

The Late State Convention.

The members of the Convention held at Harrisburg on the 16th of March were elected, with a few honorable exceptions, by the agents of the Federal Administration.

BEDFORD, Pa.

Friday Morning, April 1, 1859

"FEARLESS AND FREE."

D. OVER—Editor and Proprietor.

We clip the following call from Forney's Press, of Monday week, for a Convention, signed by one hundred and twenty-seven prominent anti-Union Democrats residing in different sections of the State.

Democratic State Convention.

The Democratic citizens of Pennsylvania are invited to assemble in State Convention at Harrisburg, on Wednesday, the 12th day of April, 1859, to consult upon the propriety of adopting measures to vindicate the name, fame and principles of the Democratic party, outraged and insulted by a Convention assembled at the State Capitol on the 16th of March.

To resist the high-handed attempt of the Federal Administration to dictate political creeds to the people;

To protest against the war of a consolidated Federal despotism upon State sovereignty and State rights;

To reassert the great principle of Popular Sovereignty and non-intervention, as well in the Territories, as in the States—non-intervention by Congress with Slavery in the Territories, and non-intervention by the Federal Executive with the franchises of the people of the States;

To re-endorse the old-fashioned creed of the Democratic party, repudiated and trampled under foot by men claiming to represent the party;

And, finally, to proclaim our unflinching confidence in Wm. F. Packard, Governor of Pennsylvania, who has been assailed and proscribed because he refused, at the bidding of Federal dictation, to betray the trust, desert the principles, and falsify the pledges of the Union State Rights Democracy.

The above call for the Democratic State Convention, spontaneously agreed upon, (in order that a great wrong should be instantly punished,) was only signed by those on the spot or within hail. Such of our friends as desire to sign the call will please send their names to the office of the Press.

Since the call was first issued in the Press, there have been several hundred more names of prominent Democrats attached to it.

St. Clair Township.

Amid the gratifying results of the late Spring elections, we are happy to state that old St. Clair Township, which has been wavering for a few years past, has turned up all right. The differences between our friends there have all been healed, and our future success in the County is no longer doubtful.

This is well done for old St. Clair, and throws all the boasts of our friend John Alstadt, Esq., and several others from that Township, who so knowingly prophesied that they would hereafter carry that Township, to the winds! So mote it be!

Rich.—The Gazette's article last week, headed "Opposition dividing?" That means the Packard men of this State calling a convention in opposition to the Buchanan convention, of a couple weeks ago. Truly, Locofocoism is in a sad plight in old Pennsylvania, and throughout the whole North. But read the Gazette's article if you want to laugh.

Rev. Sam'l Barnes, the new minister of the Methodist congregation in this place, will preach in that Church on Sabbath next.

Splendid Ink—that bottle presented to us by Messrs. J. M. Bardollar & Son, of Bloody Run. It is clear, black and lasting.

New Hampshire.—The Republican triumph in New Hampshire is very complete. But this victory was not achieved without a struggle. It became known at an early day that Democracy intended to recapture New Hampshire if possible. Large sums of money were sent thither from Washington, active canvassers were employed, a thorough but quiet organization was effected, and, to appease the people, the ultra-sens of Buchananism were repudiated. But all these things were of non-effect. The people were not caught napping; and the result is as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Position and Count. Majorities: Governor about 3500, Representatives—Republicans 199, Democrats 127. Senators—Republicans 8, Democrats 4. Council—Republicans 4, Democrats 1. Congressmen—Republicans 3, Democrats 0. This is a sufficiently emphatic record.

The Legislature of New Jersey on Thursday elected John C. Ten Eyck, Republican United States Senator from that State, to succeed Wm. Wright, Locofoco. Mr. Ten Eyck is about forty-six years of age, residing at Mount Holly, Burlington county, is a lawyer, and ranks high in his profession. In political sentiments he is represented as decidedly Republican.

A fair translation of the resolutions (adopted by the Convention, and published in another column) relieved of all surplusage, would make them read about as follows:

1. That the General Administration, standing as it does before this nation, covered with disgrace and convicted of reckless reversion to political principle, and of conduct destructive of public morals, must be, and is hereby, sustained by the dependants of the aforesaid Administration.

