

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.

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BLOOMSBURG, PA.



AUGUST 22, 1840.

According to promise, we this week give a lengthy although an abridged account of the proceedings of the Lancaster Convention. It is made up of extracts from the Lancaster Intelligencer.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.

PENNSYLVANIA CONVENTION! THE GREATEST GATHERING EVER SEEN IN AMERICA!

The Keystone State speaking proclaiming victory to the Democracy of the land through TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND of her sons!

The fifth of August, 1840, was a great day. It has already passed into a proverb. The thousands of freemen who met here then to swear fealty to their democratic faith here trampled upon, like the dust under their crowded feet, the best hopes of the British Whigs. They have left an impression behind, and carried with them a feeling which foretold alike victory in Pennsylvania and triumph in the Union.— They have settled the question, which British Whiggery, through its forked tongues, they have shewn, like the "mene tekel" on the palace-walls of Belshazzar, the inevitable destiny of a party which, in its unholy longings after power and place, appeals to the brute passions of the mob, not to the intelligence of the people. They have exploded and refuted the calumny which has declared the people tired of their principles—thus proving themselves not only unchangeable. From the green hills of old Pennsylvania—from her quiet valleys—her luxuriant fields—her country and her town—the rushing thousands came. The hard hands and the tried hearts of the Keystone state were here, gathering together to preserve her from pollution and sacrilege.

The gathering of Wednesday last was emphatically the very largest political assemblage that ever came together in the Union! It was Old Pennsylvania herself! It was her democracy in its true, natural, unadorned garb: her stoutest mechanics and farmers and workmen were here, and there was not one eye that did not flash with enthusiasm as the word of the rich promise came rolling from the lips. Every county spoke, through her assembled delegates, in bold unshaken confidence of the part which it intended to take next fall in behalf of our eternal principles, and every delegate had some especially glad tidings to add to the glorious prospect. Nothing marred the harmony of the whole, but the great mass moved on to its goal with smiling faces and laughing eyes, the blue welkin fairly quivering to the thundering shouts of a free, harmonious, but insulted people.— God bless their honest hearts! the country is in no danger while they stand, like a wall of fire, round its institutions and its laws.

Nature itself seemed to have declared in favor of the people. For weeks before, not a drop of rain, save an occasional half-hearted shower, blessed the parched earth with its refreshing influence, but on the Monday and Tuesday evenings before the convention, the very windows of Heaven were opened, and the fruits and grains of the season looked glad under the genial blessings.

The delegates began to arrive on Tuesday afternoon and evening. An overflowing meeting of our citizens and a number of delegates from a distance, assembled in the court house in the evening, at which JAMES CAMERON, Esq. presided, but

on account of the dense crowd outside, it was found impossible to proceed, and an adjournment to the Market Square was effected, where addresses were delivered by CHARLES BROWN, Esq. of Philadelphia, H. H. VAN AMRINGE, Esq. of Allegheny, Col. JAMES M. PORTER, of Northampton, J. K. KANE, Esq. of Philadelphia, and R. M. BROADHEAD, Esq. of Northampton.— Col. Porter's speech was excellent, particularly in that part in which he pledged himself that Old Northampton would give a majority of three thousand for Van Buren and Johnson. "Do you hear that, boys!"

The morning of the glorious Fifth broke in upon a clear sky, while the extreme heat of the sun was tempered by a delightful breeze from the northwest. From 5 until 10 o'clock in the morning the delegates from the county and the state, by hundreds and thousands, poured in by car-loads, by wagon-loads, in gigs, carriages, sulkeys, carts, on horse-back and on foot. We never saw such a spectacle. It seemed like a gathering of the inmates of every hamlet in the commonwealth. Every ten minutes an engine with its immense cargo of human beings—their gay banners floating from the cars, and their drizzling music pealing about the note of triumph—came snorting and puffing, under its extra weight, to the depot. Thirteen trains from one section of the state alone are estimated to have arrived, each one made up of fifteen or twenty cars, and each car capable of holding sixty or eighty passengers. The population of Philadelphia, Chester, Delaware & Montgomery seemed to be all here. The avocations of life seemed to have been laid aside for the day, and every democrat to have roused to the work. From Lebanon, Northampton, Berks, Cumberland and other counties, the delegates came in carriages; more than two hundred alone came, by this means, from Lebanon: While from York, Adams, Franklin, Dauphin, the river counties, the counties to the north and north west, the representation was countless—it defied human ingenuity to master. Like the unnumbered masses that followed the fortunes of Peter Hermit to have their bones bleaching on the plains of Nice, (though animated by a different and less infatuated zeal), they were bent to achieve one end—to compass one triumph—to throw one enemy.

