

G. W. Bowman, Editor and Proprietor.

State Central Committee.

A meeting of the Democratic State Central Committee will be held at the Merchants' Hotel, Philadelphia, on Tuesday the 20th of December, 1851, at 4 o'clock P. M.

The Chairman has received various letters from prominent and influential citizens of the State, expressing a desire to have a State Convention, for the purpose of re-organizing the Democratic party on a more permanent basis, consolidating it against the secret and insidious assaults that have for a time impaired its usefulness and efficiency in carrying out our cherished principles, and to render it impregnable to the future against the approaches of the various and dangerous sects, vagaries and headlong passions of the day. As the constitutional, truly conservative, historical and patriotic party of the country, the Democracy have a great mission to fulfill, and must not prove recreant in a period of adversity, to the high trust confided to their care. The friends of liberty, of the rights of men, wherever they may have been born, of religious toleration, and the opponents of a connexion between Church and State, corrupt, meretricious and wanton as such connexion has always proved to be, the opponents of all religious tests in determining the rights of citizens or their qualifications for office or public trust, among those who have heretofore differed with us on minor points, are now ready and anxious to co-operate with the Democratic party at the first favorable opportunity, in maintaining the integrity of the Constitution formed by the patriots of the Revolution, the Fathers of the Republic.

It is deemed advisable that the contemplated State Convention be called *solely* for the purposes already named, so that its action be not embarrassed by any other business, and that it should be composed of the men in our ranks, the enlightened and influential men in our ranks, the men in whose favor the great fundamental principles of the Democratic creed shall speak with authority, and inspire confidence and respect among all classes of our people.

It is thought also that a political calm is the proper time to begin this great work. In this way we will show our love for the great principles we maintain, by assembling when there is not a scramble for place or power, but at a time when the public mind is not excited and prejudiced by the bitterness attending an approaching election—when our own Councils will not be distracted by rival interests and personal aspirations.

The members of the Committee will therefore appreciate the importance of a general attendance, and it is hoped will be punctual in meeting at the time and place appointed, and that the Democratic papers of the State will give this notice an early and general publicity.

J. ELLIS BONHAM,
Chairman.

Carleisle, Nov. 22, 1851.

The Pennsylvanian.

This old national organ of the Democratic Party, has, within a few days past, put on an entire new dress, and presents an appearance equal to any other paper in the Union. The proprietor, Col. W. Rice, is a gentleman of pleasant address and great experience, and possesses all the requisites necessary to make the Pennsylvanian a welcome visitor to every Democrat within the broad limits of our glorious Republic, and we rejoice to learn that within the past six months it has trebled its daily circulation, and that its tri-weekly editions have advanced in the same ratio. As Col. Rice has now determined to give this spirited journal his exclusive attention, we hope that daily accessions to his subscription list may crown his energetic efforts in behalf of the great and glorious Principles of Democracy.

[By a Correspondent.]
We learn, by the *Ebensburg Sentinel*, that our old and valued friend, Gen. Wm. R. SURR, formerly of Bedford, spent a day or two in that place last week, and was cordially received. The General is preparing a history of Wisconsin, which will appear during the present winter. We hope he may find it convenient to visit his numerous friends in Bedford before he returns. We would like to see him.

Borough Disturbance.

We have been requested by an old and respectable resident of the Borough of Bedford to draw the attention of the officers thereof to the Act of the 15th March, 1847, which makes it their duty to arrest all drunken, disorderly or riotous persons, who, either by day or night, shall make disturbance in the public streets, lanes, or alleys, and convey them to the county jail, where they shall be confined for any length of time not exceeding twenty-four hours.

Now, if our Borough Officers will take the trouble to look, at almost any hour of the day, they can find ten or twenty children in a group playing "shinny" in the public streets, to the great annoyance of passers-by, to say nothing of the danger in which it places younger children who are always lookers-on. In addition to this, windows are made to suffer from this reckless playing in the streets, an evidence of which fact can be seen in one of the broken panes of Mrs. Porrs' large show windows, caused by boys' playing on her pavement after she had repeatedly requested them to desist. Let officers do their duty, without respect to persons, and a few arrests will put a stop to this business, as well as the terrific yells which so frequently disgrace our streets at night.

Mainly Sentiments.