2. That this Administration must be supported in the teeth of its outrages upon the people of Kansas, and in the face of its monstrous expenditures in Utah.

3. That the President must be applauded for his views on the tariff question, though all aid to our languishing interests was defeated by his creatures in the Cabinet and his cohorts in Congress.

4. That the Paraguay expedition is right because inaugurated by an Administration under which the most of us hold office, or expect to hold it.

5. That under the Administration plan of corrupting a civilized Government and insulting a united people, we can acquire Cuba, and degrade ourselves; and, therefore, the acquisition of Cuba is righteous.

6. That the new overland and isthmean routes to the Pacific are an achievement of superfluous statesmanship, costing millions of money, and offering scarcely any facilities to either passengers or mails.

7. That our idea of Popular Sovereignty is to attack all who really advocate it, and to say that we are in favor of it ourselves.

8. That inasmuch as the General Administration sets so shameful an example of fraud and favoritism, we are not in favor of that example being followed in our own State.

9. That Senator Bigler, being the embodiment of the genius, integrity, and consistency of the Federal Administration, and particularly hostile to jobs of every kind, (especially all jobs relating to the post-office blanks,) we endorse him as eminently worthy of support and confidence.

The action of the Convention on the resolution in regard to Governor Packard is a delicious dessert after such a course of "funeral baked meats" as the above. Three persons, one of them a small dependent on Federal bounty head, and another an eager office-hunter from Northampton, where the leaders in this wretched scene. Such assaults on the integrity of Governor Packard, by a set of hacks in and out of office, who are silent over the infamous malpractices of those in power at Washington, and full of applause of the men guilty of these crimes, show how utterly debased any organization must become that has no guiding star but submission to Treachery. We really congratulate Governor Packard that he received the only positive compliment from the Convention. A body that so flagrantly defies the popular will only stains a good man by its suspicious eulogy. The two candidates nominated—Mr. Rowe, of Franklin, for Surveyor-General, and Mr. Wright, of Philadelphia, for Auditor-General—are worthy and upright men. Mr. Rowe has acted as Surveyor-General for the last two years and a half, and has done his whole duty ably and faithfully. Mr. Wright closes his career as a State Senator from Philadelphia with the present session. His honesty is wholly bribe-proof, which is a great deal to say in these times. The Convention should have selected standard-bearers more deserving of the rites of sacrifice. Why tie men like these to the stake? The Administration at Washington proceeds, it would seem, upon the theory that it is not victory, but victims, which the Democracy requires, and therefore, Messrs. Rowe and Wright must take the chances of war. We trust, if they shall choose to stand upon this platform, they will announce the fact before the ears have started. Let us have no more juggling.—Forney's Press.

MORE GOVERNMENT PLUNDER.

In addition to the startling disclosures made by the Committee appointed to inquire into the abuses prevailing in the Navy Department, we have the unanimous report of the Committee of investigation of the accounts of the Superintendent of Public Printing. This report was made to Congress, and exposes a system of corruption and unblushing robbery exceeding anything heretofore existing. We give the following summary of the report:

They say that the books are so negligently and loosely kept that it is impossible to arrive at any definite knowledge of the business done in the office. The accounts, in some instances, appear balanced when such is not the case, and considerable sums have been collected on the same, under the direction of the present Superintendent. The certificates issued for engraving and lithographing do not agree with the accounts kept by the parties who did the work. They exhibited their books, and swore they had been paid for all the work done; and their books show the amount received by them, yet it appears that certificates were issued for engraving parties for greater amounts than appear on their books. In one case the difference is \$10,000, in another over \$6000, the difference being against the government. The paper accounts do not agree. Several hundred reams are unaccounted for. The committee say:

"The fact then appears to have been a singular fatality about the books and accounts connected with these matters. Few of them could be explained, and none entirely satisfactory. They unanimously report that the facts show conclusively that there existed a combination for compelling all contractors to pay their way for contracts; that this was the general belief among contractors; and the payment for contracts, either in the way of a loan, a commission, or per centage, was general. The contractors found it necessary to employ certain agents at Washington to attend to their business, and pay them largely before they got work. As a general thing, they say they did not know that Seaman was interested in the matter, but it was certain that they got no work until after they employed particular parties.

