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# BEAVER ARGUS



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NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS  
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## POETICAL.

Let us Make the Best of It.  
Life is but a fleeting dream  
Care destroys the rest of it;  
Sorrow it glideth like a stream—  
Mind you make the best of it!  
Talk not of your weary woes,  
Trembles on the rest of it;  
If we have but brief repose,  
Let us make the best of it.  
If your friend be got a heart,  
There is something fine in him;  
Cast away his darker part,  
Cling to what is bright in him,  
Friendship is our best relief—  
Make no needless jest of it;  
It will brighten every grief,  
If we make the best of it.  
Happiness depresses state,  
The sage experiment,  
Simply that the wise and great,  
May have joy and merriment;  
Reh is not its spell refine;  
Alone is not the test of it,  
Put a calm contented mind,  
That will make the best of it.  
Trusting in the Power above,  
Which sustains all of us,  
In one common bond of love,  
Birthright great and small of us,  
Whoever may befall—  
Scorn of the rest of it—  
We shall overcome them all—  
If we make the best of it.

## Miscellaneous.

### THE RECORD OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY: 1860-1865.

#### DISUNION CONVENTIONS.

As indicated by the resolutions quoted from the Philadelphia platform of June 16th, 1861, the machinery by which this scheme was to be carried out; was that of conventions, either State or National. The party therefore commenced to agitate for conventions. The experience of the South had shown how easy it was under skillful manipulation, with such instruments, to carry State after State into open and avowed opposition to the central authority. A national convention might reconstruct the Union on a Southern basis, or on a basis of States' conventions could accomplish the same result piecemeal, while crippling fatally the Government in its struggle with rebellion. The machinery of the party, therefore, was forthwith set to work.

As early as July 17th, 1861, the project was broached by the Hon. Benjamin Wood in the following resolution offered in the House of Representatives, which received the vote of every Democratic member:

Resolved, That this Congress recommend the Governors of the several States to convene their Legislatures for the purpose of calling an election to select two delegates from each Congressional District, to meet in general Convention at Louisville in Kentucky, on the first Monday in September next; the purpose of said Convention to be to devise measures for the restoration of peace to our country.

The revolutionary project was allowed to sleep for a year, when the disasters of the Potomac campaign encouraged an attempt to revive it. Mr. William B. Reed came forward to feel the way. In August, 1862, he published his "Vindication," in which he affected to believe that a restoration of the Union was impossible, and that all that remained for us was to decide upon the new leagues which should be formed. To accomplish this he preferred separate State action.

If the choice be between a continuance of the war, with its attendant sufferings and demoralization, certain miseries and uncertain results, and a recognition of the Southern Confederacy, I am in favor of recognition, of course making the Abolition Party responsible for this dread necessity. The blood of the Union is on them. If it be a choice between the slow but ultimately successful conduct of the war, the subjugation of the Southern States, their tenure as mere military provinces, involving of course a radical change in the political organization of the triumphant North, so as virtually to abrogate State rights and create a centralized domination with all the heresies of the day engrained, and peaceable recognition, I still prefer recognition.

mine where her lot shall be cast, and what her pecuniary liability must be, whether for a share of the Federal or of the Confederate debt, or whether to be exempt from both. What Maryland and Kentucky do, Ohio and Pennsylvania have a right to do. This settles the question of boundaries, and nothing else will, and if the decision involves the abandonment of Washington, and leaving it the monument of what was once the Capital of a great Republic, be it so. I would rather see it a ruin than what it is now.

In November, Mr. Reed returned to the charge, and openly suggested the raising of the standard of revolt by the Middle States. "Yet should, in the providence of God, the spirit of topical fanaticism which has brought all this misery upon us still maintain its sway, it may be the destiny of these great Middle States to speak, and if need be to act, in self-defense in maintenance of all that is left of Constitutional liberty in the fragmentary and shattered Union which still survives. They may act together, or they may act separately. Within each of them is the perfect machinery of Government, and all that is wanting is an animating and practical spirit of local loyalty. It may be that one man can supply that spirit; and it is the hope that these few words of earnest suggestion rather than of counsel, may find an answer in the heart of the people, that they are given to the public."

