

**Thomas J. Durant.**

The following, which we find in the New Orleans Crescent, over the signature of Thos. J. Durant, is his plan for calling a convention:

**TO THE PEOPLE OF LOUISIANA.**

**FELLOW CITIZENS:** Deceived by the chiefs of the secession party, you were led into a long and bloody war against the Government of your country.

Deluded by the promises of ambitious men seeking to recover lost political ascendancy, you have resisted the power of Congress and refused its offers of reconciliation and forgiveness.

You have sacrificed your children on the battle-field, and wasted the treasures of the commonwealth to sustain the slave-power, and you have been vanquished.

You have heretofore contumaciously resisted all terms; now Congress offers you a plan of restoration to the Union, and should you prevent its execution, it will inevitably be followed by measures you have no reason to think agreeable.

If the secession leaders are indiscreet enough to urge you to reject this offer, under pretense that even now they will lead you on to victory, turn your eyes to the past, and you will perceive that every inducement and promise they have ever held out to you, have been delusive; and so will their present promises be if they tell you that you can do better than accept the terms now offered.

The question of peace or war is in the sole power of Congress. You waged war against them; they have not finished the war yet; but do and will hold you to it, until they are pleased to say there is peace. This is their right; it was your choice, and you cannot escape from it.

The question as to how your State Government is to be restored, and how a Republican form shall be guaranteed to you, is one also for the exclusive decision of Congress. No other power in the Government can lawfully interfere. Any unlawful interference will entail the penalties of treason.

The Congressional plan exhibits a rare magnanimity and clemency. No man is punished in his person or property for past offences. A few of the secession leaders only are excluded from the Federal and State governments they sought to destroy.

The plan of Congress is founded on the rights of man and the idea of human progress. By admitting the people of African descent to political privileges, the power of the secession aristocracy will be effectually neutralized, and never can again take the lead to ruin you. Come, let us once more rally under the symbols of Justice, Union and Confidence.

You need repose; the Union will give you peace.

You need a settlement of existing difficulties which will be permanent; Congress places the means of securing it in your own hands.

You long for the opportunity to resume the pursuits of industry; restoration will open to you the abundant sources of capital and credit.

Discard the errors and prejudices of the past. Stand forth as freemen and advance to perform the work you are called to. Your own prosperity, the welfare of your wives

and children, the safety and happiness of Louisiana. are hanging in the scale.

With a single effort you can pass from uncertainty, obstruction, sulkiness, anarchy, to regular administration, activity, cheerfulness and public order; you have only to will it.

The path is a plain one.

Assemble in your various parishes; exclude no man from your meetings whom Congress accepts; choose delegates to a State Convention to meet in New Orleans. Let the convention call on the Governor to order an election for members of a convention to form a State Constitution; and should the Governor decline, let your convention itself order the election, and provide for the meeting of a Constitutional Convention. The constitution formed by such a body, in accordance with the ideas of Congress, will undoubtedly be ratified by that body. Your State and Congressional elections can then be held, and you will thenceforth occupy a place in the free confederation of American States.

THOMAS J. DURANT.