

THE VOLUNTEER.

John D. Bratton, Editor and Proprietor.

CHARLESTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1860.

AGENCY.

V. B. PALMER, Esq., authorized agent for procuring advertisements, receiving subscriptions and making collections for the American Volunteer.

DEMOCRATIC WARD MEETINGS.

The Democrats of the East Ward, of the borough of Charleston, are requested to meet at Mundy's Hotel, on Saturday evening next, the 2d of March, at 7 o'clock, for the purpose of making arrangements preparatory to the spring election.

The Democrats of the West Ward will meet at Stambaugh's at the same time, and for the same purpose.

MANU.

Charleston, Feb. 28, 1860.

TO THOSE INDEBTED.

During the week of the April Court we shall expect those who know themselves indebted to this office for subscription, advertising, job work, &c. to discharge their respective accounts.

On our first page will be found a short but able address in favor of the establishment of Normal Schools, delivered by our fellow townsman, Rev. James A. Devinney, before the late State Education Convention, of which Mr. D. was a delegate.

Mr. Church, of the H. of Reps. will accept our thanks for a copy of the "Communication from the Auditor General, relative to the Banks and Savings Institutions of the Commonwealth."

Our Member of Congress, Mr. M'LANAHAN, is entitled to our thanks for a copy of the Washington Globe, containing his speech on the subject of Slavery.

Democracy of Charleston—don't forget to attend the Ward meetings on SATURDAY EVENING NEXT.

The 22nd of FEBRUARY—the 22nd of February—the birth day of the immortal Washington—was a lively day in Charleston.

In the evening the military of our town, together with a number of invited guests, partook of a sumptuous supper, at Mrs. Waverly's hotel.

THE CONTESTED ELECTION FOR MAJOR GENERAL.

A board of officers, composed of Major Gen. Hale of Lewistown, Brigadier Gen. Kearns of Harrisburg, and Gen. Reed of Gettysburg, assembled here on Thursday last, to determine the contested election for Major General in this division.

The members of the board were men well calculated to discharge the duty for which they assembled, and we learn that their proceedings were highly interesting.

THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

On Tuesday night between 9 and 10 o'clock, the large stable at the south end of "Harper's Row," in Dickinson Alley, together with the building near the same, used as a warehouse by Mr. Saxton, (hard ware merchant), were entirely destroyed by fire.

Our townsman, Mr. E. S. Eos, delivered a public lecture in Harrisburg, on Saturday evening last, which is highly spoken of by the papers of that place.

The lecture "on poetry," delivered on Saturday evening last, at the Shakespeare Saloon, by Edward Striles Fox, Esq., of Carlisle, was listened to with great pleasure, by a large and intelligent audience.

BONAPARTE COUNTY.—The Democrats of this county have nominated Jeremiah S. Black, as the next Democratic candidate for Governor of this State.

New County.—The bill erecting the new county of Montour out of parts of Columbia and Northumberland, passed the Senate on Monday last, by a vote of 15 to 11.

THE BEDFORD RESOLUTIONS.

The Democracy of Bedford county, at a very large and enthusiastic meeting recently held, passed among other resolutions, the following:

Resolved, That the great error of the Democratic party in 1848, consisted in not nominating JEREMIAH S. BLACK for Governor.

The Philadelphia Spirit of the Times, (which by the way has become a ranting Free Soil paper), takes exception to this expression of their opinions by the Democrats of Bedford county, and says in strong terms, that it amounts to an "insult to Mr. Longstreth," who was nominated as the candidate of the party, at the time referred to, and most unfortunately was beaten by his Federal opponent, the present Chief Magistrate of the State.

We certainly do not look upon it in that light, and we cannot for the life of us see how such a crocheted coat could have come into the head of the editor of the Times.

But, in these anticipations we were disappointed. No sooner had Gen. Cass taken his seat in the Senate than the scribbles for a corrupt party opened upon him the flood gates of their abuse.

When Gen. Cass was a candidate before the people, we had a right to expect—knowing the character of our political opponents—that the poisoned arrows of Federalism would be hurled at him without regard to truth or decency.

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When, on a more recent occasion, Gen. Cass took those who were clamoring for a dissolution of the Union, his motives were again called in question by his enemies, and again we he assailed by a profigate and treacherous press.

