

ANTI-MASONIC.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STATE CONVENTION.

(Continued from last week.)

Thursday, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the Rev. H. G. Jones. Mr. Jones from the committee appointed under the 1st resolution, reported the names of the following gentlemen as delegates to the National Convention. Read and adopted:—

Senatorial delegates.—Harmar Denny, Roberts Vaux.

1st, 2d and 3d districts.—John Clarke, John R. Jones, William Grimshaw.

4th.—Samuel Parke, Owen Stoeber, Dr. George Smith.

5th.—James Paul.

6th.—Thomas Elder.

7th.—Christian Pretz, Daniel Rhodes.

8th.—William Watts, Samuel Leider.

9th.—Henry D. Drinker, John Burrows, Samuel J. Packer.

10th.—Charles Deal.

11th.—Jacob Alter, Jacob Cassatt.

12th.—James Milligan.

13th.—Charles Ogle.

14th.—James Todd.

15th.—Samuel McKeehan.

16th.—Wm. W. Irwin, Jos. Buffington.

17th.—John Taylor.

18th.—Robert Faulkner.

The County Committees should be instructed here, but as we have been requested not to publish them until they are complete for each county, we omit them.]

Resolved, That the county committees be requested to take early measures to ascertain whether the Delegates from their several districts will attend at the National Convention, and where necessary, to substitute Delegates in place of those who may not be disposed to attend; and that the National Convention from the State, be authorized to supply any vacancies which may occur in our Representation.

Mr. Clarke of Philadelphia, from the committee appointed under the 3d resolution, made the following report; which was read and adopted:

1. Resolved, That by the oaths and obligations of masonry, its members are held in allegiance to an unauthorised government and code of laws foreign and alien to the constitution and laws, of the United States; and are bound in an unfeeling despotism that disqualifies them for an honest discharge of many of their duties as citizens and officers of the legitimate government of their country.

2. Resolved, That while the devotees of masonry continue their obedience to the oaths and laws of their secret order; while they deem any of its obligations binding in honor, law, or conscience, they cannot receive the votes, the support or influence of the friends of equal rights and antimasonry, for any office whatever.

3. Resolved, That the political character of masonry is established in the clearest manner, by the direct testimony of numerous masons of the highest respectability who have seceded from the institution, and of some who continue to adhere to it; and is fully demonstrated by the oaths of several degrees of the order whose manifest design is to direct, and whose obvious tendency is to produce a preference to be given to masons in elections and appointments to office.

4. Resolved, That anti-masonry is necessarily political; that without attacking masonry by means of the Ballot Box, where it is entrenched behind the political patronage and power of the government, all efforts to destroy its usurpations on the rights and privileges of the people must fail, and like a rebellion suppressed, must contribute to the power and vigor of masonic despotism.

5. Resolved, That in order to destroy the political domination of masonry, it is necessary to deprive the institution of adherents and supporters of every kind, whether bound by its oaths or not, the injury to the equal rights of the people, being the same, whether the usurped dominion of masonry be promoted and sustained by the machinations, votes and influence of oath-bound members, of interested agents and dependents, or of timid and compliant professors of neutrality.

6. Resolved, That this convention recommends to the Anti-masons throughout the Union, the propriety of opposing politically all adherents to, or advocates of secret associations.

7. Resolved, That the whole history of masonry, and of the country for the last 25 years, and especially the last four years demonstrates the servility and the subservency of the public Press, either from fear of, or from favour to the masonic institution, and it is therefore required of all advocates of freedom and anti-masonry, to support and patronize no other newspaper than those which fearlessly maintain the rights of the people, uninfluenced by the acts and unawed by the threats of masonic rulers, their adherents and dependents.

8. Resolved, That as masonry professes to be a religious institution, and has presiding over its mysteries, its sceptred Monarchs and mitred High Priests, it should be regarded as a Union of Church and State, and as presenting by its precepts and example, principles at variance with the spirit of our institutions, dangerous to our youth, and when initiated, subversive of both the religion and the civil liberty which it designs to unite.

9. Resolved, That much of the history of masonry, and especially of the late trials in the State of New York, shows its dangerous influence in poisoning the fountains of justice; affecting sheriffs in the performance

of their impartiality, and witnesses in the sacred obedience to their oaths.

Mr. McLennan of Lancaster, chairman of the committee appointed under the 4th resolution, made the following report; which was read and adopted.

REPORT.

