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Address of the Democratic Senators.

To the Democrats of Pennsylvania:

FELLOW-CITIZENS—At this juncture in the proceeding of the Senate of Pennsylvania, the undersigned deem it their right and duty to address you.

For more than two months we have unitedly and determinedly withstood an effort on the part of the Republican members of that body to subvert the organic law, to ignore the precedents of seventy years of our history, and to trample under foot the rights of their equals and peers. In so doing we have been actuated by the high resolve, that by no act of the representatives of the only law-abiding political organization in this Commonwealth should the rights and constitutional privileges of the people be subverted. We have relied with unshaken faith upon that people for any support and vindication, and to the end that their verdict may be rendered with a full knowledge of the facts, we beg leave to present a brief history of our position during the protracted and exciting contest which has just closed.

The members of the Senate assembled in the Senate Chamber at Harrisburg on Tuesday, January 5th, A. D. 1864, at 3 P. M. Of the twenty-two Senators holding over, all were present save Major White, who was a prisoner in the hands of the rebels; of those present, twelve were Democrats, and nine Republicans. The Senate was called to order by the Hon. J. P. Penney, the Speaker elected at the close of the session of 1863. The Secretary of the Commonwealth was introduced and presented the returns from the districts which had elected Senators in October, 1863.—The returns were opened and read, by which it appeared that four Democrats and seven Republicans had been elected all of whom were present, thereby causing a tie in the vote between the two great political organizations of the country as represented on that floor.

Upon the reading of the certificates of election, it would have been the duty of the Senator elected Speaker at the close of the session of 1863, to have vacated the chair, had he been governed in his action by the express terms of the Constitution, which, by section X, Article I, prescribes that the General Assembly shall meet on the 1st Tuesday of January in every year and by section XI of the same article, that "each House (i. e. when they meet on the day) shall elect its speaker and other officers." It appears to the undersigned that the words "each House shall elect its speaker" are sufficiently clear to determine the question that no one elected Speaker by the Senate of 1863 could exercise the duties of that office over the Senate of 1864—the latter being a new and distinct body, made up by other members who had never participated in an election for Speaker, and as by the express terms of the Constitution, "each House shall (when they meet on the first Tuesday in January in each year) elect its speaker and other officers." It is manifest and clear that the Senator from Allegheny had no shadow of right to exercise the duties of Speaker over this new Senate which had never recognized him as such. But admitting for the sake of argument, that the words of the Constitution are ambiguous and certain, then precedent and usage, if they exist, must determine their meaning, and by this test the undersigned desire that their position may be tried.

It is thus a matter of history that the Republican Senators refused a fair and just proposition which had been accepted, would have organized the Senate on the second day of its meeting. They attempt to justify their conduct on two grounds. First, that the Senate is ever organized, the Speaker of a former Senate being the Speaker of the subsequent one; and, second, that Major White, if present, would have given them a majority.

We have heretofore exposed the fallacy of the first position by reference to the words of the Constitution, and to the unbroken precedents of seventy years. In addition we will present a test which will so clearly expose the unwarrantable and unconstitutional nature of the claim that no one, however prejudiced, may mistake or misunderstand it.

By the XXIII section, Article I, of the Constitution of this State, it is provided that all bills passed by the Legislature and presented to the Governor for his signature, within ten days of the final adjournment, shall become laws without his signature, unless sent back (with his objections) within three days after the next meeting.

In 1855 the Legislature met on the second day of January. The contest for Speaker was prolonged until the fifth, when the Hon. Wm. M. Hiestor, of Berks county, was elected. Upon the sixth, the fourth day after their meeting, the Governor of the Commonwealth returned, with his objections, several of the most important bills passed by the Legislature of 1854.—If the position of the Republican Senators of 1864 is correct, viz: that the Senate is always organized and that the Speaker of the former Senate is the Speaker of the new Senate, then those bills of 1854, voted by Governor Bigler on the fourth day of the session of 1855, are laws notwithstanding his vetoes. That this is not so, or at least that none of the eminent lawyers and statesmen who composed that Senate (among whom were Price, Buckalew, Heister and Darsie) so thought, is evinced by the fact that they all voted upon those vetoes as required by the Constitution, which they surely would not have done had they been of opinion they had been sent into law. The Senators of 1855 did not even claim to have even met until they had elected a Speaker, much less that they were organized. Our view of this question is further strengthened by the act of 1864, which obviously contemplates the election of a Speaker of each House at the beginning of each session, and requires him first to be sworn before he can administer the oaths to the newly elected members. It has been left for the Republican

members of a body of which he had never been elected Speaker. It is here to be observed that this course was necessary on their part, for the reason that it was the evident intention of the Republicans, should the Democrats refuse to take the oath, to leave their names off the roll, whereby our opponents would have secured a clear majority of those voting.

