

[For the Picayune.]

THE DUTY OF OUR PEOPLE.

The Government of Louisiana which received the majority of the people's suffrages at the recent election is to be inaugurated on the first Monday of January, 1878. The seeming success so far attendant upon the audacious attempt to rob this people of the fruits of that election, is not to be mistaken for a permanent triumph. It is not in the nature of things that an attempted outrage so flagrant, as subverting a popular election through the usurped power, exercised by a United States District Judge, can secure more than that temporary success often attendant upon acts of bold effrontery. But the outrage has not been passively borne by our people. True to their duty, they have made known their grievances. It was not difficult to unfold to the simplest comprehension that it was beyond the province of a Federal judge to supersede the functions of the State authorities charged with making returns of a State election, and transfer these functions to a pretended board, virtually created by the illegal feat of that judge. Nor was it less easy to develop the truths apparent to all who gave the least attention to the controversy, that the Durel Returning Board had not even access to the evidences of that election, the result of which they notwithstanding assume to declare, and with mock solemnity to certify; that the pretended returns thus made were without even the semblance of data, were purely fanciful and arbitrary, and made in favor of candidates notoriously defeated by incontestible majorities at the polls. The people would not be slow to trace the obvious connection of the gross perversion of judicial power with the action of the Returning Board placed for partisan purposes in quasi official position, by illegal judicial orders. But the simple truths, so clearly illustrative of the attempted butchery of this people's rights, lose none of their inherent force in that cogent and dispassionate paper addressed by Louisiana's committee to the President and Congress. The truthful assertion of Louisiana's rights, supported by an invincible clearness of statement, has been met by glaring misrepresentation, bold denials of patent facts, and by sophistical efforts to sustain judicial conduct condemned by all legal minds, and reprobated by the people's judgment. But the trickery employed against our people is too manifest to have escaped detection. It has been detected and exposed. It stands revealed to the whole country, that in the recent election John McEnery was elected Governor, and that William P. Kellogg was defeated for that office. It is equally clear to all that the election was in favor of that Legislature which met in Lyceum Hall, despite the "brutem fulmen" of a usurping Judge, and the menace of Federal bayonets, imprudently and unadvisedly lent by the National Government to his support. The wrongs of this people, fixed in the popular appreciation, have provoked a storm of indignant remonstrance from all parts of the land. The Republican press has vied with the Democratic journals in outspoken denunciation of the attempted spoliation of our people's rights.

The obstinate resistance of Louisiana to wrong and outrage has made an intelligible issue before the American people, whether State sovereignty is henceforth to be regarded as of idle significance, and whether popular suffrage is to be overborne by licentious partisanship, aided by the appliances of Federal power. From this issue our people have nothing to fear, and if true to themselves, they will yet signally defeat the most flagitious conspiracy ever directed against popular rights.

The Federal Administration certainly committed a grave error in recognizing Pinchback as the Executive of this State, but it is not necessarily committed in favor of that bastard Government represented by William P. Kellogg. The whole subject is now well understood by the Administration and by the whole country. When the elected representatives of this people, duly returned by the legal State officials, attempted to be superseded by Judge Durel, meet on the 6th January next, and inaugurate John McEnery and Davidson B. Penn as Governor and Lieutenant Governor, duly elected at the recent elections, good men throughout the land will recognize in that action the lawful assertion of our just rights. To that action, and to the rightful State Government thereby inaugu-

rated, let our people accord an earnest and determined support. The Federal Administration, instructed by the facts that law and justice are upon our side; admonished by the stern echoes of popular resentment everywhere awakened by Louisiana's wrongs, will not now interfere to crush a people's rights. Thus a resolute and dignified adherence of our people to the Government chosen by them at the polls will inevitably triumph, and the baffled conspirators against our peace and prosperity will be consigned to permanent and universal detestation.