

THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

I have sworn upon the Altar of God, eternal hostility to every form of Tyranny over the Mind of Man.—Thomas Jefferson.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY H. WEBB.

Volume III.

BLOOMSBURG, COLUMBIA COUNTY, PA. SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1840.

Number 46.

OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRAT,
OPPOSITE ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, MAIN-ST.

TERMS:

The COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT will be published every Saturday morning, at TWO DOLLARS per annum, payable half yearly in advance, or Two Dollars Fifty Cents, if not paid within the year.

No subscription will be taken for a shorter period than six months; nor any discontinuance permitted, until all arrearages are discharged.

ADVERTISEMENTS not exceeding a square will be conspicuously inserted at One Dollar for the first three insertions, and Twenty-five cents for every subsequent insertion. A liberal discount made to those who advertise by the year. LETTERS addressed on business, must be post paid.

POLITICAL.

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

HARRISBURG, WEDNESDAY, March 4.

At half past 9 o'clock, the delegates appointed from the several counties to the 4th of March Convention, to form an Electoral Ticket for President, and to appoint delegates to the Convention to be held in Baltimore in May next, for the purpose of nominating candidates for President and Vice President, met, when,

On motion of Mr. VAN AMRINGE, FREDERICK SMITH, Esq., of Franklin, was appointed temporary chairman, for the purpose of organization.

On motion, FRANKLIN R. SCHONER, of Berks, and H. L. HARVEY, of Erie, were appointed Secretaries.

On motion of ABBOT GREEN, it was Resolved—That the alphabetical list of members, as published in the democratic papers of Harrisburg, be read as evidence of election, in all cases, except where seats are contested.

The list then being called over, it appeared that every county in the state was represented.

Mr. FLEMING moved that a committee, consist of one delegate from each congressional district, be appointed to select and report nominations for officers of this convention.

Mr. VAN AMRINGE moved that the members from all the contested districts be permitted to vote in the selection of the committee for the nomination of officers.

The convention then adjourned for half an hour.

SAME DAY.

The convention met, when the secretary read the names of the committee appointed by the different delegations for the purpose of choosing officers.

Whereupon, the chairman appointed the following committee to select and report officers for the convention.

Philadelphia—John Felton, James Esau, John Snyder, Richard Vaux, John M. Doherty, J. H. Frick.

York—Isaac Garretson.
Westmoreland and Indiana—James Bell.
Dauphin and Lebanon—John Shindler.

Bucks—John S. Bryan.
Allegheny—H. H. Van Amringe.
Berks—John Miller.

Butler, Armstrong, Jefferson and M'Kean—James Potts.

Washington—Samuel Hill.
Monroe, Northampton, Wayne and Pike—John A. Innes.

Montgomery—Andrew Stuart.
Somerset and Cambria—John A. Blodget.

Lycoming, Northumberland and Union—Horace M. Bliss.

Erie, Crawford, Warren and Venango—Smith Jackson.

Luzerne and Columbia—Henry Webb.
Fayette and Greene—Walter B. Chalfant.
Beaver and Mercer—John Hoge.
Schuylkill—John S. Ingram.

Bradford and Susquehanna—Wm. Elwell.
Lancaster—John W. Forney, Levi Lewis, Edward F. Evans.
Adams and Franklin—Wm. Gilmore.

Huntingdon, Juniata and Millin—Wm. M'Allister.

Cumberland and Franklin—Hugh Gallagher.
The convention then adjourned, to meet again at 4 o'clock, P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The convention met and was called to order by Mr. Smith, at 4 o'clock.

When in a few minutes after that time, Mr. Miller, of Berks, chairman of the committee appointed for the purpose of selecting officers to perform the duties of this convention, reported that the committee had selected the following named officers:

PRESIDENT.

CALVIN BLYTHE, of Dauphin.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

Frederick Smith, Franklin,

John S. Gibbons, Lehigh,

Jacob Gehr, Berks,

Martin Shearer, York,

R. P. Fleniken, Fayette,

James Patterson, Lancaster,

Wm. Porter, Allegheny,

James M'Farren, Washington,

Samuel Hays, Venango,

Samuel Sprout, Beaver,

Charles Chandler, Susquehanna,

W. P. Wilcox, M'Kean,

Martin Loy, Bedford,

Ebenezer Kingsbury, Wayne,

James M'Diott, Adams,

George Lehman, Philadelphia city,

Joseph Morrison, Bucks.

SECRETARIES.

Henry L. Harvey, Erie,

Franklin B. Schoener, Berks,

Richard Vaux, Philadelphia,

John W. Forney, Lancaster,

N. Strickland, Chester,

E. M. D. Butler,

Henry D. Foster, Westmoreland,

John A. Innes, Northampton.

The question being taken, on the adoption of the report it was unanimously agreed to.

The Hon. CALVIN BLYTHE, was then conducted to the chair.

Mr. VAN AMRINGE, from the committee appointed to inquire into the rights of the several claimants, whose seats were contested, reported that the committee had not yet come to any decision on the subject, and therefore asked leave to sit again; which was granted.