The contractors were all led or forced to employ the same agents, although they had no previous acquaintance with them. The paper contractors employed a public printer to act as their agent, for which they paid about three and a half per cent. The printer employed a clerk to do a little work, at a yearly salary of one thousand dollars, while the printer received, for doing nothing, from six to ten thousand dollars per annum. Engravers and lithographers found it to be their interest to employ the public printer to act as agent to look after their interests, and receive the money to be paid.

The committee report that they traced between \$35,000 and \$40,000 into his hands, some \$10,000 in others, and about \$30,000 direct to Mr. Seaman, most of which last sum was given by way of loans, and is still remaining unpaid. A small portion was paid by contractors direct, as a percentage.

The committee found two or three agreements to pay money direct for contracts, two in favor of Mr. Seaman, and one in favor of the printer, but found one including the largest sum by reason of the refusal of one of the paper contractors. In a second case the money was paid, not to the printer, but to other parties not known to the witness. As to the third contract, for 20 per cent, on account of lithographing, the committee could not ascertain whether it was paid or not.

The combination referred to existed for all contracts going through Mr. Seaman's office.—The committee say, the testimony in the case forces them to the conclusion that some intimate and confidential relation existed between Mr. Seaman and the principal parties involved, and they were not ignorant of the action and interests of each other.

Resolved, That A. D. Seaman, late Superintendent of Public Printing, has been guilty of improper and illegal practices in the discharge of his official duty, and in violation of the provisions of the act approved the 26th day of August, 1852, creating the office of Superintendent, and defining the duties thereof.

Resolved, That the testimony in this case be certified to by the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and sent to the District Attorney for the District of Columbia.

THE SICKLES' CASE.

Early in the session of the Criminal Court yesterday the counsel retained by Dan'l E. Sickles, charged with the murder of Philip B. Key, came into court and requested permission to inquire through the Court from the District Attorney when the Grand Jury would be ready to send down the bill of indictment against their client, in order that arrangements for setting a day for the trial might be made. A presentment had been made several days ago, and they were desirous to know when it would be followed up by an indictment.

The Judge replied to counsel (consisting of Messrs. Stanton, Clifton & Magruder, and Rueliff, accompanied with Mr. Sickles, Sr., father of Dan'l E. Sickles) that it was not in his power to answer the question, as the subject had not yet come within the cognizance of the Court, and laid together in the discretion of the District Attorney, who was the only proper judge of the time when to send up indictments, and that therefore any motion on the subject at this time could not be entertained. The Court very rarely interfered with the District Attorney in these matters.

The District Attorney was unable to see the propriety of the gentlemen's motion. He had already privately apprised the counsel for Mr. Sickles on the subject, but could not certainly inform them when an indictment would be found. About noon the Grand Jury came into court, and, amongst several other indictments, handed in one against D. E. Sickles for murder. At two o'clock Messrs. Stanton and Clifton returned into court and again addressed Judge Crawford, saying that they understood an indictment had been found against their client, and, as his counsel, claimed the constitutional right of a speedy trial. If the District Attorney was not ready to try the case, it was his duty to give his reasons why, so as to enable the Court to judge of the sufficiency of those reasons. Mr. Stanton concluded by proposing Monday next for the opening of the case.

Mr. District Attorney Ould thought the gentleman a little hasty in coming into court within an hour or two after the finding of an indictment and insisting on the appointment of a day for trial. It was the practice of this Court to leave that matter to the District Attorney, who, as a sworn officer, was presumed to act in view of his official responsibility. In reply to Mr. Stanton's proposal of Monday next, whereon to commence the trial, he could merely say that he would not then be ready, and would not, unless compelled by the Court, give his reasons why. Whilst he fully acknowledged the right of the party to a speedy trial, he did not admit that under that right, if an indictment were found against a party on Thursday, the prosecuting officer is compelled to begin the trial on the following Friday, or the next Monday. He had no desire to deprive Mr. Sickles of any of his rights or to keep him in jail, but the earliest day he could fix for the trial would be Monday week, the 4th of April. He had no such object as to keep Mr. Sickles in jail, but to see that the ends of justice are served.

Judge Crawford reaffirmed his statements of the morning as to the latitude of discretion accorded by the practice of the Court to the District Attorney in determining the proper time for trials, and had only, within his recollection, departed from it in a single instance, and that was in granting the continuance of a case to the next term.

