

first time during my administration that I have ever justified, in this form, any attack upon my Executive Conduct. It has been very properly established as the general usage of my Office, that the Executive should remain silent, even under gross provocation, and leave the vindication of his Character to the justice of the people who placed him in power. There is no conceivable subject of attack, except perhaps the one used by the Editors of the Clipper, in their paper of the 9th instant, which could have induced me to depart from that rule. The nature of the Calumny, and not the source from which it emanates commands my attention. An effort has been made by that Journal to impress upon the public mind a suspicion that sectarian influences were brought to bear to obtain the reprieve which I granted to Thomas Conner. An appeal is thus made to the darkest passions, which corrupt the reason or pervert the heart of man. Religion bigotry has been invoked to sit in Judgment upon an official act of the Chief Magistrate of the State. That Journal, incredulous of the obligations of honor imposed by my election, and seemingly unconscious of the nature of the solemn oath, which I have sworn upon the holy word of God to discharge the high functions of my Office without fear favor or affection, has presumed to temper the popular heart with a suspicion, that I may have been influenced by sectarian prejudice, in granting a reprieve of two weeks to a Condemned Criminal.

I regret that my accused has formed to himself so low a standard of virtue and duty.

To be sure that Journal has been pleased to say that it "would not suspect Gov. Lowe of having been swayed by such a motive," and yet it adds but a few lines below the following: "If it be a fact that Conner's belonging to the Roman Catholic Church has had anything to do with the suspension of his sentence, it will introduce a new phase in the administration of justice in our State, and exhibit an unexpected and dark feature, in the principles and practice of a Church, which boasts its divine origin, its infallibility, and its zeal for genuine religion. We hope that it can be shown that the suspicions entertained are unfounded, and that humanity has dictated the proceeding." Now if I am not to be suspected of such a motive how is that new phase in the administration of justice in our State to be introduced? The professed disclaimer of the Clipper gives point and venom to its calumnious insinuation.

Suppose that Catholic Clergymen had approached me and upon their representations I had granted the