

The Democratic Watchman.

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

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Friday Morning, May 12, 1871.

Democratic State Convention.

HEADQUARTERS DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE OF PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA, April 24th, 1871.—The delegates chosen to the Democratic State Convention will assemble in the chamber of the House of Representatives, at Harrisburg, on Wednesday, May 24th, 1871, for the purpose of nominating candidates for Auditor General and Surveyor General, and for the consideration of matters relating to the organization of the party and the advancement of its principles. The convention will be called to order at ten o'clock a m. By order of the State Committee. W. MUTCHLER, Chairman.

The Emperor's Proclamation.

We print in another place, a proclamation by the Emperor NISSISS, in regard to the enforcement of the Ku Klux bill to deprive American citizens of their liberty. In this proclamation the Emperor plainly tells us that he will not hesitate to make use of all his unconstitutional powers, whenever he has the opportunity. With ill concealed triumph he repeats to us that the provisions of the Ku Klux bill apply to every State in the Union, and gives us to understand our courts, our Legislatures and our Governors are all at the disposal of his sovereign will. AND THIS IS ALL TRUE. That's the worst part of it. Congress has given him the power to suspend, at his own pleasure, the great writ of *habeas corpus*, the palladium of civil liberty. When the Emperor tells us that he has this power, he is making no idle boast. A word from him, or the touch of a little bell *a la SEWARD*, would consign us all to the dungeons or bastilles of the land. He is, indeed, Emperor and Autocrat. The beck of his royal finger can send GO GEARY to Portress Monroe or Lafayette, or to the infamous old Capitol prison at Washington. And as he can do in Pennsylvania, so can he do in every State of the Union. HOFFMAN, of New York, is no safer than GEARY of Pennsylvania, or WALKER, of Virginia. All, under the late act of Congress, are subject to the Imperial decree—mere slaves to the whims of this usurper of royal prerogatives.

But, while leaving to the North, "Obey me, or your States shall feel the weight of my sovereign displeasure," the Emperor particularly threatens the poor South, which is already prostrate beneath his iron heel. It is there that the tyrant expects to first exercise his despotic power. It is there that he intends to make the first grand *coup d'etat*. The first slight disturbance that occurs in one of those States will be the excuse for him to send his armed minions to take possession of the State, declare martial law, and assume the Government of it himself. This, the initiatory step, being accomplished, it will be very easy to take the next one, and thus eventually, popular government will be blotted out from the South, and the whole country come under his personal control to be manipulated, as it may please him, for the advancement of his own unholy ambition.

There is only one hope for the country, and that lies in the strong determination of the people to resist to the death—peaceably, if they can, but otherwise, if they must—the execution of this infamous law. The Radical Congress has sold the liberties of the country to a grasping, avaricious, despotic, unprincipled and ignorant dictator, who knows nothing and cares for nothing but his own individual aggrandizement. In the people alone is now our last hope. Our rulers have betrayed us, and we are indeed lost if we do not save ourselves.

— There has been more private legislation for the Radical cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburg during the present session of the Legislature than for the entire State besides. It is in private legislation that corruption is dominant, and if the radical politicians of these two fanatic-cursed cities would be content with what other people are content with, the Legislature of this Commonwealth would not bear the stigma that now clings to it. But so long as we have Radical cities and Radical Legislators we can hope for no improvement that will bring about desired results.

Geary as a Workingman.

Great is GEARY—in his own estimation. Great, good, generous and just would he have himself in the estimation of the toiling masses of our Commonwealth. To hear him talk one would imagine that his back was bent with the terrible weight of unceasing toil, and his hands hard, bony and blistered from continued use of the pick, the axe and plough. He leaves no occasion pass by that he does not tell of his love for the laborer and his desire to protect the working masses of our population, and yet in all his life he has never done a week's work, and in all his official career has never been instrumental in securing a single benefit for that class of citizens.

Perhaps we should not say he has never worked. What we mean is, he has never done muscular, manual labor. Such work as the hard-fisted, sunburned farmer, woodmen and day-laborers do; such work as the aching-backed, coal blacked miners do; such work as the weary, poorly paid mechanics do; such work as the hundreds of thousands of honest, industrious citizens of this Commonwealth, who earn their bread by the sweat of their brows, are daily required to accomplish.

