

The Alleghenian.

A. A. BARKER, Editor and Proprietor.
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I WOULD RATHER BE RIGHT THAN PRESIDENT.—HENRY CLAY.

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Eastern, daily, at 4 o'clock, P. M.
Western, " at 8 o'clock, P. M.
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West—Express Train leaves at 8:51 A. M.
" Fast Line " 8:56 P. M.
" Mail Train " 7:35 P. M.
East—Express Train " 7:42 P. M.
" Fast Line " 12:17 P. M.
" Mail Train " 6:50 A. M.
WILMORE STATION.
West—Express Train leaves at 9:13 A. M.
" Fast Line " 9:18 P. M.
" Mail Train " 8:09 P. M.
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" Fast Line " 11:55 P. M.
" Mail Train " 6:23 A. M.

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SRECH OF COL. JOHN W. FORNEY.

Delivered in the Union Convention, at Harrisburg, on Thursday, the 17th of July, instant, in support of the Resolutions adopted on that Occasion.

MR. PRESIDENT: The resolutions which have just been read comprise, in brief terms, the duty of the loyal men of Pennsylvania, and they will go to the country as an utterance that must produce healthful consequences. There are elements in this assemblage which have never been combined on any former period of our country's issue. We have here representatives of the Republican party, the People's party, the American party, and of the loyal men of the Democratic party.—I notice that at least twenty counties of the State have sent Democratic delegates to this Convention. The heavy gloom which seems again to have settled upon our unhappy country has had the effect of extinguishing many dissensions. Men who have differed radically in former years, now stand together like a band of brothers. But one motive animates this splendid organization—that of devotion to country and determination to maintain the Union. There is no spectacle, says a great poet, more inspiring than a brave man struggling with danger, and can there be any spectacle more inspiring than a great people struggling with their enemies? The fiend, slavery, which is the beginning of all our troubles, in tearing itself from the Republic, seems determined to tear the vitals of the Republic away with it. For however men may differ, Mr. President, this is not merely a struggle for our existence as a free people, but it is a struggle between liberty and slavery. All other issues have subsided before this issue. Slavery, in beginning the war, to perpetuate itself, has laid a strong hand upon our free institutions, and is resolved, failing itself, to bury them in one common ruin. Those only deny it who themselves pray for the success of the rebellion, and those only believe what I have said who earnestly pray for the triumph of the Union arms. And it is a fact well calculated to agonize the soul, that bitter and dreadful as has been the general suffering in this extraordinary strife, notwithstanding thousands of homes are covered with mourning, although torrents of tears are shed over the freshly heaped graves of those who have fallen in defence of our flag, yet all these terrible lessons produce no impression upon many who live among and around us. These men see their country bleeding at every pore, and have no word of hope or comfort to give her. While we, forgetting all old antagonisms and parties, while we throw off the cloaks of former organizations and reveal ourselves only in the garb of patriotism, they clothe themselves with all the hatred and rancor and uncharitableness for which they have been so distinguished before, and prepare to strike at the country, if not in the name, at least in the name of the doctrine, of that candidate for the presidency who less than two years ago marshaled the hosts of disunion at the ballot-box, and now leads an army of traitors in the battle-field.

If, Mr. President, slavery is the cause of this great crusade upon human liberty, its immediate agents and ministers confess by all their acts that they are fully conscious of the truth of this assertion. They have pursued the fell purpose which has now ripened into war with a persistence which can only be explained by their close sympathy with the rebellion itself, and their sincere hatred of the government of the United States. Calling themselves Democrats, they are banded together in favor of slavery and aristocracy. Let me take a prominent example of the school: the old man who lives in neglected solitude within an hour and a half's ride of the capital of Pennsylvania. He is now beyond the Psalmist's age. He entered the Presidential chair more than five years ago, with as fair an opportunity to serve and save this country as ever had been presented to man. He was elected upon a distinct and voluntary pledge that he would give to the people of the unhappy territory of Kansas the right to dispose of their own affairs in their own way. Had he been true to this pledge, we should have had neither secession nor bloodshed. The history of his unparalleled treachery is written in carnage and in shame. It ought to be supposed that now looking over this history, he would seize the occasion to expiate his mighty crime by some manifestation of public penitence. It might be supposed that now, in his old age, he would secure the favor and forgiveness of Heaven by appealing to those he still controls to rally to the common defence and to shun his fatal example.—But no, gentlemen; so far from this, the animating soul of the rebellion in the

