

THOMAS J. DURANT—Whatever men may say of the previous position and repute of other leaders of the party called Republican in this State, the gentleman who has now been suddenly turned by the magic wand of the Commanding General into the Governor of Louisiana, will be universally confessed to be one of the first men of the State, not only in professional learning and ability as a lawyer, high capacity as a political leader, consistency as a politician, and fidelity to his friends, but as a man whose honesty is unimpeachable. The only fault of Mr. Durant—and it is a very serious one—is that his antagonisms and dislikes are equally as implacable as his attachments are firm and indissoluble in their ligatures. Could he dismiss from his public course the prejudices which so thoroughly possess him, no man could wield the reins of power more efficiently or acceptably to all quiet and honest citizens.