To an American citizen, the liberty of the press, guaranteed by the Constitution of the Union, is a privilege of inestimable value. The advocates of free institutions must have experienced an unspeakable triumph, on their success in establishing a principle fraught with such benefits to the human race. It was then the maxim that "Intelligence is the life of Liberty" was placed on a solid basis; and that the axiom may be fully appreciated, ought to be the desire of every American bosom: for on this foundation may be erected in the nation, a temple of glory and strength, which the arts of the demagogue, or the combinations of the wicked cannot overthrow.

On almost every subject the freedom of the press has been busy, and what is the result? Information is spread, the ignorant have been enlightened; and man is no longer left to grope his way in barbarous stupidity. A gleam of light breaks around his mind, and dispels illusion; and he is enabled to search for the hidden things of art and science, or to explore the wonders of creation, and to speculate upon the mysteries of Providence. The press has thus advanced man in the scale of moral being, by freely canvassing subjects, a knowledge of which enables him to take his rank in the intellectual world. Mechanics, Literature, Philosophy, History, Poetry, Agriculture, and in short, all the arts and sciences, are themes on which the press has not failed to show its talent and its power. In this country it may be compared to a moral lever by which the world of mind may be moved, for questions of policy and expediency in the administration of the government occur continually; and without the perfect liberty of the press, public sentiment could not be ascertained, or directed by the government in any particular channel. Here political affairs are publicly discussed; and the President high as his station is, must submit to a scrutiny of his official acts, as close as would be used in regard to the peoples' humblest servant.

Is there any exception to this rule of free discussion by the press? Yes. There would be no cause of complaint, if there was not one foul blot upon the face of this otherwise fair Palladium.

Masonry arrogates to herself pretensions so lofty, that her evil deeds must be hid from sight, and are not to be exposed to the public gaze. Of her good deeds if any exist, she voluntarily becomes her own trumpeter. She will not consent to be searched, but like a pirate under false colours, holds on her way, alike regardless of public opinion, and of her own character. She cares not for aspersions. Charge after charge of the most appalling nature has been proved against her, yet she replies not to her accusers, save in the language of vituperation. She does not palliate, but some times denies; and yet in denying does not disprove the allegations made against her. She is often silent, or retorts by evading the argument; but never fails to attempt raising the dust in order to blind the vision of her pursuers. She presses into her service the names of the distinguished living, and the memory of the venerated dead, and thereby hopes to avert the impending storm; never once remembering that their names made her strong as she is, while the renown they had acquired was not of her bestowment.

Even Christianity sacred as the subject is, has in all ages been subjected to a free and scrutinizing discussion before the world, and its enemies have only proved how firmly based it is on the pillar of truth; but masonry claims a superior sanctity, and that which concerns her must not be touched. Is this covens the effect of her arrogance, or is it the result of timidity? Doubtless fear causes her to shrink from exposure, lest detection and punishment might overwhelm her for deeds of darkness committed in secret. Truth and honesty never feared to meet inquiry; hence the inference is fair, that they do not claim kindred with masonry.

It seems a work of supererogation to resort to particular cases to prove the truth of the allegations now made; but lest some sceptic should oppose a doubt, it will be fair to let facts speak.

All remember the cases of Fauntleroy, the bank-robber; of Beauchamp the murderer; of Porter and Wilson, the mail robbers; of Gibbs the Pirate; and of the murderers of White, at Salem. On these the press was as loquacious and as fearless in exposure, as could be desired. All the circumstances of each case were minutely detailed, and the public, as they ought to have been, were informed of them in due time. Here the press was free as mountain air. It then spoke trumpet-tongued, its deep condemnation of iniquity. But mark the contrast!

Not one of the very extraordinary circumstances which preceded, accompanied, and followed the atrocious abduction and murder of William Morgan, was ever published by the newspapers of the country excepting those which owed their origin to that abduction and murder. Yet of all other topics, no matter how trivial, the newspapers, especially during a dearth of foreign news, never fail to give a ready currency.

The upsetting of a post-coach; the unroofing of a barn by a storm of wind; the firing of a house by lightning, or by an incendiary; the death of a stage horse from the heat of the weather; the robbery of a store; (masonic only excepted,) are most carefully chronicled by the daily and weekly journalists in town and city. But no

word is suffered by these pompously styled sentinels of liberty to intimate to their readers the fact of the most extensive, long continued, and deeply laid combination of villainy and murder, that ever blackened the annals of any nation.

Many of the particulars attending the trials of the Morgan conspirators were of a most unusual kind and extraordinary nature: yet were they never noticed by the public press, except in the few papers established for the purpose of exposing masonry. It may be proper to refer to some of these particulars.

