

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 IV.

BLOOMSBURG, COLUMBIA COUNTY, PA. SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1841.

Number 47.

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

TERMS:

The COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT will be published every Saturday morning, at FIVE 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 4TH MARCH CONVENTION.

This body met in the Court House, at Harrisburg, on Thursday the fourth of March, 1841.

On motion of William J. Leiper, JAMES CLARKE, of Indiana, was appointed temporary Chairman.

JOHN B. GUTHRIE, of Allegheny, and THOMAS B. FLORENCE, of Philadelphia, Secretaries.

On motion the list of delegates were called, and it appeared that every county in the state was represented. After the appointment of a committee to examine the claims of the members whose seats were disputed, a committee of one from each congressional district, to report officers for the convention was appointed, when the convention adjourned to meet again at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

3 O'CLOCK AFTERNOON.

At three o'clock the Chairman called the Convention to order; when

Mr. John M'Coy, from the committee to recommend officers for the Convention made report, recommending the following officers:

President.

Gen. HENRY W. BEESON, of Fayette.

Vice Presidents.

GEORGE G. LEIPER, of Delaware.
EDWARD WARTMAN, Philadelphia city.
ASA DIMMOCK, Susquehanna.
JOHN BUSBY, Adams.
BENJAMIN TYSON, Berks.
J. M. BERRILL, Westmoreland.

Secretaries.

John McReynolds, of Columbia;
G. W. Marchand, Armstrong
George L. Ashmead, Philadelphia city.
William Barr, Cumberland.

Which report was considered and unanimously adopted.

The President of the Convention then rose and addressed it to the following effect.

GENTLEMEN:—I return you my thanks for the honor you have so unexpectedly conferred on me. Unaccustomed, as I have been to the rules of proceeding, I enter upon the duties assigned to me, with much embarrassment. Relying, however, upon the assistance of those gentlemen associated with me as the presiding officers of the Convention, and the courtesy of the members, it is sufficient for me to say I shall endeavor to perform my duty with fidelity and impartiality.

The object of this Convention is, to express the sense of our constituents, in the selection and nomination of a suitable candidate for Governor of the Commonwealth; and as delegates, acting on the basis of a just and equal representation of the democracy of every section of the state, and especially charged with that duty, we are now organized and ready to proceed in the business of nomination.

Though this duty be cast in a period of unparalleled embarrassment in the administration of the government, still we may rely for our guidance—confidently rely upon those democratic maxims and principles, which have, in the most trying times, proved the rock of the public safety, prosperity and independence.

It is not in the name and under the auspices of unmeaning and false emblems, but in the name of Jeffersonian democracy, that we are authorized to act in behalf of our constituents; and to claim that, our victory in October next, will be as sure and triumphant as our cause is just and good.

The lessons of the past, teach what may be expected in the future—teach with almost entire uniformity that the democracy of the Keystone state, in a fair and equal field, is invincible. Relying then, with full confidence upon the unswerving attachment of the people to the democratic principles,

and arrayed under its standard of a hundred victories, we may boldly stand upon our principles and claim to prosper as our case is just.

Gentlemen:—In the settlement of all questions, here as well as at the ballot box, let us invoke the spirit of union, harmony, patriotism, and sustain with united voice the great principle, submission and respect for the will of the majority.

On motion of Mr. Leiper the convention then adopted the rules of the House of Representatives, for the Government of the Convention.

Mr. M'Candless of Allegheny, moved that the Convention now proceed to make nominations of a suitable candidate for Governor, which motion was laid on the table.

Mr. Dawson offered a resolution for the appointment of a Committee of one from each Congressional district, to prepare and draft a preamble and resolutions to be adopted by the Convention, which was laid on the table.

Mr. Gilmore from the Committee to examine and report upon the contested seats, made a detailed report in which they recommended that both delegates from Luzerne, &c. be admitted to seats, that they have but one vote, and in cases where they cannot agree their vote not to be counted.

In regard to Dauphin county they recommended that Simon Cameron and Benjamin Stees be admitted to seats, and

In regard to Bucks they recommended that both sets be rejected.

The question was taken separately on the report and that part relating to Luzerne and Dauphin counties, was unanimously adopted by the Convention.

Mr. Cameron moved that both sets from Bucks, be admitted under the same restrictions provided in the case of the delegates from Luzerne, which motion was agreed to.

The names of the delegates are.

Luzerne, Wayne and Pike.—Hendrick B. Wright, Luther Kidder.