To be fair, we must admit GEARY has worked. He is a "workaholic."

He worked once upon a time, upon the old Portage railroad, to rob the State and the workmen under him.

He worked when in Mexico to find a place to hide in.

He worked while in Kansas to betray the party and the friends from whom he got the position he held.

He worked during the late war to keep out of harm's way, and get his newspaper correspondent imbued with an idea of his greatness.

He worked during his last political campaign to make the people believe he did not pardon TWITCHELL.

He worked up at Bloomsburg once to impress the Sunday school children with the idea that some of them might at some future day become as great men as Governor GEARY, and some of them wives of as great men.

He has worked ever since he got into the gubernatorial chair, to impress the people with the idea that he should have a higher and better position, and is now working—assiduously, intently, demagogically working to make the workingmen believe that he is the only friend they have in this broad Commonwealth—that he is the "Moses" that will deliver them from the bondage of Capital, and lead them into the green pastures and by the still waters of ease and contentment.

It is his presidential aspirations that make him the blathering, pretentious friend of labor that he is. It is only blather and pretence, for who in this broad land can point to a single act of GEARY's that had for its especial object the amelioration of the condition of the working classes? Who can name a single instance in which his actions have not been to favor capital, and his words to favor labor?

We have simply to warn the workmen against relying upon his friend ship or good intentions. When he has used them for his own benefit, he will cast them aside as a worn out shoe.

The Next President—James Thompson, of Erie.

The following article from the *Western Press* has been copied by many of our Democratic exchanges. That Judge THOMPSON is an able man and would make a good President there is no doubt, and we hope that our national convention will be wise enough, if it does not take him, to at least select some man of equal ability. What is now wanted in this country is Statesmanship and honesty and the courage to meet and discharge faithfully and efficiently every duty. The *Western Press* says:

We are for Judge Thompson, but for a far better reason than that of his birth and locality. We are for him, because under all circumstances we think him the best fitted man in the country for the post. He is a man of the people—a graduate of the printing office. They have frequently made him their representative—at Harrisburg at Washington—and he always rose to the full measure of their most sanguine expectations. In no public station has he proved a failure, and all that he has occupied he has adorned with grace honorable alike to himself and the confidence that trusted him with power. As Chief Justice of the State he has made an impish record, that for all time will hand his name down to posterity as one of the most just and able jurists whose joint labors have given the Pennsylvania reports a world-wide reputation. Unconnected with party or partisan politics and eliques for the last fifteen years, he stands in a position to be fair and just to all. Pure, generous in his impulses and imbued with a manly detestation of the thiefing that is constantly insinuating itself into trusted places to rob and plunder the people, we know no one that would be more likely to serve them efficiently in the high office of President.

In presenting the name of Judge Thompson for President, no unknown name is offered. In every State in the Union, it is appreciated as the name of one who stands in the front ranks of American statesmen—one of those who have been tried and never been found wanting either in ability, industry, or courage—of one competent to the place from his training, his habits, his party, and his high mental powers. The Democrats want no military clap-net in their next nominee. The people are sickening of such trash. The administration of General Grant and about it, and the idleness that favors drums and gunpowder. The sending of armed troops to overrun the people in the exercise of their elective rights has started many a man for President and the people now want a man for President who understands somewhat of the Constitu-

tion of his country, and who, when he takes the inauguration oath "to preserve, protect and defend it," has some idea of the force of the solemn obligation taken upon himself. In Judge Thompson is presented the man for the occasion—a man who bows before the majesty of the law, of matured judgment and experience, unconnected with eliques, no one likes to punish or friends to reward, and who can enter upon the duties of office with clean hands, and pure purposes.—From the *Western Press*, Pennsylvania.