The PRESIDENT then rose, and addressed the convention to the following effect:

GENTLEMEN:—I beg leave to tender you my most unfeigned thanks, for the honor conferred upon me to preside over your deliberations. To be selected to fill a seat of this kind by a body of my fellow-citizens, would at all times be a matter of congratulation; but to be selected by an assembly of delegates from the great democratic party of Pennsylvania, on the present occasion, I confess, is an honor for which I feel sincerely grateful. I feel thankful to that party with which I early felt it my duty to connect myself, and with which I have continued to act so far as I have interfered with the political affairs of this state—and been entitled to take a part in them as a citizen of Pennsylvania—to that party, which, for more than forty years, has been effectively organized—during which time the administration of the general government of our country has, almost, without exception, been altogether under their exclusive control; and during which period we have the satisfaction to reflect, that the conduct of that party, through its representative agents has been such as to secure to our country a degree of prosperity which is unparalleled in the annals of nations. [Loud cheers.] We have, also, during almost the same period, had the management and the administration of the affairs of our own state; and we can with pride and satisfaction compare our institutions, our laws, our civilization, the security and happiness of our citizens, and their general prosperity, without any danger of disparagement, with any of the neighboring states of our Union.

Gentlemen—The democratic party was founded originally with a view to secure to

the great body of the people of the country the greatest security for their rights and the greatest amount of general happiness. To secure and carry out those objects, the founders of the party entrusted the power that should lead to this result, to the greatest body of the people themselves. They maintained that those who had achieved their independence were competent to choose representatives to conduct the affairs of the country, with safety and security to themselves. This principle they adopted as the first organization as a party, and to it they have steadfastly adhered ever since; and to this adherence we may attribute the uniform—the almost uniform success of the party. Our party has had to contend from its first organization until the present moment with an active, energetic and influential opposition. Our party, at its first organization was opposed, on the ground that our principles were untenable. These principles were openly denied by the opposition. They said that the mass of the people were not fit to be entrusted with political affairs. This was the principle ground of their objection to the principles of democracy. And this, I appeal with confidence to the recollection, or information of gentlemen was one of the differences of opinion which existed between the two parties of that day; this was the contest and line of division between them. Subsequently, it is true, our opponents learning wisdom from experience, have changed, in appearance, their ground. Not only have they professed to become converts to our principles, but they have, in several instances, assumed our name, a name, which, at one time, was esteemed by them, a mark of ignominy and reproach. [Applause.] The contest between us, although altered in its character, is still in principles. We have the same active and energetic party for our opponents, and so long as our organization as a community shall exist in its present shape—so long as freedom of opinion exists, so long shall we have that contest continued. Judging from our success, and not willing to estimate the honesty and intelligence of the great mass of the community according to its real deserts, they have never failed to attribute our success either to some isolated question which, for the time being, chanced to occupy the public attention, or to some peculiar traits in the candidates for office. We have witnessed them more than once denounce a measure as fatal to the prosperity of the country, and afterwards, when it had secured the popular favor, they had advocated it as one which was calculated to advance the prosperity and happiness of the Union.

Gentlemen, we have seen our opponents denounce Military Chieftains when they were candidates of our party. We have seen, again, these same opponents select as their own candidate, when we chanced to have one of civil qualifications as our military chieftain, the suffrages of the way word of our country. [Applause.] These peers, gentlemen, are facts notorious to all of us and to the whole community. We have and to the whole community. We have witnessed the denunciation of our principles; we have witnessed the perversion of those same principles by our opponents; we have witnessed the avowal of one set of principles at one period and another at another. And the last farces which our opponents have played before our nation is their disavowal of all principle, and a declaration that they would oppose us without any avowal of principle on their part whatever. Thus arming themselves like guerrillas, they seem to have instructed their leaders to attack their opponents at any point, or on any principle that they might deem most expedient. And thus by a system—by a kind of war of outposts, it is calculated that a degree of annoyance may be inflicted upon us by seizing upon each local question—by attacking us first on one point on this side, and then on another point on that side, and that thus they may expose us to a division that may at once prostrate us as a party, and give them the victory.

But, gentlemen, we are called upon, on the present occasion, to guard ourselves against the machinations of our opponents. We discover distinctly the game that they are playing—the artillery they contemplate to bring to bear upon us. It is our duty to guard against it. The principles we maintain are the same. We have the same enemy to contend with. They have only changed their mode and system of warfare; and we must present to them an undivided phalanx—a bold front when the battle comes to be fought. We are fortunate, gentlemen, in having placed in office the individual who is now our chief magistrate—a gentleman whose qualifications are beyond all question even his opponents being judges. He has faithfully and successfully carried out those principles which he himself avowed, and which advocated by the party who placed him in nomination and elected him to the station which he now holds, and that too with fidelity and firmness which has astonished and called forth the admiration of the whole community. The party not only in our own state, but throughout the Union are probably as thoroughly united in support of his measures and in the approbation to which they consider him entitled for the honesty and firmness with which he has carried out the principles of the great democratic party, as they have ever been in favor of any one selected to fill so important a station.

