

A SESQUICENTENNIAL ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ MOMENT

MARCH 15-21, 1863

**Some Objections to the New
State Considered.**

The *Wheeling Intelligencer* devoted oodles of ink toward trying to persuade the public to stand behind West Virginia's push for statehood.

On March 17 and 18, 1863, the newspaper published more than 9,000 words that sought to dispel some misconceptions about the impact the proposed gradual emancipation of slaves would have on the new state, among other things.

Voters were to cast ballots on the statehood proposal on March 26, 1863.

The two-part editorial said the debate over slavery had been exhausted and the verdict clear.

“The time for it is past,” the editors wrote. “It is decreed by One whose decisions are far above those of earthly tribunals that the institution must be removed.”

The newspaper said voters should approve the amended constitution.

“If we vote it down now, we shall sink it and the new State with it, and our prosperity, material and moral, along with both, if not forever, at least for a period none of us survive.”

This sesquicentennial moment is brought to you by the West Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Archives and History Section.

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