After this act of usurpation the new Senate, by a unanimous vote, adopted a resolution to proceed to an election for Speaker. If it is not true that the office was vacant, (as the undersigned contend,) why the necessity to elect a Speaker? But under this resolution several ballots were held on that, the first day of our meeting, each resulting in a tie between the Republican candidate, Mr. Penney, and the Democratic candidate, Mr. Clymer. The Senate adjourned until the next day, when, after several ineffectual ballots, the Senator from Berks, Mr. Clymer, on behalf of the undersigned, made the following proposition of compromise, viz: That the Republicans should select the Speaker of the Senate, the Democrats the Clerk, and so alternately until all were filled.—This basis of settlement the undersigned considered to be just. It was made, not for the purpose of securing place or position, but to vindicate a principle. It was precisely the basis of compromise adopted in 1855, when the Democrats having an actual majority (although not present) were given the Speaker, the Know Nothings of that day (at present Republicans) the clerk, and so alternately to the end of the list. But this proposition the Republican Senators of 1864 refused to accept. They had entered upon usurpation, and they determined to adhere to it with all its consequences.

During the protracted struggle which followed, this offer of compromise was renewed from time to time; it was always rejected, and not one proposition tending to a solution of the difficulty ever came from the Republican side, save the absurd suggestion of the Senator from Erie, Mr. Lowry, that he would vote for the Democratic candidate for Speaker, provided either he or some one of the undersigned would agree never to vote on any party or test question.

That Maj. White became a prisoner is his misfortune; that he is not released is the intentional and designed fault of his political friends. In either view, he and they are alone responsible for the "dead lock" caused by his absence.

After the Republicans had secured a clear majority, they still persisted in their course of usurpation. In the earlier days of the session, by a unanimous vote, and by participating in twelve ballots, they admitted that it was their sworn duty to proceed to the election of Speaker. When they had secured the power to do so, then, in violation of the Constitution, of precedent, and of their own admissions, they for ten days persisted in their revolutionary conduct. But from the 29th of February, the day when Dr. St. Clair was sworn as Senator from the Twenty-first District, until this 9th day of March, the undersigned have resisted as before, by all means in their power, every attempt on the part of the Republicans to legislate, bluffed and defeated, they have on this day yielded the whole question in issue. THE SENATE OF 1864 HAS ELECTED ITS SPEAKER!!!

Thus, fellow-citizens, have the Constitution, precedent and law been sustained, and the course of the undersigned vindicated.

We have thus narrated the facts of this case, and have endeavored, and we trust successfully, to expose the fallacy of the ostensible reasons assigned by the Republican Senators in support of their conduct. We say ostensible, for we do not hesitate to declare that the entire proceeding is but a part and parcel of a programme which proposes to break down and destroy every barrier standing between them and their lust for power and place.

In the past, we have presented a determined and unbroken front. We have done so during the trying times of the present, and sustained by your confidence and support, we will continue to do so in the time to come.

We have presented you the record—by it we are willing to be judged.

Hiestor Clymer, Wm. A. Wallace, Geo. H. Bucher, John Latta, C. M. Donovan, Geo. W. Stone, A. Hiestand Glatz, J. B. Stark, Wm. Hopkins, B. Reilly, D. B. Montgomery, J. C. Smith, H. B. Bearsteele, C. A. Lamberton, Wm. McSherry, Wm. Kinsey. HARRISBURG, March 9, 1864.

Senators of 1864 to ignore the Constitution, to defy precedent, and to attempt to destroy the very foundations of law and order.

This disposes of their first ground of defence. We will now probe the second reason assigned for their revolutionary conduct.

Who is accountable for the absence of Major White, or rather, who is to blame that his seat was not filled on the first day we met?

