E445
.67 F6
Copy 1

Chap. 275

27

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

Chap. E445

Shelf M67 F6

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

# MISSOURI'S JUBILEE.

---

# SPEECH

OF

# THOMAS C. FLETCHER,

GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI,

DELIVERED IN THE STATE CAPITOL,

ON THE OCCASION OF THE RECEPTION BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE NEWS OF THE PASSAGE OF THE CONVENTION ORDINANCE ABOLISHING SLAVERY IN MISSOURI.

---

JEFFERSON CITY:
W. A. CURRY, PUBLIC PRINTER.

1865.

E445
.M67F6

# AN ORDINANCE ABOLISHING SLAVERY IN MISSOURI.

---

*Be it ordained by the People of the State of Missouri, in Convention assembled:*

That, hereafter, in this State, there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except in punishment of crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted; and all persons held to service or labor as slaves are hereby DECLARED FREE.

A. KREKEL,

*President of the Missouri State Convention.*

A true copy of the original Ordinance, as passed and on record.

AMOS P. FOSTER,

*Secretary of the Missouri State Convention.*

## PROCEEDINGS IN THE LEGISLATURE.

---

On the 11th of January, 1865, upon the reception by telegraph of the intelligence of the passage of the Ordinance of Emancipation by the State Convention, in session at St. Louis, both houses of the Missouri Legislature adjourned, and jointly held an informal meeting in the Hall of the House of Representatives, to rejoice over the event; Mr. Speaker Lovelace being in the chair.

Mr. Hewitt, Representative from Marion, introduced the following resolution:

*Resolved,* That the Chairman appoint a committee of three to wait upon the Governor and acquaint him with the glad news, and request him to come up to the Capitol and address the meeting on this glorious occasion.

The motion being agreed to, the Chairman appointed as such committee, Messrs. Hewitt and Newcomb, of the House, and Mr. VanHorn, of the Senate.

The committee waited upon the Governor at the Executive Mansion, and immediately returned with His Excellency, who, upon his appearance in the hall, was greeted with three cheers, and proceeded to address the meeting.

---

House of Representatives,
Jefferson City, January 13, 1865.

Mr. Kellerman, of Washington, presented the following resolution:

*Resolved,* That ten thousand copies of the speech of Governor Fletcher, delivered at the emancipation jubilee at the Capitol, on January 11, 1865, be printed for the use of this House.

The rules were suspended and the resolution was adopted.

# SPEECH.

---

FREE MEN OF MISSOURI:

I thank you for the invitation you have given me to mingle my voice with yours on this occasion of our general rejoicing. In the lightning's chirography the fact is written ere this over the whole land—Missouri is free! [Applause.] I do not feel like talking now. At the end of a long war, after the last blow is struck and the crowning victory won, words fail to give an impression of the real feelings of the victory.

Forever be this day celebrated by our people. Let us teach our children, on the annual recurrence of the eleventh day of January, to meet around the altar of Liberty and renew their thankfulness for our deliverance; and, in the historic contemplation of our redemption, renew the songs of our jubilee. [Applause.] Through all coming time this day should be celebrated in the manner indicated by John Adams for celebrating the fourth day of July—by bonfires, ringing of bells, firing of cannon, and waving of flags.

There is something in the feelings of an old "Black Republican," an old Abolitionist, who has endured the proscriptive and intolerant rule of the arrogant slave power in Missouri for the last fifteen years, that language is entirely inadequate to express. In this free atmosphere he feels himself a head taller. [Laughter and applause.]

To-day we remember the acts of that party which, when in the incipient stages of rebellion, declared "that Missouri should share the fate of her sister slave States." For once they told the truth. [Applause.] Missouri has obtained the lead, and "her sister slave States" will share her fate. [Applause.]

"We are free!
The forest and fountains,
The plains and mountains,
The gray sea shore,
Are haunts of happiest dwellers. * * *
Our toil from thought all glorious forms shall cull,
To make this earth, our home, more beautiful,
And Science and her sister Poesy
Shall clothe the fields and cities of the Free."

The white men of Missouri are to-day emancipated from a system which has so long lain with crushing weight upon their energies. We are now rid of every weight, and ready for the race. [Applause.] And the black man, too, is free. The gates of a bright future are open to him as well as to us. [Applause.]

Let us now set to work as becomes men, to rid ourselves of all the effects the damnable system of slavery has left behind it. [Applause.] Not the least among these are the bushwhackers, redhanded marauders and robbers, fit allies of the institution which enslaved the souls and bodies of men. [Applause.]

I anticipate that the action of this Legislature, in coöperation with the policy of Major General Dodge, will enable us to hold in security, what we have so fairly possessed ourselves of. MISSOURI BELONGS TO THE LOYAL MEN OF MISSOURI, AND TO THEM ALONE. [Applause, long and loud.] They have bought it with the price of blood, and their title is such as is respected by all civilized nations. If there is but one single loyal man in any one county of this State, he shall stand up at the county seat of his county and defy Jeff Davis and the whole rebel Confederacy. [Shouts of laughter.]

