

THE BEAVER RADICAL.

SMITH CURTIS, EDITOR.

BEAVER, PA.

Friday Morning, May 30, 1873.

CONTROLLING NOMINATIONS.

At the time for holding primary meetings there is always more or less talk about controlling nominations; but we are happy to be able to say that there has been very little of such talk during this canvass. Our nominating system makes it possible for a few, well-organized, to rule the party and select its candidates. It is the most anti-Republican system that could be used. A ring composed of five, or even three hundred voters, could manage by increasing the number of candidates, to nominate their man every time; or a large borough by concentrating on the home candidate all its votes, when there are a number of other candidates in the field for the same office, could easily control the nomination. We do not say that the system has been intentionally abused, but courtesy, which gives to a candidate a solid home vote, is an element of the system that works decidedly in favor of those candidates, who fortunately reside in the large districts, and renders the plurality system, not only unjust, but a means of engendering dissatisfaction and bitterness of feeling. While the candidates nominated may be unexceptionable, and with us so far have been, yet nominations under the present system might frequently be determined, in a large degree by the strength which their location gave candidates. When residence enters into the contest and beats an aspirant he will not submit so gracefully as when he is beaten by other more worthy considerations. The idea of controlling nominations by a few belongs very appropriately to the plurality system, under which the thing is easily done if desired, and that it has not been done, heretofore, is owing to the fact that the leaders of the party have not so desired to do. Courtesy and not premeditation has to some extent decided the result.

THE FRENCH CRISIS.

M. Thiers, the President of the French Assembly, to resign the presidency of the provisional government of France, and Marshal MacMahon has been elected to succeed him. M. Thiers has returned to the Assembly, occupying a seat with the Republicans. The result was unexpected outside of France, and indicates a condition of things unfavorable to the permanency of the Republic, and dangerous to peace. The late elections, which have been held in France, have developed a growing sentiment in favor of the Republic, and demonstrated that in the cities and centres of population Republicans are in the majority. M. Thiers, in recognition of this fact, partly reorganized his cabinet, and selected a few Republicans as his counselors, and indicated that it was time to end the provisional regime and establish a permanent Republic. M. Thiers thus interpreted French public opinion, and hence the crisis in the Assembly. The contest seems to be between the Republicans and Monarchists or anti-Republicans. The first act in the drama has been the deposition of M. Thiers by the Monarchists in the Assembly, the next act is likely to be revolution, and the restoration of M. Thiers by the people. In the Assembly the Monarchists are in a majority, but it is believed that the Assembly does not fairly represent the will of the majority of the French nation, and therefore the startling boldness of the Monarchists in the Assembly is remarkable, and doubtless unwise, an act of desperation. If a majority of the French people condemn it, and as we believe are earnestly in favor of the Republic, the strife between the two parties has only begun, and we may look for startling news. The Republicans will not cowardly submit and allow the Republic to go down without a struggle to save it. Marshal MacMahon is a Monarchist, a soldier, but as an executive heretofore unsuccessful and in intellect greatly inferior to M. Thiers. He has a difficult place to fill, stormy

times to encounter, many interests to conciliate, and factions to harmonize. It is doubtful if his brain contains that precious and rare wisdom which is necessary to meet the demands of his position and rule the excitable French people at a time, when M. Thiers, with his far reaching intellect and large experience, could not manage to keep the lead. France does not need a military ruler, and the monarchists, by electing such as MacMahon, reveal the weakness of their cause, and the uncertainty of their supremacy. Our sympathies are with the Republic, and we cannot believe that French Republicans will now submit to have any other form of government. The election of MacMahon can only be a temporary reaction, that will result in a greater advance towards freedom. Should a dissolution of the Assembly follow, and an appeal to the country be taken, the Republicans would undoubtedly gain the day not only, but establish the Republic, the very thing, which the Conservatives dread. The election of MacMahon was intended to prevent this, and thus checkmate the Republicans, but the will of the people will, in the end, conquer and overcome all obstacles, and hence we are constrained to think that MacMahon will not occupy his seat long.

GOD IN THE CONSTITUTION.