"Each valley, each sequestered glen,
Mustered its little horde of men,
That met as torrents from the height
In highland vales their streams unite,
Still gathering, as they pour along,
A voice more loud, a tide more strong."

"From winding glen, from upland brown,
They poured each hardy tenant down,
Casting our eyes up the main street from the court house we observed side-walks and street swarming with masses of people—at one end the county of Lancaster spilling out her population, and at another the state pouring in her most liberal contributions.— The false prophets of British Whiggery stood at our street-corners, biting their fingers' ends, and wearing most yard-long faces, or peering, like peeping Tom, of Coventry, from some convenient nook away from "the public eye." Queer things are reported of some of these gentlemen.— Elder is said to have sworn that there was not more than 3000; Franklin, that he had addressed many a loco foco meeting, and abused General Harrison, when the crowd was greater; and the fat chap of the Union, that it was a decided failure! The great body of the party, however, agreed that the loco focos did pretty well—they had fifteen thousand present, which, coming within one-half the distance of the truth, is worthy of record. We have spoken to dozens of such.

About 12 o'clock, the vast numbers began to form in procession—the delegates from the state in Orange street, and those from the county in East Vine street. From Lancaster county alone, there were over four thousand delegates, while from the state so universal was the feelings and the enthusiasm in favor of the good cause, that far Eric caught up the spirit and stood first in the ranks! The numbers were so great that, for some time, no arrangement could be effected. At last by the vigilance and promptitude of Capt. Findlay, the Chief Marshal, and his staff, the line of state delegates was formed, and was soon joined by the immense division of the Lancaster county democracy, under Col. Frazer and his staff. At one o'clock the whole line moved off.

Here follows a lengthy description of the different delegations, and their banners, which we are compelled to omit.

The procession was between two and three miles long, formed in platoons of eight, and consumed precisely one hour in passing. There were in procession one hundred and sixty banners, besides innumerable flags. We cannot pretend to give the one-fifth of the number. Language must fail itself, if we did not wait for the space,—

The spectacle viewed from a distance, was sublime. It literally verified the scriptural allusion of an "army with banners." For miles nothing was to be seen but people, while the most of the houses, the trees, and every elevated spot, were filled with eager spectators, gazing at the only standing Army recognized in a free government—a community of freemen gathered under their own vine and fig tree, to express their own sentiments. The very children caught fire from the general enthusiasm: and as each thundering shout went up from the congregated thousands, in honor of their principles, it was re-echoed by the tiny voices of these embryo republicans. Every window was filled with ladies, lending their bright smiles to the glorious scene. Flags hung suspended from private houses and from the democratic hotels, and at the Young Men's Democratic Head Quarters, (Mr. Leeds's Hotel) a beautiful arch, extending from one side of the street to the other, was erected. It attracted general admiration, and was not unworthy of it. Above floated the flag of our country, while below a beautiful transparency containing likenesses of Van Buren, Johnson, Buchanan and Porter, was suspended; the arch itself trimmed with ever-greens, and filled with mottoes. In the evening this beautiful affair was illuminated, and, from a distance, showed to much advantage. As the procession passed under it, it was cheered with much energy by the delegates.

At half-past 2 o'clock, the vast body reached the spot selected for their deliberations—the orchard of Mr. Jno. Williams, in Bethelstown. Here, again, the immense multitude was developed in full proportion, looking rather like an army bent upon some glorious victory, than as a quiet assemblage of people pledged to the rescue of their best interests and dearest rights: Not that there were gleaming bayonets, or nodding plumes; but the regularity with which the immense column preserved its order, the desire that animated every heart to contribute to the Union and Harmony of the occasion, and the absence of all tumult or disorder—all these betokened a spirit that defied even discipline to over reach.

