

The Democratic Watchman,

BELLEFRONTE, PENN'A.

F. GRAY MEEK, Editor & Proprietor.
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TERMS.—\$2 per year when paid in advance, 25¢ when not paid in advance, and \$3.00 when not paid before the expiration of the year.

Democratic State Convention.

HARRISBURG, PA., Jan. 5, 1868.

The Democratic State Convention of Pennsylvania have fixed WEDNESDAY, THE FOURTH (4th) DAY OF MARCH, 1868, at 12 o'clock, a. m., as the time, and the Hall of the House of Representatives, at Harrisburg, as the place for holding the annual Convention of the party.

It is ordered that this Convention be composed of one member for each Senator and Representative, who shall be elected in the usual manner and they will meet at the time and place aforesaid, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the offices of Auditor General and Surveyor General, and of selecting Delegates to the National Convention for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice President.

The members and committees of the organization and all conservative citizens who can unite with us in the support of constitutional principles are requested to proceed to the election of delegates in their respective districts.

By order of the Democratic State Central Committee,
WILLIAM A. WALLACE, Chairman.
G. O. DEISS, Sec'y.

Meeting of the Democratic National Committee.

BOSTON, Dec. 23, 1867.

A meeting of the National Democratic Committee will be held at Washington, D. C., on Saturday, February 22, 1868, at 12 o'clock, a. m., for fixing the time and place of holding the next National Democratic Convention, and for the transaction of such other business as will properly come before the Committee.

FREDRICK O. PRINCE,
Sec'y National Democratic Committee.

Have Patience.

"Don't be so ultra—have patience—all will come right in time!" are exclamations which we occasionally hear from some of our friends whom Heaven has gifted with temperaments and dispositions more placid and equable than our own.

Patience under many conceivable circumstances is certainly a very exalted and desirable virtue; but would any one have us exercise it when a madman or murderer had us in his grasp, with a pistol pointed at our head or a dagger placed at our throat, if our mind suggested at the moment a way of successful resistance? Who would feel like looking on patiently if he saw an incendiary in the very act of setting fire to his premises, or detected a burglar using his tools to effect an entrance into his dwelling or place of business? In cases like these patience would be both cowardly and criminal, and he who would exercise it would deserve to have his brains blown out, his throat cut, or his premises burned or plundered, as the case might be.

Well, we are part and parcel of this great nation, interested in its welfare, devoted to its free institutions; it is, in fact, a property of which we are part owner, having, in common with every other citizen, a title in fee simple, an absolute, unconditional conveyance, written on the parchment of the drum-heads of the revolution and signed with the blood of the heroes of Bunker's Hill, of Saratoga, of Monmouth and Trenton and Bradywine and Entau and Yorktown; and this property we want to hold, and preserve in as good condition as it was when it came to us from the hands of the grantors. It is an invaluable inheritance, dearer to us than gold, or silver, or houses, or land; nay, even than life itself.

Now, looking from our stand-point at the game which desperate political gamblers and speculators, traitors and tricksters, fanatics and fools are playing, we see this rich inheritance threatened with great danger, a danger so imminent that only instant resistance can save it.

What shall we do?
You moderate, forbearing and patient friends, what would you have us do?

Shall we sit down calmly, with folded arms, keep our tongue silent, and cease from the labors of our pen, whom we see, with the clearness of prophetic vision, not only isolated villains here and there, but formidable drilled band, of madmen, murderers, incendiaries and burglars plotting to take the life of the nation, to destroy, as if with fire, its free institutions, to burglariously enter the very temple of liberty, our political "holy of holies," and rob "you and I and all of us" of our inheritance of freedom? Shall we trust to chance, or circumstances yet to occur, or even Providence to defeat the damnable machinations of a band of knavish usurpers; when it is properly the work of our own hands and hearts and hands? Tell us, O! most profound philoso-

phers—who Diogenes like could contentedly enjoy your modicum of sunshine in your own tub, though the earth should be shaken to its foundations and the Heavens rolled up as a scroll—wake from your unnatural slumber, from your foolish dreams of safety and repose, and tell us, in the name of truth and patriotism and liberty, what is the duty of the citizen when treason threatens the republic?