These utterances are valuable as affording us a key to the conferences between Lord Lyons, the English Minister, and the leading Democrats of New York, in November, 1862. The party had been elated with its success in carrying the State of New York a few days before, and had been both depressed and irritated by the dismissal of McClellan. Lord Lyons' official dispatch states:

"Several of the leaders of the Democratic Party sought interviews with me, both before and after the arrival of the intelligence of General McClellan's dismissal. The subject uppermost in their minds while they were speaking to me was naturally that of foreign mediation between the North and the South. Many of them appeared to think that this mediation must come at last, but they appeared to be very much afraid of its coming too soon. I gave no opinion on the subject. I did not say whether or not I myself thought foreign intervention probable or advisable, but I listened with attention to the account given me of the plans and hopes of the Conservative party. At the bottom, I thought I perceived a desire to put an end to the war, even at the risk of losing the Southern States altogether; but it was plain that they were not prepared to accept this course. Indeed, some hints of it dropped before the elections were so ill-received, that a strong declaration in the contrary sense was deemed necessary by the Democratic leaders.

"They maintain that the object of the military operations should be to place the North in a position to demand an armistice with honor and effect. The armistice should, they hold, be followed by a Convention, in which such changes in the Constitution should be proposed as would give the South absolute security in its slave property, and would enable the North and the South to re-unite and to live together in peace and harmony. The Conservatives profess to think that the South might be induced to take part in such a Convention, and that a restoration of the Union would be the result. The most sagacious members of the party must, however, look upon the proposal of a Convention merely as a last experiment to test the possibility of re-union. They are, no doubt, well aware that the more probable consequence of an armistice would be the establishment of Southern independence, but they perceive that if the South is so utterly alienated that no possible concessions will induce it to return voluntarily to the Union, it is wiser to agree to separation than to prosecute a cruel and hopeless war.

"If their own party were in power, or virtually controlled the Administration, they would rather, if possible, obtain an armistice without the aid of foreign governments; but they would be disposed to accept an offer of mediation, if it appeared to be the only means of putting a stop to hostilities."

"These humiliating negotiations with the agent of a foreign and unfriendly power show that Mr. Reed had only been the mouth-piece of the secret councils of his party. He, too, had urged an armistice as a necessary preliminary to the contemplated surrender. I would begin with a cessation of hostilities and an armistice for a fixed period, not too short. If arms were laid down for a time, there would be a repugnance to take them up again, which of itself would be favorable to satisfactory adjustment."

was constantly put forward that the people might become accustomed to it, and no longer dread the fearful anarchy which would be its almost necessary result.

Thus, at the formal inauguration of the Democratic Central Club, of Philadelphia, with which the party celebrated the 8th of January, 1863, the orator of the day, Mr. Charles Ingersoll, made the proposed Convention the subject of his discourse, and was prepared to adopt the most revolutionary means of attaining the object. "There is but one way of arriving at a solution of the question as to whether we are to have a speedy peace and union, and that is by conventions of the people. To effect this is not easy of accomplishment, because, throughout the North there are many States in the possession of the Republicans, and there is hardly any State in which the Democrats are wholly in power. In this State the Democrats have the Governor and the Senate against them, with the House in their favor. Under these circumstances, we should do what has frequently been resorted to in England—we should refuse the supplies. The speaker advocated this measure at some length as a means of instituting a State Convention. This would be followed by Conventions throughout the Northern States. We should then be in a position to offer our terms and settle with the South this great question. Mr. Ingersoll concluded amid prolonged applause."

On March, Mr. Ingersoll again urged the subject in an address delivered before the same body, and on the 23rd of the same month, Mr. Reed also resorted to it on a similar occasion. His remarks, though somewhat obscure, are heartily suggestive.

"The path which I desire to pursue to take me out of the miseries and oppressions upon us is one which the Constitution prescribes—a popular Convention—National, if it can be, if not National, a State Convention. But I look upon a Convention as an end in itself, and not as a means, for, as a means, it is too slow. We shall bleed to death before a Convention can be instituted. Still, it is a good ultimate result. Such conventions emanating from and directly representing the people, would have adequate power. They would be as the Convention that made the Constitution. They would change, modify, abrogate."

Hon. W. W. Boyce, of South Carolina, in a letter to Jefferson Davis, Sept. 29, 1864, said:

"I think our only hope of a satisfactory peace, one consistent with the preservation of free institutions, is in the supremacy of this (the Democratic) party, at some time or other. Our policy, therefore, is to give this party all the capital we can. You should, therefore, at once, in my opinion, give this party all the encouragement possible, by declaring your willingness to an armistice and a Convention of all the States, in their sovereign capacity, to enter upon the subject of peace."