It is alleged that Major White resigned his seat in this Senate, that resignation having been received by his father, Judge White about the middle of November, 1863. It is to be assumed (the undersigned reserving their individual opinions thereon) that the resignation was genuine, since in furtherance and in support of the usurpation inaugurated in January, an election was ordered thereon by the Speaker de facto of the Senate, and a new member elected and sworn. Assuming it to be genuine, whom fault is it that an election was not ordered immediately on its reception, which would have given ample time to have put his successor in his place on the first Tuesday of January? Surely, neither that of the undersigned, nor of any Democrat in the State; the blame must rest where it rightfully belongs, upon the Republicans of the Senate and upon their abettors.

The excuse offered is that the resignation was not filed, in order that efforts might be made (the incentive being the necessity of Maj. White's preference to Republican ascendancy in this State) for his exchange. Without stopping to inquire whether this ascendancy is likely to be beneficial to the people of Pennsylvania, we will merely remark that if the fate of Major White had been different or more deplorable than that of thousands of other brave and gallant men who are enduring the untold horrors of captivity in order that the negro may be raised to the level of the white man, then, indeed, might some such excuse be tolerated. But Major White's condition, much as we deplore it, is no worse than that of those who are a garnered harvest of brave men rotting in prison, victims to the malignant heresies of those who advocate the social, political, and military equality of the black and white races.

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East Baltimore Annual Conference.—Case of Rev. Samuel Kepler.

The Seventh Annual Session of the East Baltimore Conference was held at Altoona last week, commencing the 2d instant. A friend has placed in our hands a copy of the *Daily Conference Record*, containing a full report of the proceedings, with a request that we publish the letter of Rev. Mr. Kepler withdrawing from the Ministry of the M. E. Church, after 36 years' connection therewith. To make the case as intelligible as possible we select from the *Record* every thing we can find relating to Mr. Kepler's case, in the hope of ascertaining precisely what charges were made against him, and whether they were true or false. The following is the result:

In the first day's proceedings we find, Rev. George Guyer was appointed by the President as Chairman of the Committee in the case of Rev. Sumwalt, and Rev. Furlong Chairman of the Committee in the case of Rev. Kepler.

In the proceedings of the afternoon of same day we find, Rev. Kepler objected to the wording of the journal in regard to his case. The President inquired if the brother wished to amend the journal. Mr. Kepler said he had only to claim his right, as a minister of 36 years standing, it being the first time an occurrence of this kind had taken place.

Committee on trial in the case of Rev. Kepler, announced by the President, to meet this evening in the lecture room of the Presbyterian Church.

In Thursday morning's proceedings we find—

Rev. Black was excused from acting on the Committee on trial of Rev. Kepler and Rev. Conser appointed to his place. Rev. Buckingham moved that the claim of Rev. Kepler be not allowed, inasmuch as a well furnished parsonage had been provided for him in which he refused to reside.

Rev. Kepler said in reply that he had rented a house and furnished it, and the claim made did not meet the amount to which he would be entitled. No collection had been taken for this purpose; the amount had been handed to him by his friends. The statement in regard to his having other sources of income was not true.

Rev. Buckingham said the parsonage was comfortable, and there was plenty there for a man who would be loyal to his church and to his country.

Rev. Kepler said he was as true to his country and his flag as any other man, and any other testimony was a slander on his character. He was in the habit of praying, Sabbath after Sabbath, for the President of the United States, and his Cabinet, for the citizen soldiers of the land, and for God's blessing to rest on the soldiers in the army, that if they fall in the battle-field they might go to the better land.

Rev. Kepler was called to order by a member.

Rev. Kepler said charges could be preferred against him, but when he arose to explain he was called to order. He was a Constitutional Union man, and any other charge was false.

Rev. Stone asked Rev. Kepler if he had not said to him that President Lincoln was not as good a man as Jeff Davis?

Rev. Kepler replied that he could not be allowed an opportunity to explain, and the question being called for, the resolution of Mr. Buckingham was sustained, and the claim disallowed.

Court of Trial in the case of Mr. Kepler, to meet in the Preacher's Study this afternoon at 2 o'clock.

