

presidential electors from New Jersey for Ulysses S. Grant. He also continued his interest in the College of New Jersey (later Princeton University); having served as its treasurer from 1845 to 1869, he was elected to the board of trustees in 1863, where he served until 1875. Olden died on April 7, 1876, in his house at Princeton.

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William C. Wright



JOEL PARKER (November 24, 1816–January 2, 1888) was born near Freehold, Monmouth County, the son of Charles and Sarah (Coward) Parker. After his father's appointment as state treasurer, the family moved to Trenton. In 1833, his father became the cashier of the Mechanics' and Manufacturers' Bank of Trenton and sent him to Monmouth for two or three years to work his recently purchased farm. Parker then attended the College of New Jersey (later Princeton University), where he was graduated in 1839. After graduation he entered the law office of Henry W. Green, who later became chief justice and chancellor. Parker was ad-

mitted to the bar in 1842, and he began to practice law in Freehold.

Active in Democratic politics, Parker campaigned for Martin Van Buren in 1840 and James K. Polk in 1844 in their bids for the presidency. In 1847 he was elected as a Democrat to the assembly, where he took an active interest in tax reform, offering a bill that equalized taxation by taxing personal as well as real property. Although the Whigs held a majority in the legislature, Parker secured the passage of this bill in 1850.

In 1851, Parker declined to run for reelection and in the same year he was appointed prosecutor of the pleas for Monmouth County, and he served in this office for five years. He was also elected brigadier general, commanding the Monmouth and Ocean Brigade of the New Jersey militia in 1857, which he proceeded to reorganize. In 1860, he served as a Democratic elector and voted for Stephen A. Douglas. When the Civil War began, Governor Charles S. Olden appointed him a major general.

At its convention on September 4, 1862, the Democratic party nominated Parker for governor. He defeated Moses Bigelow, the mayor of Newark, for the nomination. Parker was considered a "war Democrat" (as opposed to a "Copperhead," a Democrat who opposed the war and sought peace with the South). In the election Parker defeated the Republican candidate, Marcus L. Ward, by 14,394, the largest majority in a gubernatorial election to that time. The Democrats also won majorities in both houses of the legislature.

In his inaugural address on January 20, 1863, Parker outlined his attitude toward the war. Affirming his opposition to secession as a "political heresy," he upheld the principle of states' rights, stating that the states have "sovereignty over all subjects not expressly delegated to the General Government." To Parker it was "the duty of the States, as well as the duty of the United States, to assert and maintain, in a legal and constitutional manner, their several and appropriate

sovereignty." Further, he argued that while "a minority of fanatical and ultra men in each section" had brought about the war, Congress had declared that it was "not for the purpose of conquest or subjugation, overthrowing or interfering with the rights of established institutions of the States—but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution, and to preserve the Union, with the equality and rights of the several States unimpaired." He insisted that the people who supported this principle "had a right to expect that their own constitutional privileges would be respected. They did not expect that in order to suppress rebellion, the inalienable liberties of loyal citizens must be sacrificed." He condemned the use by the federal government of arbitrary arrests "without due process of law"; imprisonment of New Jersey citizens beyond the state; the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus; the Emancipation Proclamation; and other "war powers" of the Lincoln administration. Parker not only opposed emancipation but felt that if it came about it should be dealt with by "the people of the States where the institution of slavery exists" and not the federal government. He favored the restoration of peace through the use of military force or through conciliation but held that it should not result in "a union of States where part are held in subjugation as conquered provinces." He challenged the Lincoln administration when he said that "whatever legal and constitutional powers are vested in the Executive of New Jersey, for the protection of the lawful rights of the citizens of the State, will be exercised during my administration." Parker saw his duties as governor through this philosophy.

In 1863 the Copperheads reached their highest degree of support and power in New Jersey, especially in the legislature, which passed the "Peace Resolutions" that condemned the actions of the Lincoln administration in terms similar to those Parker had outlined in his inaugural address. But the peace resolutions went beyond Parker's view and

called on the federal government to appoint commissioners to meet with the southern commissioners to find a way to end the war. Parker signed the joint resolutions on March 24, 1863. Since the resolutions would ultimately permit the South to leave the Union peacefully, the Republicans throughout the country condemned them as nothing less than advocating secession.

While on the one hand Parker supported these "peace resolutions," on the other he still supported the war; when the Confederate army commanded by General Robert E. Lee invaded Pennsylvania and was met in battle at Gettysburg, Parker was among the first to raise troops to assist in the defense of that state. He induced several regiments whose enlistments were ready to expire to reenlist and raised additional thirty-day troops for this emergency. His actions won him the thanks of both Governor Andrew G. Curtin of Pennsylvania and President Lincoln. He also became involved in the welfare of the troops on the battlefield and in the hospitals, as well as those that had returned home. He was a principal supporter of the Soldiers' Home. Through providing bounties, he prevented the use of conscription to fill military quotas in 1863; but in 1864 he was unsuccessful, for the draft went into effect that year.

Of all the nation's governors, Joel Parker was one of the Lincoln administration's most outspoken critics. However, while he attacked the administration's handling of political issues and its use of "war powers," he could not bring himself to call for a halt in the fighting. While the North continued to fight he hoped for some form of conciliation with the South. Even though he had signed the "Peace Resolutions" the previous year, he felt that any halt in fighting would permit the South to leave the Union. In his first annual address, delivered on January 13, 1864, he continued to attack the Emancipation Proclamation and the other Lincoln administration measures he considered unconstitutional. Yet he agreed with the president that it

was "the duty of the State authorities to furnish the men necessary to destroy the armed power of the rebellion, and it is equally the duty of the general government to accompany the exercise of the power entrusted to it with proper terms of conciliation."

