

AMERICAN CITIZEN.

"Let us have Faith that Right makes Might; and in that Faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it"--A. LINCOLN.

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TO AN ABSENT SCHOOLMATE. Let by-gones be by-gones I hear some one say. Let the past be forgot in the joys of to-day.

Soldiers' State Convention.

GEN. JOHN W. GEARY ENDORSED.

Yesterday morning at eight o'clock, the Allegheny county delegation to the Soldiers' State Convention, assembled in front of the City Hall, and after forming in procession, marched to the various hotels, preceded by the Washington Cornet Band, where the visiting delegates were stopping.

The convention was called to order by Major General John F. Hartranft, who read the call for the Convention.

Major General James S. Negley, of Allegheny county was then unanimously chosen temporary Chairman. The General then appeared upon the stage, and was received with enthusiastic applause.

He stated that he was deeply obligated to the Convention for the compliment bestowed upon him, and congratulated himself that he was enabled to witness so large a representation of the gallant sons of liberty who had fought for and redeemed their country's flag in the hour of peril.

Captain Henry Conner, of Philadelphia, and Captain George W. Fenn, of Harrisburg, were chosen temporary Secretaries. Colonel Collins, of Philadelphia, then offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the delegates to this Convention hereby pledge themselves to conform to the action of the Convention.

Gen. Owen, of Philadelphia, stated that the resolution was unnecessary, as every soldier was a gentleman and a man of honor.

Dr. Kitchen read a minute of the proceedings of the Berks county delegation, in which a vote had been taken on the question of sustaining the action of this Convention, and the vote stood seven yeas to seven nays.

The following committee of one from each Congressional district was then appointed to inspect the credentials of delegates:

- 1st District.....Anthony McCristy. 2d ".....Col. James Gibbon. 3d ".....Capt. F. Gregory. 4th ".....Capt. Henry Conner. 5th ".....Maj. Joseph Robinson. 6th ".....W. W. Potts. 7th ".....Col. W. C. Tally. 8th ".....Col. Bartlett. 9th ".....Maj. Thad. Stevens. 10th ".....Col. Jacob G. Frick. 11th ".....Capt. David Richardson. 12th "....."....."..... 13th ".....Col. Samuel Orr. 14th ".....Col. W. W. Jennings. 15th ".....Col. Speckman. 16th ".....Maj. E. M. Shaw. 17th ".....Capt. Cunningham. 18th ".....Capt. James Snyder. 19th ".....Col. C. B. Rogers. 20th ".....Maj. B. J. Reed. 21st ".....Col. Hugh J. Brady. 22d ".....Gen. A. L. Pearson. 23d ".....John G. Brown. 24th ".....Capt. J. B. Hahn.

The committee then retired, when the Convention took a recess of half an hour. Captain Charles Naylor, formerly a resident of this city, but at present of Philadelphia, was then called upon for a speech.

The Committee on Credentials then appeared, and reported through Maj Gen A L Pearson, a list of delegates.

Gen Owen moved that the report of the Committee be accepted, and that the delegates whose names had been read, be admitted to seats.

Gen Harry White, of Indiana county, moved an amendment that the delegates whose seats have been contested be also admitted to seats in the convention. The amendment was accepted by Gen Owen, and the motion, as amended, was adopted.

Lieut Oliver moved that a committee of thirteen be appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the Convention.

General Joseph Fisher, of Lancaster county, stated that the gentleman was trying to steal his thunder. He had offered a resolution to a similar effect before the Committee on Credentials had been appointed, and suspended it at the request of the Convention.

After a stormy discussion, the matter was laid over for the present. General Collins then moved that a committee on permanent organization be appointed.

Major Scheek moved an amendment that the temporary chairman appoint a committee on permanent organization, consisting of one member from each Senatorial District. The motion, as amended, was adopted.

The chairman then announced the following gentlemen as the committee: Sergeant Anthony Gifford, chairman, T J Niel, Capt A K Dankle, Capt F H Gregory, Sergeant Jamison, Lieut J L Wray, Capt F M McConkey, John H Kastle, Col W Bell, Capt Webster Lowman, Capt Samuel Jamison, E J Elliott, Gen George Zinn, Col H Allen, Robt Dickey, Capt A Fuller, Gen A L Pearson, Gen Charles Barnes, Sergeant Joseph Willer, Capt J H Walker, Capt G Lovett, Capt S H Lewis, Capt J A Swartz, Lieut R L Leybein, Dr E C Kitehen, Major R W Shunk, John H Shirk, Major W Seip, Capt Frank Wagner, James McGowan, Capt Robert J Fevin, Col J B Copeland.

Gen Fisher renewed his motion that one delegate from each Senatorial district be appointed a committee on resolutions, to whom all resolutions shall be submitted. Considerable debate ensued, Capt Oliver insisting that his motion to a similar effect should have precedence.