On Friday morning the following proceedings took place:

Committee in the case of Rev. Kepler reported. Report accepted and ordered to be printed with the minutes in the *Daily Record*, as follows:

The Court of Trial in the case of Rev. Samuel Kepler, present the following in their decision on the case:

The Rev. Samuel Kepler having presented a letter of withdrawal from the Methodist Episcopal Church, to four brethren, all members of the Court of Trial, agreed said letter should go before the Conference for its acceptance, provided brother Kirby would withdraw the charges he had preferred; to which brother Kirby agreed, provided said letter of withdrawal should be presented and read without any remarks. These conditions having been complied with mutually and honorably, the Court concluded they had no further jurisdiction in the case.

Signed by order and in behalf of the Court of Trial, March 3d, 1864.

H. FURLONG, Chm'n.

J. A. DeMoyer, Sec'y.

Mr. Kepler's letter of withdrawal read by the Secretary. Mr. Guyer moved that the request contained in the letter be granted. Agreed to.

Mr. Kepler asked for a certified copy of the action in regard to his case, which was granted.

The following is the letter referred to:

To the members of East Baltimore Conference.

composed of a body of men whom I have long and devotedly loved.

I was strongly influenced at your last session to carry out this purpose. Yet, as my appointment for the last year, was, to say the least, one of some peculiarity, I determined, although advised by friends to the contrary course, to go to my work in the spirit of christian meekness, perform the duties assigned me, and then, with humility, and in the fear of the Lord, to retire from any further connection with the Methodist Episcopal Church. Allow me then, dear Brethren, in all your conscience, and in the spirit of kindness and love, to send you this paper, as containing my resignation as a member of the East Baltimore Annual Conference. Under other circumstances, it would have been my highest happiness to have lived, and labored and died with you as a "worker together," in the glorious ministry of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. And I will not now disguise the facts, that I have realized much of christian enjoyment and also numerous testimonials of brotherly affections, in the society and sympathies of the members both of the Baltimore and East Baltimore Conferences, during the term of thirty-seven years connection with those two ecclesiastical bodies.

Nor do I take my leave of you now, without deep heartfelt emotion, without profound gratitude to "the God of all grace," that he permits me, in his wonder-working Providence, in looking back upon the years that are passed, to give glory and praise to his holy name, that, in the various fields of labor, in which my imperfect ministry has been exercised, I have witnessed the conversion to God, of more than two thousand precious and immortal souls. I feel that I am unworthy to have been thus privileged, and I feel also, that it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy."

Begetting, dear brethren, that you will throw over the many imperfections you have found me to betray in my holy calling as a minister of Christ, the beautiful mantle of heaven-born charity, I have, in conclusion, to say in all christian frankness, and in all good conscience before God, that, as after an examination of a long series of years, with an honest desire to know and obey God's most holy word, my views and convictions respecting the relation of Master and Servant, as contained in the Bible, are utterly and I must say, irreconcilably opposed to those which now govern the great body of the M. E. Church, and which doctrines, I cannot preach without being a dissenter before the Lord; while, in saying this much, I pretend to judge no man, but only speak honestly and fearlessly for myself, and thus commit the justification of my own course to the unfolding pleasure of a future Providence. I feel now, I have no other duty to perform in this writing, than simply to respectfully request that you may be pleased to direct my name to be noted as "Withdrawn" upon your journal.

With the assurance of many prayers for your spiritual progress, and requesting a continued interest in your supplications to God, on my own behalf, I am, dear Brethren, Yours, very Truly and Respectfully, SAMUEL KEPLER. McConnellsburg, Fulton Co. Pa. November 18th, 1863.

THE VALLANDIGHAM FUND.—For the week ending February 29th, amounted to \$815 80. Several counties in the State have each contributed already over one thousand dollars. Some of them will run over two thousand dollars. It may well be said that no man ever before had such warm and devoted friends, or malignant enemies, as the Hon. C. L. Vallandigham.

We acknowledge the receipt of \$5 25 from the ladies of School District No. 10, Paris township.—Stark county (O.) Dem.

Dr. John Chapman, a celebrated English Physician, is now engaged in making important experiments, connected with epilepsy, and other diseases of the nervous system, by the external application of ice and hot water, in rubber bags, to various parts of the spinal cord; setting thus on the sympathetic nerve, and, thro' it, upon the most important and vital portions of the body.