southern States is not more Jefferson Davis than the animating soul of the rebellion in the free States is James Buchanan. He seems to desire the immortal infamy of dragging our glorious Union into the dishonored grave he is himself soon to fill. Around his own home, as proved by the convention which assembled in his own county a few weeks ago, and by that which disgraced this hall on the 4th of July, his former followers, doubtless under his lead and counsel, mocked at the perils of the nation, and delight in nothing so much as to embarrass and retard the operations of the constituted authorities. Is it possible that this man and his parasites can rally any portion of the people of Pennsylvania to their standard? Monuments themselves of the mercy of the government, permitted to live in comfort under the flag they toiled to defame and to dishonor, shall these men be permitted to go on in their work of treason? They proclaim that this war is an abolition war—a war for the emancipation of slaves—a war for negro equality—a war in which the white man is to be driven out of the field of labor by the colored race. This is the staple of their creed. This is the burden of their cry. Will James Buchanan, or any one of his creatures, here or elsewhere, inform me whether it was the abolitionists that formed the Lecompton constitution and forced it upon the people of Kansas? Whether it was the abolitionists that fabricated the English bill, a measure even more infamous? Was it the abolitionists that persecuted and proscribed Walker and Douglas and Broderick? Did they murder Broderick? Did they retain in the Buchanan Cabinet the incarnate traitors who robbed the Federal Treasury, decimated the army, sent our navy to distant seas, sacked our arsenals—sent to southern ports incalculable supplies of the munitions of war? Was it the abolitionists, in a word, that prepared the way for the culmination of war, leaving to Mr. Lincoln a bankrupt and enfeebled government, compelling him to reach the capital of the nation almost a fugitive, and surrounding his inauguration with all the ceremonial of and preparations for internal strife? But, sir, apart from the duty of exposing these impudent and remorseless foes, there are other duties which must be discharged, and to which the great organization born to-day must dedicate itself with stern and self-sacrificing patriotism.

The adjournment of Congress leaves to Mr. Lincoln those high responsibilities which he has proven himself so able to bear. He will find himself strengthened for still stronger measures by ample legislation. He can now throw himself upon the people and prosecute the war with renewed vigor. As your resolutions so well express it, is it fortunate "that we have at the helm of public affairs one so prudent, so upright, temperate and firm." Great are his trials, and great his labors. It has often been said that the duties of the Presidency were too much in times of peace for any one man; several of our Chief Magistrates have fallen under the weight of these duties. But what must his condition be who, in the midst of this remorseless rebellion, must give all his time and all his judgement to the solution of stupendous and novel complications.—He cannot satisfy all men; he cannot at a blow strike down every great wrong; it is possible that he may have been mistaken in the supposition that the slaveholding treason might be indulgently and magnanimously treated, and that the best way to convince the rebels was to exhibit to them a willingness of the Government to offer peace in the midst of war, and amnesty on condition of prompt submission. But now, that experience has shown that no moderation can reach the authors of this great crime, the President will undoubtedly profit by the lesson. And I am sure that the voice that goes up from this Convention to-day will invigorate and inspire him in the vigorous policy which is about to be inaugurated; a policy which I feel sure will be as stringent and as determined as the most exacting and enthusiastic of us could desire. Backed by the people, and empowered by law, there will hereafter be no hesitation in the employment of all means to put down the rebellion. No more doubts as to the confiscation of the property of rebels, no more protection of their houses, and crops, and goods and chattels. Practical measures will forever dissipate the miserable cry about negro equality and negro emancipation. Wonderful is the advance that has been made in public sentiment on these questions. Some of the most distinguished Democrats in Congress now take ground in favor of the employment of blacks in the army of the United States as a measure of imperative wisdom and necessity. The partisans who roam about the land alarming ignorant people with pictures of a black exodus from the slave