When the public feeling was first astounded at the news of the kidnapping of Morgan, three persons, all of high masonic standing, Cheesbro', Lawson, and Sawyer, on being indicted for the offence, pleaded guilty, with the hope of hushing further inquiry; and submitted to the sentence of the Court. But the masonic newspapers were wholly silent.

One of the distinguished conspirators against the liberty and life of Captain Morgan, was Eli Bruce, Sheriff of Niagara County; who for his eminent services to the Royal Craft in the Morgan outrage of September 1826, was in the month of December following, appointed Grand Scribe to the Grand Chapter of Holy-royal-arch-masons. This man in 1827, refused to give testimony before a grand jury convened to inquire into the crimes alleged against the Morgan conspirators. In 1829 when called upon by a brother mason, John Whitney, then on trial, he voluntarily testified much of what he knew of the case. In June 1830, when produced in Court as a witness for the people, on the trial of Ezekiel Jewett, at Lockport, he utterly refused to be sworn as a witness, and cheerfully submitted to fine and imprisonment, for the contempt. In 1831 when again called to testify in the case of Elisha Adams, he agreed to do so, and gave his testimony freely; though how far candidly, is best known to himself. But in all this curious, winding course of the Grand Scribe and Sheriff, not a word was ever said in any newspaper, other than the independent anti-masonic papers.

At the Lockport trials in June, 1830, a witness for the people, (Orasmus Turner,) refused to answer certain questions, alleging that by answering they might criminate himself. So far, the case was not without parallels: as it sometimes happens that witnesses in other cases, decline answering certain questions for similar reasons. But after argument and deliberation, the court, in the Lockport case, decided that the excuse of the witness, Turner, was merely feigned, and for his contempt in not answering, fined him \$250 and imprisoned him for 90 days. This part of the occurrence was most singular and extraordinary. The fact was equally extraordinary whether the court was right or wrong. It was one which scarcely happens twice in a generation, in a whole country. No member of this committee remembers ever to have heard of another such an event in this or any other State of the Union. Yet it was never mentioned in any but a very few papers of the country; and then in the most slight and cursory manner, except in those papers conducted by anti-masons.

The fact, that so few newspapers, in any way, published the imprisonment and fining of the contumacious masonic witnesses at Lockport in June, 1830, is the more extraordinary, because all the conductors of presses in the country, are in the constant habit of watching the proceedings of courts of justice, in order to place something new or interesting before their subscribers and the public.

The degrading servility of the public press, generally, to the tyranny of masonry, is strikingly illustrated by another fact:—Although numbers of masons have been convicted on full and fair trials in courts of justice, for participating in the Morgan outrage, and have been sentenced accordingly—although three leading and high masons, (Cheesbro', Lawson, and Sawyer,) have pleaded guilty to the indictments against them for the offence and received their sentences of imprisonment—yet not one of them, not a single man who was in any manner concerned in the abduction, or in the murder of Morgan, was ever censured or expelled by any Lodge, Chapter or Encampment in the United States. On the contrary, several of them like Eli Bruce, were promoted to the highest masonic dignities and mock titles, for their activity and zeal in the tragedy of Morgan. But starting as this fact is; implicating the entire Society, and demonstrating as it does, the guilty and bloody character of the whole institution; it has never been published or even alluded to, in any newspaper in the United States, with the exception of those that are avowedly anti-masonic.

When the imprisonment of Turner before mentioned had expired, he was conducted from the jail in a coach and four, with a long procession of his masonic brethren; although Judge Nelson by whom he had been punished for the contempt, was not an anti-mason, but either a mason or an admirer of the craft. Again, at the trial of Elisha Adams in March, 1831, eleven of his jurors were already convinced of his guilt, but one named Wilson, a master-mason, held out for several days, till the court were compelled to discharge the jury. And at the trial of P. Whitney, Beach, Chubbuck, Shaw, and Miller, all royal arch masons, immediately afterwards, eleven other jurors were satisfied of the guilt of three of the defendants; but one juror named Beissel, a royal arch mason, acting upon his masonic oaths, refused to concur, and the jury were likewise discharged by the court. Yet none of these ominous facts, so indicative of the sworn duty of masons, "to help each other when in difficulty, right or wrong," were published to the world by the presses servilely devoted to the order: but all was kept by them in the most profound silence; and had it not been for the activity and zeal of the free presses opposed to masonry, the public would never have known that these trials had occurred.

