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The Globe

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Political.

THE READING CONVENTION.

Speeches of Welsh, Dawson, Dougherty, Montgomery, Bigler, Vaux, Sanderson, Brodhead, Fry, and Witte.

The following are the remarks of the Hon. Wm. H. Welsh, of York, made on assuming the Chair as President of the Democratic State Convention at Reading, on Wednesday, the 29th ult.:

Gentlemen of the Convention:—I know it is but the repetition of an old and familiar phrase, yet I am sure you will give me credit for sincerity when I say to you, that I am most deeply sensible of the distinguished honor you have conferred upon me, in selecting me to preside over the deliberations of this body. I can assure you that I will preserve this mark of your respect and confidence in my most grateful recollection, as long as memory holds its sway—and no statute of limitations can ever run against the debt I owe you, for the partiality you have so generously manifested towards me upon this occasion.

Mr. Dawson said he came there to endorse the nomination, and to say that he would support it cordially. It was in every sense a nomination fit and proper to be made. [Applause.] The great West, so long neglected, would now have, in the person of Henry D. Foster, a champion worthy of her cause, and worthy of herself. [Cheers.] The contest was one of no ordinary importance. Upon its issue will depend the triumph of great principles and the perpetuity of free government. There was no use in disguising the fact that the time had arrived when this experiment of free government is to be tested, and a candidate for Governor was now presented who was equal to the emergency—Pennsylvania, in common with other States, had suffered from having the attention of her people withdrawn from her own interests by a sectional agitation which tends only to the disturbance of the national harmony.

What is the reverse of this picture? Why now do the friends of the Union despond and fear that the pillars which sustain the beautiful fabric are beginning to totter? The reason can be given in a word; and it is because we have allowed the vestal fires to die out upon the sacred altars. The Democratic party has ever been the firm supporter of popular government, and shall it finish now, when those principles are assailed at a vital point by an inveterate foe? [Cheers, and cries of "no," "no."] Everything looks well for our success in October. [Applause.] The place in which we are assembled, we must remember, is upon the soil of Old Berks, and the same scenes around us are connected in history with the perils and sacrifices which were endured in the cause of our independence. It was here that Muhlenberg left his pupils to engage in the good cause. With the example of such men before us, let us go into the present contest, resolved to use our best endeavors, and success will most assuredly crown our efforts in October next. [Mr. Dawson retired amid great applause. Three cheers were given for the speaker, "The Keystone Club," and nine cheers for the nominee.] Loud cries were made for Lewis C. Cassidy, Esq., of Philadelphia, who came forward in obedience to the call, and was received with great enthusiasm. He said: Mr. President: For the very handsome compliment the Convention has bestowed in calling upon me to address you, I return my heartiest thanks. The distinguished gentleman who preceded me talked about endorsing this nomination. Words fail to endorse it. [Loud cheers.] The people in their might have made it, and, therefore, it needs no endorsement. [Applause.] I, sir, perhaps, may be charged with being a politician, and therefore have some right to say that political management or maneuvering falls before such an uprising as we have seen to-day. [Cheers.] Henry D. Foster has been selected in a way as no other man in the history of this Commonwealth has ever been complimented with. [Cheers.]

I have the honor of knowing that gentlemen well, and nine years ago I cast my vote for him for United States Senator. A distinguished, leading, and prominent Democrat of Western Pennsylvania, he has since then always battled in the cause of democratic truth. [Applause.] Henry D. Foster has not only a fair and proper record; not only is he a pure and honest man, but he will go upon the stump ready to meet and answer the arguments of any man. [Applause.] He is bound to no particular issue; he is connected with no particular set of people. He is the very embodiment of the cardinal principles of the party. Lecompton and anti-Lecompton men may stand up and look him in the eye. [Great Applause.]

tion has ever been to protect the white man upon these shores in all his indisputable rights, without calling into question the peculiar manner in which he may choose to worship God, and without unnecessarily restricting his political privileges because he happened to draw the first breath of life in a foreign land. There never was a moment in the history of our party in which it hesitated or wavered in its loyal devotion to the Constitution. From the days of the Kentucky and Virginia resolutions to the present hour it has rejected all latitudinarian constructions of that instrument, and it has interpreted its text in strict accordance with the solemn spirit of its immortal framers. It recognizes in its creed no "higher law"—it teaches no "irrepressible conflict"—and it incites no deluded fanatics to disturb the hallowed shades of Mount Vernon and Monticello, by a traitor's call for a servile insurrection. In defence of that party, we now advance our standard. The initial battle must be fought in October next. If we triumph in the fight, let it be standing upon the broad platform of equal rights and equal laws—if we fall, let it be with the flag of our country around us, and let our last expiring cry be for the Union and the Constitution!