General Fisher stated that the discussion was assuming a personal character, as to whether he or Capt Oliver should be chairman of the committee. For his part he did not care who was chairman so that he was a good and true man.

Col Thomas M Bane, of Allegheny hoped that a soldier who had been at the front would be appointed chairman.

The motion was then adopted, when, in answer to a question, the President stated that he would appoint General Fisher chairman of the committee. This announcement was received with applause.

The following Committee on resolutions was then announced.

Capt W R Jones, of Cambria county, offered a resolution recommending Major General U S Grant and Governor Andrew G Curtin, for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States in 1868. The resolution was referred to the appropriate committee without remarks.

Several other resolutions were also read and referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

The Committee on Permanent Organization reported the following permanent officers:

- President--General Joshua T Owen Vice Presidents--Gen S D Oliphant, Lieut Howard Bruce, private Thomas V Cooper, Capt J Yeager, Col W B Thomas, Capt W R Jones, Captain Robert Pollock, Captain Price Blair, Major John C Harvey, General James Nagle; Col W H Speakman, Colonel Samuel Knox, Colonel C P Rogers, Captain Harry Conner, Sergeant J R Harrow, Sergeant H Stricken, Captain W H Breeneman, Captain W W Hopkins, Colonel Thomas M Bayne, Colonel James K Robinson, Colonel E H Mast, Lieutenant G W Gibson, Captain John P Dillinger, Sergeant Augustus Davis, A J Elliott, Captain J W Cowles, Colonel H Allen, Captain J W Stevens, Colonel G Clark. Secretaries--G W Fenn, Sergeant H Schrack, Captain W R Davis, Captain

John G McConnell, Lieutenant J Boyer and private E C Reed.

The report of the Committee was unanimously adopted.

Generals Barnes and Collis were appointed a committee to conduct General Owen to the Chair. Upon the General's appearance on the stage the entire Convention arose in their seats, and received him with cheers.

He returned his thanks on behalf of himself personally, and also the city of Philadelphia, for the honor conferred upon her by selecting the chairman of their delegation to preside over the deliberations of the Convention.

The surroundings of the Convention appeared to indicate that it would be one of the most important ever held in the State. It appeared to be the determination of the Convention to unite elbow to elbow in civil as in military life and see that the fruits of the war should not be wrested from the people.

He would say to the politicians, in the name of the soldiers, that so long as they proved true and loyal they had nothing to fear, but if they dared to do anything to detract from the glorious results that have been gained by the war, that moment the soldiers would unite against them.

The soldiers of the Union had proved that in the hour of peril they were willing to sacrifice their lives, and if they were trusted then they should be now. The destinies of the country would be safe in the hands of her gallant and glorious defenders.

Under the general character of the call for the Convention all soldiers who had been honorably discharged from service were invited to take part in its deliberations, and he believed they would favor the soldier for Governor of the State, who had fought under her banners, rather than the man who had tried to cripple the cause.

The General stated that the Convention was "identified with certain principles, and he felt satisfied that the Committee on Resolutions would indicate what those principles were." He concluded by announcing that he accepted the position of President of the Convention, and would preserve order at all costs.

The General was frequently applauded during his remarks.

Gen. Collis renewed his motion, that the delegates pledge themselves to conform to and abide by the action of the Convention. Mr. Rouch, of Berks county, objected, but the resolution was adopted, with only one dissenting voice.

On motion of Gen Harry White, the Convention adjourned until four o'clock, in order to give the Committee on Resolutions an opportunity to report.

AFTERNOON SESSION. The Convention re-assembled at half past four o'clock, and was called to order by President Owen.

On motion of Col. W. L. Foulke, Gen. Thos. E. Rose, of the First Brigade, First Division, Fourth Army Corps, and formerly Colonel of the 77th Pennsylvania Regiment, and James S. Brisbin, of the Regular army, were invited to seats in the Convention. Mayor McCarthy was also invited to take a seat upon the stage.

General Pearson moved that Colonel James S. Given, of Philadelphia, in the absence of the Committee on Resolutions, be invited to address the Convention.

The Colonel stated that he was unwell, and at his request the motion was withdrawn.

Col. Keatley, District Attorney of Blair county, in answer to repeated calls, made his appearance on the platform, and delivered a brief address. The Colonel, in the course of his remarks recommended the hanging of Jeff. Davis and General Robert E. Lee, which was received with evident satisfaction by the Convention.

The list of Vice Presidents and Secretaries was then read and an invitation extended to them to take seats on the stage.

Captain A. M. Story, of Philadelphia, and formerly of the Pennsylvania Reserves, was called upon and delivered a short address, which was well received.

Captain E. S. Spangler offered a resolution recommending that all organizations of soldiers sailors and mariners be called by one name, and proposed that they adopt the title of "Soldiers and Sailors' Union."