The trial of Mr. Sickles is therefore set for next Monday week. We understand that the delay which appears to have arisen in finding a bill in this case grew out of the circumstance that the Grand Jury had not, until Wednesday last, ceased the examination of witnesses in reference to the connection of another party than Mr. Sickles with the offence.—National Intelligencer.

Mr. Michael Walsh, a well-known democratic man about town, met with a violent death yesterday morning, in the upper part of the city. He had apparently fallen down the steps of a cellar; but he had been robbed, and there are suspicions of foul work. Mr. Walsh was once a member of the Legislature and of Congress; he edited several short-lived newspapers in this city, the chief of which was a radical print called the Subterranean. He was a radical opponent of theftetotalism, and looked upon grog-shops as "the nurseries of democracy." He was intoxicated when last seen alive.—N. Y. Tribune.

The oldest man in Pennsylvania, a Mr. Sweeney, over whom has passed 122 winters, died in Butler county, in this State on the 29th of February.

THE DEMOCRATIC REVOLT.

It is relied upon that the crisis of democratic unity has at last come, and the body, heretofore one, is now two. There are several reasons for this attitude of determination on the part of the dissenters which could not well be stronger. The horoscope of 1860, and the Charleston convention, is already cast, and it requires no prophet to say what will happen then and there. The shade of ultraism on the subject of Executive despotism over the territories, which now prevails in the Administration, is to deepen steadily hereafter until the contest of 1860 has passed away. The President and Cabinet will go farther and farther that way as the Charleston convention approaches. Every candidate looking for its honors will do precisely the same thing.—Southern presses—whether located in northern cities or not—will blow louder and longer on the doctrine of endle slavery under the constitution, as expounded in the recent ten hours' debate in the United States Senate, by every Southern Senator, which catalogue includes Bigler, Bright, Fitch, &c.

Now it is not to be wondered at that no small number of men who value their principles, whether mistaken, held or not, should, in the northern States, look on this prospect with feelings of intense loathing. If nothing else could move them to retrace their steps, the prospect for themselves might and should move them. Ultimately there are to be no postmasteries or consuls to be bestowed on the wreck of this political voyage; and when these fail, when these fail, where shall the advocates of the slave trade, and of executive despotism and eternal slavery for the territories, find rest for their feet in all the north. Self-preservation thus urges a step now while it is time, and before the party, once so powerful, shall have sunk beneath the load imposed from its central power, and so cheerfully should be by the Harrisburg convention.

We will not believe that self-preservation alone impels this revolt. There are men of vigor and honesty enough to more independently, we doubt not, and if they differ as a body from the political organization now in the ascendant in these States, they may actually and really differ. We welcome an independent and genuine party, whatever its doctrines—if those doctrines are sensible and sensibly maintained. This new democratic party has not yet given us its entire platform, and as to the positive side of its doctrine, we do not know what we shall be compelled to say. Its negative declarations are more easily foreshadowed, and far so so much it is easy to say that there are no dissenters from such opinions.—The whole country demands that the doctrines of the Cabinet, the Senate majority, and of the President, as now engaged in the service of these two, are fit only to be put down. Let all join in putting these down, and as the baleful blackness settles away toward Charleston, let us kindle as much light as possible hereabouts, to the end that that particular policy of evil may not come back to rule over us again.

From the Juniata Sentinel. AUDITOR GENERAL.

It is with pleasure that we perceive by the annexed communication, which we copy from the Philadelphia Inquirer, the name of our esteemed fellow townsman, Hon. JAMES M. SELLERS, mentioned in connection with the office of Auditor General. No man in the State possesses superior qualifications for this responsible station. A proper discharge of the duties of this office requires men of sound practical sense and judgment. These qualities Mr. Sellers possesses in a very eminent degree. We do not believe that the name of any gentleman in the State would add more strength to our ticket than that of Mr. Sellers, and political policy, as well as regard for public interest point to him as the proper person.