The People's Pictorial Taxpayer, is the name of a publication that has been sent us by the American Free Trade League of New York, which happily illustrates the effects of an oppressive tariff upon the industry of the country. Here is the story of an American farmer, as told in words and pictures by this paper:

"He rises in the morning, puts on his flannel shirt, taxed sixty-five per cent., and his trousers sixty per cent., his vest taxed sixty per cent., and his overcoat taxed, cloth sixty, buttons forty, brass sixty, lining sixty, and padding one hundred and fifty per cent., draws on his boots taxed thirty-five per cent., puts on some coal taxed fifty per cent., in his stove taxed fifty-five per cent., sits down to breakfast from a plate taxed forty-five per cent., with a knife and fork, thirty-five per cent., seasons his food with salt taxed one hundred and eighty per cent., and pepper one hundred and twenty, reads the *Free Trader's* paper taxed twenty, ink thirty-five, and type twenty-five per cent.—puts on his hat taxed seventy per cent., smokes a Havana taxed one hundred and fifty per cent., latches his horses, shod with nails taxed sixty-seven per cent., to a plow forty-five, with chains one hundred, with harness thirty-five; goes afterwards to a village store and buys goods for his wife, taxed at the following rates: A handkerchief, thirty-five, shawl two hundred, woolen dress one hundred, hat forty, stockings seventy-five, shoes thirty-five, umbrella sixty, rice eighty-two, soap seventy, candles forty, paint twenty-five, starch fifty, needles twenty-five, thread seventy-three, paper twenty, gloves fifty, books twenty-five, pins thirty-five—they get a ballot and votes under the "old flag" taxed one hundred per cent., for a Free Trade candidate for congress.

He sees his grain going east on rails taxed \$3,000 a mile, in iron cars taxed fifty per cent., drawn by a locomotive taxed forty-five per cent. Heart sick, he takes a last look at his tools taxed from thirty-five to one hundred and fifty per cent., and finally wearied with thinking how the tariff robs him, he goes to his bed, made of wood, taxed twenty per cent., draws over him a sheet taxed fifty-five per cent., a blanket taxed two hundred and forty per cent., and takes a dose of quinine, taxed forty-five per cent. Finally he yields the unequal struggle and thus is his end. His fate is recorded on marble taxed seventy per cent., and he goes to the happy land where tariffs are unknown."

The "Pictorial Taxpayer" is to be obtained from the American Free Trade League, New York city, at the rate of five cents per copy. It should be in the hands of every intelligent thinking man in the Union.

—As was expected, the Radical committee of the Connecticut Legislature appointed to canvass the votes cast in the late election for Governor, have counted Governor ENGLISH out and MARSHALL JEWELL in. That this is a fraud there isn't the shadow of a doubt. The election was a very close one, but ENGLISH had a fair majority of the votes cast. In one precinct, where the Radicals said that ENGLISH had received more votes than he ought to have had, the Committee, Radical as it was, found that the Democratic count was exactly right, but that JEWELL had one hundred fraudulent votes.—In the face of this how can that same committee now give JEWELL a majority of 86 votes? There is fraud right on the face of it, and he must indeed be blind who cannot see it.

—Now that the dead-lock in the Senate and House at Harrisburg has been broken up, the probability is that, as the end of the session approaches, a great deal of hasty and ill-considered legislation will be rushed through. The calendars of both Houses are filled with private bills, many of which are of a very doubtful character. We think it behooves our legislators to attend closely to their business just at this juncture, and watch that the people be not burdened with another lot of useless and vexatious special laws. Let us have all the legislation that is necessary for the general benefit of the State, but do not spend time and money in imposing upon the people a host of frauds and absurdities.

—One day we are told that the Joint High Commission at Washington has satisfactorily concluded its labors, and that all the questions in dispute between England and this Government have been amicably settled. The next day this is contradicted, and we are on the verge of a bloody war! And so it goes. Really, outside of the members of the Commission and the Emperor and his cabinet, nobody knows much about it. We don't think, however, there is any danger of a war, for his imperial majesty, ULTRAS I, is much better at making war upon his own countrymen than upon a

foreign enemy. A couple of roars from the British lion would soon bring him down upon his marrow-bones.

—There are more troubles in the coal regions, about Scranton, and riots have again occurred. Three or four men have been killed, and a general feeling of insecurity prevails throughout that community. It seems strange that some agreement cannot be arrived at between the miners and their employers, whereby this rioting, and bloodshed might be made to cease.

