessing among us, at a time like this, when “grim-visaged war” is ruthlessly stalking over the land, the continued existence of that patriotism which has brought us together to-day. While our brethren all over the North, in accordance with the honored customs of their fathers, are celebrating this day, so memorable in our annals, we, the citizens of New Orleans, at this extreme end of our extended country, are engaged in the same noble work. We who have felt and still feel the effects of this war, who have suffered and made sacrifices in the cause of our beloved Union, and who fully appreciate its glories, prosperity and power, feel more than an ordinary interest in the proper celebration of this day.

Ladies and gentlemen, while we indulge to-day in the festivities of a Fourth of July celebration, and inculcate a love for the more than Spartan virtues of the sages of the revolution, let us also indulge in the patriotic hope that the war which is now arraying brother against brother, may be brought to a speedy termination, and that we may

again be a united and powerful people. When our swords are beat into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks, our fields will again be covered with abundant harvests, a spirit of improvement will grow up--new lands will be opened, and we wil' enjoy a larger share of prosperity than has ever been allotted to any other people. Then every citizen will see the importance of a preservation of this Union, not only for our own welfare, and that of our posterity, but also for the success of republican doctrines elsewhere. Then we shall have not only

" A Union of lakes, a Union of lands,  
A Union of States none can sever."

but will also have that which is equally important--

" A Union of hearts, a Union of hands,  
And the flag of our Union forever."

The exercises of this day will now commence with a prayer by the Rev. Dr. Guion.

Music--National Airs, directed by Capt. Scott.

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### PRAYER--BY REV. ELIJAH GUION.

Almighty Father, whose name is excellent in all the earth and whose glory is above the highest heavens ; who, as on this Anniversary of our National Independence, didst inspire the hearts of our Delegates in Congress to lay the foundation of our political edifice of civil and religious liberty, grant that we may receive with gratitude the rich inheritance bequeathed unto us by our ancestors, and that we may transmit it, unimpaired, to those who shall come after us, remembering that the only security for the welfare and prosperity of our land and its inhabitants consists in a devout acknowledgement of Thee, as the High and Mighty Ruler of the Universe, and a faithful and obedient walking in thy laws and ordinances.

Give grace and wisdom to the President of the United States,

the Governor of this State, and to our municipal authorities ; that under them the people of this land may enjoy the protection of wise and equal laws ; and that they may be enabled so to discharge the arduous duties of their stations that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us for all generations.

Prosper our Institutions for the exercise and promotion of pure and undefiled religion ; of sound learning and true science ; and for the relief of suffering humanity ; that the wilderness and the solitary place may be glad for them ; and the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose.

We commend to thy Almighty care and protection those who have gone forth, and are now risking their lives and shedding their blood in the defence of those principles which form the basis of our happiness and prosperity. Thou sittest in the throne, judging right, and we therefore make our address to the Divine Majesty, in this our necessity, that Thou wouldst take the cause into thine own hand, and bring this contest to a speedy and happy issue. And may the time be near at hand when men shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks ; when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither learn war any more ; but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig-tree, and none shall make them afraid.

Be with us now in the exercise and employments in which we are about to engage. Preserve us from an abuse or perversion of our blessings and privileges ; and may we so improve our faculties and endowments as shall best subserve the grand object of our being. And when we shall have finished our course on earth, may we be received into the mansions of everlasting rest, freed from the pollutions of sin, and made meet for an inheritance among the saints in light, through the merits and mediation of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, to whom, with the Father and Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

MUSIC—selections from *Trovatore*, “Miserere”—City Band  
Gov. Hahn introduced Judge Leamont, saying :



“The Declaration of Independence will now be read to you by Judge Leamont, a hero of this city, well known to you for his patriotism and loyalty.”

Judge Leamont prefaced the reading of the Declaration of Independence with the following remarks :

*Americans*—In commemoration of that eventful day which eighty-eight years ago sealed American freedom, I think it not improper that you should hear a specimen of our father’s wisdom, contained in the declaration of our everlasting independence. As I read these words, an idea flashed across my mind, and I asked myself and all of you why the so-called Confederate States have not their declaration of independence? Why have they not set forth in burning words the cause of complaint against our elected Government? Why have they not in decent respect to the opinions of the rest of mankind, told the wrongs which our Government put upon them? I will tell you, Americans, it was because they could not do it. They might have said something against Northern men—they might have said something against the Northern States, but they could have said nothing against the General Government, which would not have been a downright, unqualified and unmitigated lie, against which the world and the history of the past would have stood as witnesses. [Applause.]