But, the assaults of Federalism, however, cannot injure the character of the great statesman and patriot, Lewis Cass. Should he ever be so unfortunate as to receive praise from that selfish and corrupt party, we might be led to suppose that he had committed some great political sin, and he might then ask himself, "what evil things have I done that they should speak well of me?"

THE HON. JAMES M. M'LANAHAN.

The subject of slavery continues to occupy the whole attention of Congress.

Mr. M'LANAHAN, after a few preliminary remarks as to the Whig party and their disapprobations, said that he arose simply and solely to express the sentiments of a vast majority of the people of Pennsylvania.

The intimation that any portion of the Democracy were engaged in a conspiracy to defeat Mr. Longstreth is new to us.

Nothing could be more natural to a community who believed that the claims of their favorite candidate had been overlooked, than to consider such oversight a "great error," especially when viewed in connection with the fact, that the man who did receive the nomination was most unexpectedly beaten at a most unquiet time.

There is an intimation in the article referred to in the Times, that this resolution must have been got up by some secret enemy of Judge Black, and that the Democrats of that county would not be so ungenerous as to assail a defeated candidate of their own choice.

We had not intended saying this much when we commenced this article, but as the Times has shown a disposition to be factious on other subjects, than the one now presented to the consideration of our readers, we thought it was our duty to put them on their guard that they may not be led away by unfair and prejudiced statements.

THE COUNTY CONVENTION.

In another column we publish the proceedings of the Democratic County Convention, which met in this place on Tuesday, for the purpose of appointing Delegates to represent the county in the Williamsport Democratic State Convention, in May next.

The Convention was organized by calling that staunch Democrat, ROBERT GERRY of North Middleton township, to the chair.

The resolutions adopted by the Convention speak the sentiments of the Democracy of Cumberland, and were adopted without a dissenting voice.

The Harrisburg papers announce that the Canal Commissioners have directed the superintendent to let the water in the main line of the canal, on the 7th day of March, if the weather permit.

What charming weather we have at present. We heard the notes of blue-bird this morning.

GEN. CASS AND HIS SLANDERERS.

Gen. Cass, in the Senate, a short time since, said he considered himself "the best abused man in the United States."

No one who reads the Federal papers will deny the truth of this remark.

When Gen. Cass was a candidate before the people, we had a right to expect—knowing the character of our political opponents—that the poisoned arrows of Federalism would be hurled at him without regard to truth or decency.

When, on a more recent occasion, Gen. Cass took those who were clamoring for a dissolution of the Union, his motives were again called in question by his enemies, and again we he assailed by a profigate and treacherous press.

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Democratic County Convention.

Agreeable to notice of the Democratic Standing Committee of Cumberland county, the Delegates elected in the different townships and boroughs, for the purpose of appointing Delegates to represent the Democracy of Cumberland county in the State Convention, which is to assemble at Williamsport on the 29th of May, to nominate a suitable person for Canal Commissioner, met in the Court house, Carlisle, on Tuesday, the 26th inst.

The following Delegates appeared, presented credentials of their election, and took their seats, viz: U. Allen—J. R. Brown, Samuel Eckles, Jr., L. Allen—John C. Dunlap.

Wm. Eckles, J. E. Bonham, Esq., Abraham Duff.

E. Ward—Charles Magleughlin, Henry J. Kelly.

Dickinson—Samuel Woodburn, Wm Harper.

E. Pennsboro—Jacob Longnecker, Jonas Huntzberger.

Frankford—James Graham, Wm. Gracy.

Hopewell—John P. Rhoads.

Hampden—George W. Fessler, S. B. Reiser.

Mifflin—Robert Middleton, Wm. Koon.

Monroe—John Murphy, James Barlett.

Mechanicburg—Wm. Eckles, J. T. Ayers.

Newton—(Not represented).

Newville—Wm. B. Thompson, Elias Diehl.

New Cumberland—John F. Lee, Jacob Switzer.

N. Middleton—Robert Gilpin, Jacob Zeigler.

S. Middleton—Wm. C. Hark, T. A. Weckley.

Shippensburg—Wm. G. Hamilton, David Emmeringer.

Southampton—James Kelo.

Shippensburg Borough—J. B. Duncan.

Towamint—(Not represented).

W. Pennsboro—Samuel G. Adams, Hester.

On motion, the Convention then proceeded to appoint Representative Delegates to represent Cumberland county in the State Convention aforesaid.