Representative Conference.

The following are the proceedings of the Representative Conference, which met at Lewistown, on the 31st instant. It will be seen that, like the Senatorial conference at Huntingdon, it first instructed for Hon. S. T. Shugert for Auditor General, and afterwards for Dr. Markley:

Pursuant to notice the Representative Conference of the counties of Juniata, Mifflin and Huntingdon met in Lewistown, on Monday, May 3d, 1871. The following gentlemen presented their credentials and were admitted as delegates:

Huntingdon—John S. Miller, R. B. Foust and F. Helright
Mifflin—George Bates, Reed Sample, G. Wiley,
Juniata—L. B. Louden, L. W. Kinsey, David Fowler.

On motion, George Wiley, was elected President, and S. B. Louden, Secretary.

On motion, J. B. Selheimer and B. R. Foust were elected as delegates to the Democratic State Convention.

The following resolutions were presented and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the delegates elected this day by this Representative Conference, be and they are hereby instructed to use all legitimate and honorable means to secure the nomination of the Hon. S. T. Shugert, of Centre county, for Auditor General, and if after having exhausted all fair and legitimate means available for that purpose, it shall prove impossible to secure Mr. Shugert's nomination, then to that extent, we deem it our duty as well as our privilege to name Dr. Markley of Bucks county, as the second choice of this district for that important office, and hereby instruct our delegates under such circumstances to labor for and secure his nomination.

Resolved, That the delegates this day elected be and are hereby instructed to use all honorable means to secure the nomination of H. Stewart Wilson, Esq. of Dauphin county for Surveyor General.

GEORGE WILEY, Pres't.
S. B. LOUDEN, Sec'y.

The Platform of 1872.

For sometime past a number of the leading Democratic papers both north and south have been discussing the position the party should assume in the next Presidential campaign. Whilst we consider this movement as rather premature, still if conducted in the proper spirit and with the proper end in view, it would do no harm and might be the means of accomplishing much good. If on the other hand it is for the purpose of forestalling the action of the party in the national convention of 1872 it can be of no benefit and may result in great disaster. Democrats cannot be brow beaten and bullied into positions which their consciences do not approve or their judgments commend: they are not so servile and subservient as their opponents, they think and act, each man for himself, and if any newspaper or any man or set of men think they can force their peculiar tenets down their throats they will find out their mistake when, perhaps, too late. The course of the party during the late war has demonstrated this; for without fear, favor or affection, standing upon the Constitution and the exposition of it made by its father, they marched right on, heeding not the calumny and abuse that was heaped upon it, nor the prosecutions and injuries that many of its members suffered. Its actions were based upon principles and it swerved not, either to the right or left; but went right on.

Shall we now forsake our principles? That is the question we are forced to consider by the course of some of our party journals whose sole cry is expediency and success. None, more earnestly than we, desire success; but not at the sacrifice of honor and principle. Rather, a thousand times rather, that the Republicans should control this government for years to come, than that we by dressing ourselves up in their old and worn out clothing; by commending that which we have always heretofore denounced as unconstitutional, arbitrary and tyrannical, and still believe to be so—should succeed. If our principles are correct, honest and just we must eventually and surely succeed, and let us stand firm and true to them; if we cannot approve them, then let us act with those whose principles we can approve. But so long as we believe ourselves in the right let us fight our fight ever.

The tenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States, embodies in a condensed form the principles and platform of the Democratic party. "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively or to the people." In other words—all power residing in the people of the several States, they are only deprived of the exercise of that which they have delegated to their federal or state governments or prohibited to themselves in the Constitutions of the same. We believe in civil liberty and self government. Our opponents in just the reverse; they desire a strong centralized, consolidated, or despotic government, call it by whichever name you choose. Standing and acting upon these principles, as we have in the past, can we endorse the so-called 14th and 15th amendments and the reconstruction act? We think not. These amendments we have always alleged were illegally forced upon us and the reconstruction acts passed in violation of the

Constitution. We still believe these to be unconstitutional, null and void and cannot by now endorsing them commend the wisdom of our opponents and acknowledge ourselves in error believing as we do just the reverse. But it is urged we must "accept accomplished facts." What are the accomplished facts which we are bound to accept?