Is it patience or action—submission or resistance?

At this very instant, while you are hugging the delusive phantom safety to your credulous hearts, and looking on quietly, passively and patiently, the "lame devil" of the House and his legion of subordinate fiends are battering down the walls and sapping and mining the foundations of the citadel of liberty.

When a set of unscrupulous demagogues calling themselves a Congress usurp all the powers of government, and deliberately, boldly and traitorously set to work to establish new forms in order to preserve their political ascendancy—when they are backed by a strong and well organized party and command the support of the Army and Freedmen's Bureau, we ask, in the name of common sense, is it patience "sitting on a monument smilling at grief," that will move them from their arbitrary courses and turn them aside from the path of revolution and destruction they are traveling in?

When a milk-pail is upset or a pitcher broken at the well, then patience is discreet and commendable; for no effort of the unfortunate sufferer can restore the milk to the vessel or put the broken fragments of the pitcher together; but in times like these, when infamous men are plotting the destruction of all the patriot heart holds most dear, and when timely action may prevent the consummation of the plot, patience is out of the question. It has ceased to be a virtue and has become a crime.

We have borne and forbore too much and too long already. It is time that we should act like men, and meet encroachment with resistance—moral resistance while there is a hope that it may prove successful; physical resistance the instant it becomes necessary. Let the timid shrink and the coward tremble, it is not for us, a sentinel of the people, to finch from duty or danger. Like the war horse we "snuff the battle afar off," and shall leave nothing unsaid or undone to prepare the hearts of the brave for the final trial, the "baptism of blood," which, sooner or later, must take place between the conflicting ideas of Democracy and Republicanism.

We use no idle words when we say that a time is coming, and is now almost at hand, when the souls of men will be tried as they never were tried before, and when it had been better for him who fakes, or folds his arms in patience of spirit, that a "millstone had been tied to his neck and he been cast into the sea."

Trusting to the efficiency and strength of their loyal league organizations and military-political associations, in the power incident to their position as the ruling party, in the money which they can squander by millions (having stolen it by hundreds of millions,) in the Freedmen's Bureau, with its numerous southern ramifications controlling every negro vote, and in the frauds which they will practice at the next elections, (as they have habitually done at every election since the second year of the war,) they intend to endorse all their "dark and damning deeds" through the ballot box next fall by what they will claim to be a "popular verdict."

In short, they have resolved by any and all means to elect the next President and fix themselves in power for four more years. But this they can only do by counting the negro vote of the South. Now, the question is will the white men of the country permit that vote to be counted and quietly submit to the consequences?

Hitherto these mongrel conspirators against a white man's government have been bold because we have been cowardly. We have, so far, resisted none of their infamous and revolutionary acts except by words—and, judging of our probable future action by our past course, they are not without good ground for believing that we will bear the installation of a negro-elected President with the same cowardly composure that we have borne all their preceding outrages.

Can it be possible that they judge us rightly? Are we, in reality sunk so low in the scale of manhood, and have we become as craven-hearted and white-livered as to submit to the installation and government of a negro elected President, rather than appeal to arms and shed a few drops,

or, if need be, an ocean of blood to preserve the supremacy and honor of our race and keep from the pages of history so foul a stain on our national reputation?

God forbid! We do not yet harbor so mean an opinion of our fellow citizens. The Caucasian race was created to rule, and it will rule. The Norman Saxon, the Anglo Saxon, the Teutonic and Milesian blood that flows so largely in our veins will submit to no forced equality with a meaner and different race. In this country we will have no negro rule; nor shall the worse than negro, the white man elected by negro votes and advocating negro suffrage and negro equality, ever govern without first subjugating the white race by force of arms.

Let no ambitious aspirant to Presidential honors through the disgraceful process of the black ballot lay the flattering unction to his soul that, if successful, he will be permitted to take peaceable possession of the White House. The white people of the United States have borne with scarce a murmur a heavy and grievous load of wrong and outrage since the mongrel negro party came into power, but the election of a negro President, or of a white President by negro votes, and half of them fraudulent, would be a feather too much. Rather than submit to a degradation so mortifying to their pride as a race and as a nation, hundreds of thousands of white freemen would rise in arms, vindicate their superiority and their rights, and wipe out the insult in the blood of the miscreants who offered it.