After the nomination of Foster, John L. Dawson, of Fayette, was the first candidate to enter the hall, which he did amid great enthusiasm. After three cheers had been given for him, the President introduced him to the Convention. Mr. Dawson said he came there to endorse the nomination, and to say that he would support it cordially. It was in every sense a nomination fit and proper to be made. [Applause.] The great West, so long neglected, would now have, in the person of Henry D. Foster, a champion worthy of her cause, and worthy of herself. [Cheers.] The contest was one of no ordinary importance. Upon its issue will depend the triumph of great principles and the perpetuity of free government.

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One more chance is left to gain or give up all. At such a time as this discussions must disappear. Differences are to be forgotten. [Loud and enthusiastic cheers.] Every soldier who believes in our principles must volunteer for fight; leap into the ranks.—The raw recruits, and deserters from the foe, must be driven to the rear; the old guard, whose presence will speak courage to each column, must be placed in the van; the command given to the pure, the able, and good—like him, who, by the spontaneous voice of every delegate, has just been chosen; then, fiery ardor glowing on every cheek, and making quick the beating of every heart—advance our standard, draw our willing swords, charge on the foe; lift our bleeding party from the dust and make her again victorious. What if you and I differ upon one question; shall we tamely stand by and see the Government surrendered to the gripe of those with whom we differ on all? What if you believe Kansas should have been admitted under the Lecompton Constitution (and I from my soul believe that she should not), is this sufficient for breaking up forever our glorious organization? Ah, no, no, the organization of the Democratic party is too precious to our country. [Cheers.] When a giant corporation sought to grapple with the Government to the prejudice of the people, the Democratic organization, srew the monster and saved the State. When, in 1844, the fires of religious persecution were ignited, and citizens who had fled to the woods looked back to see their homes in flames; when altars erected to the worship of the living God were desecrated and destroyed by miscreants and misnamed Amer-

icans; when, in 1854, midnight conspirators met in secret council, some of whom, to our shame be it spoken, have been too soon forgotten and placed in power. [Great applause.] Aye, as it seems to start a shout, I will repeat it. Some of these same conspirators who sought to crush the adopted citizens have been elevated to distinctions, while men ever true have been thrown to the dust. Yet the Democratic organization stood by the oppressed and saved them from their jeopardy. When the storm of fanaticism burst over these Northern States, endangering the constitutional rights of our brothers of the South—when even the pillars of the Republic trembled—the Democratic organization stood like a rock unshaken until the fury was spent and the skies again serene. These are the trophies of the organization. "Goddess of bright dreams! My country, shalt thou lose us now when most thou needest thy worshippers?" No! never, never! gentlemen of the Convention. I implore you to reaffirm the faith of '53, and here, as on an altar, sacrificing every personal feeling, we will vow our determination to sweep the Republicans from the State. [Cheers.]

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O! Democrats of Pennsylvania, when leaving glorious old Berks for our respective homes, let us at once raise the battle cry and prepare for the struggle. If, then, the gallant champion of the Opposition lifts, as he boasts he will, his standard on the shores of Lake Erie, there will be those who will strike it to his side. If it again is raised on the shores of the Delaware, the Democracy of Philadelphia will wrest it from his grasp and trample it beneath their feet; while our ensign, borne aloft in triumph, will speed from county to county, and then, planted on the highest peaks of the Alleghenies, will, fanned by the winds of heaven, float the symbol of a united Democracy victorious in the cause of constitutional liberty. Mr. Dougherty retired amid perfect thunders of applause, and it was many minutes before the enthusiasm subsided which his eloquence had engendered. Loud cries were made for the Hon. William Montgomery, who, on appearing on the platform, was greeted with enthusiastic cheers. After the applause had subsided, Mr. Montgomery said: I come here, fellow-citizens, in the name of Western Pennsylvania, to thank you. I speak not the ordinary word of conventional politeness when I say that I thank you, but it comes from the inner cells of my heart.—You have done us honor, and we will try to show you, when the idea of October arrive, that we fully appreciate your action. [Cheers.] We will not only elect your candidate for Governor, but will help you to elect a President of the United States.—"There is a divinity that shapes our ends, rough-hew them as we will." The name of Henry D. Foster was not before this convention as a candidate for Governor. Is it not strange that the name of one who was not introduced before you as an office-seeker, should receive the united vote of the Convention? The nomination of Henry D. Foster is another evidence of the interposition of an overruling Providence, and I accept it as such.