Their rebellion was as causeless as it is senseless, for every one familiar with the history of the American nation must know full well that the South had ever been the petted child of the General Government. With these preliminary remarks I shall now proceed to read to you the Declaration of Independence, which contains our causes of complaint against Great Britain, in order that you may see and judge for yourselves whether or not in the causes therein assigned you can find any justification for the present rebellion. [Applause.]

*MUSIC*—Gen. Banks’ Quickstep, (new) introducing the airs “Vive l’America” and “Battle Cry of Freedom.”

## ADDRESS OF C. W. HORNOR, Esq.

FELLOW CITIZENS :

On this day, eighty-eight years ago, after a long and exciting debate, not however upon the propriety, but upon the expediency of instant action, as the hours of the day passed away and the shadows of evening began to prevail, there was passed the celebrated Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America. Presided over by John Hancock, warmed by the debates of Adams, Jefferson, Franklin, Rutledge, Livingston and others, this small assembly of less than sixty men, congregated in the State House on Chesnut street, in Philadelphia, speaking the almost undivided opinion of their countrymen, gave to the world this celebrated declaration of the rights of man, and inaugurated a great social and political revolution, whose waves have ever since lashed round the thrones of kings and tyrants, and submerged many of them forever. That impress upon society and government still continues to deepen, as time rolls on ; and on the unalterable truth of its principles, as a basis, rests the entire superstructure of American freedom.

The principles are exceedingly plain and clear. They are laid down in no ambiguous phrases. They are, in the very language of the Declaration itself, self-evident. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal : that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights ; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness ; that, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed ; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundations on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

Here we find first and foremost enunciated that fundamental doctrine so detested by the privileged classes—the equality of all mankind—against the truth of which the stiff-necked race of men are eternally colliding. In the eye of God and of an enlightened

and far-reaching humanity, all men are created equal ; and upon this basis all new societies are erected. It has been well said that "the State is constituted justice ; that established justice is the State." The mission of the State is to cause justice to be respected by force, in conformity to the idea inherent in the idea of justice, that injustice should not only be repressed but punished. The State regards the man as he is capable of committing or suffering a wrong, as being shackled or shackling other men, by fraud or violence, in the free and voluntary exercise of their activity. From this arise all legal rights and all legal duties. The sole legal right is to be respected in the peaceful exercise of liberty ; the sole duty, or at least the first and chief of duties is to respect the liberty of others. Justice is nothing but this ; justice is the upholder and supporter of reciprocal liberty. The State does not restrict liberty, as is sometimes said ; but it develops it ; it makes it sure and steadfast. Besides, in early societies, all men are necessarily unequal by their wants, their sentiments, their physical, moral and intellectual faculties ; but before the State, which considers men merely as persons, as free beings, all men are equal, for equality is equal to liberty, and is its only type and standard of comparison. Hence equality, with liberty, is the basis of legal order and of this political world ; a far more wonderful creation of man's genius than the actual industrial world, when compared to the world in a state of nature.

The men that framed our declaration were good and great men. They acted in the crisis as became them and the young nation they were bringing into life. They bared their hearts to the keenest gaze of all mankind. It was not a time for cant, subterfuge or hypocrisy. The clash of resounding arms had already been heard from the fields of Boston. An eager people, on the tiptoe of expectation, awaited the solemn tidings. The delegates themselves vouched for the truth of their principles by a solemn appeal to the Supreme Judge of the world, and mutually pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. And ever since that day, until a recent epoch, its anniversary has been a holiday, on which the love of the people for the American Union and their

gratitude to God for the inestimable blessings of civil liberty have annually ascended to heaven from the hearts of millions of human beings. That man must be bold and reckless—in all respects recreant to his American citizenship—who will now dare to deny the truth of the principles of that Declaration of Independence of the thirteen United States of America.

