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THE FIRST BLOW FOR LIBERTY. FELLOW CITIZENS: - We stand to day upon an eminence which overlooks a hundred years of national life in a country crowded with perils. but crowned with triumphs of liberty and love. Before continuing our onward march, let us pause on this height for a moment to strengthen our faith and renew our hope, by glance at the pathway along which our people have traveled. It is now three days more than a hundred years since the adoption of the first written constitution of the United States, the articles of confederation and of perpetual union. The new republic was then beset with danger on every hand, and had not conquered a place in the family of nations. The decisive battle of the war for independence, whose centennial anniversary will be gratefully celebrated at Yorktown, had not been fought. The colonists were struggling not only against the armies of Great Britain, but against the settled opinions of mankind, for the world did not believe that the supreme authority of government could be safely entrusted to the guardianship of the people themselves. We cannot overestimate the fervent love of liberty, the intelligent courage and saving common sense which our fathers

made THE GREAT EXPERIMENT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT. When they found, in a short time stitution, the boundaries of freedom have been enlarged, the foundations of order and peace have been strengthened, and the growth in all the better elements of national life has vindicated the wisdom of its ble if founders and given new hope to their descendants. Under this constitution, our people made themselves safe against danger from without and secured for their mariners and flag an equality of rights on all seas. Under this constitution twenty-five states have been added to the union, with their constitutions and laws framed and enforced by their own citizens to secure the manifold blessings of local self-govconstitution now covers an area fifty times greater than that of 1780. The

pressure of A CIVIL WAR. We, ourselves, are witnesses that the Union emerged from the blood and fire of that conflict purified and made stronger for all the benificent purposes of good government; and now at the close of this first century of growth, with the inspirations of its history in their hearts our people have lately reviewed the condition of the nation, passed judgment upon the conduct and opinions of its political parties and have registered their will concerning the future administration of the government and to interpret and execute that will in accordance with the constitution is the paramount duty of the executive. Even from this brief review, it is manifest that the nation is resolutely facing to the front, resolved to employ its best energies in developing the great possibilities of the future, sacredly preserving whatever has been gained to liberty and good government during the century. Our people are determined to leave behind them all those bitter controversies concerning things which have been irrevocably settled, and further discussion of which can only stir up strife and delay our onward march. The supremacy of the nation and its laws should be no longer a subject of debate. That discussion which for half a century threatened the existence of the Union was closed at last | preme authority to no successor save in the high court of war by a decree | the coming generation of voters, who from which there is no appeal. That the constitution and laws made in pursuance thereof are and shall

continue to be THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND is binding alike upon the states and the people. This decree does not disturb the autonomy of the states nor interfere with any of their necessary rules of local self government, but it does fix and establish the supremacy of the union. The will of the nation speaking with voice of battle, and through an amended constitution has fulfilled the great promise of 1776 by proclaiming "liberty throughout the land to all the and is under special obligations to inhabitants thereof."

THE EMANGIPATED BLACKS. from slavery to the full rights of there is but one remedy. All con- tinued improvement of our harbors half that of coal.

- PC morrish

circle of intelligence and beginning the employ of our best powers. Let to enjoy the blessings that gather all our people leaving their battlethat the confederacy of states was poor. They deserve the generous and in the strength of liberty and too weak to meet the necessities of encouragement of all good men. So restored union with the grandest a vigorous and expanding republic far as my authority can lawfully ex- victories of peace. they boldly set it aside and in its tend they shall enjoy the full and stead established a national union, equal protection of the constitution which now prevails is without parfounded upon the will of the people, and laws. The free enjoyment of allel in our history. The fruitful endowed with the future powers of equal suffrage is still in question seasons have done much to secure self-preservation and with ample and a frank statement of the issue it, but they have not done all. The authority for the accomplishment of may aid its solution. It is alleged preservation of public credit and the its great objects. Under this con- that in many communities negro resumption of specie payments, so citizens are practically denied the successfully attained by the admintruth of this allegation is admitted, abled our people to secure the it is answered that in many places blessing which seasons have brought.

OUR SOUTHERN COMMUNITY.

supreme trial of the constitution came at last under the tremendous pure by the strong sanctions of law, any form of In the United States, freedom can never yield its fullness of blessing so long as the law or its administration places the smallest obstacle in the pathway of any virtuous citizen.