Are they constitutional amendments and laws passed without authority and in direct violation of law? Did we accept the alien and sedition laws? Only so long as we could not help ourselves. Have not many and various tariff and other laws been altered and abolished over and over again although accepted at first when we had power to do nothing else? Does might make right? It is suggested that amendments to the Constitution are very different things from mere laws passed by Congress. In what respect; if both are passed in violation of the fundamental law, are not both null and void? But they have been proclaimed as part and parcel of the Constitution by the proper authority. Can the proclamation of that which is false be binding? Judge Stephens in his admirable speech delivered in January last says—"I, sir, know of no power—either on the earth or above it or under it—that has jurisdiction to proclaim laws. Nay, sir, I know of no power which has jurisdiction to proclaim Amendments to the Constitution. According to my reading of that instrument, amendments constitutionally proposed shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the Constitution when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States or by Conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress. The ratification by three-fourths of the States acting through their Legislatures or their Conventions, sets the seal of validity on the amendment and makes it a part of the Constitution. Nothing else can do it. It must be a true ratification by a true Legislature or a true Convention of the State. A false ratification by a true Legislature of the State will not do. A true ratification by a spurious Legislature will not do. The validity of the amendment and its authority as a part of the Constitution, are made to depend upon the historic truth of its ratification as required by the Constitution. Proclamations of falsehoods from Presidents, or from any body else, have nothing to do with the subject."

If the power exists to make amendments and laws by mere proclamation, can they not be repealed in the same way?

As a matter of expediency why accept such so-called "accomplished facts"? Nothing could be gained. All the political capital to be made out of such a move has already been reaped by the Republicans who were the authors and perpetrators of these frauds. Besides we believe our course upon these measures has resulted in decided advantage to our party; otherwise how can you account for the loss of seven hundred votes in the Congressional majority in this county at the late election, notwithstanding our antagonists were reinforced by about one thousand negro votes?

No, our course, both in principal and policy has been right, and when by reason of that very course victory is within our grasp it is no time to beat a retreat and leave the field and our new allies to our enemies. Whilst negro suffrage is and must be odious and repugnant to every decent and respectable citizen, who has the slightest self pride or love of his country and its institutions, the evil does not terminate here for the acceptance of these amendments as "accomplished facts" would be to create precedents that must certainly end in the destruction of our government. These amendments and reconstruction acts must be wiped out and the power to regulate suffrage left where it originally and rightfully belonged—in the States. Each being free to act as it may see fit. With this the Democracy will be satisfied and with nothing short of it. And we venture to predict that the men who in the convention of 1872, would attempt to commit the party to these amendments, would not make a respectable corporal's guard. That there may be such an effort made is quite likely, for where is the political organization that has not in its ranks at least a few who would sacrifice principle, honor and honesty for the sake of success; but made it will be struggled in its birth.

Let us remain true to the faith; faithful among the faithless, and with our feet firmly planted upon the Constitution, with Jefferson and Madison for our guides we can overcome any force our enemies may bring against us. Never let it be said that the Democracy participated in the death blow to civil liberty and self government in the United States of America.—West Chester Jeffersonian.

Ku Klux Bill—Grant's Proclamation.

The President has issued the following proclamation: "An act to enforce the provisions of the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes," approved April 20, A. D. 1871, being a law of extraordinary public importance, I consider it my duty to issue this, my proclamation, calling the attention of the people of the United States thereto, enjoining upon all good citizens, and especially upon public officers, to be zealous in the enforcement thereof, and warning all persons to abstain from committing any of the acts thereby prohibited.

The law of Congress applies to all parts of the United States, and will be enforced everywhere to the extent of the powers vested in the executive. But inasmuch as the necessity thereof is well known to have been caused chiefly by persistent violations of the rights of citizens of the United States by combinations of lawless and disaffected persons in certain localities lately the theatre of insurrection and military conflicts, I do particularly exhort the people of those parts of the country to suppress all such combinations by their own voluntary efforts, through the agency of local laws, and to maintain the rights of all citizens of the United States and secure to all such citizen the equal protection of the laws.