Col. Given recommended that the name of the organization be "The Boys in Blue." The amendment was accepted, after which the subject was, on motion, postponed for the present.

Republican State Committee during the ensuing campaign. Referred to the Committee on resolutions.

Gen. James S. Brisbin, of the Regular Army, by invitation, proceeded to address the Convention. He urged that the present was the time for organizing, for if it was postponed any longer, it would be too late.

The grass had hardly shown itself on the fields where some of the greatest battles of the war had been fought, before the services of the soldiers had been forgotten by the authorities at Washington.

The General continued his remarks for some time, which were well received.

On motion, Col. Wm. Diehl, of Pittsburgh, Major Nathaniel Patterson, of Birmingham, and John Murphy, of Philadelphia, veterans of the war of 1812, were invited to take seats on the platform.

Major General James S. Negley was introduced to the Convention, by the President, as the ranking officer of the State, and delivered a few remarks but declined to make a speech.

On motion, Captains Carey, Roarer, and Major Roberts were appointed a Committee to wait upon the Committee on Resolutions and ascertain when they would report.

The Convention then adjourned until eight o'clock.

Evening Session. The Convention re-assembled at eight o'clock, when Gen. Fisher, chairman, read the following report of the Committee on Resolutions, which was adopted as a whole amidst great applause:

WHEREAS, We the representatives of the Soldiers and Sailors of Pennsylvania, assembled in convention, in obedience to a call recognized and formally acted upon throughout the Commonwealth, having in remembrance the sufferings and trials endured by the soldiers and sailors of the Union in their successful struggle against the gigantic rebellion, and being determined to perpetuate the great principles established by our arms and sanctified by the blood of our fellow-comrades, do resolve--

1. That we return to the Omnipotent Ruler of the universe our sincere and heartfelt thanks for the crowning victory vouchsafed to our efforts against a rebellion which had for its object the destruction of our great Republic.

2. That the tender care exercised by the Government and the people for the remains of our martyred heroes, and for their widows and orphans, commands our warmest gratitude.

3. That it is contrary to public policy and subversive of the great principles, won by patriotic blood, to permit any to hold offices of honor or profit under the general Government who by word or deed embarrassed the Union armies, or cast odium on the cause for which they fought.

4. That the soldiers of Pennsylvania should organize in their respective counties to take care that the triumph of our army be not fruitless, and the just results of our great endeavors remain ungathered by concessions of any of the material points at issue in the struggle to the defeated party, or by yielding advantages fairly won; and we propose the following platform as the basis of organization:

5. That such treatment should be accorded to the defeated foe as the most chivalric magnanimity requires, but without yielding a principle comprising the right, or above all deserting an ally.

6. That such and so many guarantees shall be demanded from the South, and incorporated in the National Constitution, as are necessary to prevent recurring of rebellion, secure justice and freedom to all men of all classes, conditions and colors, and guard the national faith from violation.

7. That rebels ought not to be precipitated into power before such guarantees have been obtained, and that accordingly Congress, to which rightful pertains all questions of reconstruction, is to be cordially sustained in their demand for such guarantees.

8. That with the beginning of the war this nation took a new departure, and henceforth her constitution is to be read in the interest of liberty, justice and security, according to the lights of its pre-amble and the immortal Declaration of Independence, and under the teachings of its authors and patriots. Too long already has it been interpreted in the interest of slavery and caste.

9. That Major-Gen'l John W. Geary having given just evidence of his devotion to the Union during the great rebellion by volunteering in its defense and serving faithfully during the war, when many like Heister Clynher, who now claims to be equally patriotic, were rendering aid and comfort to the rebels, and he now being before the people of Pennsylvania as a candidate for the office of Governor, we, his fellow soldiers in that time

of trial, pledge to him our hearty support, and ask the same for him from all those who acknowledge the debt of gratitude due from the country to its saviors.

10. That the soldiers of Pennsylvania recognize no warmer or truer friend than Governor Andrew G. Curtin. His name is our watchword, his fame our hope, and his merit our glory. The unswerving love of the "soldiers friend" will be reciprocated by unfaltering devotion.

11. That we appeal hopefully to Congress for a speedy question on the equalization of bounties to the soldiers.

12. That believing that treason is a crime and that "traitors should be punished" we demand that leading traitors should be convicted and executed as an example to traitors for all time to come.

13. That this convention is able to express its sentiments upon the whole matter of issues and candidates in few words which may answer for our banner inscriptions in the coming campaign--"God Grant Geary Victory."

14. That the legislation whereby Congress attempted to defend and protect our allies--the loyal men of the South--against the deadly hatred of the common enemy, and to make good to a race the freedom proffered as the price of aid and awarded as the due of loyalty, deserves unqualified approval.