Bucks.—Stokes L. Roberts, Jesse Johnson, Isaac Hess, Jno. S. Bryan.

Henry Chapman, C. B. Wright, John N. Soliday, Wm. Booze.

Dauphin.—Simon Cameron, Benjamin Stees.

The motion to proceed to the nomination of governor was then taken up when,

Mr. H. B. Wright nominated DAVID R. PORTER, and the question being taken upon said nomination it was confirmed by the convention as follows:

For D. R. Porter—Messrs. Drum, Gill, Guthrie, Fetterman, Elwell, Black, M'Manus, Clendennen, Duun, Brinton, Leiper, Pearson, Shattuck, Eeson, Stoneroad, Junkin, Clover, Michael Myers, McReynolds, Weaver, H. B. Wright, Kidder, M'Clean, Busby, Marchand, Porter, M'Graw, M'Candless, Watson, Smith, Tyson, Schall, Moyer, Roberts, Johnson, Hess, Bryan, Chapman, C. B. Wright, Soliday, Booze, Ritter, Gilmore, Adams, Carter, Loy, Bowman, Wilmot, Browley, Lowry, Linton, Burnside, Leib, Evans, Jackson, Jeffries, Parke, Lambertson, Barr, Bigler, Simon Cameron, Stees, Henry Meyers, Loomis, Christie, Searight, Dawson, Heck, M'Castlin, Massey, John Porter, Murphy, Clarke, May, Gonder, Hamilton, Forney, James Cameron, Eichler, Vogan, Whiteside, Bridges, Bright, John R. Dean, Thomas Smith, Heileg, Petriken, Findley, Sterigere, Jacoby, Hocker, Hallowell, Cunningham, William Cameron, De Young, Able, Brodhead, M'Coy, Lentz, Fisher, Kline, Griffith, Wartman, Mason, Cumiskey, Enue jr, Gideon, Ashmead, Diamond, Daniel Barr, Edmund Evans, George Smith, Florence, Wm. J. Leiper, Hubell, Holaban, Bailey, Palmer, Stabler, Dimock, Goodrich, Traeh, Eyre, Wilson, James, Gillis, Barrell, John Pake, Dagg, Love, Grayson, Logan, Donnell, Overdeer, J. J. Kennedy, R. J. Fisher.

For D. Sturgeon—Messrs. Bigelow, Foster.

On motion Messrs. Bigler, Findley and Foster were appointed a committee to inform Governor Porter of his nomination.

The convention then took up, and adopted the resolution for the appointment of a committee to prepare a preamble and resolutions for the consideration of the convention.

Mr. Wright of Luzerne, then submitted a resolution that a committee of one from each congressional district, be appointed to prepare an address to the people of Pennsylvania, which resolution was adopted.

Mr. Findley from the committee appointed to wait on Governor Porter, and inform him of this nomination, reported that they had performed that duty, and that the Governor had agreed to accept the nomination, and returned his thanks to the Convention for this evidence of their partiality towards him.

The resolution for the appointment of a state central committee was taken up, when,

Mr. Sterigere moved to strike it out, and insert that the State Central committee be appointed by the committee to draft resolutions, which was agreed to.

Mr. Sterigere then moved that a committee of correspondence for each county in the state be appointed by the convention, and that the delegates from each county hand in the names of suitable persons to compose said committee to-morrow morning which was agreed to.

The Convention then adjourned until 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5.

Pursuant to adjournment, the President took the Chair at 10 o'clock.

Mr. J. L. Dawson, of Fayette, from the committee appointed to draft a preamble and resolutions, made the following report:

Whereas, this Convention assembled, in observance of democratic usages, to nominate a candidate, for the gubernatorial Chair of Pennsylvania, at the ensuing election, has, in discharge of the trust confided to its members by the great body of the democracy of the state, nominated for re-election, with an almost entire unanimity, the present distinguished incumbent: And whereas, believing that the democratic party is now, as it has ever been, when harmoniously united, in a decided majority, and that the loss of the electoral vote of Pennsylvania, at the recent Presidential election was owing to untoward circumstances, which no longer exist. Be it therefore.

Resolved—That the democracy of Pennsylvania has never sustained, and never will sustain, two successive defeats: that possessing a clear and certain majority, and conscious of its strength and its rights, adversity has ever been, and now and again is, the harbinger of that union, moderation and activity, which must lead to renewed and brilliant victory.