A speaker, continuing, said he could not but regard this nomination, or rather, the circumstances under which it was effected—circumstances so marvellous and extraordinary—as a special interposition of Providence for the good of the country, and the perpetuation of American liberty. [Cheers.]—What were the requisites possessed by any one of the candidates that were not also possessed by Henry D. Foster? He combined all the qualities embraced in these gentlemen. He was as honest and upright as old Jacob Fry, [cheers]; he was as eloquent and accomplished as the eloquent and accomplished Wittie, [cheers]; he was as brave and true as the noble old Hopkins, [cheers]; in short, every quality presented in any candidate was to be found in Henry D. Foster. The people demanded a man such as Henry D. Foster is, and they would second the nomination by over ten thousand majority. [Cheers.]

After further allusions to the candidate, Mr. Montgomery said, I have another duty to perform. I have to invite you to another ceremony. I will not ask you to shed a single tear. I do not want a single man in the house to be sad, but to rejoice with exceeding great joy that the time of the harvest has come, and that the dead have gone to their final account. [Applause.] I am about to pronounce a funeral oration over the dead body of old Lecompton, [laughter and continued cheers,] and in the same grave in which Lecompton is to be buried I am going to bury a thousand feet deep anti-Lecompton upon its bosom. [Applause.] This is the glorious funeral to which I have invited you. [Laughter.] We are going to have a glorious two-party; [laughter]; a sort of love feast, [laughter], in which the anti-Lecompton man will extend the right hand of fellowship, and the Lecompton man will open his arms and take the other to his heart. [Loud and long-continued cheers.]

We have had enough of the age of humbug. [Cheers.] We have something else to do besides discussing the dead issues of the past—we have the live issues of the future to discuss, and we have selected our standard-bearer. We will carry the living issues of the day into action; we will save the Constitution, protect the Union, and preserve civil liberty, not only for ourselves, but for all the nations of the earth. [Cheers.] Is it not a good thing that these old gentlemen are dead? [Laughter.] Is it not a good thing that we can forget them, and rejoice over the fact that they are dead, and buried so deep down that the hands of no political resurrectionist will ever dig them up? Having performed these funeral services, we have nothing to do with Lecompton and anti-Lecompton any longer, but we are old-fashioned, thorough-going Jefferson and Jackson Democrats.

Mr. Montgomery went on to show by an argument that the question of slavery in the Territories was a judicial question, and should be settled by the Supreme Court. The quar-

rel between Black and Douglas was nothing more than a legal difference between two judges, and the Supreme Court was the tribunal to decide the quarrel. After alluding again to the flattering prospects of success, complimenting the Convention on their nomination, and thanking them for his reception, he retired amid great applause. After Mr. Montgomery had taken his seat, the band played "Auld Lang Syne," amidst which loud cries for Mr. Bigler were heard. The President introduced Mr. Bigler, who was warmly greeted. He said: Members of the committee: The first thing that becomes me is to tender to the committee my hearty thanks for the compliment which they have extended to me in delegating to me an authority on the part of the Democracy of this State to nominate a candidate for the Presidency, at Charleston. For this honor I offer you my sincere thanks. I shall endeavor as best I can, in the exercise of my feeble judgment, to carry out what I believe to be your will, and what I regard as best calculated to promote the success and harmony of the Democracy, the success of which party I believe to be inseparably connected with the perpetuity and future greatness of this country. Fellow-citizens, you will pardon me for an allusion to a scene which took place in this hall, of which I have a lively recollection. Nine years ago I was honored with a nomination for the chief office of this commonwealth in this hall. I can almost recollect the same scene. [Applause.] That nomination was brought about in nearly the same manner in which you performed the task to-day. After canvassing candidates that were presented, I was nominated by acclamation. That nomination you ratified at the polls, and I trust—my sir, I have a firm belief that this nomination to-day, brought about by a concurrence of sentiments as marvellous as it was unaccountable, the like of which was never here or anywhere else before, will be alike ratified at the polls. I am here for the purpose of discussing no one of the great questions which will be involved in the approaching campaign.—I intend to perform my duty during its progress. I desire to say that I congratulate this Convention upon the harmony of its action and upon the auspicious results at which it has arrived. [Applause.]