"It may be said, the proposed convocation of the States is unconstitutional. To this I reply, we can amend the Constitution. It may be further objected that to meet the Northern States in convention is to abandon our present form of government. But this no more follows than that their meeting us implies an abandonment of their form of government. A Congress of the States in their sovereign capacity is the highest acknowledgment of the principles of State Rights."

Mr. Stephens was suspected of being weak in the knees, and, on Nov. 14, 1864, when a frank exposition of his views could no longer injure the prospects of McClellan, he communicated to the press a letter, dated Nov. 5, 1864, in which he gave his reasons for desiring the Convention, as proposed at Chicago. A paragraph in this remarkable document shows in the clearest light the results expected, North and South, from the co-operation of the States Rights Democracy with rebellion, and the fearful abyss which we escaped by the re-election of Mr. Lincoln.

"There is no prospect of such proposition (a Convention of the States) being tendered, unless McClellan should be elected. He cannot be elected without carrying a sufficient number of the States, which, if united with those of the Confederacy, would make a majority of the States. In such a Convention, then, so formed, have we not strong reasons to hope and expect that a resolution, could be passed denying the constitutional power of the Government, under the compact of 1787, to coerce a State? The Chicago platform virtually does this already. Would not such a convention probably reaffirm the Kentucky and Virginia resolutions of 1793 and 1799? Are these not strong reasons, at least, to induce us to hope and believe that they might? If even that could be done, it would end the war. It would recognize as the fundamental principle of American institutions the ultimate absolute sovereignty of the several States. This fully covers our independence—as fully as I ever wish to see it covered. I wish no

other kind of recognition, whatever it comes, than that of General Grant, of England, viz: the recognition of the sovereignty and independence of each State separately and by name."

The same ground was taken by the Hon. H. W. Hilliard, of Georgia. "It seems to me plain that we should accept the forum indicated by the Chicago Convention, as the appropriate one for the settlement of our troubles. The very proposal to refer to the arbitration of a convention composed of delegates from all the States, is the most emphatic recognition of sovereignty of the States. They would assemble as sovereigns. They would discuss the grounds of difference between them as sovereigns. They would adjust their political relations independently. Omitting their deliberations, they would refer the measures they had matured to the people of the several States for final action."

Thus, by the mere fact of their assembling, the Union would be resolved into a mass of independent jarring nationalities, and they would then proceed, as Mr. Reed told us, "to change money, abrogate the Constitution with the South. Entertaining these views, and cherishing these schemes, it was natural that the Democracy should look upon the Southern leaders with sympathy and respect, and should endeavor to divert the antipathy of the people from them to the Administration."

Thus the following, from the Philadelphia Age of Sept. 23, 1864, palliates the rebellion and its chief by establishing a parallel with the Revolution and George Washington.

"The (the Yankees) have lately added to their collection the Bible of Mary Washington, the mother of a certain slaveholder named George, who made himself notorious some years back in a little rebellion which was got up in this country. Mary's Bible was very properly stolen from Arlington and carried to New England, for if she had read it, the spirit of the enlightened thief whose library it now decorates, would have taught George better than to hold slaves and lead a rebellion."

So the same journal of Dec. 7, 1863, in commenting on Gen. Meigs' account of the battle of Lookout Mountain, observed:

"It was shining this fall moon of the Tennessee mountains on other contrasts. It shines as General Meigs is aware, on the great joker at Washington and his truculent War Minister—and it shines, too, on the stern, attenuated and resolved rebel at Richmond, whom General Meigs of all men in the world, would be most sorry to encounter, and who, when the name of Meigs and others are mentioned, must thrill sadly on this world's ingratitude."

This comparison of the national with the rebel authorities, to the disadvantage of the former, has been a favorite with the Democracy. Thus the same journal, the Age of Feb. 6, 1864, inquires:

"Is it any worse to fire at our flag than it is to fire into our Constitution? And now we take upon ourselves to say, that while the rebels, at Sumter, fired at the flag, Mr. Lincoln, in his sphere, has fired into the Constitution, and has literally attempted its destruction. If the rebels, for firing at the flag, deserve to be devastated by war, what punishment should be visited upon the President for firing into the Constitution?"

And Wm. B. Reed, in a letter to the Hon. E. F. Chambers, of Md., published in the Age, Nov. 7, 1864, draws a picture of the time when, in case Mr. Lincoln should be re-elected,

"Lee and Beauregard, Johnson and Longstreet, Breckinridge and Ewell and Early are killed, or captured, or fled to the mountains, or gone, like the unfortunate but gallant Jacobites, like Borwick and Sarsfield, into foreign service, while 'the work of conquest or even subjugation, if that be the wretched word' is entrusted 'to the unsaturated Molochs to whom three years' wars of bloody, fruitless warfare have not satisfied."