But a true principle of political science necessarily meets little or no recognition from its adversaries when first introduced to the notice of the world. So in this case. Our fathers went to war to test the truth of their principles; for war, the solemn appeal to brute force to decide a truth, is the sole arbiter, now and for ever, between contending ideas. Our fathers enunciated their political principles and threw down the gauntlet to Great Britain, who promptly took it up. There was something great, heroic and glorious in the contest of our fathers. A weak and scattered band of colonists, spread over a new continent, sprung from the loins of the old mother country, “men who had dashed into the waves with the charter of their freedom in their teeth, for the torch and the faggot were burning behind them,” thus bidding defiance to the foremost nation of all the world, with mighty armies and navy, and all the appliances of modern wealth and civilization. Yet the contest was never doubtful for a moment. The idea that all men are created equal, and the antagonistic idea, that all men are not created equal, met in the throes of various battles, and the judgment of God pronounced, as it always does, in favor of the right.

This contest was, however, the fight of pigmies when compared to that which necessarily resulted from it—the American idea of equality before the law passed from the New World to the Old.

Franklin, its embodiment, and who had aided in the preparation of the Declaration, went to France; Lafayette, who from a sincere love of freedom, had taken part in our revolutionary struggle unfolded its workings to his fellow-citizens; and, lo! in a few months of an unparalleled movement in history, the French nation abolish nobility, clergy, aristocracy, and all the evils of privileged classes, and challenge all Europe in arms to test the truth of the principles of our and their declaration. Out of that contest, even

after the final overthrow of the great general at Waterloo, came the Constitutional Chart, the very first article of which proclaims the truth of the principle of equality, established by our Declaration.

Years pass away, and America sees slowly and silently the growth of a privileged class in her very midst. It allies itself with democracy, and for long, weary years chokes the party and strangles the country. Like the foul cancer that fastens on the fairest part of the human body, it seizes upon our Republican institutions, which it controls for its special interest. It sways the freedom of the press both South and North, so that the great bulwark of our liberty is swept away; it stalks into the pulpit, and converts the sacred truths of scripture into bitter mockeries and delusions. Even in the Catholic church, the mother of all the Christian sects, from whence the revolutionary fathers derived the principle of human equality and gave it to the world in the same manner that Moses dragged from the inmost recesses of the Egyptian temples the doctrine of our God and gave it to the Jew—even here, in the most ancient church, the doctrines were changed to meet the exigencies of the most detestable class of aristocrats that ever disgraced the world. Slowly the American ear drank in the poison; slowly the American heart beat to the music of groans and sighs, the clanking of chains, the scourges of lashes, the hopeless imprisonment, the bitter, dark, deep despair of countless victims. Slowly the American judgment and brain adopted the conclusion, that men were not created equal; and in the glorious unbroken sunshine of national prosperity, men little dreamed of the puny cloud just above the horizon, not bigger than a man's hand, that was so soon to fill the whole canopy of heaven with black cloud and lurid light, and overwhelm the whole country in a bloody war.

The first gleams of that lurid light, the first mutterings of the thunder of that storm, were seen and heard in the cannon shot at Fort Sumter. That, as has been well said, was the yell of pirates against the Declaration of Independence. The loud and clamorous cry, "your human equality is a lie, our human bondage is the only truth;" and from that time to this, the two ideas have been wrest-

ling together in the death struggle, in which one of them must necessarily be overcome.

Revolutions have been likened to earthquakes, in which the subterranean elements toil and travail for admission to the upper air. Sometimes they seek the old outlets and craters; sometimes the earth cracks, and through the fissures the explosive gas finds vent. Thus the explosions of revolution find their vent through the old institutions of the country, which like the craters and chimneys of the volcano, from their dirt and incumbrances, offer more or less resistance to the escape of human passions involved in the conflict. Thus in France the nobility and the clergy were the first to feel the effects of the revolutionary blast. In our country there was but one chimney, one crater, one institution that required burning out to render the country united, prosperous and happy. Mark the events of this revolution, as it has progressed. The cannon shot at Fort Sumter heralded the secession of twelve of the States of this Union; and the so-called Confederacy burst upon the world as a bright and shining light, among the luminary nations of the earth. But ever since its light has burned out, until it sheds but a flickering glare over the small remaining territory where its piratical flag still floats. Before that time, the doors had been peremptorily barred against the slaves; all hope of freedom had been denied them; the black spot upon the National escutcheon became more and more intense, and what with our cotton raising, our sugar growing, our tobacco culture, our humanity was fast oozing away. The war-cry of the nation resounded through the land, and behold the prison of slavery is shaken to its foundations; it rocks, it sways, it trembles; crevices appear in the doors and hinges, and the wretched inmates catch inspiration and hope from the brief glimpses of the land of freedom without; soon, very soon the prison doors are thrown wide open, and by the grace of God they see the flag of a free country waving over their entrance to the new American world, into which they step, no longer slaves, but men; the dragon's teeth the rebels sowed in their madness, strut forth in the shape of men armed for their destruction.

