

The Democratic Watchman,

BELLEFRONTE, PENNA.

E. GRAY FEEK, Editor & Proprietor. JOHN P. MITCHELL, Associate Editor.

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TERMS.—\$2 per year when paid in advance, \$3.00 when not paid in advance, and \$5.00 when not paid before the expiration of the year.

Democratic State Convention.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Jan. 6, 1868.

The Democratic State Committee of Pennsylvania have fixed WEDNESDAY, THE FOURTH (4th) DAY OF MARCH, 1868, at 12 o'clock, 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 usual 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 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. DUNN, Sec'y.

The Evil and the Remedy.

It is far better not to be educated at all than to be educated falsely. The condition of affairs at this moment in the United States is the best proof we could give of the truth of this assertion. The people pretending to possess the highest degree of education, have had all their intellectual forces guided into wrong channels, and the ruin which overhauled our nation is the result. Some weeks ago we published an article in which we undertook to show that a person might be highly educated, and yet utterly incompetent to exercise the rights of a free citizen of a free government. It would be just as absurd for a man who was an accomplished carpenter to say that having acquired one trade he was master of all, as for a man educated in other branches to say he was accomplished in the art of government; and yet that is the very absurdity of which the people of this country have been guilty. Let any honest man who has hitherto given support to the Radical party, turn back to the time when he attended school, and see if he has ever made any attempt to make himself acquainted with our system of government—complex as it is—or whether he has allowed himself to pick up vague notions of his rights and duties under it, from the spread-eagle speeches of fourth-of-July orators, and incompetent stump speakers. Not one in twenty of them but will be forced to the shameful acknowledgment that they have never even read the Constitution that they have never studied the principles upon which our fathers established the republic, and that they do not even know the functions of the different branches into which the government is divided. We know they will reach this conclusion, for we have often forced those of their party to it who were leaders of the politics of a whole community. We need not adduce proof on this point, for we know that the observation of all intelligent men has already brought home to them the truth of what we allege.

If the rank and file of the Mongrel organization could once be convinced of the fact that they not only know nothing about the true principles of this government, but that they have imbibed the most false and destructive ideas concerning it, it would be an easy task to teach them the truth as laid down by the founders of the Republic. It is harder to get these false ideas removed, fortified as they are behind a blind and savage fanaticism, than it is to teach true ones, hence it is better to have no education at all than to have a false one.

It may be said by some that the Mongrel party are generally as well educated and as intelligent as the Democrats, and in a general sense we believe this is true. It may even be true that they possess more of what is called education than the people who compose our party do. But this does not touch the question. It would be hard to find a Democrat anywhere who did not reverence and respect the Constitution of the country, and who would not stand ready to sacrifice all party and personal interests for its preservation. It would be impossible to find one who did not regard it as binding upon all our citizens alike, and who would not turn with indignation from any proposition to use the government it created

for "any purpose of conquest or subjugation" in any state or territory of the United States. In fact, there is a great mistake throughout this country as to what sort of education best fits a man for understanding governmental affairs. The Democratic fathers, many of whom went peacefully to rest under the government they loved, received by tradition and transmitted to their children the great principles for which their sires had fought against British tyranny. A Democrat who could not read received from his father the practical ideas which had induced him to struggle through a long and bloody war, and he never forgot them, but handed them to his children in turn, in whose hearts they are held as sacred now as they were by our grandfathers in the days of the revolution. Of course a Democrat who is educated possesses the advantages of other educated people, and can do more for his party and his principles than one with fewer acquirements, but his reverence for those principles, and his understanding of the important objects they are to attain for him and his country are no greater or better than those of the least educated man in our ranks.

