

citizens are entrusted to your keeping. They rely upon your intelligence and patriotism and expect your deliberations and acts to be characterized by harmony, firmness and prudence.

We have met at a time when difficulties are pressing heavily upon our country—when the heart of every friend of republican institutions, every lover of Constitutional liberty is filled with anxious and perhaps sad forebodings. The actual conflict of arms of our late terrible civil war has long since ended. The vast armies with which that conflict was waged on either side have long since been disbanded, and the soldier has again become the citizen. From one end of the Union to the other not a single armed hand is raised to resist the rightful authority of the Federal Government. Every one every where in every State acknowledges the Constitution of the United States and the laws passed in pursuance thereof, to be the Supreme law of the land. The Constitutional amendment abolishing slavery has been adopted by the requisite number of States, and is now part of that Constitution—part of that Supreme law. Slavery has not only been abolished by this amendment, but also by the separate action of the several States in which it formerly existed, and nowhere, so far as we know, is any purpose formed or any desire manifested to revive it. The ordinances of secession in each and all of the Southern States have been revoked or declared void, and State Governments in all respects Republican in form as contemplated by the Constitution of the United States, with Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments are established and are now exercising their respective, legislative, executive and judicial functions in each and all of them. They have assumed their proportionate share of the public debt incurred by the war, are now paying its interest and manifest no purpose of ever repudiating it. The Federal courts have again been organized and established, and are now exercising their appropriate functions without obstruction or hindrance in each of the several Districts and Circuits comprised within their limits. The revenue and tax laws have been extended over them, and the duties upon imports are collected at the usual Custom Houses in their ports with as much facility, and the income and other internal revenue taxes are paid by their people with as much promptness as in any other part of the Union. And finally their Legislatures have chosen Senators, and their people elected Representatives to the Congress of the United States. The great and avowed object of the war, therefore, the maintenance of the supremacy of the Constitution has been fully accomplished, and yet we all know the Union has not been restored, nor, if we may judge of the signs of the times, is it likely soon to be. We all remember the plighted faith of the country, the solemn resolve and pledge of Congress in 1861, that ‘banishing all