into the free States, who look for riots in the great cities as a consequence of the competition of whites and blacks in various fields of labor, can read their own doom and the refutation of their own falsehoods in the ground taken by genuine Democrats in the National Legislature on this important issue. Whether they see it or not, whether they realize this or not, the people realize it. The object of this war is not abolition, but vindication—not abolition of slavery—but vindication of the offended majesty of the laws. To this end we send our white men into the field to fight in our armies. To save them from the privations of the long, weary march, to relieve them from the heavy service that wears and wastes them in the trenches and on our fortifications, it is proposed to invoke the aid of the thousands of colored men who are set free, not by the abolitionists, but by the slaveholders themselves. When this race is fully assured that they may render a such a service, and be rewarded for it, there will be no further flight into the free towns of the North and North-west; but they will gladly remain under that flag which, while protecting them, they themselves defend. One other lesson has been taught within the last year, and that is, if the most loyal of the white people are those who are fighting for the Constitution and the Union, so the most loyal people of the seceded States are the blacks themselves. Shall we not use these blacks? Shall we not act upon the suggestion of some of our most gallant and experienced military men, and save our own brothers by accepting this ready, eager and honest assistance? What voter who has lost his relative or his friend by disease in the army, will not yield to this argument and ask that it may be carried into effect hereafter. The fact is, gentlemen, this war may as well be terminated to-day if we do not avail ourselves of every other means justified by our own necessities and by the usages of civilized nations. I know there are some who shrink from the idea of arming the colored men. Have they forgotten that they were armed by order of Gen. Washington himself; that in the bloody battle of Red Bank, near Philadelphia, it was a regiment of Rhode Island negroes, under command of Col. Ray Greene, who turned the fortunes of the day and fought to the last around the dead body of their commander. In the second war with England, Andrew Jackson enrolled the free blacks for the defence of Louisiana, and thanked them for their bravery after the victory was won. Has the colored race deteriorated since the Revolution and our second struggle for independence? They ought to have wonderfully improved, if philosophers speak the truth or the census does not lie. The sympathizing gentlemen in the free States who are in the habit of talking about negro equality, and charging it as one of the great ends of the republican party, will hardly deny that the infusion of the blood of the chivalry of the south ought to have greatly improved the negro race in that quarter!—Under this influence this race should certainly be improved, and, according to the doctrines of oligarchists, more refined.—For, the nearer they approach the beau ideal of a Southern gentleman, the better they are fitted to imitate his martial zeal. As Thaddeus Stevens once said, the Southern sun has a wonderful effect in bleaching the negro complexion. Do not be afraid, then, gentlemen, of being called abolitionist or the advocate of negro equality, because you demand that your relatives and friends in the army of the Union shall be succored, sustained and saved from disease and death by the stout arms of the loyal blacks, bond or free, in the southern States. As I have said, the only practical abolitionists are the rebels themselves. They have set more slaves free than a thousand General Hunters have done. Emancipation like the rebellion is their work, not ours. As the Hon. Wm. Evarts said at Albany, in 1860, as he was advocating Mr. Lincoln: "Gentlemen of the Democratic party, you say you have a majority in the country, why don't you unite then and defeat us at the polls." But the rebels divided the Democracy then, with the deliberate purpose of dividing the country afterwards. Nor do they desire to escape this double responsibility. They wish to cut loose from the free States in order to enjoy their institution alone, and it was to save that institution that induced them to prepare for and precipitate this war. The only act of emancipation carried by the Republicans is the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia; and if the Republicans had not done that, they would have deserved the contempt of friend and foe. They were invoked to it by their own platform and by the authority of the publicists of the South. The power existed, and they exercised it. What has

been the result? The emancipation of the slaves in the district of Columbia has improved them. Thus far the experiment has worked admirably. The repeal of a series of laws operating alike upon free and slave, has made them ambitious to do well, and they are now more orderly, more peaceable, and more thrifty than ever.

So much for several of the most difficult questions growing out of the war. The sympathizers with secession who call themselves Democrats undoubtedly desire a peace with the rebels, and to bring this about they are industrious in dividing the Northern people, well knowing that the success of this plan must consolidate and encourage the traitors. No doubt when the uncle of the gentleman who is now fighting against his country in the army of the south—I mean Francis W. Hughes, of Schuylkill county—was presiding over the Breckinridge Convention on the 4th of July, the hope that stirred his heart was that peace might be accomplished on the well known platform of himself and his nephew. I perceive he is so anxious to effect this object that he has taken command of the campaign himself, and will doubtless make the State ring with elaborate orations on the basis of this peace is simply to degrade the people of the free States, to fill them with factions, to carve their domain into provinces, and to make all their great interests subordinate and obedient to a slaveholding despotism. Does any man suppose that such a peace would end the war? It might, indeed, realize Mr. William B. Reed's grand scheme of division and separation, enunciated on the 17th January, 1861, at National Hall, while Major Anderson was besieged in Fort Sumter; it might make New York a free city, independent of State and General Governments. With our Pacific empires lost to us; with the great West seceded, and Pennsylvania bound, like a captive, to the chariot wheels of slavery, Mr. Reed and his compatriots would exult in the fulfilment of their prophecies and plans—but there would be no peace. It would be one long and stubborn and exterminating border war—a war of sections—a war making the South powerful and the North powerless. What foreign nations would say to such a peace as this it requires no Anthony Trollope to predict.

I cannot refrain, Mr. President, the expression of my sincere respect of the manner in which the Republican party of Pennsylvania has come up to the good work to-day. It was the duty, and it will prove to be the interest, of that party to act with prompt patriotism in such a crisis. But it is so rare for men who have just elected a President, and who dispense such enormous patronage, to exhibit such magnanimity as we have seen to-day, that the evidence of it deserves to be highly commended. I have seen so much crime and falsehood, such an utter disregard of solemn oaths and obligations, as the fruits of the so-called Democratic rule, that when Mr. Lincoln was elected President I hailed his triumph with all the more joy because his hands were clear of these infamies; because he was under no covenant with the slave aristocracy.