We will so organize our forces as to give perfect security to every man in his life and property. Let our loyal men be of good cheer. Let them go back and repopulate the deserted counties of the border. They shall possess their homes again, and no man shall dare molest or make them afraid. [Applause.]

Major General Dodge, commanding the Department of the Missouri, is not a talking general: he is a thinking and an acting one. He don't value any species of disloyalty. It don't bear any premium with him. His policy, permitted to be carried out, will give us security and peace. [Cheers.] Let us sustain him, and insist that everybody sustain him. You will see his policy only in its effects, and it will come upon some of our people like a peal of thunder from a cloudless sky. I refer to those who don't want to live in a free State, or who refuse to obey the laws and respect the civil authority.

I apprehend that we will have an efficient Militia. Those who cannot be trusted with guns will still be militia, and will not think it hard if, instead of being required to shoot their friends, the rebels, they should be detailed to the pioneer corps, the engineer corps, or the sappers and miners, and be armed with axes or spades. [Cheers.] We will want block houses, stockades and forts all around the State, and in all exposed places. Roads and bridges are to be made for military purposes, perhaps; and I do not know but the militia might be called on to assist to complete some of our railroads, as a military necessity. [Roars of laughter and bursts of applause.] We may lose some of our exceedingly *estimable* citi-

zens, who love slavery and civil war better than peace and prosperity. But I don't know where they can go. It is dangerous to be a traitor everywhere now, and there is no security for Slavery on this continent to-day, nor henceforth forever.

There are counties in this State where the large majority of the people make no effort to enforce the laws, or to render secure the lives and property of their loyal neighbors. It may be necessary to have a military force in such counties, and if so, the circumstances justifying it, that county will have to pay the troops stationed there. [Loud applause.] I tell them that the loyal men among them are not to be compelled to flee their homes. They shall be protected, [applause] and those who do not attempt to assist in putting down lawlessness shall pay for it. [Applause.]

In Free Missouri we intend that every man shall have something to do, and when a man is found doing nothing, we will ascertain whether he comes under the first section of the act concerning vagrants. [Laughter.] I don't mean to *sell* these fellows who are loafers one day and bushwhackers the next. I don't believe any person could be found to invest in such chattels; but I hope the Legislature will annex another and greater punishment to vagrancy, so as to make the law a terror not only to evil doers who are taken in the act, but also to those who cannot give a good account of themselves, and have no visible means of support, useful occupation or known abiding place.

Soon the white-winged angel of peace will hover over Missouri, and, rising up in her greatness, she will beckon on Arkansas and "our sister slave States," to share with her the glorious destiny of Free America. [Applause.] One by one they will wheel into line beneath the flag that waves only over the free, and the land of Washington will shine forth in perfect freedom. The star of her glory will rise up to the zenith of its splendor, and, defying alike domestic feuds, civil discord, treasonable conspiracies or foreign aggressions, the genius of the re-United States of America, like the star which the wise men beheld in the east, will, with the broad seal of eternal endurance stamped on her front, be the beacon light to lead the people of the whole earth to the shrine of Liberty, and teach them to worship with America, and rejoice in her blessed freedom. [Enthusiastic applause.]

## CONVENTION RESOLUTION.

---

HALL MISSOURI STATE CONVENTION, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI,
January 11, 1865—3 o'clock, P. M.

Mr. Budd, of St. Louis, offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That a copy of the Ordinance passed by the Convention, freeing all persons hitherto held in bondage in the State of Missouri, signed by the President of this Convention, and attested as a true copy from its records by the Secretary, be and the same shall be placed in the hands of a special messenger, and transmitted without delay to the Governor of the State, at Jefferson City; and when received by him, he is requested by this Convention to issue a proclamation to the people of this State, stating that, by the irrevocable action of the Convention, slavery is abolished in the State of Missouri now and forever.

*Resolved*, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor.

Upon motion, the resolution, as offered by Mr. Budd, was unanimously adopted.

A. KREKEL,

*President Missouri State Convention.*

Attest:

AMOS P. FOSTER,

*Secretary Missouri State Convention.*

# PROCLAMATION OF FREEDOM.

---

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
CITY OF JEFFERSON, MISSOURI, January 11, 1865.

It having pleased Divine Providence to inspire to righteous action the sovereign people of Missouri, who, through their delegates in Convention assembled, with proper legal authority and solemnity, have this day ordained:

"That hereafter, in this State, there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except in punishment of crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted; and all persons held to service or labor as slaves, are hereby declared free;"

Now, therefore, by authority of the Supreme Executive power vested in me by the Constitution of Missouri, I, Thomas C. Fletcher, Governor of the State of Missouri, do proclaim that henceforth and forever no person within the jurisdiction of this State shall be subject to any abridgment of liberty, except such as the law shall prescribe for the common good, or know any master but God.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and caused the great seal of
L. S. the State to be affixed, at the City of Jefferson, this eleventh day of January, A. D. eighteen hundred and sixty-five.

THOMAS C. FLETCHER.

By the Governor:

FRANCIS RODMAN, *Secretary of State.*

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 011 898 459 6