

message, the Legislature is left to conjecture as to the object which the discriminations made by these rules are intended to accomplish. From subsequent passages in this state paper, we are led to infer that these discriminating rules may be regulations for the employment of "brute force to control the ballot-box," and "deter the quiet and peaceably disposed citizens from the exercise of the right of suffrage;" or they may consist in a series of provisions adapted "to allow a citizen to be proscribed on account of his religious faith," in both of which suppositions the Governor is, undoubtedly, not without the strongest reason for asserting that the discriminations would be clearly against the Constitution of each and of all of the States of this Union.

Whatever may be the import of the facts of which the Executive has obtained a partial revelation, they have made a very profound impression upon the fears of the Chief Magistrate, enough has been divulged to him to authorize him to say that it furnished evidence of "a formidable effort to segregate and divide" the whole people into clans or classes "by a proposed exclusion from the rights of citizenship on account of place of birth or religious opinions," and to compel him to warn the State against "a war of races and sects," which he regards as a calamity to be averted by a timely interference of the Legislature.

The intensity of the Governor's alarm at the existence of these secret societies, may be measured by the earnestness with which he declares that they "have *already* been productive of more baneful consequences *than any thing which has occurred since the organization of our government.*" He makes this assertion upon full deliberation and conviction of the portentous mischiefs brought to view in the next topic of his message, touching a most disastrous popular agitation now rife in all its virulence over the land, which he justly describes as having once "brought us to the very verge of disunion," and which he believes, even now, induces "great reason to fear that our blessed Union will prove to be but a rope of sand, and the Constitution, which is the sacred bond of that Union, instead of being a protecting shield, and a blessing to the people of the South (be converted into) an in-