So the Philadelphia Evening Journal of Jan. 20, 1863, commences an elaborate article devoted to the praises of Jefferson Davis, as follows:

"The third annual message of Jefferson Davis to the Confederate Congress and Abraham Lincoln's last message to the United States Congress, provoke a comparison quite damaging to the intellectual capacity of the Federal President."

[That's so, and applause.] Before the war, no Southern man ever made war upon our liberties until Northern aggression converted them from our friends to our foes, and today, Abraham Lincoln stands, according to his own confession, as much opposed to the restoration of the Union as Jefferson Davis. Lincoln says an unconstitutional condition, while Jefferson Davis says he will not come back unless he can have his own way. Now who is the worst traitor, Jefferson Davis or Abraham Lincoln? [Cries of 'Lincoln, and cheers!']

Even the Hon. S. S. Cox, of Ohio, who was the leader in Congress of what was called the War Democracy, while professing opposition to the rebels, in his Chicago speech denounced the Administration with equal or greater bitterness.

For less offences than Mr. Lincoln had been guilty of, the English people had chopped off the head of the first Charles. In his opinion, Lincoln and Davis ought to be brought to the same block together. The other day, they arrested a friend of his, a member of Congress from Missouri, for saying, in private conversation, that Lincoln was ready to say, 'No same here now if Chicago. Let the minions of the Administration object, if they dare.'

At a Democratic celebration in New York, April 13, 1865, just after Lee's surrender, and the day before the assassination of Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Edw. Ingersoll, of Phila., made a speech, reported in full in the N. Y. News, in which he said:

"I yield to no man in sympathy for the people of the South—a gallant people struggling nobly for their liberty against as sordid and vile a tyranny as ever proposed the degradation of our race. Nay, I go further, and with Jefferson, Madison, and Livingston, I fully embrace the doctrine of secession as an American doctrine, without the element of which American institutions cannot permanently live."

Thus, in the beginning, the Democracy invited secession, and, to the end, it encouraged rebellion with sympathy and prospects of ultimate success. [For the continuation.]

### Annual Report of the Common Schools of Beaver County for the School year ending June 1st, 1865.

BY J. REED, COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT.

**New Houses.**—Only 3 were built, and these were in Independence District. They are large and commodious, being built and furnished after models found in the Pennsylvania School Architecture. Partial arrangements were made for building some others, but the scarcity of labor, and the high price of lumber, caused them to be deferred for the present.

**School Grounds.**—The grounds of 7 houses are suitably improved by fences and shade trees. Eighty have sufficient grounds, but are without inclosures and having shade trees, except where they were located in the woods; and 56 have insufficient grounds, shades and no enclosures.

Those intrusted with the location of school houses have given too much attention to the selection of a central location, rather than a healthy and pleasant situation. Some of the houses have been built away from any public road, and have no convenience of access; and the ground selected is not now fit for play ground, and never can be improved to equal the demands of the school.

I believe the condition of the school houses and school grounds, is a pretty good index to the appreciation of educational advantages by the people. Viewing it in this light, we cannot but conclude the state of educational interest among us is rather defective.

**Furniture and Apparatus.**—The furniture of the houses recently built is generally such as the health, comfort and convenience of the pupils require; but in 57 of the older houses the furniture is insufficient, and in 36 it is positively injurious to the health of the pupils.

The general success of teachers was good, there being but eight total failures. There were some others, however, who finished their terms, but gave evidence that they had mistaken their calling, and therefore, their Schools were not in a thriving and prosperous condition. The experience and observation of every day convince me more that there should be a closer discrimination exercised in regard to the natural adaptation and fitness of the teachers to assume the responsibilities, and discharge the duties of the school room. It is not to be supposed that all who apply for schools possess the requisite natural qualities of the successful teacher.

**Professional Reading.**—Less than one-half of the teachers examined report that they have read works on teaching. There is, however, an increasing demand for such works among teachers, and it is my intention to have them left at book stores in different parts of the county, so that teachers may procure them before the winter Schools open. The advantages of professional reading are very apparent in visiting the Schools taught by those who have read works on the theory of teaching, compared with others who have read none, and are teaching without any well defined system or method.

It is questionable, at this day, whether any teacher should be employed, who has not only read, but studied some standard work on teaching.