In 1835, by an unfortunate division in our ranks, we suffered the administration of the state to pass into the hands of our opponents. At the expiration of three years, our party having united, we met our opponents on the election ground and succeeded in our measures. Our opponents resorted to measures which I presume the great mass themselves would not now undertake to approve at an election. Yet, even when the election had terminated and they were defeated there was reluctance manifested to yield to the expressed will of the public—a reluctance which I regret has too often manifested itself in that party—a disregard from public sentiment, declared in the manner expressed by our constitution and laws.—[Great and reiterated applause.] And it is known to those whom I address (for the event is of recent occurrence) that a disregard of the constitution and laws, on that occasion had almost driven us to the verge of a civil war. This circumstance, then, ought to urge upon us the necessity of harmony, united councils and united action, so that we may avoid even the appearance of having done any thing in contravention of, or calculated to endanger the constitution and the laws. And if united, gentlemen, I have no hesitation in saying—I have no doubt in asserting it with confidence, that success will attend you. We have a clear majority in our native state and these are the welfare of our community. WHEN UNITED WE NEVER CAN BE VANQUISHED.

We succeeded in selecting our officers and in placing in their hands the administration of the state. We have been fortunate in the selection. In our chief magistrate, we have one who has carried out with singular fidelity and firmness, the principles that were avowed at his nomination—the principles that were advocated by the party during the canvass for his election—with candor, with sincerity, and wisdom, and with fearlessness. He has carried out those principles, and has appealed with confidence, shunning no responsibility to that party and to that community whose interests are entrusted to his care, as to the propriety of his measures. [Loud Applause.]

I am gratified to say, that so far as public sentiment has been manifested and it appears to have been manifested in a clear and decisive manner, he has not appealed in vain, but a response has come from the party saying with an unanimity almost unexampled, that his conduct has met their decided approbation. We have the satisfaction to feel assured that the person selected

to preside the destinies of our common country, as well as the individual selected to preside over the destinies of our favored and beloved commonwealth, have succeeded in carrying out the principles we profess and upon which they were elected to the nomination not only of their constituents in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but of the democratic party throughout the whole Union. They have, merited and receive the approbation of the democracy with hitherto unexampled unanimity.—What difficulty then, can possibly thwart us? What can turn us from the plain course marked out by wisdom and experience? This course is to move with harmony, with concert, both as regards the general and state governments, which are clearly identified in the affections and feelings of the democratic party of Pennsylvania. If we continue thus to act in concert and with unanimity, we have nothing to fear; we may with reasonable certainty calculate upon a successful result at the coming elections.—[Reiterated applause.]

On motion of Mr. EXAZER, it was agreed that when the convention adjourns, it do so to meet again at half past seven in the evening.

Shortly after the convention adjourned. EVENING SESSION.

The convention, pursuant to adjournment, met again at half past seven o'clock.

The committee on the contested elections not being prepared to report.

On motion of Mr. RANKIN, the convention agreed to meet again to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

The convention then adjourned.

At nine o'clock the President called the convention to order, when

Mr. VAN AMRINGE from the committee to whom had been referred the case of the contested seats, made the following report, which was read:

The committee appointed to hear the claimants of both parties, from districts whose seats were contested, and to decide which delegates are entitled to seats in this convention reported. After some discussion the report was adopted.

On motion of Mr. HARVEY, of Erie, it was

Resolved—That the rules of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, be adopted for the government of this convention.

On motion of Mr. VAN AMRINGE, the convention then proceeded to receive nominations for President and Vice President of the United States; when,

For President of the United States, Mr. J. R. SNOWDEN nominated M. VAN BUREN, of New York.

For Vice President of the United States, Mr. GREEN nominated RICHARD M. JOHNSON, of Kentucky.

On motion of Mr. VAN AMRINGE, the nomination of MARTIN VAN BUREN was unanimously confirmed.

On motion of Mr. GREEN, the roll was then called upon the nomination of Vice President, when it appeared that

Messrs. Michael, Snyder, Brown, Stevenson, Kugler, Strickland, Reynolds, Bryan, Gehr, Rankin, Pearson, Green, Curran, Nathans, Shimer, Fleming, Cash, Maclean, Gallagher, Loy, Foster, Hill, Coplan, Boas, Lowrey, Hays, Patterson, Jenkins, McDiott, Evans, Carter, Blodget, Noble, Schoener, Smith, Miller, Kutz, Elwell, Mortison, Thornton, Jenks, Neff, McFarland, Tebbett, Huling, Webb, Church, Henry, Day, Wherry, Blythe, Lauman, Strohecker, Lewis, Jackson, Harvey, Chalfant, Fleniken, Gilmore, Hoge, Crisswell, Garber, M'Allister, Gibbons, Robert E. Wright, Shindler, Griffin, Hendrick B. Wright, Dean, Bliss, Wilcox, John Hoge, Goodwin, Burns, Stewart, Henry Schneider, George Snyder, Coolbaugh, Steckle, Horton, Greer, Lehman, Neal, Stever, Joseph Snyder, Hutchison, Vaux, Miller, Crispin, Helfenstein, Penniman, Bonsall, Lee, Griffith, Lyons, George, Hamlin, Ingram, Chandler, Dyer,