Arrived on the ground, the immense assemblage was called to order, in a few appropriate remarks, by General JNO. DAVIS, of Bucks county, Chairman of the Committee appointed by the different delegations to report officers of the Convention and Committees on Address and Resolutions. He announced that the Committee, in pursuance of the duty which had been assigned them, had unanimously chosen Pennsylvania's favorite son, JAMES BUCHANAN, the President of the Convention. This announcement was received with thunders of applause—a refutation, that spoke from the hearts of the enthusiastic multitude, of the wilful calumnies which have been heaped upon the head of that distinguished man—a testimonial, too, of his worth as a man, his public services as a Statesman, and his devoted adherence to those principles, in defending which, he has made himself so prominent in the eyes of his countrymen. When he appeared upon the stand, and took his seat (in the characteristic Hickory chair borne by the Sadsbury township delegation) the deafening plaudis seemed like the roar of thunder to those at a distance.

The Committee then reported the names of one delegate from each county represented, as Vice Presidents, and one for Secretaries, and also Committees on address and resolutions.

During the absence of the Committee on resolutions several spirited addresses were given, which our limits will not permit us to give even a synopsis.

Mr. J. M. PORTER, from the Committee to draft Resolutions, reported the same, and read them as follows, after which they were unanimously adopted:

Resolved—That we cordially approve of the nomination of MARTIN VAN BUREN, of New York, for President, and RICHARD M. JOHNSON, of Kentucky for Vice President of the United States, as the candidate of the Democratic party of the Union.

Resolved—That in MARTIN VAN BUREN we recognize the able and enlightened statesman, the experience and practical Democrat, who has always been faithful to the cause of the people. The Keystone State will record her attachment to the principles and policy of his administration, by an overwhelming majority.

Resolved—That in RICHARD M. JOHNSON, we recognize the war worn veteran, whose numerous scars are ample certificates that when his country called he sought the post of danger, and whose long services in the councils of the Nation furnish abundant evidence of his experience in the civil administration of our Government.

Resolved—That we highly approve of the passage of the INDEPENDENT TREASURY BILL by the Congress of the United States. We consider it a second Declaration of Independence, a measure calculated to carry out the principles of Democracy, and to restore in practice the long abandoned principles of the Federal Constitution, by effecting a complete separation of the government from the Banks—entrusting the custody of the public money to responsible officers—preventing the Banking institutions of the country from loaning out the public money for the benefit of their stockholders, thus rendering themselves incapable of paying the Government draughts when presented, and creating ruinous expansions and contractions of paper money, which have so often prostrated the entire business operations of the community.

Resolved—That inasmuch as no effectual legal provision had heretofore existed for keeping and disbursing the public revenue, the passage of the Independent Treasury bill was necessary and imperiously called for, that the treasure of the Country, should be in the custody prescribed by law, rather than left to the uncontrolled discretion of any officer of the Government.

Resolved—That whilst the Independent Treasury Bill will, by the collection of the revenue in gold and silver, exercise a salutary influence over the Banks of the country and compel them to keep on hand a larger amount of gold and silver than they usually have done, yet it will by no means prevent the necessity of a thorough and radical Bank reform, such as that recommended to, and earnestly enforced upon the Legislature of Pennsylvania, by Governor Porter, at the late session of the Legislature.

Resolved—That the present distress of the people is the natural and necessary effect of those ruinous expansions and contractions to which the currency of the country has been subjected by the action of the Banks and what is falsely called the credit system; and judging of the future by the past, who believe the same evil must continue periodically to recur from these causes, after short intervals of deceptive prosperity unless the Legislature shall essentially and radically reform our entire Banking system, and, above all, shall make any future suspensions of specie payments an instant and irreversible forfeiture of their charters.

Resolved—That we hold it to be a cardinal principle of Democracy, never to be departed from in practice, that when a man is placed before the people as a candidate for the highest and most responsible situation of public trust, there should be made, either by the party who put him forth, or the candidate himself, a fair, full, and frank exposition of his principles and of the course of conduct which he will pursue if elected; and that a party and its candidates whose avowed course of action is to make no declaration of their principles for the public eye, are unworthy of the support of freemen.

Resolved—That we recognize, in the combination of self-styled Whigs, Anti-slavery and abolitionists, composing the present opposition to the Democratic party of the Union, and its candidates, all the odious principles of ancient Federalism, among which we must notice:

1. Their hostility to the equal right of suffrage in all citizens of the Republic who contribute to its support.

2. Their opposition to the reception and naturalization of foreigners as evinced:—By making them undergo a probation of fourteen years before naturalization, in the meantime compelling them to bear arms in defence of the country and contribute according to their means to the support of Government.

By subjecting them to an ungracious surveillance and harassing oppression under the Alien Law of the elder Adams.

In attempting to deprive foreigners of the right which they now have, of pre-emption to public lands on which they may have settled, intending to become citizens and to pay for and occupy such lands for permanent residences.