Resolved—That in the unanimity with which this Convention has nominated DAVID RITTENHOUSE PORTER, the present Executive of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for re-election to that responsible and elevated station, we have but followed out the wishes and desires of the great democratic party of the state; by whom is reposed entire confidence in his integrity and abilities, and in the wisdom and firmness, with which, during an administration of unparalleled difficulty, he has conducted the government of the Commonwealth.

Resolved—That the people of Pennsylvania recognize in DAVID R. PORTER all the traits which make a safe and desirable Chief Magistrate in the crisis like the present—a devotedness to the rights of the people, and the honor of the state; an independence, that spurs dictation; a fearlessness, that disregards personal consequence; a coolness and wisdom in council; and a promptitude and decision in action; which command the public confidence and esteem. That these qualities have rendered his gubernatorial career illustrious, and compelled, from all parties, both at home and abroad, the tribute of praise which ever waits upon an unsullied integrity, when guided by wisdom, and sustained by courage.

Resolved—That, when DAVID R. PORTER assumed the government of the state of Pennsylvania, it was a period of unprecedented difficulty, with a state debt of thirty-five millions of dollars, and no provision for the payment of either its principal or interest; with an overgrown and tottering banking system; with the public improvements in an unfinished condition, out of repair, and a source of expense, instead of revenue; That he was the first to tear away the veil from the dangers and corruptions of this system of extravagance and threatened ruin, and make the people aware of the real condition of the Commonwealth; That he has successfully combated with the difficulties thus presented—has exhibited to the people their true situation and duties—and has evinced a bright example of fearless patriotism in reference to the developments of the past, and of statesmanlike sagacity in regard to the future.

Resolved—That the independent and lofty position assumed by Governor PORTER in reference to the public credit of Pennsylvania, and the disposition which she has ever manifested to redeem her plighted faith, commend his administration to the approval, and himself to the confidence, not only of every member of the democratic party, but of every citizen of the Keystone state to whom her character and honor are dear; and who would shrink from beholding her false to her pledges and promises, and faithfully to those who have confided in her integrity.

Resolved—That a change in the administration of the state government, at this period of deranged currency and commercial embarrassment and distress, would be but productive of increased difficulties and disaster: that the policy of the present incumbents administration has been frankly

and boldly avowed, is well known, and has been sustained by the great mass of the people; and that to exchange an executive who has thus acted and been approved of, for any other, whose sentiments are unknown, whose views are an entire mystery, and who is committed to no particular course of policy, would be only to thicken the embarrassments which already prevail, increase the distress that now exists, and delay the returning confidence which, under the administration of Governor PORTER, may with reason be anticipated.

Resolved—That the sentiments avowed by the Democratic State Convention of the 4th of March, 1838, by which the name of DAVID R. PORTER was first presented to the consideration of the people of Pennsylvania as the democratic gubernatorial candidate, are those of this convention:—That while the democratic party of the state desires and demands a thorough reformation of the present unwholesome and corrupt banking system, and contends for the eradication of its abuses and vices, it does not seek the destruction of the banks: That it most cordially approves of the doctrines and views of policy which, upon this subject were communicated to the legislature by Governor PORTER, in his first annual message—and believes that, had they received the legislative sanction, the monetary derangement which now exists, if not wholly prevented, might at least have been made to assume a greatly mitigated form, with every reasonable prospect of a speedy removal.

Resolved—That the democratic party of Pennsylvania has received with enthusiastic approbation the gubernatorial veto of the vicious and iniquitous bill, dividing that branch of the executive duties which relates to the public works, between the two Houses and the Governor: That the system proposed was one anomalous and monstrous—dangerous in principle, if not impossible in practice: That the patriotism which prompted Gov. PORTER to offer to divest himself of the appointing power of the Canal Commissioners, in order to secure it immediately to the people, is deserving of the highest commendation; and that the shallow artifice of an accidental legislative majority, (elected by an actual popular minority) to transfer power to themselves, under the pretence of restricting the executive patronage, when the petitions of the people were that such power should be committed directly to them, is perfectly understood and properly appreciated—as are also, the sagacity which dictated, and the nerve that pronounced its rebuke: And that the veto of such bill is the more especially to be commended, when it is a matter of notoriety that, even before its passage, the two Commissioners, to be elected or appointed by the two Houses, had been already determined upon, and were to consist of two members of their own bodies, in utter contravention of the spirit if not of the letter of the Constitution.