A married man of our acquaintance says the first thing that ever turned his attention to matrimony was the neat and skilful manner in which a pretty girl handed a broom. He may see the time when the manner will not afford him quite so much satisfaction.

Clamorous people should remember the tail of the rattlesnake makes the noise, but the head always does the poisoning.

The New "Labor System."—The telegraph despatches of yesterday inform us that a colored somebody, from Massachusetts, has been appointed an assistant provost marshal of Louisiana, "to superintend the labor system instituted by General Banks."

It makes very little difference to the people of Wisconsin, politically, what sort of a "labor system" prevails in Louisiana, provided that system is not supported at our expense. The old system of slave labor may have been worse or better than the system instituted by Banks. We are inclined to think it preferable; but, so or not, how comes it incumbent upon Wisconsin to fight wars, and pay Massachusetts generals and provost marshals to institute new labor systems on the "half of Mexico. Is it just or lawful to tax Wisconsin farmers for any such purpose?

Under the old Government of the Republic—before States became provinces—States possessed rights—but they were also burdened with duties. One of those duties was to support and maintain their own negroes. They did not work badly for the Union. For confirmation of this, we have only to refer to the Chicago platform of 1860, upon which Mr. Lincoln was nominated, wherein we are informed that, notwithstanding the duty of each State to control its own domestic institutions, the country up to that time could boast of an "unprecedented increase of population," "a rapid augmentation of wealth," together with "happiness at home and honor abroad." By fighting for the right of instituting a "new labor system," like that of Gen. Banks, how much have we improved our condition!

Missouri News.

New and Wonderful Invention.—Mr. John Clark, a mechanic in the Philadelphia Navy Yard, has made an invention, which would be of great utility both in the military and naval services of the United States at the present time. It is represented as an instrument called the "AT. Inceptor," by the use of which a person standing on the ground can see over the tops of the tallest houses or other surrounding objects; in fact, can take a bird's-eye view of cities and country for miles around. For naval purposes this instrument would be invaluable; the captain, pilot or other officer can, from a secure position below the water mark or upon the gun-deck, have a full view of everything around his vessel for any distance, as well as upon the upper deck, so that, in any engagement, he can have complete control of every part of his ship. In reconnoitering up rivers the necessity of sending a man to the mast-head to look over the high lands, and who would be a conspicuous mark for the enemy's bullets, would be avoided. For army purposes, for looking over hills, embankments, or into forts, its utility would be great. The inventor declines publishing a description of this instrument at present, for prudential motives, but would be pleased to show it to naval or military men.—*Patriot and Union.*

TEN THOUSAND PARSONS EMBRY ALIVE IN JAPAN.—In August last, in Japan, not a building with two thousand brigs in it, but a whole city of 170,000 souls was suddenly burnt to ashes in a few hours—a city of paper and bamboo, covering many square miles, filled with its women and children, the sick and the infirm, the halt, and the maimed. It burned like straw, on many sides at once, rendering the ocean for leagues with its flames. It was fired without warning by bomb-shells, and red-hot shot rained incessantly during two days into its midst. In that vast conflagration it is morally certain that not 2,000 only, but at least five times—perhaps ten or twenty times—2,000 helpless creatures must have perished.—No brilliant pen has painted for us the hideous incidents of their last agonies, and the horrors of an infernal fire, before which that of Chili burns but feebly.—Death was dealt out to those innocent beings in Japan by English sailors—purposely, unshrinkingly and heartily—not in war, not in necessity, not in self-preservation,—but in order to strike terror into a harmless people, whom we are bent upon forcing into trade.—*Letter in London Daily News.*

At a recent meeting of one of the cemetery companies the chairman very gravely stated that he had great pleasure in announcing to the meeting the gratifying fact that the burials in the cemetery for the last year were double the number of those of the year preceding.

An impatient volunteer, while practising the military science alone in his garden, tumbled backwards into a ditch.—His wife hurried to his assistance, and implored him to say whether or not he was hurt. The reply was, "Gawdy, never want to get know about Gawdy."

A married man of our acquaintance says the first thing that ever turned his attention to matrimony was the neat and skilful manner in which a pretty girl handed a broom. He may see the time when the manner will not afford him quite so much satisfaction.

Clamorous people should remember the tail of the rattlesnake makes the noise, but the head always does the poisoning.