States are masons, sworn to protect and assist the combination; and that far the greater part of the other half, are either from fear or from favour chained to the footstool of the Royal and aristocratic order.

How is this grievance to be redressed? Only by putting in force and practice the language and sentiment of the excellent constitution of Pennsylvania. "The printing presses shall be free. The free communication of thoughts and opinions is one of the invaluable rights of man, and every citizen may freely speak, write and print, on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty." Here is our authority for condemning the sycophancy and criminal intractness of those who would be called "watchmen on the watchtower of liberty." Let the trammelled press be taught to know that the constitution of the Union, and that of our own Commonwealth, are not dead letters.

Is the power of masonry feared? Are men so recreant to themselves and their country, that the dread of losing the favor and protection of those in authority, prevents them from expressing their opinions in relation to the evils of masonry? But why fear masonry? She is powerless, if the people will it. She once proclaimed her influence to be so great, that the world in arms could not impede its progress: She now speaks, not in the triumphal shout, but in the tone of supplication. She is shorn of her beams; and if Americans are true to themselves, she will continue to sink, until all men are placed on an equality; and the rights of the whole people are respected. Antimasonry after fleeing for a century before her pursuers, now turns and keeps them at bay. Light is bursting around the public mind; not the candle light of masonry, but the sunshine of truth and sober reason. Men are beginning to see how long the press has been bound by a charm and are now supporting free presses of their own. Pennsylvania now has upwards of fifty, and the number is fast increasing.

What remains then to be done? Keep the press free. Support free presses and no others. Should we help the combination, when reason, truth and justice, mingle their common supplications to us for aid against it? Do masons support antimasonic presses? No. Let us then be up and doing. The country expects every freeman to be alive to his duty.

The Committee in conclusion, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That in opinion of this convention, the freedom of the press should be kept inviolate and that editors who conceal the truth relative to the disclosure of masonry are faithless sentinels, and are unworthy of the support of freemen.

(Conclusion next week.)



FROM EUROPE!

NEW YORK, June 6. The New York Whig says—By the arrival this afternoon, of the Birmingham, Capt. Harris, from Liverpool, Liverpool papers have been received to the 7th May, and London to the 6th.

GEN. DIEBITSCH HAD RETREATED ACROSS THE BUG—AND THE POLISH ARMY WERE IN POSSESSION OF SIEDLEC!

Hamburg papers of April 29th, contain accounts of a victory gained by Gen. Dwernicki over Gen. Rudiger in Volhyna, the population of which had revolted en masse. The same accounts say that Russian troops were advancing on that province.

GREAT BRITAIN—REFORM.—The election promise to result far more favorably to the cause of Reform, than even its friends anticipated. Gen. Gascoyne, who introduced the amendment to the Reform Bill, which occasioned its defeat, has lost his election in Liverpool.

A Liverpool paper of May 7th says:—

We cannot refrain from congratulating with our readers on the daily increasing success of the people in their noble struggle for reform. Every post brings accounts of fresh victories to the great cause, and four score is the amount of votes which it has gained in the elections already decided.

In Ireland, too, reform was carrying the elections beyond the anticipations of the most sanguine. Scotland was likely to remain about in statu quo: Ministers might even lose a little.

NEW YORK, June 9.

The news from Poland continues favorable to its brave defenders; though up to the latest dates, no decisive battle had been fought. Accounts had been received of extensive ravages by the cholera morbus among the Russian troops, in consequence of which, a protracted quarantine had been established in the ports of Holland, upon all vessels coming from Russia, of whatever nation. It was presumed that no vessel would find it an object to go from Russia to Holland so long as this quarantine continues. The Poles were represented to be rallying all their energies; auxiliaries were coming in from every quarter.

There had been no fighting between the Belgians and Dutch. The King of Holland appeared to be generally popular among his subjects. When the Emperor arrived at Amsterdam, the whole town was set off with a display of flags, in compliment to His Majesty. The Princess of Orange was several times there during her stay in port.

Continuation of Foreign Advice.

The late hour at which the foreign papers reached us on Monday, says the New York Commercial, prevented as close an examination of their contents, and as extensive an abridgement of their intelligence, as we could have desired. The deficiency is now supplied.

REPORTED DEFEAT OF THE POLES.

In a "Second Edition" of the London Standard of the evening of May 6, we find the following important, but melancholy account of the state of the campaign in Poland. The Editor of the Standard says this account was received through a private commercial channel, and the authority may be relied upon.