This is the great difference between our people and those who compose the live men of the opposition. Their traditions are bad, and all their habits lead them to adopt anything rather than the principles which their fathers hated when they proved their "loyalty" by adhering to the cause of the British king, and which hatred has been transmitted from sire to son from that day to this. While it is true that the political party which opposed the Democracy in the first years of its existence has changed its name scores of times, and even at times became the advocate of principles which were respectable, it is a fact that the torments of the revolution always adhered to the opposition to Democracy, whatever form that opposition took, and that the descendants of torys still adhere to anything which will give them an opportunity to fight the Democratic party. It is true that at times men of good Democratic antecedents have gone over to the opposition, but never until they had committed some mean or unlawful act, which made it impossible for them to be any longer respectable Democrats, and which seemed exactly to qualify them for leaders of the opposition.

Enough has perhaps been said to illustrate our position in regard to the kinds of education a man needs to qualify him to exercise intelligently his rights as a sovereign of this great country. It is not necessary that he be an accomplished scholar, but only that he understands the real principles which underlie our whole system of government, and that he be honest, patriotic and watchful of those in public positions. These qualifications any man in this country may possess if he will, and it is criminal in those who do not do their utmost to acquire them.

The vague and foolish notions about the inherent rights of this government, and in regard to government existing at all outside of the Constitution now so very prevalent throughout the party which supports the Rump Congress, prove positively that those who entertain them are not fit to vote at all, for they do not understand the purpose for which they vote, and utterly mistake the objects for which the government was erected.

Now for all this we want a remedy. For men of Anglo-Saxon blood are not going to give up the struggle to maintain free government, because there are obstacles to overcome. Great mischief has been done and is still being done by the circulation of such newspapers as FORNEY'S Press and the New York Tribune. Democrats ought not to take them, touch them or look at them any more than they would at some fearful physical poison, which was intended to destroy a whole community. Their circulation ought to be discouraged in every lawful way, and the doctrines they disseminate carefully guarded against. To antidote the effects of the poison they have already spread, sound Democratic papers and literature generally ought to be furnished to every one willing to read. A fund ought to be raised in every community for the purpose of furnishing those with good reading matter who are not able to furnish themselves. Democratic newspapers ought to be circulated in such quantities that their doctrines would reach all who are willing to read, and for this purpose men who are able should subscribe and pay for half a dozen papers to be sent to their poor neighbors. In this way we may counteract the tremendous efforts of Mongrelism to overthrow the government, and in due build up a majori-

ty party based on the soundest principles, and against which the waves of sectionalism and fanaticism may beat in vain.

The United States Debt.

Secretary McCULLOCH informs us in his last monthly statement that the debt of the United States on the 1st of this month amounted to \$1,027,069,313 (two thousand five hundred and twenty seven millions six hundred and thirty thousand, three hundred and thirteen dollars.) We have an idea that a closer scrutiny than any Secretary of the Treasury has yet given the financial affairs of the government, would show a much larger amount of indebtedness. If our memory serves us rightly in this matter, we think we might quote the authority of THAD. STEVENS for putting it at four thousand millions when all claims against the government shall be finally settled. But the sum stated by Secretary McCULLOCH is large enough to put us into a brown study as to how and when (if ever) it is to be paid. This vast debt is a legacy of the war, which resulted in freeing some three or four millions of semi-barbarous negroes and ennobling some eight or ten millions of civilized, intelligent white people. It was contracted, we were told, to "save the life of the nation," but instead of "saving the life of the nation," the party in power that contracted the debt and squandered the money, have so managed it by lopping off nearly a third of its members that it is now languishing in the agonies of death, and under the empirical treatment to which it is subjected by the quacks and impostors who have the case in charge, must soon die outright, unless the people employ more skillful physicians who will pursue a very different course of treatment. But the questions now pressing upon us are "How is this debt to be paid?" "When will it be paid?" "Ought it to be paid?" We can see but one way of paying it, if it is paid, and that is by taxation. The people are already taxed on all the luxuries and necessities of life, on all the proceeds of thrift and industry, on salaries and notes and bonds (except the government bonds for this very debt) and mortgages and receipts; on all they eat, drink, or wear, on all they see, hear, taste, smell or think of, on everything, in short, from a needle to an anchor, to an amount approximating, if not exceeding three hundred millions of dollars. One hundred and fifty or sixty millions of this tax are absorbed in payment of the interest on the public debt—the other one hundred and fifty millions are consumed in supporting a large standing army used mainly in supporting negro equality, on a freedmen's Bureau and its various branches, established for the same purpose, in supplying rations to lazy negroes, in reconstructing States, some of which were constructed before most of their present constructors were born, in paying a rump mongrel Congress for destroying the government and enslaving and ruining the country, and in other like worthy purposes. Now, if the people have resolved in earnest to pay this debt, it is time they were looking into their financial affairs and determining each for himself how much more taxation he can bear. Can they stand, and will they patiently and patriotically pay twenty per centum more—that is an additional sixty millions every year? If so they can pay it off in the course of forty or fifty years or thereabouts, and satisfy their "loyal" hearts at the expense of craving stomachs and ragged backs. As to whether, if paid, it should be paid in government promises, worth from sixty to seventy cents on the dollar, according to the fluctuations of the market, or in gold, that is equally a question for the tax payer to decide. One thing is certain, while the mongrel negro thieves remain in power, no matter what amount is squeezed out of the people in taxes, but a small amount of it will be used in reducing the debt. But now, as to the final question: "Ought this debt to be paid?" All honest debts, whether of governments or individuals should be paid. But is this heavy government debt, this legacy of a purposely prolonged and badly conducted war, this vampyre that is sucking the life-blood of the people, an honest debt? Was not the war for the most part a mere speculation, urged on and kept up by all descriptions of sharpers and stock gamblers and speculators and swindlers and thieves, including the principal members of the administration and of Congress, the men who voted and contracted the debt—all of whom in one way and another managed to fill their pocket books to repletion with the money which the people were told was intended to be used in con-