Any allusion to the nominee, to his character, to his qualifications for the place, and to the marked modesty with which he has borne himself since the day his name was first mentioned, is unnecessary. No man of either party will dare to say he is not an able, pure, and honest man, and eminently fit for the position for which you have presented him. On behalf of my section of the State I stand here to pledge, without fear or failure, the largest Democratic vote you have seen for ten years. [Applause.] I heartily respond to all that has been said here in favor of promoting conciliation and harmony in the Democratic party. With the gentleman who has just retired, I bury old Lecompton and anti-Lecompton side by side, to sleep forever. [Applause.] On the sod overlying that silent grave will grow up in exuberance a Democracy that will carry us triumphant in the future. It is right to say in the midst of all the acrimonious disagreements and controversies on that vexed question, (and I make the statement with pride,) that I had the right hand of fellowship for every Democrat, whether he agreed with me upon it or not. [Applause.] I feel that this is the "happiest hour of my life. When complimented with the nomination for Governor, nine years ago, I do not believe that I felt the inexpressible pleasure that animates me to-day. Then I felt some natural gratification, because I had been chosen by the Democracy of my own State. I have been complimented on this occasion, and I feel it deeply—the honor of being sent to Charleston from this great State. On the result here will depend the result of the Union.

After alluding to the aggressions of the Republican party, he said that we could have no peace—no guarantee of future progress and unity—until the Black Republican party, organized on the sectional idea of hostility to the South, is wiped out. [Applause.] After repeating his convictions that the action of to-day would be ratified in October, he retired amid much applause. Loud cries were heard from all parts of the hall for Mr. Vaux, of Philadelphia, who appeared in response to the call, and was most enthusiastically received. Mr. Vaux said, he trusted and believed, from the present temper of the Convention, that it was about to practise what had so long been preached—union and harmony, concession and conciliation. [Great cheering.]—He trusted the inspiration which had so miraculously settled down upon the Convention would be felt through the State, and that the Convention at Charleston, to which delegates had been elected to-day, would look to this Convention and profit by its example. [Cheers.] The fortune of this nation required such a course—a course of harmony and union from that Convention. None of us had made any sacrifice to our principles by the course pursued to-day. We had only yielded, on all sides, in a filial spirit, for the sake of peace and consolidation. [Great applause.]

We had come here as representatives of the Democratic party, to achieve results such as these, and the demonstration before him told that it was a success. There was a Power above us greater than ourselves, and the influence of that Power produced the results to be seen. We had pointed out to Pennsylvania the high road to success, and he predicted that in October the Sebastopol of Abolitionism would fall before their terrible assault. [Cheers.] After praying most fervently for such a result, and promising to do all he could to produce it, Mr. Vaux thanked the Convention for its kindness to him, and retired amid great applause. The President, I have the honor to present to you the Hon. George Sanderson, of Lancaster, the winner of the first campaign in 1850. Mr. Sanderson was enthusiastically received. He said he felt great reluctance in attempting

to address this immense assemblage of the Democracy of Pennsylvania, especially after the very eloquent remarks they had just heard. But inasmuch as his name had been introduced into the Convention in connection with the gubernatorial nomination, he deemed it proper to say a few words expressive of his hearty and enthusiastic adhesion to the candidate selected. [Applause.]

He had long known Mr. Foster as one of the leading Democrats of this Commonwealth, and he was free to say, that a better man could not have been chosen. He was worthy the position in every respect. We had heard a good deal about Lecompton and anti-Lecompton to-day, and he heartily concurred in the recommendation of Mr. Montgomery in regard to them. We, as Democrats, have a perfect right to differ in opinion about any measure, but that makes us none the less Democrats. He thought, from the first, that the assembling of the Democracy in the citadel of old Berks would have a happy effect upon the whole party, and he was glad to see that we have not been disappointed. The action of this Convention may be regarded as an auspicious omen for the approaching struggle.

The speaker regarded the omens auspicious for the coming campaign. The Democratic party was the party of the white men. He commenced his political life as a Democrat, in 1828 by voting for old Gen. Jackson, (cheers,) and from that time until to-day, he had never seen occasion to desert the old Democracy. (Cheers.) These Lecompton and anti-Lecompton quarrels were like those of men's wives, who fought among themselves until the third party interfered, when they united and gave them a thrashing. The third party had interfered in Pennsylvania, in the shape of Abolitionism and treason, and the Democratic party, united to-day, would thrash them in October.