Our judgment and our feelings would alike endorse such a course, for we have lived too long under free institutions and white man's government to yield them up without a struggle, although that struggle should involve all the horrors of prolonged and bloody civil war. No other people would have suffered as long and as much as we have suffered, without rising and crushing the power that inflicted the wrong; and what others of less sanguine temperament than ours may say about "moderation" and "patience," and that kind of stuff, we are certain that in their and in all true-hearted and clear-headed men's minds we are sinking in our own estimation every day that we defer the cry of war against the horde of traitors and scoundrels who have linked themselves with the devil and the black barbarians of the South in order to strengthen their hands for the work of destruction and despotism upon which they are bent. Let us endeavor to retrieve the errors of the past by a braver and nobler course hereafter. The day which will "try men's souls" is drawing nigh; and when it comes who will be base enough to shrink from its duties, its trials and its perils? Let the note of preparation be sounded at once—let the cry "BE READY!" go forth throughout the land, loud, clear and inspiring as the notes of the bugle when it sounds the charge. "To your tents, O! Israel."

Dishonest Officials—Revenue Frauds.

It really seems as though, in its application to public men and affairs, the word honesty had become obsolete. In almost every department of the Federal government the grossest negligence or dishonesty (in some instances both,) seems to prevail. Especially is this the case at present in the Treasury Department, in consequence of which the government is yearly defrauded of millions of money which flow into it from two or three sources of internal revenue, better able to bear the burden than any others. We complain of this not because we either admire or approve the system of taxation adopted by the mongrels in power to meet the extravagancies of their policy, but because the amount estimated to cover interest on the national debt, current expenses of government and appropriations for carrying out party measures must be realized, and any deficiency on the part of any particular source of revenues, must, in the end be met by more excessive taxation on other sources, already taxed to a point almost beyond endurance.

One would suppose that the army of revenue officers in the employment of the Secretary of the Treasury was large enough to ferret out all delinquencies and frauds and see such justice to the government as the revenue laws contemplate strictly and thoroughly done. But the facts do not seem to bear out the supposition. Every county, city and considerable village in the whole country, literally swarms with these officials—assessors, collectors, gaugers, markers, spies, detectives, special agents, sub-special agents, &c., &c.,—and yet the fact is notorious that frauds without

number are perpetrated, and the amount of revenues received by the Treasury every year decreasing by millions.

What is the secret of all this? No one is fool enough to believe that, if the agents of the Treasury were, as they ought to be, capable and honest, such frauds could be perpetrated or such deficiency occur. The fault is evidently, in the Department itself and in its agents; and the question narrows down to simply this: Are Secretary McCULLOUGH and his subordinates merely incompetent, or are they dishonest? It would be nothing short of presumption in us, to pronounce incompetent a man who bears the reputation of the Secretary as an able financier and practical statesman; and we are therefore reduced to the alternative of believing him to be gifted with a very poor knowledge of men, or of ascribing to him a criminal negligence of his superintending duties, as chief of the department, over his agents, or (which is worse) of overlooking or conniving at their venality; for it seems impossible that the mercenary and corrupt conduct of the Treasury agents, which is obvious to the very dullest comprehension of the multitude, should have entirely escaped the observation of the clear-minded and keen-sighted head financier of the nation.