Another consideration is the claims which this section of the State has for the office, and we recommend this to the Convention. We believe we have never had a candidate for the office of Auditor General from this section of the State. Let our claims be regarded, and the people will unite in support of Mr. Sellers with unanimity and cordiality, and will bear ample and honorable testimony to his personal worth and eminent fitness for the position it is proposed to assign to him. Let us have him as our candidate, and it will awaken an enthusiasm throughout the whole State that will tell with effect in October next.

Annexed is the Inquirer's communication, to the truth of every word of which we bear record:

To the Inquirer.—The opponents of the present Administration will soon meet in Convention, for the nomination of candidates for the offices of Auditor and Surveyor General, and as the nominees of the Convention are likely to be elected by a majority of the people, it is time that we look around for the most suitable and available candidates to place in nomination.

Among those spoken of in connection with the nomination of Auditor General, we have heard the name of the Hon. James M. Sellers, of Juniata County, mentioned. This would be a capital nomination. Mr. Sellers was twice elected Prothonotary of Juniata County on the Whig ticket, when the rest of the Democratic ticket succeeded, and in the fall of 1854, he was elected by a large majority, by the American-Republicans to the State Senate. In both these positions, as well as in every other he has occupied, he has acquired himself well and ably, and with entire satisfaction to his constituents. He possesses every qualification for the post of Auditor General, and his nomination would, no doubt, not only satisfy all the elements of the Opposition in the State, but be ratified by

THE PEOPLE.

W. O. Hiseok, of Harrisburg, has received a patent for an improved machine for cutting hay and straw.

See advertisement of Sanford's Liver Invigorator.

THE MARKETS.

PHILADELPHIA, March 28.—Flour dull—sales of superfine at \$6.87, and extra at \$6.50, 62.—Rye flour firm at \$4.37, and corn meal at \$3.87. Wheat dull, small sales of red at \$1.50, 1.60, and white at \$1.75, 1.85. Rye has declined to 96 cents. Corn also lower—sales of yellow at 87 and 88 cts. Oats worth 54 and 55 cts. Cloverseed dull at \$9.25, 5.50. Flaxseed wanted at \$1.75.

MARRIED.

On the 20th day of February, at the foot of a steep hill, in St. Clair Township, by Abraham H. Hull, Esq., Mr. SAMUEL CHISSMAN to Miss ELIZABETH CLAYCOMB, both of St. Clair Tp.

DIED.

On the 26th ult., Mrs. ELLEN SCHELL, consort of Hon. Peter Schell, of Schellsburg, Pa., in the 71st year of her age.

This estimable woman is deserving of more than a mere passing notice in her decease.—She was a daughter of one of the oldest settlers of western Pennsylvania, Mr. Statter, and lived in her youth amidst the scenes incident to border life. She was married to Hon. Peter Schell in 1806, and discharged the duties of a kind and affectionate wife and mother for 53 years. She was a friend to all and was universally beloved; and during her whole life, she deservedly enjoyed the highest esteem, not merely of her friends and relatives, but also of the entire community in which she lived. She was a member of the German Reformed Church from her youth, and always adorned her profession of piety by a consistent life. Her last illness she bore with her usual patience and fortitude, never murmuring, at the dispensation of Providence, but meekly submitting to the will of God. She committed herself to his mercy in Christ, and trusting to the efficacy of that blood which flowed from Calvary, gave herself up into the hands of the Saviour and expired, leaving a life of evidence of her acceptance with God, as an overflowing fountain of comfort to her family and friends, who mourn her death.

Long will the community in which she lived, and the church of which she was a member, feel their loss in her departure; long will the aged husband feel discolorate, and long will her children fondly cherish the memory of their affectionate mother and monitor in the Lord; but we trust that what may be their loss is her eternal gain. Virtue and religion were her ornaments in life—peace and hope her comforts in death. H.

A LIST OF RETAILERS.

Of Foreign and Domestic goods, wares and Merchandise of Bedford County, for the year 1859.

Table with 3 columns: Retailer Name, Class, and License. Includes entries for Bedford Borough, Broadtop Township, Colerain Township, Cumberland Valley Township, East Providence Township, Hopewell Township, Harrison Township, Juniata Township, Liberty Township, Londonderry Township, Monros Township, Napier Township, West Providence Township, Snake Spring Township, Schellsburg Borough, St. Clair Township, Southampton Township, Middle Woodberry Township, and South Woodberry Township.