Thank God! thank God! the dirty chimney or crater of the revolution of freedom has already nearly burned out. Thank God that the only American institution of which Americans had reason to blush for shame, has proved sufficient to carry off the heat, the phrenzy and the bad passions of the combatants, and the subterranean fire of this political volcano. Henceforth we must progress without slavery. It is the solemn, unalterable decree of our national destiny. Let us embrace it with warm hearts and cool heads, with judgment and justice, with will and intellect, as the supremely good and supremely true. Though shadows, clouds and darkness rest upon the future, let us walk bravely up to it and into it; resolutely seeking for the right, valiantly combatting the wrong. And when the smoke of this contest shall have passed away; when our children and their children's children shall read the exciting events of this rebellion, may they rejoice to find that we, their progenitors, through all the perils of the times, stood immovably firm on the basis of universal freedom and the capacity of man for self-government: that we, in our trials, became no recreant Americans---traitors to God and our country, with its free and glorious institutions: that we remained true to our republican principles, and thanked God to the latest hour of our lives, that we---that, we, too were American citizens.

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Gov. Hahn then introduced Gen. Sickles, as follows:

FELLOW CITIZENS:

You will now be addressed by one whose public services in various capacities as a civilian have been brilliant, but whose lofty patriotism and noble, self-sacrificing spirit on many bloody fields of battle, and especially at the battle of Gettysburg, just one year ago to-day, [great applause] have covered his brow with undying laurels. [Applause.] I have the honor of introducing to you Major General Daniel E. Sickles. [Long and enthusiastic applause and waving of flags, hats, etc.]

## ADDRESS BY MAJ. GEN. SICKLES.

GOVERNOR, CITIZENS, SOLDIERS AND FRIENDS :

This celebration of the anniversary of our independence has a significance to me which every other occasion of the kind has lacked. Until this rebellion, the issue of the great struggle of the revolution had in all truth and soberness been an experiment. We had hoped and trusted our success was sure : but we had not before undergone the supreme test of national vitality and endurance. The Republic had already proved itself capable of repelling foreign invasion and vindicating the national honor from assaults without ; but it had yet to establish for itself in the judgment of mankind the proof that it was capable of protecting itself from assault within, from a revolt more formidable than any nation, or people or system of government, had ever yet encountered. This scene which I witness to-day ; this presence in which I stand, is itself the vindication that the friends of freedom and humanity looked for, and it tells me of a restored Union, of a regenerated State, of a vindicated flag. In what presence do I stand ? The Governor of Louisiana is here. [Applause.] The rightful Governor, the elect of the people, and himself a man of the people. The Commanding General of the Union army in this Department is here. [Great applause.] The soldier, the orator and the statesman. He whose rule typifies the vigor, the justice, the magnanimity and the beneficence of his Government. The laboring men,—they for whom this great battle is fought are here. The soldiers of the nation, the hope of the Republic are here. [Applause.] Why are all these soldiers on this soil ? Are they here as invaders ? No. For one I would not come here for such a purpose, and I know my comrades would not. We are here to restore order and re-establish tranquillity ; to assist the loyal men of Louisiana to put down insurrection, to restore to you and yours the proud heritage of Republican liberty that descended to you from your fathers. [Cheers.] Is this subjugation ? No, no. Has any coercion brought around us to-day these thou-