To say nothing of the frauds perpetrated in their returns by the large manufacturers of all descriptions of articles, of wear and tear, there is a deficiency in the tax on whisky alone which is so immense as to attract almost universal attention, and which seems to increase yearly, notwithstanding the apparent efforts of the Treasury department to detect and prevent the frauds through which it occurs. We cannot, if we would, shut our eyes to the fact that the revenue laws impose a tax of two dollars per gallon upon whisky, and yet every day it is openly sold on the streets of Philadelphia, New York and Brooklyn at prices ranging from as low as one dollar and ten cents up to one dollar and fifty cents per gallon, in the face and eyes of all Secretary McCULLOUGH's regular and special agents, under the very noses of assessors, collectors and inspectors. The secret of all this is, the revenue officers, from highest to lowest are bribed; and although the Secretary has had the evidence of this corruption of his agents brought to his attention time and again, he has neither removed nor brought to trial a single delinquent except CALLICUTT; and the case of that mercenary scoundrel will, we suspect, be so adroitly managed by the government attorney as to elicit no intimation of consequence, and he will finally be permitted to escape punishment and return to the practice of his villainies as the dog returns to his vomit. Indeed, why should district attorneys hesitate to favor defendants, in such cases, with the temptation of a large fee inviting them to an abandonment of duty, when the fact is potent that the highest law officer of the Treasury accepts a fee, or present, or bribe (which ever term may suit best) of some thousands of dollars from the party interested, for securing a claim of large amount against the government. But it is not only in the great eastern cities we have named that these frauds upon the revenue are practiced. Every where throughout the country where there are distilleries or rectifying establishments they prevail to a greater or less extent, winked at by faithless officials, who are not slow in learning that more money is to be made by serving the manufacturers than the government. In New Orleans the system seems to be carried on to a greater extent and with more adroitness and success than elsewhere. There the manufacturers appear to understand thoroughly the business. They have forged what is termed a ring, or association, every member of which must pay a certain monthly tax, the purpose of which is to bribe the Treasury agents to blindness and silence. Thus they pay to the collectors one thousand dollars monthly, to the assessor three hundred dollars, and to subordinates in proportion. In this way they manage to get off by placing one barrel out of every fourteen in a bonded warehouse, one dollar per barrel paid to the inspector securing the proper branding of the thirteen barrels which have never been in bond. If one single instance by connivance of these bribed officials, the government is said to have lost at least one million of dollars; while it appears by the records of an assessor in a district in which twenty-five distilleries and as many rectifying establishments were in constant operation, but twenty-three barrels of whisky paid tax in a period of six months. These facts are well known by the

Secretary of the Treasury, and yet he has up to this time taken no efficient measures to punish the guilty officials, prevent a repetition of the frauds and collect the revenues.

As we said before we are no admirer of any portion of the policy of the mongrel-negro government by which we are now unfortunately cursed; but there are certain revenue laws under which a tax of hundreds of millions is annually assessed upon the people, and which must be made. If it fall short through frauds practiced by distillers and rectifiers of whisky, or manufacturers of any article whatever, it must eventually be extorted from others who have honestly paid what was assessed against them. It is for this reason that we arraign the Secretary of the Treasury for unfaithfulness to duty, for conniving at the corruption of his agents, and permitting one portion of the taxable, best able to pay, to get off, with less than a tenth of their fair proportion of tax, while the other portion, with far narrower means of payment, must eventually be compelled to make up the deficiency.

But what avails complaint, arraignment or expostulation so long as the rottenness of Republicanism is in the ascendant and dishonesty, profligacy and venality rule? Venality and profligacy—these are the tismanic words which hold together the mongrel-negro party. It is these "open sesame's" to sudden wealth and voluptuous enjoyments which have attracted to their standard, the vile and debauched of all sects and parties, and the policy of the leaders is but a reflection of the mercenary propensities and depraved appetites of the hungry and thirsty vampires, leeches, profligates, thieves, mendicants and tatterdemalions who follow them.

So long as this party rules we can look for honesty in no department of the government; and, for any relation the word bears to them or theirs, it might as well be stricken from the dictionary and forgotten.

The Difference.

There is one way of testing the relative merits of the two great antagonistic parties now appealing to the people for a verdict, which, without arousing the passions or offending the prejudices of either side, will point out clearly the course proper to be pursued by every friend of free, constitutional government, in the coming struggle for the Presidency.

The two great parties may be properly distinguished as the Democratic and the Mongrel Negro Republican parties.

Their ideas of government differ as widely as the names by which they are respectively known.

The Democratic party have always been distinguished for their rigid adherence to the restrictions and requirements of the Constitution, for the integrity with which, when in power, they conducted the government in all its branches; for their economy in the appropriation and disbursement of the public funds; for their support of the reserved rights of the States, and for this observance, in official station, of the easy courtesy and simplicity of form which best become the character and genius of our free institutions.