ducting the war? Was not this debt contracted under false pretences, and is not most of it held now in government five-twenties and seven thirties and ten forties, by the rascals who stole most largely, or made millions out of large contracts at high prices by the convenience of government officials who participated in the spoils?

Certainly, if the debt is an honest one it should be paid. But the question of its honesty should be first settled, before the people are called upon to pay it either in government paper or in gold. The idea strikes us at this moment—and we think it is worth suggesting—that the only way in which the debt ought to be paid, if paid at all, would be to tax heavily the bonds and forms a sinking fund with the proceeds by which the debt could be gradually extinguished. In this way the bond-holders could pay the debt and paradoxical as it may seem, still make money by their investment.

Let Us Organize at Once.

President JOHNSON is once more threatened with impeachment and removal from office, for the exercise of his constitutional functions, and for doing what all his predecessors from WASHINGTON to LINCOLN claim of the right to do without question from any one, or from any department of the government. STANTON refuses to retire from the Cabinet, the President attempts to compel him to do so, and the Rump Congress, itself an illegal and revolutionary body, undertakes to prevent the removal and to hurl down the Constitution and JOHNSON together. At the present writing, (Thursday afternoon,) it is impossible to tell what turn affairs will take, or what new duty may fall upon the people of the country at any moment. But enough has been seen already to convince all men of sense that we are hourly threatened with revolution, and it becomes us to make preparation for any turn which affairs may take. Let no one fail in this hour of peril. Democrats in every election district ought to meet together and organize thoroughly, that we may be able to have concert of action in any contingency which may arise. Let these meetings be open and public, that all who wish may see and hear what is going on. We have nothing to conceal, and nothing to be ashamed of, but we intend to vote to sustain our principles at every opportunity, and to fight for them too, if the dread issue is forced upon us, and we care not who knows it. We need thorough and perfect organization for the approaching campaign, which will doubtless be one of the warmest ever conducted in this country, and we want to know also how many able-bodied men we have who are ready to face danger, and death if need be, for the preservation of the government our fathers left us. We want to have our forces well in hand for any contest which may be forced upon us. It does very well to talk about the array of stalwart men who are ready to rise up for the defence of our imperiled institutions, and no one of sense will presume to deny that we have the material. But we want something more than this, we want to understand each other, that we may move in concert and move to some purpose. Let meetings be held in every township—and let our Radical brethren attend them if they will—at which the names of those who are willing to do and bear all that is required of them as citizens of a free country shall be enrolled, and expressions given to the feelings which are aroused by the destructive measures of the revolutionists at Washington. All this should be done "decently and in order." Let there be no violence, no insults to the opposition, nothing to further excite the already heated passions of the people; but let Democrats meet at their usual places of meeting, freely express their sentiments, and organize themselves into societies. Let it be understood that these organizations are for the purpose of carrying out our principles at the polls, and of defending them by the last resort of freemen if we are compelled to do so. We do not want strife, we deprecate it as much as men can, and will suffer much rather than see the country torn by the dread scourge of nations. But there is a time when submission is cowardly, when to stay the uplifted arm of vengeance and justice is a crime, and when men of noble impulse will die rather than live in slavery. For such a time let us be prepared; and it may be that even now we have but few days to do all that is to be done. Let no time be lost until we have thorough and perfect organization, and an understanding with the enemy and among ourselves,