We have adopted Prof. A. W. Parker's "School Economy" and "Methods of Teaching" as our text books on the theory of teaching.

Our hopes for the triumphant success of the Common School System in the professional reading and training of the teachers.

**Visitations.**—190 visits were made at an average of about 2 hours each. 149 Schools were visited once; 31 twice, and 7 three times, and a few still visited. Of those not visited, 9 houses were burned by accident; 4 schools were suspended on account of sickness of teachers or pupils, and the others had been closed before I could reach them.

Teachers could not be procured at the regular time for opening the Schools, and those of the same district opened at different times. This required more time and labor to make my visits than usual. School directors and parents frequently accompanied me, and we always met with a cordial reception from teachers and pupils, and the solicitations to retire again were very frequent. Teachers reported frequent visits from school directors and parents; but the war and the absorbing interests of our country detracted much from the interest formerly taken by parents in the Schools.

**Examinations.**—These were conducted as formerly. I held 33 public examinations, and 40 applicants were at the written request of directors, examined privately. 185 received provisional certificates; 2 professional and 33 were rejected. The average grade of all the certificates issued was 144-15. There were 74 school directors and many parents at the examinations. More private examinations were held than I desired or was convenient; but good teachers were very scarce, and many who did not intend to teach at the time of our public examinations, were afterwards urged to take schools and consented. Hereafter we expect to have very few private examinations. After the regular examinations are closed, appointments will be made for the last Saturday of October and November, at the Union School building in Beaver.

**District Institutes.**—These were successfully conducted in about one-half of the districts. They were sustained by our best and most successful teachers; and I am assured that much good was accomplished, where they were properly conducted.

**Moral Instruction.**—The Scriptures were read daily in all the schools. Many of them were opened with prayer, and the teachers of these schools reported to me that they thought this had an excellent influence on the order and conduct of the school. The teachers generally gave moral instruction orally to their pupils.

**Educational Agencies.**—Our Union Schools have done a good work in preparing teachers, and we have now in successful operation two institutions at the county seat. Prof. Taylor's Female Seminary and the Beaver Academy, that are affording good advantages to those who wish to qualify themselves for teaching.

And last, but not least, we have in prospect the establishment of a Normal School in this Normal District, and some efforts have been made to raise the necessary funds. I regard this as an indispensable requisite for giving teachers a thorough professional training; and I hope the enterprise will be pushed forward by the friends of good efficient teachers to a successful termination.

**Concluding Remarks.**—In taking a retrospect of the labors of the last year, I do not feel that we have made very much progress. If you allow me to say that we have held our ground, I will not claim more. The heavy draft made on our male teachers by the army, and other vocations that offered more remunerative salaries than teaching are the principal causes. The former was not expected from young men educated under free institutions, and imbued with the spirit of patriotism and the love of liberty. It is an honor to the profession that so many teachers nobly volunteered to go forth in defense of their country. But the latter should not have necessarily impeded our progress. We should not permit our young men of best talent to be drawn away after other pursuits, merely because they pay better. We should always be willing to make teaching as remunerative as any other or just and honorable occupation. The special attention of School Directors is called to this matter, so that while I am laboring to raise the standard of the teacher's qualifications, they will cooperate with me by giving good salaries to efficient teachers.

**The Future.**—No particular change will be made on my plans for the ensuing year. I am still of the opinion that the most effectual way to secure reforms among our schools and teachers is to inform the public mind and secure the co-operation of the people. Such efforts will be made as in my judgment are best calculated to promote these objects. School directors will be notified of my visits, as far as possible, and when practicable, public meetings will be held in the districts. Three Institutes will be held in different parts of the county early in the fall, and subsequent to this a central county Institute will be held in the last of October, at or near the county seat.

Mr. Pitt was once canvassing for himself, when he came to a blacksmith's shop. "Sir," said he to the blacksmith, "will you favor me with your vote?" "Mr. Pitt," said the son of Vulcan, "I admire your head, but hang your heart." "Mr. Blacksmith," said Pitt, "I admire your candor, but hang your manners."

That civilization is not necessarily fatal to the red-skinned race is shown by the Cattaraugus Reservation in New York. In 1845 there were 922; in 1855, 1,175; and in 1865, 1,347; showing an increase in twenty years of 425, or not far from fifty per cent.

A beautiful but blind young lady recovered her sight after marriage. On hearing this, a bachelor who had observed that it was no uncommon thing for people's eyes to be opened by matrimony.

If every year you would root out one vice we should sooner become perfect men.