Fully sensible of the responsibility imposed upon the executive by the act of Congress, to which public opinion is now called, and reluctant to call into exercise any of the extraordinary powers thereby conferred upon me, except in cases of imperative necessity, I do, nevertheless, deem it my duty to make known that I will not hesitate to exhaust the power thus vested in the executive whenever and wherever it shall become necessary to do so for the purpose of securing to all citizens of the United States the peaceful enjoyment of the rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution and laws. It is my earnest wish that peace and cheerful obedience to the law may prevail throughout the land, and that all traces of our late unhappy civil strife may be speedily removed. These ends can be easily approached by acquiescence in the results of the conflicts now written in our Constitution and by due and proper enforcement of equal, just and impartial laws in every part of our country. The failure of local communities to furnish such means for the attainment of results earnestly desired, imposes upon the national government the duty of putting forth all energies for the protection of its citizens of every race and color, and for the restoration of peace and order throughout the country.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington this 3d day of May, A. D. 1871, and of the independence of the United States the ninety-fifth. By the President, U. S. GRANT.

HAMILTON FISH, Secretary of State.

Gen. Sherman on the Ku-Klux.

The General of the Army is at present on a visit of inspection to the south and western frontier. Arriving the other day in New Orleans, he was tendered a reception by the American Union Club of that city, an association professing non-political but composed almost entirely of radical politicians. The General accepted the invitation of the club and the reception came off with the usual display of pyrotechnics, oratory, &c. After a number of toasts had been given and responded to there were cries of "Sherman!" "Sherman!" and though the general begged to be excused from speaking, the clamor of enthusiastic members of the "American Union Club" could not be silenced. The distinguished but taciturn guest was obliged to speak, and he did speak in the following manner:

"I believe this government will keep on growing until it spreads itself over the entire American continent; but in order to gain this much desired end, and to maintain ourselves as a free and independent republic, we have got to show ourselves charitable towards each other. It has been remarked by some gentleman who has preceded me that it was generally conceded by the soldiers of both armies at the close of the late civil war, that if the questions and all matters of the settlement of the differences between the north and south were left to the armies, it would be settled at once, and everything would become quiet and orderly. I so believed; and before signing the agreement with Gen. Joe. Johnston, I called together all the generals under my command and without a dissenting voice they agreed with me. I believed they surrendered in good faith, and would have lived up to the very letter of the agreement; and in my opinion, if there had been no reconstruction acts of congress, and the army been left at the time to settle all the questions of difference between the different sections of the country, the people would have at once become quiet and peaceable. I probably have as good means of information as most persons in regard to what is called the Ku-klux, and am perfectly satisfied that the thing is greatly over-estimated; and if the Ku-klux bills were kept out of congress, and the armies kept at their legitimate duties, there are enough good and true men in all the southern States to put down all Ku-klux or other bands of marauders."

What a strange rebuke to the Radical majority in Congress is contained in these truthful and pertinent utterances of General Sherman! What thorough contempt for the assumption of the President that a necessity exists for the employment of the army and navy to suppress local disorders, is expressed in these words! What a complete endorsement of the action of the Democratic members of Congress in opposing the passage of the Force Bill is furnished in this speech of the General of the Army! Let the Radical politicians, the Mortons, the Conklings and the Scotts, the narrow-minded tricksters who know nothing of statesmanship but much of the knavery of demagogues, put this speech in their pipes and smoke it. Their whole programme for the Presidential campaign is blown to pieces by a single breath of the hero of the March to the Sea.—Ez.

General—, of Nebraska, a large sort of fellow, was a successful candidate for the Legislature of that State. After the election he took a trip to Omaha, to have a good time, and receive the congratulations of his friends, one of whom said to him: "Well, General, how did you run down there?"

"O," replied the warrior, "I did just eternally scoop 'em; routed 'em, horse, foot, and dragoons."

"How did the vote stand?"

"Well," replied the General, "it was none of your darned-funny things; I only got one majority!"