On Friday the Constitutional Convention adopted a preamble to the new constitution, that mildly recognizes the religious demand for a "Christian amendment," but does not go so far as to establish any creed. The present constitution ignores the subject, and starts off in a business-like manner: "we, the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do ordain and establish this constitution for its government;" but the new one will read: "we, the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and humbly invoking His guidance, do ordain and establish this constitution for its government." The new preamble embodies a distinct recognition of a supreme and Almighty God, the bestower of civil and religious liberty, and the guide of nations. The committee to which this matter was referred, recommended the insertion of the words, "recognizing the sovereignty of God, and invoking His guidance in our future destiny," which elicited considerable discussion and gave rise to a variety of opinions, the result of which was the adoption of the new preamble as given above. So long as the words are understood to be a simple expression of gratitude for blessings enjoyed we do not see how any one can strongly object to them. They may not be of much use—and they certainly are not very harmful to any class. True, they imply more than they define, but they are not intended to establish any definite creed or to commit the government to the establishment or protection of any particular religion. The language is very general, and may mean more or less, according to the disposition of the person who reads them. Those who are clamoring for a "Christian Amendment" will not be satisfied with the preamble, for there is in it no recognition of the Christian religion more than any other, and those who are opposed to all religious Amendments to the Constitution will also be opposed to it, and we think under the circumstances, that since the convention would not go far enough to recognize the Christian's God, it had better retained the old preamble and said nothing whatever on the subject. The people are thoroughly opposed to any religious Amendment that is definite enough in meaning to be the expression of any particular faith for fear that such Amendment might lead to religious legislation and persecution, and any expression that embodies the general sentiment or belief, must be so general as to be hardly of more value than a high sounding phrase as far as religion is concerned. We can not, therefore, see the wisdom of the Amendment, since it will not satisfy the Christian demand, and no other class of community asks for any change.

LET THE PEOPLE NOMINATE.

Next Saturday is the day on which our primary meetings are held. The candidates are nominated by a plurality vote, and the one who gets the most votes of all his competitors will be the lucky nominee of the party. A party should be not only strong in its platform of principles, but also in its candidates, and we hope that the Republicans of the county will select for each office the very best man, all things considered, that can be obtained. The candidates for nomination, who are before the people, are all good men, and were we asked to select the most popular or the most worthy, or the fittest for the several places on our ticket, we could not do it, and would be compelled to say that in our estimation they are all worthy of the positions to which they aspire, yet doubtless there are differences in the claims of the candidates, which probably have been carefully considered by the people. The canvass has been a quiet one, and the vote is likely to be light. Whoever is nominated will be so fairly by the people, and there will be no ground for complaint unless it is against the unfair system that permits a plurality to nominate. So far as THE RADICAL is concerned, all the candidates have had an equal chance, and the result of next Saturday will be the free, unbiased decision of the sovereign people and should be, as we have no doubt will be, acquiesced in cheerfully, even by those who have suffered a temporary defeat. We hope all Republicans will go to the polls, for the primary meetings are important, and when there, vote according to what they consider is for the best interests of the party.

WITHIN the past three or four years the political wheel, in this county, has not always turned up first class men. In fact it has given us several Court House officers, who are not only illiterate, and boorish, but who are untrustworthy besides. We are afraid that strangers will look upon these men as fair representatives of the people of the county. That they do not represent the intelligence, integrity and good breeding of our people, we unhesitatingly aver. They were chosen thoughtlessly. *Argus* above indecent and coarse slanders we reprint for the purpose not only to show the animus of that sheet, but to expose its inconsistency. Within the past four years we have had the plurality system of nominating candidates, and according to the *Argus* it is the best system for the Republican party (not the Democratic) that can be adopted, and yet in illustrating its good effects, it drools from its uncleanly lips the above assertion.

Our opposition to the system is based on principle, and because we believe a change is required to give equal and exact justice to all sections of the county. We do not complain that the system has given us incompetent or unworthy candidates, for it has not; the Republican officers are all men of uprightness, of intelligence and good business capacity, and we point to their records with pride and challenge the tongue of envy to say ought harmful against them; nor do we believe they were chosen thoughtlessly, although most of them were nominated by a plurality vote, but by those persons who knew them best and could vouch for their fitness; they were elected by a majority, and the slander of the *Argus* is an insult to every Republican who voted for them; but we complain that the system is fraught with mischief and injustice, and tends to weaken rather than strengthen our party. The country districts may not agree with us now; in this opinion they may require a more bitter experience to open their eyes; but the change, we think, if it is not made at the present, is only a question of time.

The *Argus* is not in favor of it because the *Argus* is run in the interests of the Democratic party, and naturally opposes, in its way, any measure that benefits the Republican; but its arguments are so inconsistent, and made up of such a string of assertions of no foundation whatever, that to attempt a reply to its emptiness would be a useless task. In regard to the amendment we are perfectly willing to abide by the decision of the party, whether against the

change or for it. Our convictions are strong that the amendment is a wise one, and, if adopted, will tend to strengthen the power of the party and create harmony in its ranks.