"General Diebitsch, after having defeated the Poles at Biala, marched direct upon Warsaw, which town is since the 19th of last month, declared in a state of siege: the inhabitants are willing to surrender in consequence of an epidemic which is raging in and about the town. The Poles lost nearly 10,000 men; and at the headquarters the general belief is that the war is at an end, as another army is coming from Russia into Podolia."

BALTIMORE, June 10.

Latest from Europe.—The Gazette says—The ship Corinthian, Bennet, arrived this day from Liverpool, sailed on the 13th of May. We have only been enabled to obtain a single paper of the 12th May, from which we extract the following.

Private letters from Berlin, by the Hamburg steamer at Liverpool state that there had been three days' fighting, and the brave Poles had been defeated, with the loss of eight thousand prisoners and two thousand killed. It also appears that General Dwernicki had escaped the Russians, and has been joined by nine thousand men previous to which his army consisted of twelve thousand men.

There appears to be no doubt of the defeat of General Seirauski by Kreutz; all accounts, Polish and German, concur in it.—From the position in which the armies now are, a very few days must bring some decisive intelligence.

The Standard on the authority of private letters speaks confidently of the defeat of the Poles, and goes so far as to assert that Warsaw was ready to open its gates to the merciless and sanguinary Diebitsch.—Humanity shudders and trembles for the fate of the bravest people in Europe.

We have received, by express, the Paris papers dated yesterday, the Moniteur contains a long and somewhat angry defence of the King and his Ministers for their conduct respecting the "decoration of July," and all the other papers are more or less taken up with discussing the propriety of the Ministerial interference. The heroes of July themselves conquered those emblems which have been decreed by the people to be commemorative of their valour—and the King therefore arrogates too much in demanding to bestow them as marks of Royal favour. "The heroes of July" have to receive that which the King had no right to give!

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 11.—Now executions have taken place since the last post. The Vice-Admiral, Tahir Pacha, was strangled a few days since. They say that he was implicated in a conspiracy recently discovered. The fleet recently fitted out is destined partly for the coasts of Albania, and the rest will sail for Alexandria and Syria. The flame of revolt has extended into Syria, and Babylon and Bagdad are in a similar state to Albania. Regular troops daily leave here for Macedonia and Asia.

BIRMINGHAM.—A most disgraceful outrage took place in this town on Monday last. The Rev. Mr. Moseley, rector of St. Martin's Church having declined to have the bells rung in consequence of the King's dissolving Parliament, was most shamefully assailed, and escaped to his residence with much difficulty. The bells of St. Martin's and St. Peter's Churches were afterwards entered, and merry peals rung out to the satisfaction of a vast assemblage of persons.

We are indebted to the politeness of the Editor of the Patriot for a copy of the following:—

RUSSIA AND POLAND.

We are sorry to say that the last accounts from the seat of war are far from being satisfactory, though the Poles have been almost invariably successful in the several skirmishes which have taken place. Their means of making good the losses insupportable even from victory bear no proportion to those of their gigantic oppressor; from the neglect of all agricultural operations, want is beginning to be felt; it is certain that the cholera has made its appearance at Warsaw and in the camp; and the country people are approaching Warsaw from all directions, a fact from which it would appear that the barbarians are advancing fast upon the capital. Should they ever enter the city it will be over the dead bodies of the inhabitants, after atrocities and massacres worse than any of those which called for the intervention of the Powers of Europe in the struggle between the Turks and Greeks, but we can hardly believe that those Powers will again look quietly on the martyrdom of a people superior in every point of view to their oppressors, a people whose almost miraculous bravery and patriotic sacrifices prove them so well entitled to freedom.

General Skrzynecki has issued a proclamation to the army and the nation in which he does not disguise the difficulties of their situation, but tells them plainly that their only hope of ultimate success in the struggle for national existence depends on their continued perseverance. He enumerates the glorious results of the campaign, and comments with laudable pride on the fact that though Poland had but at its commencement an ill organized force of 30,000 to oppose to the hordes of Russia, nearly 50,000 of the latter have been put hors-de-combat, and 16,000 remain prisoners in Warsaw, whilst the Poles have taken 11 pieces, 15 or 16,000 stand of arms, and 80 pieces of cannon, together with a great number of baggage and ammunition wagons, &c. We cannot doubt that his appeal will be met in corresponding spirit. On the other hand the Autocrat ordered to be levied an army of reserve of 150,000 men to support the operations of General Diebitsch, and it is stated that the war is highly popular in Russia, notwithstanding the reverses sustained by the Russian army.