

TO THE VOTERS OF LOUISIANA.

We are induced to address you at this time in consequence of the introduction into the present political canvass of the name of ex-Governor Henry Watkins Allen. Parties who claim to be the friends of this distinguished gentleman have announced him as a candidate for the office of Governor of Louisiana, without having obtained his sanction to the use of his name—without previous consultation with him, and contrary to the views of his most intimate personal and political friends, and, as we are assured, in opposition to his own wishes. The intimate relations which have long existed between Governor Allen and ourselves give us a claim, in his absence, to deprecate the use of his name in a cause which we believe would be hurtful to the interests of Louisiana.

We yield to none in appreciation of the exalted character of Governor Allen. His chivalrous courage, his self-denying patriotism and enlightened statesmanship enlist our respect and command our admiration.

In abdicating the office of Governor of Louisiana, which he held while the State acknowledged her allegiance to the Confederate States authority, Gov. Allen counseled the people to submit to the authority of the United States, and to resume their former relations to that Government; and announced that as he did not wish to stand in the way of a general reconciliation, he would seek a home in some foreign land. Immediately upon issuing this proclamation, he left the State and went direct to the city of Mexico, where he now resides. Letters from him, of a recent date, which some of us have received, make no allusion to any purpose of an early return to Louisiana, but lead us to believe that, up to the time of his writing, he had made no change in the purpose of self-ex-patriation announced in his farewell proclamation.

It has been asserted by some that Gov. Allen has forwarded his application to Washington for a pardon; but he makes no allusion to this in his late letters, nor can we trace the statement to any reliable source. Nor is it likely that the statement is correct, for recent news from Mexico shows that he is now engaged in publishing and editing a newspaper in that city, and had been superintending the survey of lands assigned to the American colonists at Cordova. But even if such a paper has been forwarded, the policy has been announced by the Government, that no such application will be entertained until the applicant shall first have placed himself within the jurisdiction of the Government, and taken the amnesty oath prescribed in the proclamation of the President.

It has been urged that the position of Governor Allen is analogous to that of Governor Humphreys, of Mississippi. They are, on the contrary, essentially different. Governor Humphreys was an officer of the army, protected from personal prosecution by the terms of his parole, under a military convention, and was a resident of Mississippi at the time of his election.

Governor Allen is now a resident of the city of Mexico, is not protected by the terms of any military convention, but liable to arrest and prosecution as the highest civil officer of Louisiana, under the Confederate States authority. We believe that all of the other gentlemen who occupied the position of Governor of a State under the Confederacy have been arrested by the President's instructions, and are now held either in confinement or under a parole to await the further action of the Government. We have no reason to believe that the policy of the Government would be different in the case of Governor Allen.

The analogy assumed to exist between the positions of Governor Allen and Governor Humphreys, therefore, disappears on an investigation of their respective attitudes to the Government. The one occupied a position of acquiescence at home in the policy of the Government, the other is, as it were, in an attitude of defiance abroad. Is it just to Governor Allen, under the circumstances, to bring his name before the public? Is it wise in the people of Louisiana, while claiming a restoration to civil rights under the United States Government, to choose as the instrument to accomplish that object a gentleman whose public position, as far as we have information, seems so obnoxious to that Government?

As friends of Governor Allen, we protest against the unauthorized use of his name. If he should be elected, we believe his election would be the means of retarding the admission of his State to civil rights, and of the prolongation of military rule—and none would more deeply regret such a result than Gov. Allen himself. We are confident, if it were possible to consult him before the election, that he would refuse the use of his name to a purpose so unpatriotic.

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