sands of loyal hearts? No; you are here as loyal men. You are here to attest and reaffirm your affection for our dear old flag, [Cheers.] Where do I see the proofs of Federal authority? Do I see them in acts of violence against unarmed men? Do I see them in the torture of the stake and the halter for those who differ in sentiment and conviction from loyal men? No. I see the authority of my Government in the effort made to restore prosperity, and thrift, and order, and happiness throughout your borders. [Applause.] I see the authority of my country blended with magnanimity in the forgiveness which it extends even to those guilty of the foul crime of rebellion against our liberty. I see it in the schools re-established and inaugurated throughout this metropolis of the South. I see it in freedom extended to those who have shown their willingness to take up arms and give their lives to the cause which we fight for. [Applause.]

I see with pleasure and pride that we are honored to-day also with the presence of many of the members of your Convention which sits in yonder hall. That Convention has met to revise and modify the fundamental law of your Commonwealth. Its labors have attracted no little attention not only here, but elsewhere. How will that Constitution, so far as we can now judge of its features, differ from the old one? It will differ in just that essential feature which distinguishes a republican government, pure and simple, from a government that in so far as it decrees the servitude of man, is not republican. [Applause.]

My friends, it has no doubt seemed to you, as to myself, somewhat strange--at all events as deserving of a passing thought, that we should be here to-day celebrating the triumph of one rebellion, while we are wading through seas of blood to put down another rebellion. It is true that those in arms against us claim that the rebellion of 1776 is both a precedent and a justification; many living within the Union lines advocate peace and the recognition of the Confederacy under the same delusion; and thousands in Europe arraign us for inconsistency because we fight rather than yield to the demands of those who say they have followed only in the

footsteps of the fathers of the revolution. If this assertion be true, then indeed we have been wrong in this war; then indeed we must submit to the rebuke which at home and abroad comes to us so often and which on a very recent occasion received the eminent sanction of Lord John Russell, British minister for foreign affairs. In a speech recently delivered in the House of Lords, which will attract a great deal of attention in this country as well as his own, his lordship laments "that thousands are being slaughtered for the purpose of preventing the Southern statesmen acting on those very principles of independence which in 1776 were asserted by the whole of America against this country." I feel that it behooves me, as a citizen and a soldier, to enter my protest against this doctrine, let it come from whatever quarter it may. [Applause.]

It is indeed startling to hear a man like Lord Russell, himself, in his writings, in his political labors, in his historical disquisitions and in his illustrious family, a representative of free principles and a most accomplished philosophical historian and statesman—it is startling to read declarations of so eminent an authority in affirmation of so lamentable and absolute an error.

You were told a few minutes ago with great aptness and felicity by the gentleman who read to you the Declaration of Independence, that the Southern Confederacy, when it announced itself to the world, was silent upon the causes which impelled them to a separation; they were dumb as to the grievances which they had endured from the Government they had repudiated.

No, my friends, the Government established by Washington, Hamilton and Jefferson, was a government which had freedom, enfranchisement and liberty for its foundations, [applause] and in which oppression, servitude and slavery were unavoidable and unfortunate incidents and accidents. The government established by Jefferson Davis and Slidell, is a government—if it shall ever attain actual existence and recognition—in which liberty will be an accident and incident, and slavery the foundation and the substance. [Great applause.]

Never shall it be said by any man that there is the least anal-

ogy between the cause in which Washington drew his consecrated sword, and the conspiracy in which the traitor Floyd drew his infamous weapon. No! When a flaw in the diamond shall give value to the jewel—when poison, instead of being a subtle destroyer, shall become a conservator and promoter of life and health—when the spots on the sun and not the sun itself shall give light and heat and culture to the earth—then it may be said with truth, and not until then, that the cause enshrined forever on the Fourth of July, 1776, is identical with that for which the rebellion is now in arms. [Applause.]