Resolved—That HENRY BUEHLER, LUTHER REILY, A. V. PARSONS, JACOB SEILER, WILLIAM D. BOAS, BENJAMIN PARKE, J. B. BRATTON, E. W. HUTTER, JACOB BAAB, MICHAEL BURKE,

Harrisburg, Reading, James Clarke, Blairsville, William Beatty, Butler, William English, Philadelphia, Joseph C. Neal, Philadelphia, John B. Guthrie, Pittsburg, be appointed, and the same are hereby appointed, to constitute a Central Committee of Correspondence for the democratic party of Pennsylvania.

Resolved—That a Standing Committee of Correspondence for each of the counties of the commonwealth be respectively appointed by the several delegations from each county, composing this convention.

Resolved—That defeat and disaster have never been visited upon the democratic party of Pennsylvania, except when its ranks have been distracted by internal divisions and dissensions: That the results of defeat have ever been most disastrous to the great interests both of the party and the Commonwealth; and that, to prevent the unhappy recurrence of such consequence we most earnestly urge upon the democratic citizens of Pennsylvania the necessity of immediately reconciling all minor differences, if any, and wherever any, may exist—and to unite harmoniously, vigorously, and determinedly, in a persevering effort to preserve the pure and cardinal principles of the democratic faith, and to promote the success of the democratic party; and that with a view to the thorough attainment of this great end, we

recommend the policy of an immediate and effectual organization in each and every county, and the propriety of frequent public meetings in the respective wards, boroughs, townships, and counties of the state.

On motion of Mr. Bainside, the report was unanimously adopted.

Mr. J. S. Black, from the same committee, reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved—That uncompromising hostility to the establishment of a National Bank, is a fundamental rule of our democratic faith, as expounded in the school of Jefferson and Jackson.

Resolved—That we have now, as heretofore, the same unabated confidence in this part of our creed that we have on all other points of our political faith, not only because we believe the creation of a bank by Congress to be a gross violation of the constitution, but also because the experience of forty years, and the united testimony of the greatest and wisest statesmen of the nation, prove that such an institution is decidedly hostile to the principles of republican liberty, pernicious in its effects upon the commerce and currency of the country, and subservient only to the interests of those who profit by fertilizing the rich man's field with the sweat of the poor man's brow.

Resolved—That if any other evidence than our own experience were needed for the purpose of supporting this position it might be found in the admission deliberately made in 1836, by the leader of the federal party, the chief of their forces in the war against Gen. Jackson, and the president of their bank, that the connection of the late National Bank with the national government was injurious to both and beneficial to neither.

Resolved—That we look upon the recharter of the present Bank of the United States, by the late federal administration of Governor Ritner, to have been an act of unmitigated folly, if not something still worse than that, upon its subsequent conduct as a stupendous fraud, and upon its pretensions to be the regulator of the currency, as the greatest humbug that federalism has played off in these latter days.

Resolved—That while we deplore the embarrassment and distress which this bank has brought upon our country at home, and the disgrace she has inflicted upon our reputation abroad as heavy calamities, we as members of the democratic party have a right to congratulate ourselves upon the fact, that in our steadfast adherence to principle and truth we never yielded to her seductions nor quailed before her power, but met her with the same unflinching opposition, when she bounded into political arena with the whole federal party at her heels, that we do now when her character is gone, the spell of her enchantment is broken, and "from her ruined fortunes her familiars slink away."

Resolved—That believing this institution to be the great disturber of our monetary system—the leader in suspension, and the only obstacle to resumption, we have no desire but to get rid of her as soon as practicable.

Mr. H. B. Wright from the committee to prepare an address to the people of Pennsylvania, then reported an address which he stated had met the unanimous approbation of the members of the committee.

TO THE DEMOCRACY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—

David Rittenhouse Porter is again presented to you as a candidate for the first office in your gift, by your delegates in general convention assembled. The name carries its own guarantee of success, in the approaching campaign. Three years since in the face of a ruthless party, who had become the possessors of power, and place in consequence of the unfortunate divisions in our ranks, the democratic state convention recommended him to you, for the high and dignified station which he now fills with credit to himself and honor to the state.—Warned by the preceding divisions of the party, and the disastrous consequences that inevitably followed, the democratic party of the commonwealth girded on their armour of truth and principle, and made themselves ready for the conflict. They concentrated their strength in union, and after a campaign distinguished on the part of our opponents by the most flagrant abuse of power, and the most profligate waste of the public funds—by the licentiousness of the public press before that period unknown—by the bitterest calumination—and by the most gross and fulsome falsehoods—the result at the ballot box, that infallible test of public opinion, proclaimed to the citizens of the state, democracy triumphant and her candidate elected.

Our adversaries however, although defeated at the election, were unwilling to yield that power, which accident on our