3. Their attempts to consolidate the Government of the Union, and thus virtually swallow up the State Governments, by forced and unnatural constructions of the provisions of the Constitution of the U. S. and giving to the general government by implication and construction powers never contemplated by those who framed that instrument.

4. Their attempts to restrain the liberty of the Press and the liberty of Speech and to restrict freemen from investigating the measures and conduct of public men, under severe pains and penalties.

5. In uniformly, whenever they have had power, abusing it and trampling under foot the rights of the citizens, squandering the public funds in the most wasteful and cor-

rupt manner to retain their ill-gotten power, and attempting "to treat elections by the people as though they had not taken place," when they have been defeated at the polls.

6. In uniformly manifesting by their actions, if not by their words, a contempt for the understanding, intelligence and patriotism of the people—attempting to operate upon their passions and prejudices, rather than addressing their reasoning faculties, vainly thinking to seduce them from Democratic principles by talking of Hard Cider Log Cabins and similar silly humbugs.

7. Their hostility at all times to the interests of the poor man and their devotion to Banks, Bankers, Speculators and the wealthy classes.

8. Their hollow, hypocritical and affected sympathy for the slaves of the South, when they advocate the pretensions of a candidate, who, first as Governor approved and afterwards as a Senator voted for a law to sell into Slavery white men who might be unable to pay fines imposed upon them and subjecting them to thirty-nine lashes if they attempted to escape from their task-masters.

Resolved—That we hold in utter abhorrence the practice now so prevalent among the wealthy part of the federal party of attempting to coerce laboring men and mechanics to vote, not as their consciences dictate, but as their employers shall direct; a gross outrage upon the rights of freemen, subjecting them to a more degrading bondage than that of personal slavery.

Resolved—That the act sometimes since introduced into the Senate of the United States, by Mr. Crittenden, of Kentucky, and into the House of Representatives, by Mr. Bell, of Tennessee, and supported by the leading members of the Federal party, in both branches of the National Legislature, purporting to be an act to prevent officers of the General Government, from interfering at Elections, would, had it become a law, have been a greater violation of the rights of the citizens, than the Sedition Law of 1798. The attempt to pass it is another evidence of how closely Federalism is ever disposed to hug to its bosom the leading and characteristic measures of the reign of terror.

Resolved—That we have no faith in the professions with and can extend no confidence to unworthy principles of a party who change their name almost every Presidential election! Who at one time would consider war, pestilence and famine preferable to the election of a military chieftain, and in a few short years thereafter nominate a candidate for the Presidency, and ask the people to support him solely on the ground of alleged military services, his title to credit wherefore is, to say the least of it, involved in much doubt.

Resolved—That the federal party acknowledge its own want of honesty and utter desperation by falsely attempting to induce the people to believe that our late illustrious Democratic President, Andrew Jackson, our firm, upright and patriotic Governor, David R. Porter and other distinguished Democrats have lost confidence in President Van Buren, and abandoned his support, when it is well known that they are his ardent and sincere supporters and friends.

Resolved—That the conduct of John Davis, of Massachusetts, who for this purpose is put forward as the Catspaw of Federalism, in attempting to induce the Hon. James Buchanan and falsify his remarks in regard to the rights and interests of the laboring part of the community, is but another evidence of the hypocrisy and dishonest means to which that party is at all times willing to resort for the attainment of its ends: That nine-tenths of the people whose rights it is alleged have been assailed, are active members of the Democratic party and in principle and practice are ardent supporters of its ascendancy and neither Mr. Buchanan nor the Democratic party with which he is identified, has ever advocated doctrines or measures that would in the slightest degree infringe upon their rights or injuriously affect their interests; but who are and ever have been their most steadfast supporters and truest friends.

Resolved—That Wm. Henry Harrison and John Tyler are the fit candidates of the party who desire to see the poor man who does not own real Estate deprived of the right of suffrages, inasmuch as they are both pledged by their recorded acts in favor of requiring a freehold Estate in Lands as a necessary qualification to vote at Elections; Wm. Henry Harrison having as Governor of the Northwestern Territory approved a Law, disfranchising every citizen, who did not own 50 acres of Land, and John Tyler having by his vote prevented a similar provision from being stricken out of the Constitution of Virginia.

Resolved—That this Convention entertain the highest respect for DAVID R. PORTER, Governor of Pennsylvania, and