It is said by the enemies of free government that this rebellion has impeached the capacity of men for self-government; that it has impeached our Constitution, in showing its lack of vigor for the preservation of order and national unity; that in our career as in the history of Greece, Rome, and the Republics of the Middle ages, the Republican theory of government has signally failed; and that it is only what is called the strong arm of monarchy or despotism that can give perpetuity to a nation.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is an occasion when it is proper to protest also against that delusion. I would affirm, with the heartiest confidence, that revolution and rebellion are not peculiar to republics. We have only to look at China to-day, the oldest of the nations of the earth, to behold there a rebellion of years in duration, to see that convulsions are not peculiar to young nations. We have only to recur to the struggle of Poland and Hungary to understand that rebellions are not easily put down by the most despotic and austere of governments; and we find in the history of England, our peculiar monitor and instructor in these days, as to our duties with regard to our rebellion—we have, I say, only to look at English history to see that there is scarcely any portion of her vast domain, that has not, at one period or another, set at naught and defied her authority and drawn the sword for independence. Scotland, Ireland, and India, to say nothing of our own thirteen colonies, should recall to British recollection her own vulnerability. It might with much more truth be affirmed that this rebellion is ne-

thing more or less than a continuation of that old struggle, world-wide and as ancient as the race and history, between privilege and power, between the oppressor and the oppressed, between the desire of man for free government and untrammelled rights, and the desire of the aristocratic few for peculiar privileges and powers. There is but one aristocratic feature left in our Constitution and system of government framed by the fathers whose work we are celebrating to-day. That aristocratic feature I may state in a few words. In the several States where slavery existed, men were represented in Congress who did not vote—whose votes were cast by others—by those who owned them. The labor which was relied upon for the cultivation of the soil, was not admitted to the elective franchise, was not entitled to education, was denied the free offices of religion. That was the aristocratic element in the frame-work of our Government. It is that aristocratic element which is now struggling for domination and supremacy. [Applause.] If it is successful, then it will extend itself throughout the length and breadth of this continent, and stamp every where the acts, the policy, the administration and the Government of this country. Labor no longer will be its own master. Labor will be no longer entitled to choose its own representatives. Limited suffrage, restricted education and all the ideas directly antagonistical to American ideas, will become the ordinary and accepted principles, dominating in our society and controlling this continent.

It is here then, my friends, that you see and appreciate what is involved in this war. One of these two forces must establish its superiority. It is for you, for the men of our day and generation to decide and settle this question, so full of import and hope on the one hand, so dark and drear for those who believe in the righteousness of free institutions on the other.

My friends : United, we are like the mountains, invulnerable, immortal, [applause,] but divided, we are like the sands of the sea, leaving no trace or track behind them. A man, or masses of men, have but little significance in the great march of civilization. As they are merged in nationality, it is as nations that they fulfill the

great decrees of Providence in the attainment of human progress. It is as a nation then that we must survive with honor in history, or go down to the future in contempt. As Americans, our pride, our hope is in our nationality; we have no future unless we unite and perpetuate our country, and with that united, we have a destiny, brighter, greater, than ever beckoned on a people in the struggle for immortality. We are fighting to-day for issues as noble, as pure, as inspired, as heaven-blessed as any ever submitted to the arbitrament of battle. In this sacred hour—sacred to the recollections, the struggles, the sacrifices of our fathers—let us here record in heaven a solemn oath, that we will never lay down our arms, that we will never cease, with hand and heart and ballot and bayonet, to struggle on against this rebellion, until that old flag shall be inviolate throughout the land and saluted with honor on every sea. [Enthusiastic applause.]

After the conclusion of General Sickles' remarks, the band again struck up and the ceremonies were terminated by running up the flags of the different nations over the musicians' platform, the national melody being performed and salutes fired in time with the music.

First came the ensign of England, saluted with a medley composed of "God save the Queen," "Scots wha hae," and "St. Patrick's Day." Then followed the flag of France, the band playing "Pour la Syrie;" and then the standards of Spain, Russia, Denmark, Italy, Germany, and lastly the Stars and Stripes, while the bands played "Hail Columbia" and "Our Flag is there," with full artillery accompaniment.