George D. Prentice, the brilliant but bitter editor of the *Louisville Journal*, was lately entertained by a number of citizens, Whigs and Democrats, at Memphis. He related his editorial experience in terms which most forcibly strike every one who has gone through the war of editorial partisanship. It is refreshing to read such magnanimous confessions of doing wrong, in the heat of political excitement—they deserve to be duly pondered by American journalists, especially those who fight the editorial battles of political parties. Mr. Prentice said:

"I know that my Whig friends will both pardon and justify me when I say, that I prize this confession coming from a Whig and Democrat alike, far more than I could a similar one from members of my own party alone. There was a time, years ago, when I cared little what my political opponents said or thought of me, so I had the regard, the support, and the applause of my political friends. But I have long since ceased to feel thus. I have learned to appreciate and to desire the good opinion of all good men. I have learned that candor, and truth, and honor and honesty, and wisdom and patriotism, and virtue, are common to no party. My devotion to the party with which I have acted throughout my life is unflinching, but time teaches all true hearts the great lesson of political liberality. I have published some things, which, although well intended at the time, I could wish blotted from the memory of my readers and from my own."

"I have written some bitter things of men, who have since passed away from earth, and whom I now mourn I revere, and on whose graves I could shed tears of sorrow and regret. Ah! when I look back through the twenty-six years of my editorial life, and think how many I once denounced who afterwards became my personal friends, or proved themselves the country's friends, and how many I once singled out and told for who have since turned ruthlessly and causelessly against me; when I reflect how often the most arduous and devoted political services have been forgotten by those to whom they are rendered; and how often the deepest political injuries are magnanimously forgiven by those to whom they are done; and when I remember how many of my political friends have striven to crush me, and how many Democrats have gathered around me as a band of brothers in the days of my personal peril, I should be guilty of an outrage on my own conscience, and on every feeling and impulse of my heart, if I were not to weed out from my nature the partisan bitterness that once flourished there. I am a Whig, but I will greet every true-hearted Democrat as my brother, and I will greet no false-hearted Whig as such."

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

The *Pennsylvanian* learns that Gov. POLLOCK has tendered to Hon. Andrew G. CURTAIN, of Centre County, the appointment of Secretary of the Commonwealth, which he has accepted. Mr. CURTAIN is a gentleman of abilities and attainments, and, whilst he has been a decided partisan in times past, he has many good qualities of head and heart which render him acceptable to a large circle of Democratic personal friends.

D. H. NEUMAN, Esq., editor of the *Eastern Sentinel*, has been appointed Collector of Tolls on the Delaware Division, at Easton. A snug berth, and one which we hope our editorial brother may live long to enjoy.

We invite attention to the Card of Dr. KEYSER, (in another column), who is well known to the people of Bedford county as an able and experienced Physician, satisfied that his recommendations are entitled to the highest consideration. The *Pittsburg Journals* highly commend the Doctor for his energy, prudence, and skill, since he has resided in that city.

The Great Defeat of the Democratic Party in 1840.

In 1840 the Democratic Party of the country was defeated from Maine to Georgia. Its platform was definite; its candidates at that time unexceptionable; among the ablest men in the Union were those who led its columns; its organization was perfect; and it had previously carried nearly every one of its candidates for governor in their respective States; and yet, when the day of election came, it was almost swept out of existence. Funeral sermons were preached over its anticipated dissolution by such men as Clay and Webster. Its days were numbered. It was the victim of the triumph of the party; and, best remembered, there were not wanting them, as they are not wanting now, Democrats, misled by the false glare of meretricious doctrines, and instigated by revenge and jealousy, who rejoiced at the overthrow of their former party, as if an angel of devastation had annihilated it!

The great point of difference between the winning party of that day and the present consisted in the fact that there were many things upon which the conquering majority were most heartily united. If they did not avow their principles in the canvass, it was known that success in the country would lead to the inauguration, and rather to the restoration of a series of federal measures of the most extraordinary character. But what was the result produced in a few short months? A series of catastrophes to the dominant party to which political annals up to that time furnished few parallels. With what eagerness those who had previously gloried over the restoration of the Democratic party welcomed it back to power! The bold and starting measures of Clay, beginning with the bankrupt law and ending with the high tariff, could only be mastered by the Democratic party; and when, in 1844, James K. Polk was elected to the presidency, the political philosophy of that result received its chief significance from the fact that it was achieved by a comparatively "new man" over the accomplished and beloved leader of the Whig party. To go back, however, to the calamities of 1840; contrasting them with the recent defeats of the Democratic party, we are impressed by the fact that we fell in the one case in a presidential election, and in the other in a conflict two years before a presidential election. So, then, if the Whig party, victors in 1840, was a disorganized and demoralized organization in less than a year, notwithstanding it was led by the intellectual giants who then flourished, and the face of a policy which, if not avowed before the election, was certainly adhered to after it, how long will the present combination—unmarshalled by Clay, not cheered by Webster, and bound by no choir of common sympathies, but fused by a harmony of interests alone—can maintain its position as a national party? We are content to allow the thick coming events of the future to answer this question.—*Washington Union.*

The Know-Nothings vs. Catholics.