In the coming campaign, although victory is, in my opinion, certain and sure, we shall have a bitter and reckless foe to put down. Should we fail, our defeat will be accepted as a declaration in favor of the rebellion. The Administration will be arrested in the prosecution of this holy war, and the sympathizers with Secession will insist that their machinations have been triumphant and their treason confirmed. The Breckinridgers expect victory because they have been so generously treated and so kindly tolerated. Fulminating their hatred of the country's cause, in public and in private, corresponding with foreign monarchists who pray for our downfall, some of those who had hidden themselves in Paris and London are quietly returning to their homes. As to these men, we have a right to demand that the Administration of the Federal Government shall put the strong hand of power upon them. The sympathizers with secession, whether our elegant friend, Mr. Haldeman, from this neighborhood, whose correspondence with the traitor emissary, T. Butler King, has only lately seen light, whether the editor of a newspaper, who is only saved from punishment by his own insignificance, or the faithless representative who looks for re-election by the votes of a people he has deceived, they should be admonished that there is a limit even to the indulgence and forbearance of a great government; and that they cannot at the same time enjoy its protection and intrigue for its overthrow.

He who is false to the flag of his country, and yet dares to live in the loyal States, should either be compelled to go to a foreign land, or be driven with the

seal of condemnation on his brow among the rebels themselves. Let the administration treat such men as enemies, and with a firm and consistent policy the war will terminate victoriously, and the ballot box will record an emphatic verdict in favor of the friends of the Union.

Speech of Hon. John C. Knox.

The following are the patriotic remarks of Judge Knox upon the occasion of his assuming the duties of Presiding Officer of the People's Union Convention, at Harrisburg, on the 17th inst:—

The gentlemen of the Convention will please accept my thanks for their kind partiality in selecting me to preside over their deliberations. I rejoice to be here to-day, acting in concert with the true and loyal men of Pennsylvania, regardless of former political associations, and recognizing at this eventful time as the only true tests of fellowship and communion, love of country, devotion to the American Union, a fixed and unalterable determination to uphold and sustain the government of the United States, and to resist to the death the enemies of that government whenever and wherever found.

I rejoice especially to be here because I can in this way evince my desire to strengthen the hands of that honest man and patriotic statesman, the President of the United States; to cheer him on, and to bid him and his trustworthy counsellors God speed in their noble labors for the maintenance of our government and the preservation of our country.

Yes, gentlemen, it is to me a source of great pleasure to be able to declare that, in my judgment, the men at the head of our National and State administrations are, in this terrible crisis, doing their whole duty, and are consequently entitled to our entire confidence and our warmest support.

I envy not that man who cannot now look beyond the platform of his party to the standard of his country.

The question is not now which political party shall administer the government, or what men shall fill its offices, but it is whether there shall be offices to fill or a government to administer; and until this momentous question is settled, for one, I shall act with the men who are the most earnest in their efforts to destroy this rebellion, and the most determined signally to punish the rebels, their aiders and abettors.

I repeat, gentlemen, that I have great confidence in Abraham Lincoln and his chosen counsellors, and I must be permitted to say that especially do I confide in the clear head, sound mind and honest heart of the Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, our own immediate representative in the Cabinet. I say this with a full knowledge that of late a systematic attempt has been made to bring this officer into disrepute, and to cause his removal from the high and responsible position he now so ably fills.

Every disappointed man, whether for the opportunity of serving his country with a title prefixed to his name, or for furnishing the munitions of war, at large profits, visits his vengeance upon the head of Mr. Stanton. The friends of this officer cannot, of course, complain of the most careful scrutiny into his official conduct, and do by no means deny that he may, like others, have committed mistakes; yet, when it is seen that the most unmeasured abuse is continually lavished upon him and upon his acts; that he is held responsible for consequences to prevent which has been entirely beyond his power, and charged with disasters arising from movements, which he neither counselled nor directed, it becomes necessary to look for the causes which have prompted these attacks.

For myself, I believe he has been thus attacked,—

1st, Because he is truly in earnest in his determination to put down this rebellion, and

2d, Because he performs his official duty without fear, favor or affection.

Those of us who are personally acquainted with Mr. Stanton, know that his intellect is of the highest order; that he is possessed of a character for integrity, which even malice has never dared to question, and that when he undertakes to do, he does with all his might.

I do not say that all of his opponents, or those who counsel his removal from the War Department, are either knaves or secessionists; but I do say, that the Northern sympathizers with this wicked rebellion, with great unanimity, assert that Mr. Stanton ought not to be the Secretary of War, and strange as it may seem, the very patriotic gentlemen who have not objections to contracts which yield very large profits, have also discovered that the manner in which he conducts his de-