



(Private and Confidential)

New Orleans May 14 1862

Gen.^l Geo. F. Shepley

military Commandant.

The following remarks and suggestions are respectfully submitted to your kind attention –
1st

As long as the present municipal authority, and the police force under its control, will be permitted to freely engage their deleterious influence there is no prospect to restore order and to execute a permanent peace - and in the meantime a large federal force will have to occupy the city. –

The city council Board of aldermen and Board of assistants is composed of men ill-disposed and ready to do all in their power to undermine the federal authority –

The Police force from the Mayor and chief of Police down to the last watchman is a public nuisance.

The function of Chief of Police ought to be intrusted to a person, having a standing of morality in the community.

The city being divided in four distinct districts, has four municipal offices – the recorders, who are the committing magistrates – They could, under existing circumstances, be invested of a greater authority and have the control of the Police in their different districts.

Those four recorders ought to be men of great firmness, determination and loyalty -

2 – The elections –

It is a matter of great importance for the Union Cause that the elections be not held under the control of the present municipal authority. Should the above plan adopted and five good and energetic citizens temporarily appointed to act as chief of Police and Recorders, then the elections could take place and produce good results —

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society

MMN # 70815

Date: May 14, 1862

Description: Gen. George F. Shepley received a “private and confidential” report on the state of the city and what Union forces might need to do to maintain peace there.

I should consider as a wise policy not to require any oath whatever from the voters, but to inform the public that all officers elected would have to give the oath of allegiance to the U. S. —

And to have only four places where the votes should be received — viz the four offices of the Recorders — unless the recorders themselves should think proper to appoint substitutes and to designate other places — But at each poll it would be very important to have a respectable military force —

23^d There is no prospect of having any financial order or even any material order, as long as the confederate notes will have a circulation.

There is a great mistake to believe that we have no other money. All families, rich or poor, have more or less hoarded some gold and silver since the revolution broke up. And said gold and silver will be kept away from circulation, as long as said confederate notes will not be entirely stopped.

The city notes are no more worth. The city of New Orleans is now in full bankruptcy. It is for that reason that the Council of the Aldermen and assistant aldermen are now issuing new city bills, which have no basis and which are issued contrary to all laws. The intention of the Mayor and his associates is evidently to increase the disorder, to prevent the restoration of a legal and normal authority, and to render the position of the federal officers, more and more difficult —

All union men and all sensible well thinking persons agree in this that a radical change in the management of the

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All union men and all sensible well thinking persons agree in this that a radical change in the management of the

municipal affairs ought to be made, and that the federal authority is now able to do what all good citizens of New Orleans were unable to accomplish till this day, notwithstanding repeated efforts — Unless such change or resolution takes place, the Union men and all quiet citizens will refuse to come forward, their life being endangered.

4th The Southern independent Association which holds its meetings in open streets has at its service a band of assassins, who will maintain on the city the reign of terror, if not immediately arrested — Here are the names of those desperados who during the past ten years have been the disgrace and the terror of New Orleans:

Ben. S. Harrison
Lucien Adams, recorder of the 4th district
John McClellan, Chief of Police
Oscar Blasco
Manuel Blasco
Victor Gerodias
Ben Legett, of the 4th District
Eugene Duprat
Victor Duprat
Ben Johnson
William Hudson — (Red bill n° 2)

The bearer of this paper will hand you a list of the Rowdies of the 4th district — We will try to have a special list for each district.

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5th The Newspapers The Delta, the Bulletin, the Progress and the Bee (this latter in its french edition) make great deal of havoc by their latent and constant opposition.

The Bulletin is in same position as the defunct Crescent. M^r Seymour, one of its proprietors is colonel of one of the Louisiana regiments now in Virginia.

The Delta is the property of Messrs Slidell, Benjamin, Bouford and others under the name of M^r Leosky —

Should the federal authority be willing and ready to help the Union men for the publication of a Union Journal, I think that we could do something in less than fifteen days — Such a publication should be issued in french and in English, like the Bee —

6th There are some low characters who have during the last twelve months slandered, and denounced Union men, calling them abolitionists. By asking all dockets of such cases in the first district court, it will be very easy to know the denunciators and to properly punish them — You will have further information on that subject —

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City authorities &c

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