Whereupon, SAMUEL WOODBURN and JOHN C. DUNLAP, were duly appointed. The following resolutions were then offered by Mr. Bonham, and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That as Democrats we deplore the present agitation in Congress on the subject of slavery.

We look upon this agitation as dangerous to the peace and stability of our happy government, tending to alienate the affections of the people of different States, and to excite the passions of each against the other.

Resolved, That we believe in the capacity of the people to govern themselves—that the institution of slavery is a matter of local concern, of domestic policy, and that each State and Territory should have the right of regulating for itself—that the Constitution of the United States does not confer upon Congress the power to either exclude or establish slavery in the territories acquired either by treaty or conquest.

Resolved, That we are opposed to our State Legislature in its present course, and believe it to be one of great wisdom, strictly constitutional, conciliatory in its character, and every way worthy of the head and heart of that great statesman.

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Resolved, That the present tariff has operated well for the interests of the people at large, and especially of the manufacturing and agricultural interests of the State.

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THE SENATE APPOINTMENT BILL.

On Thursday last, Mr. PACKER, from the select committee to whom was referred the appointment of the State into senatorial and representative districts, made the following report:

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State Legislature.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 28.

SENATE.—The resolutions relative to the integrity of the Union of the States, were taken up and adopted as follows:

Whereas, The Members of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania have seen with deep regret, in several sections of our happy and glorious Republic, indications of dissension with our fundamental organization, as embraced in our Constitution, and all apparent disposition upon the part of some to effect a radical change.

And whereas, In these feelings of dissatisfaction toward that sacred instrument, the people of Pennsylvania do not participate: therefore

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, That the Union as identified with all the glories of the past, all the blessings of the present, and all the hopes of the future; and that Pennsylvania, true to its Constitution and all its principles, will never waver in her fidelity to that noble charter.

Resolved, That the Governor of this Commonwealth be requested to forward a copy of the foregoing to the Governor of each of the States and Territories, and to the President, of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States.

Correspondence of the Public Ledger.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

Washington's birthday was observed in and out without much public demonstration.

Washington's birthday day did not mean to celebrate the battle of Buena Vista. Fudge! What a miserable thing, for Southern gentlemen to depreciate the Union, and wish the great founder of the father of the country. I hear these gentlemen aver that they would have been better off without it! How? By continuing under British rule? If the South were at this moment a British province, do they expect England would tolerate a very tall? Would the South escape more easily from British emancipation than from Northern Abolitionism? The Southern States, if they had not at the time formed part and parcel of the American Union, would have been treated precisely as the West Indies were treated. They might have received a compensation for their slaves, and they might have had the apprentice system established among them; but slavery itself would no longer exist among them. The South would at this moment labor under the same difficulties as the British West India planters are now laboring under, and from their greater extent, and the difficulty of protecting a continent, would probably be worse off, and their property and lives less secure than those of the white population of Jamaica.

When talking of disunion as a remedy for the South, does not seem to have calculated the benefits of the Union. They are vexed at trifles, in comparison to what they would suffer were they left to themselves. But they will not brook the idea of "abandonment to Northern dictation," and rather risk all than submit to the fiat of fanatics. This is natural enough, and for an equal equality of the Anglo-Saxon race. Neither will the North submit to the warring fancy of a certain portion of the Southern wing, because that, too, would be a suicidal war, and there is, therefore, no other remedy than the top of the two extreme wings, in order that the rational men of the two sections may have a talk and smoke the calumet of peace. There is no use fretting or even exchanging opinions with men who on all occasions are willing to say that they care not a straw for the Union; that they would be better off without it; that the Union is a curse to them rather than a benefit. Such men ought either to be shut up in a mad-house or placed under such wholesome external restraint as would prevent their tongues from betraying the emptiness of their brains and the selfishness of their hearts. Such men deserve neither consideration nor sympathy.

But there is another class of men; in comparison to the former an immense minority, who, in both sections of the Union, consider separation as the greatest evil which could befall this continent and the world. These men are anxious to effect a compromise, to restore friendly feelings between the North and South, and to preserve our glorious confederacy against later and more dangerous attempts to divide the Union, and their efforts will soon prevail here in Congress.

