

CHAPTER XI.

CHEERFUL OUTLOOK FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT—THE LEGISLATURE; ELECTION OF SENATORS.

THE EXECUTIVE IN HARNESS.

In its issue of June 24th, the *Intelligencer* took this cheerful view of the work of reorganization:

“Governor Peirpoint and his Council are hard at work each day and much of the night in maturing important business. The questions of revenue, militia and general ways and means are being rapidly matured. Our people will soon be able to see that we have earnest men at work.” The editor proceeds to pay a merited tribute to one of them, Daniel Lamb, who, he says, “is, with all his heart and soul, at work in the good cause. From the very first he has signalized his devotion to the movement by willingly taking on himself no inconsiderable share of the drudgery.”

SKIES ARE BRIGHT.

The editor recites further the auspicious circumstances attending the inauguration of the Restored Government:

The building of the United States custom-house in this city (finished in 1859) was a fortunate thing for the new government inaugurated last week by the Convention. It is nothing more nor less than a fine State-house—a good deal finer than the one tenanted by the traitors at Richmond. The magnificent United States court-room is just the hall for the Convention and will be just the place for the Legislature when the Convention adjourns; and if the two bodies sit at the same time—which we presume they will—there is a fine capacious chamber on the floor beneath, quite the thing for the latter body. Then the different committee rooms, Governor's room, etc., seem almost to have been made to order. We never could see before what all these fine rooms were for. Already we have a finer capitol than they have—or had—at Montgomery; and much better, as we said, than they have at Richmond.

The new government starts out auspiciously if ever government did. Its declaration passed by the identical vote given for the Declaration of Independence, and its passage unconsciously immemorialled the eventful anniversary of Bunker Hill.

And more than this, the new government finds itself with an army in the field; with the whole strength of the Federal Government at its back; with a revenue ready supplied from payments already collected by the sheriffs; with all the loyal State wishing it God-speed and with every possible circumstance in its favor.

THE LEGISLATURE CONVENES.

Those members of the General Assembly of Virginia who adhered to the United States met, in response to proclamation of Governor Peirpoint, in the city of Wheeling July 2, 1861—the House of Delegates in the Federal court-room in the custom-house, the Senate in the Linsley Institute, corner of Fifth and Center Streets. In the House, the roll was called by Col. Leroy Kramer, of Monongalia, and Gibson L. Cranmer elected permanent clerk.

In the Senate, Lieutenant-Governor Polesley presided, and William M. Lewis, of Doddridge, was chosen permanent Secretary.

RECOGNITION AT WASHINGTON.

The Governor's message was read at an evening session in both houses. He transmitted with it correspondence between himself and the authorities of the United States, showing that June 21st he had addressed to the President a formal letter setting forth the conditions in Virginia and asking for "military force to aid in suppressing the rebellion and to protect the good people of this Commonwealth from domestic violence."

The reply came from the Secretary of War, Simon Cameron, who was directed by the President to say: "A large additional force will soon be sent to your relief." The correspondence, of course, long post-dates the movement of troops to Grafton in the later days of May, by which the Northwest had been relieved from the presence of Porterfield's and Garnett's forces. Secretary Cameron's letter is somewhat discursive:

The full extent of the conspiracy against popular rights which has culminated in the atrocities to which you refer was not known when its outbreak took place at Charleston. It now appears that it was matured for many years by secret organizations throughout the country, especially in the slave States. By this means when the President called upon Virginia in April for its quota of troops then deemed necessary to put it down in the States in which it had shown itself in arms, the call was responded to by the chief Confederate in Virginia by an order to his armed followers to seize the Navy Yard at Gosport; and the authorities of the State, who had until then shown repugnance to the plot, found themselves stripped of all actual

power and were manifestly permitted to retain the empty forms of office only because they consented to use them at the bidding of the invaders. The President, however, never supposed that a brave and free people, though surprised and unarmed, could long be subjugated by a class of political adventurers always adverse to them; and the fact that they have already rallied, reorganized their government and checked the march of these invaders demonstrates how justly he appreciates them.

The letter concludes :

Instructions have now been given to the agents of the Federal Government to proceed hereafter under your directions, and the company and field officers will be commissioned by you.

There was also a formal letter from Hon. Caleb B. Smith, Secretary of the Interior, certifying to the number of representatives in Congress Virginia was entitled to under the last census.

REVIEW BY THE GOVERNOR.