The emancipated race has already REMARKABLE PROGRESS. With unquestioning devotion to the Union-with a patience and gentleness not born of fear-they have "followed the light as God gave them to see the light." But the danger which arises from ignorance in the voter cannot be denied. I covers a field far wider than that of negro suffrage and the present condition of that race. It is a danger that lurks and hides in the corners and fountains of power in every state. We have no standard by which to measure the disaster that may be brought upon us by ignorance in citizens when joined to corruption and fraud in suffrage. The voters of the Union, who make and unmake constitutions, and upon whose will hangs the destiny of our government, can transmit their suare the sole heirs of sovereign power. If that generation comes to its inheritance blinded by ignorance and corrupted by vice, the fall of the republic will be certain and remediless. The census has already sounded the alarm in appalling figures which mark how dangerously high the tide of illiteracy has risen among our voters to their children. To the south the question is of su-

bility for the existence of slavery did not rest upon the south alone. The nation itself is responsible for THE EXTENSION OF THE SUFFRAGE, aid in removing the illiteracy which it has added to the voting popula-

preme importance, but the responsi-

citizenship is the greatest and most stitutional power of the nation and important political change we have of the states and all volunteer forces known since the constitution of 1787. of the people should be so used to No thoughtful man can fail to appre- to meet this danger by the saving ciate its beneficent effect upon our influence of universal education. It institutions and people. It has freed is the high privilege and sacred duty us from danger of war and dissolu- of those now voting to educate their tion; it has added immensely to the successors, and to fit them by intellimoral and industrial force of our gence and virtue for the inheritance people; it has liberated the master which awaits them. In this benefias well as the slave from a relation cent work sections and races should which wronged and enfeebled both; be forgotten and partizanship should it has surrendered to their own be unknown. Let our people find a guardianship and manhood more new meaning in the divine oracle than five million people, and has which declares that "A little child opened to each one of them a career | shall lead them," for our little chilof freedom and usefulness; it has dren will soon control the destinies given new inspiration to the power of the republic. My countrymen, of self-help in both races by making | we do not now differ in our judglabor more honorable to one and ment concerning the controversy of more necessary to the other. The past generations, and fifty years influence of this force will grow hence our children will be divided greater and bear richer fruit with in their opinions concerning our coming years. No doubt the great controversies. They will surely change has caused serious disturb- bless their fathers and their father's God that the Union was preserved, that slavery was overthrown, and This is to be deplored, though it was that both races were made equal unavoidable, but those who resisted | before the law. We may hasten or the change should remember that we may retard, but we cannot preunder our institutions there was no vent the final reconciliation. It is middle ground for the negro race not possible for us now to make a between slavery and equal citizen- truce with time by anticipating and ship. There can be no permanent accepting its inevitable verdict. Eutions of self-support, widening the invite us, and offer ample scope for

freedom of ballot. In so far as the istration of my predecessor, has enhonest local government is impossi- By the experience of the commercial nations in all ages it has been found gress while respecting to the utmost. THE MASS OF UNEDUCATED NEGROES that gold and silver offer the only are allowed to vote. These are grave safe foundation for a monetary sysallegations. So far as the latter is tem. Confusion has recently been true it is the only palliation that can rested by variations in the relative be offered for opposing the freedom value of the two metals, but I confiof ballot. Bad local government is dently believe that arrangements certainly a great evil, which ought can be made between the leading to be prevented, but to violate the commercial nations which will sefreedom and sanctity of suffrage is cure a general use of both metals. more than an evil--it is a crime which | Congress should provide that the if persisted in will destroy the gov- compulsory coinage of silver now ernment itself. Suicide is not a required by law may not disturb our ernment. The jurisdiction of this remedy. If in other lands it be high monetary system by driving either treason to compass the death of a metal out of circulation. If possiking, it should be counted no less a ble such adjustment should be made crime here to strangle our sovereign that the purchasing power of every power and stifle its voice. It has coined dollar will be exactly equal been said that unsettled questions to its debt-paying power in all the have no pity for the repose of the markets of the world. The chief nation. It should be said with the duty of the national government in utmost emphasis that this question connection with the currency of the of suffrage will never give repose or country is to coin and declare its safety to states or to the nation until value. Grave doubts have been eneach within its own jurisdiction tertained whether congress is auth-