that from the mountains and valleys of old Centre, thousands of men are ready to start up compactly organized in defence of the sacred principles which have preserved our liberties so long, and which we are determined shall still shield the liberties of our children.

It is with a heavy heart we acknowledge the necessity for such organization as we speak of. God knows we do not desire to see kindled the flames of a war which must drench the country in blood and bring upon us such misery and suffering as was never endured by any portion of our people before. The man who speaks lightly of this thing is a fool or a blood thirsty demon. With parties almost equally divided at the North, and with a horde of semi-savage blacks at the South, we are in a condition now to eclipse all the horrors of the French revolution, and to carry on a war of extermination for years to come. Let no Democrat do aught hastily or fanatically. Let all be done deliberately, carefully, peacefully if possible, and with prayers to God to avert the danger which menaces our country, and the necessity for the employment of aught but peaceful weapons for the preservation of our liberties.

The Alabama Constitution.

The Mongrel Congress reconstruction law authorizing the formation of Constitutions in the Southern States now under military control, provides that no constitution submitted to the people for ratification shall be considered adopted unless a majority of the registered voters of the State take part in the election, and a majority of the votes cast shall be in favor of ratification. At the late election in Alabama the Constitution recently made by the mongrel white and black negro Convention was submitted for ratification, but so indifferent were the people who had the privilege of voting, that the vote polled fell fifteen thousand short of a majority of registered voters. Thus plainly, according to the letter of the law, the Constitution was defeated—but so anxious are the mongrels to have the vote of their southern negro allies at the Presidential election, that immediately on the receipt of the intelligence of the Alabama mis-carriage at Washington, Senator SHERMAN introduced an act in which it is set forth that the "Constitution has been ratified by a majority of qualified persons voting on the question of 'ratification,' and that 'the State of Alabama is entitled to representation in Congress, and Senators and Representatives shall be admitted therefrom on their taking the oath prescribed by law.' This act, or one having the same object in view, will no doubt be passed by the spurious Mongrel Congress. That body of infernals will hesitate at no deed, however black, to make their success certain. They have, from first to last of their reign, spat upon and spurned the constitution whenever it stood in their way, and now so reckless and shameless have they become, they repudiate and set aside their own act, and, without even the formality of repealing it, declare the adoption of a Constitution under which it was defeated, and propose to admit a State, with full representation in Congress, what their reconstruction laws declare to be no State, but territory subject to their government and control. And all this for a mere party purpose—for securing the electoral vote of Alabama for their Presidential candidate. Could audacity go farther? Could the devil himself show a more unabashed and brazen countenance? But the end is not yet. Alabama and all the other declared southern territories will be admitted as States in time to cast the negro vote for the Mongrel candidate. If with these negro votes she should have a majority of electoral votes, they will attempt to count them and install their candidate. Then will come the last act of the drama—then we shall see what stuff the people are made of.