Governor Peirpoint, in his message, addressed himself first to the matter of chief and immediate importance :

It is my painful duty to announce that the late Executive of the State, with a large part of the State officers, civil and military, are at war with the loyal people of Virginia and the Constitutional government of the United States. They have leagued themselves together with persons from other States to tear down the benign governments, State and Federal, have instituted Civil War in our midst and created a system of terror around us. * * *

Last November at the Presidential election the State gave upwards of sixteen thousand majority for Bell and Douglas, both Union candidates for the Presidency. Their principal competitor was proclaimed as also true to the Union; and throughout the canvass any imputation of favoring disunion was indignantly denied by the advocates of all the candidates. At the election

for members of the Convention in February a majority of over sixty thousand votes was given to the Union candidates and with equal unanimity in favor of "Reference." Yet the delegates in that Convention passed the ordinance and attached the State to the Southern league called the Confederate States; and to render the step ir retrievable and defeat the whole object of requiring the ratification by the people, put this action into effect immediately; and a month before the vote was to be taken on the question of ratification transferred the whole military forces of our State to the President of the Confederacy and surrendered to him military possession of our territory.

It is claimed the ordinance of secession was ratified by a majority of ninety thousand votes. Had the people of Virginia then so greatly changed? The best evidence that they had not is found in the fact that wherever the vote was really free there was a much larger majority against secession than was given in February to the Union candidates. Intimidation and violence were resorted to over a large portion of the State. The same reign of terror which compelled Union men to vote as they did in the Convention was brought to bear on the people themselves. Vast numbers were obliged by intimidation and force of threatened violence to vote for secession. Many did not vote at all. Many were no doubt influenced by the consideration that the measures already adopted had placed the Commonwealth helplessly within the grasp of the President of the Southern Confederacy, and that she could not escape from this power by the rejection of the ordinance.

The Governor recited at some length the proceedings that had resulted in the reorganization of the State government and bringing the Legislature together to complete the work.

CHOOSING SENATORS.

In the second day's session, it was agreed to proceed on the succeeding Tuesday to the election of United States senators to fill the places of Hunter and Mason. In the

issue of July 9th, the *Intelligencer* came out with a vigorous editorial favoring the election of Mr. Carlile to one of these places, but expressed no preference as to the other:

Can any man give a good reason why Mr. Carlile should not be elected? If it is an honor he is entitled to it. If it is a position of profit, he is entitled to it. If it is a place of work and responsibility, he is capable and fitted for it. He has experience, ability, enjoys the influence and confidence of the government at Washington equal to, if not beyond, any man in Western Virginia. Where is the man who has done as much in the movement now so far along on its successful accomplishment as Mr. Carlile? He has led the van. He and his patriotic friends of Harrison called the Convention in that county; which, in turn, called the Wheeling Convention of the 13th of May; which in turn again called the Convention of the 11th of June; and this latter Convention called into being the present State government. Mr. Carlile has been a leader—a bold and persevering one. If any other public man among us can present equal claims, we do not know it; neither do the people. He is emphatically a representative man in this movement and the world inside and outside of his acquaintance so recognizes him. If such a man is to be overslaughed, then all premium upon patriotic boldness and energy and ability is set aside and he is to stand forth as another proof of the lesson of history that “pioneers labor and their successors enter into their rest.”

The Legislature in the early part of the day appointed Samuel Crane to be State Auditor and Campbell Tarr State Treasurer. In the afternoon they elected the senators. Mr. Carlile was chosen to fill Hunter's place by the unanimous vote of both houses, no nomination having been made against him in either. Somewhat to the surprise of the public, the other senatorship was given to Waitman T. Willey, over Van Winkle and Lamb. Mr. Willey received twenty-two votes on the joint ballot; the other eight each. Mr. Willey had taken no part in the work of reorganization but had seemed to hold aloof. In

the May Convention he had held a rather obstructive attitude and had declined to serve on the Committee on Federal Relations. There was a widespread feeling outside the Legislature that there had been nothing in Mr. Willey's attitude or service, either in the Richmond Convention or afterwards, to entitle him to this high distinction over men like Lamb and Van Winkle.

EXPEDITION TO COLCHIS.

July 1st, Governor Peirpoint authorized Capt. John List, of Wheeling, to go to Weston and take possession of \$30,000 State funds held in bank there for the work of constructing the Hospital for the Insane. It was deemed prudent to have the money in a safer depository. The object being made known to the military authorities, Colonel Tyler of the Seventh Ohio Regiment was directed to accompany Captain List to Weston and enforce the demand for the money. They left Clarksburg Sunday evening and arrived in Weston next morning. Colonel Tyler took possession of the town, and Captain List went to the bank and demanded the money in the name of the Commonwealth—somewhat as Ethan Allen demanded the surrender of Ticonderoga in the name of Jehovah and the Continental Congress. As his backing was good, no resistance was made and the money was handed over in gold, except between two and three thousand dollars then due for labor and material on the hospital; which, after due evidence of the claim, was left for payment to those entitled to it. The residue was taken to Wheeling and deposited in the Northwestern Bank. It was afterwards appropriated for the work on the hospital.