After thanking those friends who had placed him in nomination, and expressing a determination to support the candidate of the Convention, he retired amid great applause. The President, I see in the audience one who has done gallant service in the party in days gone by—a man of whom the Democracy should feel proud. I refer to the Hon. Richard Brodhead, of Northampton, and would call on him to address you. [Cheers.] Mr. Brodhead made a very brief speech in acknowledgment of the compliment. He knew Mr. Foster well, and could say he never knew his equal for purity of purpose and nobility of soul. [Cheers.] He was a man whose pretensions never exceeded his real merits. [Applause.] He would do all he could as a Democrat and as a man to secure his election. [Applause.]

As Mr. B. concluded, Hon. Jacob Fry entered the room and was received with the most enthusiastic cheers. The whole assembly arose as one man, and cheered him for several minutes. The President, I beg to present to you, gentlemen, a man who is beloved by thousands of Democrats throughout this Commonwealth—a man who, though not the choice of the Convention as a candidate for Governor, yet will live in the hearts of the people of this State for generations to come as "honest old Jake Fry, of Montgomery." [Great applause and nine cheers for "Fry."] Mr. Fry, evidently moved by the imposing demonstration, made a brief speech in response. He would go hand and heart for the nomination of Mr. Foster. He always looked upon him as essentially and truly a good man. [Cheers.] He thanked those men who had come here to vote for him. Whatever votes he had received were free, unbiased, unexpected, and unsolicited. He had never asked a man to vote for him—never spent an hour in electioneering for any nomination. The manifestations he had seen of regard for him he felt most deeply, and would cherish them as evidences of confidence more desirable than any nomination could be.

After some delay, occasioned by the absence of the committee, Mr. Witte was escorted to the hall by Mr. Schell, the chairman. On entering the room he was greeted by long, loud, and enthusiastic applause, lasting two or three minutes. Silence having been restored, Mr. Witte said his presence was to be regarded as a tribute of fealty of a personal and private character to the Democratic party. The result could not have been more unexpected to any member of the Convention than it had been to himself. He had hoped to receive a majority of the delegates in support of his claims for a nomination. The Convention had spoken quickly, very quickly, but honestly no doubt, and when it had spoken, it spoke for him. [Laughter.]

He would say, however, that the time might come when the history of the last three days would be written. There never was an occasion when conciliation, concession, compromise, and harmony were more necessary.—Rash judgments had been entered and heart-burnings produced. The action of the Convention was nevertheless to be regarded as binding. He would echo the sentiment expressed to-day, and say, imperatively, let the dead past bury its dead. (Cheers.) The old condition of things in Pennsylvania must be renewed. It was a humiliating spectacle, when, in the House of Representatives, but three out of twenty-five were found voting against the Republican candidate for Speaker. Pennsylvania was great in geographical position, and, under the rule of the Democratic party, might become as great in political position. More than once she had stayed the tide of error and treason when it swept like a whirlwind over the country. To-day every interest was paralyzed. Commerce feels the blow; agriculture feels it; the mechanic feels it; the professional man feels it; the man of business feels it. We should endeavor to remove it, and once more re-assure our friends of the South. When this is done, then again will Pennsylvania be the "Keystone of the Federal Arch." He had no more to say. He came to the Convention with pleasure—not so much pleasure as if the result had been different. He was used to these defeats. He had experienced them before. (Laughter and applause.) But he felt quite sure that it was in his power to say that he had experienced such defeat for the last time. (A voice, "No! May you never think so.") Gen. Foster was a personal friend of his. In his patriotism and purity he had the most unlimited confidence. Months ago he had told the General that if he ran as a candidate, the speaker would retire. The General declined it, and now that the nomination had been forced upon him, no one would give him a more cordial support than himself.—After thanking the Convention, Mr. Witte retired.

A LANTERN CANE.—One of the most unique of recent Yankee inventions is a cane, which is also a lantern—a stout, elegant walking stick, and a brilliant study light. The lantern is set in the body of the cane about three inches from its top, and so is not to disfigure its proportions or beauty, and can be lit at pleasure by pulling the cane apart, or borne along dead, when the cane, without close observation, is undistinguishable from an ordinary large sized walking stick.