

MISSOURI'S QUEER GOVERNOR.

PROBABILITY OF A DUEL BETWEEN HIM AND MAJOR RAINWATER.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 27.—There are prospects of a duel between Gov. Marmaduke and Major Rainwater. The latter is the most prominent candidate on the Democratic side for the office of Mayor of St. Louis, and is just now in the very heat of the canvass. The other day Marmaduke was interviewed by a reporter, and was credited with using language concerning Rainwater unfit for publication, claiming that Rainwater had violated certain trusts, and called him all manner of names. In reply Rainwater has written a letter to Marmaduke which closes with these words: "I desire to relieve you from any embarrassment the recollections of former intimacy and friendship may impose upon you, and to invite you as a public official whose duty it is to protect and guard the common welfare of our citizens to divulge any secrets you may possess, and proclaim any charges you may have which can affect my character as an honest man and gentleman. Your position as Governor will entitle your statements to high consideration, and will afford you an opportunity to do a public duty and at the same time 'punish an enemy,' but I warn you to stick to the truth. Although but a humble citizen you cannot successfully assail my private character with falsehood or impunity."

The trouble between these two gentlemen dates back to 1873, up to which time they were warm friends. Its inception was a very frivolous matter, and two or three circumstances occurred to intensify the feeling. Gen. Marmaduke has on several occasions during the past 10 years made some ugly remarks about the Major, and while the latter did not retort in kind, he did halt Gen. Marmaduke on one occasion in the presence of several gentlemen, and after calling attention to Marmaduke's slanders, told him that if there was any form of satisfaction which Gen. Marmaduke deemed necessary to make amends for any grievance that he had sustained, that satisfaction would be given him at any time or place that Gen. Marmaduke chose to name. The hope was expressed in the same connection that if Gen. Marmaduke did not see fit to avail himself of this fact he would at least control his tongue thereafter. Gen. Marmaduke retorted hotly, but nothing came of that meeting.

The present controversy, however, it is thought, will only end on the "field of honor," and that Marmaduke will fight there is no doubt, for he has already figured in a duel. His opponent was Gen. Walker, whom he killed. This duel arose out of an engagement which took place between the Confederate and the Union forces in Arkansas. In the heat of battle Marmaduke charged Gen. Walker with an act of insubordination, which resulted in a challenge from Gen. Walker. The duel was fought immediately after the battle. Gov. Marmaduke will come to the city to-morrow evening, and then a meeting of some kind between him and Rainwater is looked for.

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