> PAPER MONEY A LEGAL TENDER. The present issue of United States notes has been sustained by the necessities of war; but such paper should depend for its value and currency upon its convenience in use, ple, it will be the purpose of my adand its prompt redemption in coin at the will of the holder and not upon its compulsory circulation. These notes are not money, but promises of the Union in the interest of the to pay money. If the holders demand it the promise should be kept. The refunding of the national debt at a lower rate of interest should be accomplished without compelling faithful service of all executive offithe withdrawing of the national bank note and thus disturbing the not created for the benefit of the inbusiness of the country. I venture cumbents or their supporters, but to refer to the position I have occupied on the financial question during my long service in congress, and to say that time and experience have strengthened the opinions I have so often expressed on these subjects. The finances of the government shall suffer no detriment which it may be possible for my administration to in law a government of people. I THE HUSBANDMAN.

serve more attention from the government than they have yet received. The farms of the United States afford homes and employment for more than one-half of our people and furnish much the largest part of all our exports. As the government lights our coasts for the protection of mariners and the benefit of commerce, so it should give to tillers of considerable size throughout Great the soil the lights of practical science | Britain, is rapidly coming into use. and experience. THE MECHANIC.

making us industriously independlabor new and profitable fields of employment. This steady and

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and the great interior waterways and by the increase of our tonuage on

THE BIG DITCH.

The development of the world's commerce has led to an urgent demand for shortening the great sea voyage around Cape Horn by constructing ship canals or railways across the isthmus which unites the two continents. Various plans to this end have been suggested and will need consideration, but none of them have been sufficiently matured to warrant the United States in extending pecuniary aid. The subject is one which will immediately engage the attention of the government with a view to the thorough protection of American interests. We will urge no narrow policy nor seek peculiar or exclusive privileges in any commercial route, but in the language of my predecessors, I believe it is to be "the right and duty of the United States to assert and maintain such supervision and authority over any inter oceanic canal across the isthmus that connects North and South America, as will

AS TO RELIGION.

protect our national interests."

The constitution guarantees absolute religious freedom. Congress is disfranchised peasantry. They are terprises of the highest importance prohibited from making any law rapidly laying the material founds- to our moral and material well-being respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. The territories of the United States are subject to the around the homes of the industrious field of dead issues, move forward direct legislative authority of congress, and hence the general government is responsible for any violation of the constitution in any of them. It is therefore a reproach to populous of territories this constitutional guarantee is not enjoyed by the people and the authority of congress is set at naught. The Mormon church not only offend the moral sense of mankind by sustaining polygamy, but prevents the administration of justice through the ordinary instrumentalities of law. In my judgment it is the duty of conthe conscientious convictions and religious scruples of every citizen to prohibit within its jurisdiction all criminal practices especially of that class which destroy the family relations, endanger the social order. Nor can any ecclesiastican organization be safely permitted to usurp in the smallest degree the functions and powers of the national government.

can never be placed on a satisfactory basis until it is regulated by law. For the good of the service itself. for the protection of those entrusted with the appointing power against a waste of time and obstruction to the public business, caused by inordinate pressure for place and for the protection of incumbents against intrigue and wrong, I shall at the proper time ask congress to fix the tenure of the minor offices of the several executive departments makes and keeps the ballot free and orized by the constitution to make and prescribe the grounds upon which removals shall be made during the terms for which incumbents have been appointed. Finally, acting always within the authority and limitations of the constitution, invading neither the rights of the states nor the reserved rights of the peoministration to maintain authority, and in all places within its jurisdiction, to enforce obedience to all laws

THE CIVIL SERVICE

people, to demand a RIGID ECONOMY in all expenditures of the government and to require an honest and cers, remembering that officers were for the service of the government. CONCLUSION.

And now, fellow-citizens, I am about to assume the great trust which you have committed to my hand. I appeal to you for that earnest and thoughtful support which makes this government in fact and shall greatly rely upon the wisdom and patriotism of congress, and of The interests of agriculture de- those who may share with me the responsibilities and duties of administration, and above all upon our efforts to promote the welfare of this great people and their government, I reverently invoke the support and blessing of Almighty God.

Compressed peat in London, and indeed in almost all the towns of On one of the most important railroad lines, too, compressed peat has Our manufactures are rapidly for some time past been used, and with entire satisfaction, the fact anent, and are opening to capital and pearing, from the engineer's report that twenty-one pounds of peat will raise steam for a mile of transit, healthy growth should still be main- while the number of pounds of coal tained, our facilities for transports- required to do the same work is The elevation of the pegro race tion. For north and south alike tion should be promoted by a con- twenty-six. Its cost is less than one-