THE company chartered by the last Legislature, and empowered to build a bridge over the Allegheny river, have organized by complying with the provision requiring \$50,000 of stock to be taken to effect an organization. The capital stock is fixed at \$300,000, with power to increase, and the company authorized to charge the same tolls and fares as are now collected at the Suspension bridge at Sixth Street. The men who are interested in this bridge are men of capital and ability, who will push it through and guarantee success. The citizens of Pittsburgh and Allegheny are subscribing liberally to the stock, and the directors of the company are, it is said, quite sanguine of the success of the enterprise. The bridge when constructed will be of great advantage and convenience, and add much to the permanent value of real estate within its vicinity.

THE New York Legislature has passed a bill providing for a ship canal between Lake Champlain and Albany, which will cost a million of dollars this year and another next. This will be a much needed improvement, and places New York among the most enterprising of the States of the Union.

POLITICAL.

—Georgia has not a political newspaper.

—The Snyder county Republican primary meetings will be held on June 7th.

—The Toledo Blade and the Cincinnati Chronicle favor General Joseph R. Hawley, of Connecticut, for next President.

—Every Democratic politician in Schuylkill county is said to be a candidate for Congress.

—Ex-Governor Coburn, of Maine, has given \$5,000 to the State Industrial School for girls.

—Butler's candidacy for the Governorship of Massachusetts is stirring up the newspapers of that State to a frightful extent.

—The Republican County Committee of Washington county have fixed the date for the County Convention on Monday, the 18th of June.

—A Washington special intimates that the President may make Attorney General Williamson Chief Justice, and appoint Judge Pierrepont his successor.

—The Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin states that Dr. J. W. Potter, of Karthaus, is a candidate for the Legislature, subject to the decision of the Democratic Convention.

—Politically the press of Luzerne county is divided as follows: Republican seven, Democratic eight, neutral seven, Liberal one.

—There are eleven Democratic aspirants for nomination for Sheriff in Erie county.

—An election was held in Easton on Friday for municipal officers. The Democrats were successful in five wards and the Republicans in two.

—Candidates for the Chief Justiceship are multiplying rapidly. The most recent are Caleb Cushing, Judge Black, Wm. S. Groesbeck, Edward Pierrepont and Lyman Trumbull.

—The Union county Democracy have elected Dr. Samuel Blair, of Lewisburg, Senatorial, and Mr. J. T. Smith, of New Berlin, Representative delegate to the State Convention.

—Governor Hartshorn on Saturday appointed J. C. E. Moore, Esq. of York borough, Associate Judge of York county, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Hon. Peter Abl.

—Governor Austin, of Minnesota, has discreetly changed his mind and decided to obey the summons to appear before the Grand Jury to testify concerning the defalcations of ex-Treasurer Seeger.

—The official canvass shows that at the April election in Michigan, Chief Justice Christiancy received 140,784 votes for reelection; there being against him only eighty-six votes, one of which was for a woman.

—Judge Bingham's friends indignantly withdraw his name from the standing candidacy for anything, being satisfied that the President intends to give the offices abroad to men above suspicion, as such can be found.

—The Butler Herald indorses the suggestion of the Doylestown Democrat, that General Cass should receive the Democratic nomination for State Treasurer.

The Carion Democrat, however, opposes this, on the ground that the General is not an available candidate.

—Senator Cameron denies his reported efforts to remove Commissioner Douglas, and the President says no effort has been made with him, and none could succeed, as Douglas is the most honest and efficient Revenue Collector the Government has ever had.

—Clarkson N. Potter, of New York, has not returned his back pay to the Treasury, but merely notified the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House that he does not intend to draw it. This leaves the money where he can call for it, and obtain it whenever he chooses.

—According to the Kenebec (Me.) Journal, the Republican press of that State stands as follows on the question of candidates for the nomination for Governor by the Republican counties: For Nelson Dingley, Jr., 15; for ex-Judge Kent, 3; for James M. Stone, 1; for Davis Tilson, 1.

—The Bellefonte Watchman of May 16 has this: "The Democratic State Central Committee will meet on Wednesday, June 4th, at the Merchant's Hotel, Philadelphia for the purpose of fixing the time and place of holding the Democratic State Convention."

—The Republican Executive Committee, of Jefferson county, unanimously selected Hon. David McClay, of Clarion, Senatorial delegate, and Captain A. J. Monks, of Jefferson county, Representative Delegate to the State Convention. They were instructed to use all honorable means to secure the nomination of Hon. I. G. Gordon for Supreme Judge.