In 1864, the federal government attempted to establish a railroad route from New York to Philadelphia other than the Camden and Amboy Railroad, which had been given a monopoly for transportation between the two cities. The legislature adopted a joint resolution signed by Parker that condemned the Congress's actions. Parker reacted in accordance with his strong states' rights position, declaring that "the General Government has no right to build a foot of railroad or to charter a corporation to construct the same, in any of the States, for the purpose of carrying passengers or freight for compensation. . . . No power can make the creator superior to or independent of its creator." Though the United States House of Representatives approved the bill, the Senate never voted on it.

In his strongest speech against the Lincoln administration, delivered in Freehold in August 1864, Governor Parker called for a peaceful settlement to the war and stated that the "majority of the people, without respect to party, wanted peace, and desired compromise, but the Republican leaders would not consent to fair terms, and refused to submit the momentous issue to the people." He condemned conscription, confiscation and the federal government's abolition of slavery. Again, while he criticized the administration, he continued to support the war by supplying troops to serve for thirty days in July 1864 when the Confederate army invaded Maryland. At this same time, in his second annual address in January 1865, Governor Parker opposed the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery, and he expressed himself in favor of gradual emancipation by the states. He also condemned as illegal the establishment of

the reconstruction governments in the southern states.

In his final annual address in January 1866, Parker opposed black suffrage and called for the "speedy resumption of the relations of all the States with the federal government." He also proudly proclaimed that "not a single right of the State of New Jersey has been yielded, and not one of her citizens, during my administration, has been deprived of his liberty without due process of law." At the end of his term he left a surplus in the treasury, a phenomenon that had not occurred for many years.

When Parker left the office of governor in 1866 he returned to his law practice. In 1868, 1876 and 1884 he was the favorite-son presidential candidate of the New Jersey delegates at the National Democratic Convention.

In 1871, Parker was once again elected governor, this time by a majority of six thousand votes, thus becoming the first person to be elected twice to the governorship by the people. During his second term in office, he continued to voice his earlier positions by calling for an end to reconstruction and by expressing himself in favor of states' rights. He also continually spoke out against corruption in government. The legislature enacted more laws during his second term than in any previous three years. Among them was the General Railroad Law. Parker also used the veto on fourteen occasions. As governor he entered into the dispute with the state of Delaware over its boundary. He also ardently supported the Centennial Exhibition to be held in Philadelphia in 1876 as a part of the commemoration of the Centennial of the American Revolution.

During his second term Parker was instrumental in securing the first group of amendments to be made to the New Jersey constitution of 1844. They included salary adjustments and an oath for legislators, guarantees of a free education, prohibition of the passage of certain special or local laws, and line-item veto in appropriation bills.

After leaving the governorship for the second time, Parker served as attorney general in 1875, as a presidential elector in 1876, and as a justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court from 1880 until his death. He was also a leading figure in the construction of the Battle of Monmouth monument in Freehold.

Parker married Maria M. Gummere of Trenton in 1843, and they had two sons and one daughter. He died in Philadelphia on January 2, 1888.

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William C. Wright



MARCUS LAWRENCE WARD (November 9, 1812-April 25, 1884), governor of New Jersey from January 1866 to January 1869, was a descendant of John Ward, one of the founders of Newark in 1666. His father, Moses, was a prosperous candle manufacturer in Newark. His mother was the former Fanny Brown. Marcus Ward eventually became a partner in the family business, where he put together a considerable fortune. By the 1840s he was devoting his interests to Newark civic affairs and charities and serving as director of the National State Bank and chairman of the executive committee of The New Jersey Historical Society. He was

also a founder of the Newark Library Association and the New Jersey Art Union. Thus, as a young man, he gained a reputation as a successful businessman and philanthropist.

Ward did not enter politics until 1856, at the relatively late age of forty-four. It is difficult to determine the precise reason for the start of his political career. Most biographical accounts mention his strong antislavery convictions, which produced enthusiasm for the Republican party. In view of his interest in social and moral improvement this seems a logical explanation. Though he was concerned enough about slavery to go to Kansas in 1858 to support the free-state cause, he soon returned to Newark and business affairs. The political climate of New Jersey in the late 1850s was not conducive to strong antislavery stands, and it is hard to believe that Ward would have entered politics solely on that issue. Obviously, other state politicians did not consider him a maverick since they chose him as a delegate to the national Republican convention of 1860 in Chicago.

During the Civil War Ward's expanded philanthropic activities gained him a statewide reputation as "the soldiers' friend," a nickname that would serve him well politically. The welfare of the New Jersey soldiers in the field became his major interest. With his own funds he set up an office in Newark. Presided over by several clerks, it handled an elaborate scheme either to forward soldiers' pay to their families or place it in special savings accounts. If a soldier was killed, Ward's office made sure his pension was paid regularly to his survivors. Ward was also interested in the soldiers' medical needs; he made frequent visits to battlefields to oversee hospital service, and, again with his own money, established the Soldiers' Home in Newark as a hospital for wounded veterans. In later years these activities provided grist for political party controversy. Democrats spread the story that Ward made great personal profit through overseeing the soldiers' pay, and Republicans made hearty denials. No sol-