The history of Democratic administrations, from the inauguration of THOMAS JEFFERSON down to the period when sectionalism triumphed and the mongrel negro Republican party was installed in office, clearly shows that such were the principles and practices of the Democratic party. Always acting in consonance with the letter and spirit of the Constitution and the clearly expressed will of the people, all the rights of States and individuals were recognized and supported, wise and impartial laws were enacted and administered, trade flourished, commerce expanded and general prosperity, contentment and happiness blessed the land.

Far different in their principles (if they have any) and in their ideas of government are the Mongrel Negro Republicans who now hold the reins of power, and are using the most corrupt and traitorous means and instruments to retain them.

Over the actions of this party the constitution exercises no controlling power. They use or reject it as it happens to accord with or run counter to their purposes. They hold it in no veneration as a sacred bequest from the fathers, or, as a safe guide through the labyrinth paths of statesmanship and government. In fact they condemn and despise it because it implicates a system of equitable democratic government, too simple for their taste, too limited in its powers for their ambitions. All their efforts, since they came into power, have been directed to one

end—the undermining and final destruction of the system, and the erection in its stead of a powerful Central government under less restrictive republican checks, or a monarchy, supported by an aristocracy and an army.

Their administration has been "characterized by every act that may define tyranny." They have trampled the constitution in the dust; they have passed arbitrary and oppressive laws; they have arrested innocent citizens without warrant and imprisoned them without hearing; they have illegally condemned citizens to death by military tribunals; and executed them, they have deprived ten States of civil government and subjected them to military rule; they have taxed them and refuse them representation; they have deprived the white inhabitants of these States of political power by wholesale disfranchisement, and conferred that power upon the blacks; they have curtailed the power of the President, and aim at destroying it altogether so as to prevent him from defeating their designs; they have aimed a blow at the Supreme Court for the same purpose; they have crushed commerce and destroyed trade by unwise legislation; they have squandered the public funds upon fawning sycophants and corrupt knaves, and weighed down the people with taxes to keep the wheels of government in motion. "All these things they have done, and we have their word for it that they will not go back in their course."

The difference between the two parties is as great as that between light and darkness. If the people want the Union restored and our simple form of government perpetuated, if they want wise, equitable and economical administration and prosperous times; if they want negro equality ignored and rights of white citizens secured, they have but one course to pursue—they must rally under the Democratic flag and elect a Democratic President and Congress.

If on the contrary, they want a continuation of the "reign of terror" and destruction; if they want to see the government changed, the country ruined, and themselves the slaves of despotic power, their course is equally clear—let them rally under the black banner of the mongrel-negro Republicans, elect GRANT, or CHASE, or BUTLER, or whoever else the devil may put into the heads of their Convention to choose, and they will soon realize all their fancies pictured to them of a model government.

The Renegades.

The most infernal whelps in the whole yelping pack of mongrel-negro hell-hounds are the prominent converts from the Democratic party made by bribes of military commissions, or the prospect of plunder during the civil war—as, for instance, the trimmer and tyrant STANTON, who was made Secretary of War, and exercised authority in a manner for which despotic is a mild term; HOLT, whose blood-thirsty disposition evinced itself on every occasion of trial by court martial or military commission in which he took part; BUTLER (the beast) who was made a general, without capacity, played the blackguard tyrant and thief at New Orleans, botched himself at Dutch Gap, and is now one of the meanest wretches and most contemptible scoundrels that compose the catalogue of names that form the present "infamous Congress"; LOGAN, of Illinois, who (as Mrs. Lincoln alleges,) was bought by a Colonel's commission, a low fellow, without talent, genius or principle, whose time is almost wholly absorbed in doing the slang talk and general dirty work of the party; he, too, is a member of the present "infamous" rump, which has done its worst to subvert the government and subject the country to negro domination and military rule. These and such as these, renegades from the Democratic ranks, are foremost among the very lowest and worst of the bad men who are now ruling the country to its ruin. But there is some comfort in the thought that the day of their mis-used power is drawing to a close, and that they will soon be called by the people to a final (and perhaps bloody) settlement of accounts.

They'll run their race as did the French triumvir,
And leave behind a name their soul will rue;
Less bold of heart, but greater far in numbers,
The devil at last will get his honest due.

—Large leaks are being discovered in the revenue office. It is said that the delinquent officers are mostly appointees of the "late lamented."