—The Boston Journal thinks the President is only carrying out his declaration that he should have no policy to enforce against the will of the people in deferring the appointment of Chief Justice till after the meeting of Congress, meantime consulting the popular will as expressed through the papers, ignoring purely partisan considerations.

—The New York Tribune mentions Lyman Trumbull as a candidate for the vacant Chief Justiceship, and its name sake of Chicago will doubtless re-echo the cry unceasingly. Mr. Trumbull's legal experience in the McCardle and Illinois Central cases certainly fits him for an elevated position—either upon the bench, or something else.

—It has been stated in New Hampshire that Mr. Parker, one of the Democratic Congressmen from that State, who so bravely voted against the extra salary, and, after the election, drew the money, proposes to devote it to the founding of an orphan's asylum; but the Nashua Telegraph says that the only orphan's asylum he is erecting is a \$5,000 residence for his own use.

—Mr. Colfax has written to a friend in Paris a letter containing this emphatic and sanguine passage: "I never received a dollar from Ames on any account whatever—in check, in cash, in stock, or dividends, or bonds. I have full faith that he who knoweth all things will in His own good time make my entire innocence of this cruel and wicked charge manifest to even the bitterest of my enemies."

—It is to be regretted that Mr. Pierrepont finds himself unable to accept the post of minister at the Russian Court. His fitness for the position has been generally and cordially conceded. We have no doubt that the uniform approval of the nomination by the press of all parties will strengthen the determination of the President to name an equally good man if Mr. Pierrepont's decision is a final one.

—Ohio's Constitutional Convention is described personally as follows: "Taken together, it is a fine looking body of men, a majority of whom one would judge to be on the shady side of fifty. Half a dozen of ex-Congressmen, an ex-Judge of the Supreme Court, several who have been judges of Common Pleas, the present Attorney General of the State, and numerous ex-legislators of the State are among the members. Gray hairs and spectacles, and bald heads are frequent."

—The Republican County Convention, which met in Hollidaysburg, Pa., May 28th, nominated the following ticket: Legislature, Joseph Fitchner; Commissioner, Max P. Smith; Poor Director, Albert Wilson; Auditor, Alex. Knox; Coroner, Isaac Lykens. A resolution was passed condemning the extra salary steal, and the appropriation of \$2,500 pay to the members of the Constitutional Convention.

—A convention of the Republicans of Greene county, to be composed of two delegates from each township, will meet in Waynesburg on Tuesday, June 10th, at 1 o'clock, P. M., for the nomination of candidates for county officers, and delegates to the State Convention, and for the transaction of other business as may properly come before it. The Republican voters of the county will meet in their respective townships, on Saturday, June 7th, between the hours of 2 and 5 P. M., and select by ballot two delegates from each township to the county convention.

—Comodore Kountz, of Pittsburgh, thus announces himself for Congress: "I will be a candidate for Congress from the Twenty third District of Pennsylvania, subject to the decision of the Republican party; conditions as follows, to wit: I pledge myself, if nominated and elected, to retrenchment and reform, opposing every measure whereby the expenses of running the government may be increased, and will advocate liberal appropriation for the improvement of the Western rivers. I pledge myself to the people to use all the means in my power to have the bill repealed which increased the salaries of Congressmen and others. I will honestly labor for a protective tariff. I will ardently advocate making the National Banking Law a free Banking law, thereby breaking up, in my opinion, a great monopoly. I furthermore pledge that I will not set up any little jobs for myself."

—The Washington Chronicle talks in this wise of the Louisiana Democrats: "The influences which hold together these armed ruffians are hatred to negroes, hatred to the Federal Government, bad whisky, and the inflammatory appeals of beaten and debauched Democratic politicians. If in these ingredients of strife, which the best of the white Democrats, even in Louisiana, protest against, there are elements to evoke admiration and encomium, we fail to appreciate them."

—Andrew H. Green, the Comptroller of New York City, is still unearthing the rascalities of the Tweed administration in that city. His last expose shows the costs, fees, and expenses paid, or to be paid, to parties officially connected with the opening of streets, avenues, and public places in that city during the past five years. These expenses, which include none of the amounts paid for the purchases of land or awards of damages, amount to \$1,566,071.88. Mr. Green expresses the opinion that three hundred thousand dollars would have been an adequate compensation for all the work done, and adds that the commissionerships, appraiserships, and clerkships were distributed in most instances among those who held at the same time other offices under the city government.

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