Much to the surprise of Northern and Southern men, the "Republic," Gen. Taylor's personal organ, brought in this morning number of this morning, the speech of Henry Clay, on his Compromise Resolutions offered in the Senate. This edition endorses that speech as the production of a man of "experience," who has rendered illustrious service to his country, and who, by his superiority to sectional prejudices, has a deep hold on the affection and confidence of the people. The Republic also hints that though the plan of compromise recommended by Mr. Clay differs from the present plan proposed by the President, yet it is entitled to consideration. And inasmuch as Mr. Clay is willing to support any other rational compromise that may be proposed, it is but reasonable to suppose that General Taylor is not unwilling to listen to the views of a man whose views have more experience than himself, and inspire the country with more confidence in their statesmanship.

Well, I thought so; and gave it to you as my opinion some time past, that the administration would be obliged to back out of its position in regard to the slavery question. That, in fact, was none other than that of doing nothing, and let the enemies take care of themselves. Our country is too young and impetuous for such a policy—the character of our people is against it, and it is a people of action, and not of abstract theories.

The people will not wait till another Presidential election to settle so important a question. They will not allow the country to be agitated from one end of the Union to the other, for the space of three years, till the love of the people shall be able to compete with loath fanaticism. The question is a dangerous one, if it has no other consequences than that of familiarizing the public mind with treason, and depreciating the value of our Union, as the who's country. It will be better settled speedily, and this is best done by a compromise.

I saw that the administration felt disposed to yield when the Constitution of California was sent in by the President, without any recommendation on his part. He then determined that the doctrine avowed in his message; but he deviated from it; rather, by omission than commission, which is probably owing to his Cabinet rather than to himself.

A few days ago, when Ex-Governor Doty, of Wisconsin, introduced his resolution to instruct the Committee on Territories to bring at once in a bill for the admission of California as a State, the Republic in its remonstrance, saying that the minority of the House were not to be considered in consideration and respect, and that nothing was gained by precipitating measures. At last the "Republic" brings Mr. Clay's Compromise Speech; and I should not be surprised if the "Republic," after tacking two or three more, were to weather the Claps and to square the yards.

The case of Mrs. Gaines, which has been in the courts so long, has at last decided in the U. S. Circuit Court at New Orleans, and against her claim. The testimony in the case showed not only a curious state of affairs in the domestic history of some of the parties concerned, but also some singular facts respecting social and moral life in New Orleans, previous to its admission into the Union. It was proved during the trial that the mother of Mrs. Gaines was married to three different persons, each living at the same time. Mrs. G. was the child of the second husband, and claimed all his large estates, but the decision of the Court leaves its possession in the hands of the present owners.

In reference to the nineteen cases of cholera mentioned as having occurred during the past week among the immigrants on Ward's Island, the New York Journal of Commerce of Monday says:

The majority of the deceased were persons lately arrived. The physicians do not appear to be a matter justly calculated to excite apprehension; though the inference from their testimony is, that there still continues to exist as heretofore, a peculiar state of the atmosphere, that inclines to the attacks of cholera, and that the persons who are already obnoxious to disease, from habits of extreme filth, or the hardships incident to a long sea voyage.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Democrats of the city and county of Philadelphia held a public meeting in the Chinese Museum, on the evening of the 22d, at which the Hon. Charles Brown presided. The object of the meeting was to give an expression in regard to the mad efforts of a few fanatics, who are using every effort to make their doctrines paramount to all other obligations, regardless alike of the feelings, opinions, or rights of any other portion of the people of the United States, or the peace and safety of the Union.

No man can shut his eyes to the fact that our happy Union is in danger, and we are rejoiced to see that our people are beginning to speak out, in public meetings and through the press, in a manner not to be misunderstood. The resolutions adopted at this great meeting of the Democrats of the city and county, are eminently patriotic in sentiment, and administer a severe but just rebuke to those "disturbers of the peace" who are trifling with the peace of our common country.

The Pennsylvania, in speaking of this great demonstration, says:

It was, in truth, a monster meeting. The true men and true women of all parts of this great city and county; and the Hall, capable of holding over 5,000 persons, was filled to suffocation before the hour of organization—masses finding it impossible to obtain entrance. The enthusiasm was irresistible, from the beginning to the end. The cheers and applause of the masses present were bursts of overpowering acclamation. And when a small knot of Free Soilers attempted to interrupt the meeting,