—Laboring men are paid in paper money for hard work. With this they are compelled to buy gold at an advance of twenty five or thirty per cent to pay the rich banker for furnishing them with shipplasters. This arrangement was made by the "poor man's party." How do poor men like it.

—When Pennsylvanians want some one to lead them in the conflict between traitors in Congress and a back-bone wanting President, they will choose some other fellow than the one who allowed an enemy to spit in his face, when governor of Kansas, and had not the courage to resent the insult. BRAVE GEARY!

Auditor General.

Judging from the general appearance of the political skies, the next Democratic candidate for Auditor General, will be Dr. D. A. MARKLEY of Norristown. We are glad that such is the appearance. We will be particularly pleased of the proceedings of our State convention that meets on Wednesday next, should verify our prediction—pleased because we know no better man could be found within the limits of the Commonwealth—pleased because it would be a merited compliment to a deserving Democrat—pleased because we would have a man of principle, an honest, worthy, capable, gentleman to support in the coming contest, and pleased because we would feel assured that Dr. MARKLEY's personal popularity, political integrity and acknowledged worth, would add to our majority next fall thousands upon thousands of votes. To secure Democratic success we must have tried and true men upon our ticket—men who are known to be Democrats from principle, and who are fitted in every respect to be standard bearers of the great party that is now fighting the battles of Constitutional liberty and white supremacy. DR. MARKLEY is one of these. Let him be nominated, and give us for Surveyor General a candidate equally as popular and worthy, and twenty thousand, will be a small majority for the Democracy of Pennsylvania to roll up in October next.

Candidate for Surveyor General.

DAVID CARSKADDON Esq, is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Surveyor General. We know of no one better qualified for the position or whose nomination would be better received by the Democracy of this part of the State. Mr. CARSKADDON is well known as one of the most intelligent, sound and reliable Democrats in the State, and will run a full vote here if he receives the nomination. We consider that the Democracy of this section are entitled to some consideration at the hands of their brethren throughout the State. In the very darkest hours of ruin and defeat to our party, Centre and Chilton counties stood firmly to the work, and bore up our honored banner in spite of the persecution of foes and the treachery of friends. Other counties may have heavier majorities, but they have not got half so contond with that we must overcome here, and we think the country cannot produce a more firm and faithful band of Democrats than is to be found in the central counties of the State, almost surrounded as they are by Egyptian darkness. Mr. CARSKADDON is the undoubted choice of the people of this section, and his nomination would greatly gratify those with whom he has firmly stood during the trials of the past seven years.

NEEDS BAKING—The bread being, who is acting as governor of Pennsylvania, needs to be baked about three months. In the condition he now is in—bursting with egotism, and fearfully soft—he can be used by designing politicians, as a child uses a bunch of dough made into any shape desired—used for any purpose needed. A skillful tongue in ten minutes, can fill him so full of conceit, with flattery, that he really is in danger of bursting—and when in this condition it needs less skill to have him do whatever is wanted than to guide an inflated balloon. It was CAMERON'S flattery that got the foolish, lying message, about soldiers' foul uncleaning to stand by the traitors in Congress, out of him on Saturday last. He was soft enough to believe that such a course would make him the Mongrel candidate for Vice President. Poor fool. Nature did a wicked thing in turning him out with as little brains, as he has proven himself to possess. His proper place would be in some retreat for idiotic children and feeble minded women.

—The Ex-general and hero of Snickersville, now stuffed to represent a governor of Pennsylvania, telegraphs to Congress that men are offering to fight for their cause. We suppose the governor has had some assurance from Union Leagues, and other secret organizations of the Mongrels, that they would march and fight for the Rump and the monger. Well, let them march; but let them look well to whom they leave behind, and consider the consequences before they start. When members of leagues, or of any other revolutionary organization, leave any part of the country to go to the assistance of the traitors at Washington who are pulling down the government, Democrats will see to it that they are well sustained in the rear. We will give them an impetus to start with which will carry some of them to a worse place even than Washington, and light them on their way by the flames kindled in their own homes.