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The day was celebrated in the most becoming manner throughout. It was in reality a gala day; all classes of our citizens entering into the festivities with that spirit and demeanor which marked it as a day of no ordinary occurrence. It was the birthday of American Independence; and as such, our people met and of-

ferred up their hallelujahs in token of their love of liberty—rational liberty—that kind of liberty which is intended to confer upon all alike the blessings of good government—representative government. This was what the fathers and sages of the revolution of 1776 struggled and battled for, and this is what their descendents of the present day are contending, for when they rally around the old Flag and fight the battle of the Union. In the evening there was a promiscuous gathering of all classes in Jackson Square, where the roses and jessamines flourish, and sweet scented flowers are cultivated—where Jackson—the immortal Jackson—seated upon his dashing war steed, keeps watch to remind us of the glories of the past. Here our people met in the evening to hear Jaeger's Band discourse sweet music. Many of our best national airs were played to the delight and amusement of the vast multitude present. As the sun hid his golden face in the folds of the distant west, and twilight commenced stealing softly upon the Crescent City, the bells of the old Cathedral, opposite Jackson Square, sent forth their concord of sweet sounds, signifying the closing of the ceremonies of the day. The same gay scene was witnessed at Coliseum Square, where hundreds of our people had also gathered to enjoy the cool evening breeze, and listen to the playing of many of our popular national airs, by a band of musicians provided for the occasion. In fact the day wound up most gloriously and will long be remembered by our good citizens. At night, rockets might be seen penetrating the heavens in different directions until a late hour.

At Liberty Hall, a select and full audience listened for over an hour to Col. Thorpe's remarks. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Gibbens, and in the absence of Judge Durell, Dr. Dostie was called to the chair. Dr. Dostie in introducing Col. Thorpe to the audience, stated that numbers of members of the Convention having wished to hear from him something about the increase of Union sentiment since the first arrival of the Federal forces in this city, the Colonel would now give some of his experiences.

In addressing the audience, Col. Thorpe stated he knew that he

was laboring under many disadvantages ; first, owing to the inclement state of the weather, and second, that the majority of the audience had probably listened to better speakers already on that day ; but as he had been induced by his friends to give a description of the first attempts to instill Union sentiments into the people of New Orleans, he would be satisfied if he only started one single spark of patriotic feeling on this 88th anniversary of National Independence. Ancient nations had their festivals, but although they were made up of more outward show, there was less intellectual enjoyment than in our own. He then made a comparison between the three anniversaries of the Fourth of July which had passed since the first arrival of the Union forces in this city. How on the first, the city was gloomy, the levee a ruin, and the people not only surly and unpatriotic, but thoroughly rebellious. How on the second there was an attempt made by the laboring classes to get up a torchlight procession ; but the whole only tended to show how little patriotism there was in it. To-day, all was changed. Men, women and children were to be seen all over the city gaily dressed. A gallant soldier and a brilliant orator had addressed the people to-day, and their much respected and honored Chief Magistrate had taken part in these exercises.

Among the many evidence of progress, he alluded to the recently passed ordinance of emancipation by the people of Louisiana. He said that few, even of the profoundest thought, fully comprehended the importance of that act. Strange as it might appear, it had created an epoch in the world's history. There was no limit to its moral and political effect. If, said the orator, we take up the record of the last eighteen hundred years, we would find how few prominent points or headlands there were standing out from the general level to make startling eras in the history of man, and yet so sublime did he consider the passage of the ordinance of emancipation, that in future times it will stand only second in importance to the advent of the Saviour of mankind. It was the primary, and will, therefore, ever be considered the grandest step. Maryland had followed the example of Louisiana ; Kentucky would

soon enroll herself in such good company ; then would follow other Southern States ; but Louisiana was first at the goal in the Olympian race ; she wore the wreath of the first victory, and all others must follow. To Gen. Banks, just history will accord the credit of the fact. And how well he may be proud of the great act of his public life we can learn by reading the motto recently placed under the Canal street statue of Henry Clay. Said that great statesman in the palmyest days of his intellect, "If I could relieve Kentucky of slavery, I would think that honor grander than any that can be worn by the conquerer's brow." Gen. Banks has done more, for under his administration he has given freedom to Louisiana, and prepared the way for the redemption of the nation at large.

In this manner the speaker kept the audience listening attentively for over an hour, being frequently interrupted by applause.

The streets all through the city wore a festive appearance ; most of our business houses closed early in the day. The banks and insurance offices, as well as all public offices, were closed in honor of the day. Carondelet street, from the number of consular offices therein, was gay with hunting ; on no occasion have we seen them displayed in such numbers.

The shipping in the harbor also displayed their flags, some of the vessels being covered with them.