One of the avowed objects of the Know-Nothings is opposition to Roman Catholics, and that opposition is grounded, according to their own assertion, on the fact that they owe allegiance to a power foreign to the United States, to wit, the Pope of Rome. In looking over the papers a few days since, I noticed an extract of certain proceedings in one of the Lowell courts, before Judge Bishop, in which it was made evident to me that Know-Nothings owed as much foreign (at least to the laws of the United States) allegiance as ever did the Catholics. When certain questions were put to a Mr. Snow, a witness in the case, he refused to testify, because the answer would incriminate him—that he would subject himself to punishment. It is true that a witness cannot be compelled to answer a question that will incriminate him; but it is a privilege that is only allowed when the use of the answer would tend to the laws of the government. Then allow me to ask, would an answer to any of the questions put by Mr. Butler in that case in Lowell have made the witness liable to any punishment under any of the laws of the United States, or any of the individual laws of the States? I would say that they certainly would not—then they are claiming allegiance to a power which they think higher authority than the laws of the United States! Where, then, is the difference? Roman Catholics are charged with owing allegiance to the Pope—Know-Nothings under oath say they owe allegiance to a law not recognized by any of our governments.

RELIGION AND POLITICS.

The most offensive feature in the absolute governments of the Old World, to an American observer, is the fact that religion is regulated by law, and that the same power which oppresses the citizen in his secular rights, also exercises a despotic and arbitrary power over his religious rights. One nation maintains an enormous expense a horde of ecclesiastic nobles, and compels all to pay for their support, whether they follow the faith of the State or entertain other opinions. Another fastens a swarm of priests on the masses, while a third invests the prevailing faith with a power which is in direct violation of the Scriptures. Such is the organized intolerance of despots and tyrants. Strange that, in substance and in practice, we should have a similar organization in republican America, justified, too, as perfectly consistent with our profession of liberty and toleration; and that the Democratic party, in its course, and for the safety in none other at this crisis.—*Philadelphia Argus.*

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SIDE ISSUES.

CAN BE CONVERTED.—The *Boston Advertiser* says that "political organizations ostensibly got up for the purpose of effecting what has been called 'idea reforms,' are snares for tender consciences—contrivances to enable unscrupulous leaders to turn to selfish account the honest convictions of credulous associates." It has been boasted by run-drinking temperance politicians in this State that their only object in insisting on the passage of a Maine law in New Hampshire was the breaking down of the Democratic party. It is now admitted by the anti-Nebraska agitators that every attempt to repeal the territorial bill of the last Congress is out of the question, and yet they continue to make some people believe that such proceeding is proper and essential, in both of these respects the great object is to turn their labors to selfish account.—*N. H. Patriot.*

We have had most palpable evidence of the truth of this selfish propensity on the part of the allied leaders against the Democracy in the State. All the side issues were managed with one view—that of injuring the Democracy and building up their own city, the city who were to be the victors in their own city, the Temperance Convention, though professing to be free from all political bias, and intent only on one great object, that of abolishing the sale of liquor in this Commonwealth, was in fact only a screen for the proselytizing and unscrupulous conduct of the Know-Nothing party. Each of these political parties professed to be actuated by one only aim, a single purpose—opposition to the slave power of the country—and yet, like the Temperance party, they merged their forces into one general array against the Democracy, and their members voted for any man, no matter how opposed to their original principles, if he was on a ticket adverse to the Democratic party of the Union. The anti-Nebraska party acted upon the same platform. When that bill was pending in Congress, the *New York Tribune*, and other journals, called upon the great body of the newly-formed anti-Nebraska party to be the support and maintenance of every man who voted against the bill, no matter what his political principles. This was the platform on which the fusion party was to be built. Democratic members of the Legislature, and their election issued by the assistance of Whig and Abolition friends, were hailed as patriots, and their re-election assured by the assistance of Whig and Abolition friends. But how was the promise redeemed? The vote of Drum and others in the State, and the similar course of treachery towards Democratic candidates in other States, is the best exhibition of Whig and Abolition faithlessness to promise, as well as of the bond in their protestations of usefulness when the Nebraska bill was pending, but when the day of election came, their old hatred for the Democracy returned, and voted for any candidates calculated to defeat those selected by that party.

With the facts before the people of the extreme selfishness of the opposition in this State at the recent election, still the Whig and Abolition presses are talking about the repeal of the Kansas-Nebraska act as another means of agitating the country and reaping advantages from the storm of passion and prejudice which will thus sweep over the State. To repeal the law is an impossibility, for two reasons. First the Senate will not consent to such a repeal. Secondly, were such a repeal can be effected, both Kansas and Nebraska will be knocking at the doors of the Union for admission as free States, and hence the repeal of the Kansas-Nebraska act will be foolishly fruitless. These are facts that every school-boy is perfectly acquainted with, and hence a movement such as indicated is but another selfish subterfuge from which the opposition hope to derive aid and assistance in coming contests. 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