15. That we request Congress so to legislate as to protect American industry by high protective tariff.

Col. T. M. Bayne offered the following as the minority report of the Committee:

Resolved, That the loyal majority in Congress deserves our gratitude, that radical evils require radical remedies, and that the nation should take no step backward in its march to the grand destiny that surely awaits unfaltering, persistent adherents to the cause of equal freedom.

Col. Bayne prefaced his resolution with a speech. He said there was not a word in the resolutions offered by the Committee endorsing Congress. Soldiers were indebted to the loyal members of Congress during the war for support, and it would not do to go back on those members for Andy Johnston or any other man.

Captain Hutchinson, of Center, advocated the passage of the resolution. He said that no man could say that Congress was not right, and in our hearts we have not a particle of respect for Andy Johnston, and if there were any Democrats present they would say that in their hearts they had no respect for him.

He contended that in violating the pledges he made to us, Andy Johnston had departed from the platform on which we placed him by our bayonets and ballots for without us he would still be nothing. If we believed Johnston betrayed us let us say so, because he could do more injury than that he can now, by working secretly against us.

Mr. Israel Becker, a delegate from Berks county, and Secretary of the Reading Democratic Club, arose to speak, when General Collis asked him if he intended to conform to the proceeding of the Convention, or to vote for Clymer. After some equivocation, he said he would vote for Clymer.

General Collis--the presence of the delegate is an insult to the Convention.

Captain Conner, of Philadelphia, moved that two one-legged soldiers be appointed a committee to escort the Berks county delegate out of the Convention, Captain C. offering to be one of the two.

As the indignation was intense, the Copperhead delegate quietly retired at the suggestion of the Chairman.

Capt. Fuller, of Fayette, offered an amendment approving of the proposed amendments to the Constitution approved by the United States Senate. He hoped no resolution denouncing President Johnson would be adopted until his treachery was proved. He believed that harmony would soon exist between the President and Congress, and did not think it politic to give up until all hope of this was gone.

Major Scheek, of Lancaster, asked who felt any pride in the Pennsylvania Senators at Washington. He was in favor of standing by the popular branch of Congress, and asked where were Johnson's monuments of justice, no matter how many monuments of mercy he might have.

Let us stand by Congress, and make treason odious. He referred to the carpets which had been ordered by the President for Jeff. Davis, in order that his (Jeff's) nerves might not be disturbed by the footfalls of the passing sentry. Those who had sojourned in Libby would remember the comforts there provided. The sins of Judas, compared with those of Andrew Johnson, sunk into utter insignificance.

Gen. F. sher said the Committee on Resolutions were as radical as any person in the Convention could desire, and thought they had covered even this in the resolutions. He would sooner endorse Senator Cowan than Andrew Johnson, and much rather vote for the resolution than the amendment offered to it. If he was not a radical, and did not so express himself in the Convention, he would not dare to return to his home in Lancaster county, where they taught their children to hate Andrew Johnson.

On motion, Capt. Fuller's amendment was voted down, and Colonel Bayne's resolution adopted unanimously, and with immense applause.

Gen. Thos. L. Kane, of McKean, offered the following resolutions, which were adopted without discussion.

Resolved, That the differences of rank, established by law, for the government of the army of the United States, were respected by the American soldiers with pride; but that the late grave emergency having passed away it is time for a free people to examine how far such distinctions were necessary for the maintenance of military discipline, and how far they were copied without reflection from the service regulations of European and oligarchical countries, where the ranks are recruited from one class of the population and commanded by another.

Resolved, That the distinction drawn between the rank and file, and commissioned officers and their families--if convenient in the field--is unequalled at home, and it should not be continued on the pension rolls of the United States. That as no man has more than one body and one life to expose upon the field of battle, that persons should be equalized--not by a reduction of the pensions already accrued commissioned officers, but by elevating all to a standard worthy of the opulence, generosity and grandeur of the nation.

A resolution to send copies of the proceedings to the President, Congress, General Grant and Geary, and Governor Curtin was adopted.

Captain Fenn offered the following on Resolutions:

Resolved, That the soldiers of Pennsylvania vie with jealousy and alarm certain indications pointing towards the release of Jeff. Davis, the great arch traitor of the land, on bail or otherwise, and it is believed, with a view to his discharge eventually. We protest, in the name of the past and the future of our country, against any action that will relieve Davis from his just deserts, to wit: Execution for the crime of treason.

A number of other resolutions were offered, but no action taken upon them.

A resolution concerning the death of Gen. Scott was adopted.

On motion, General Owen was authorized to appoint a State Central Committee, Gen. Owen to be chairman.

Resolutions of thanks to the railroads for free passes to delegates, and to Manager Henderson for the free use of the Academy of Music, were adopted.

The Convention adjourned sine die about eleven P. M., with three rousing cheers and a "tiger" for Gen. Geary.

An old fellow in a neighboring town, who is original in all things, especially egotism and profanity, and who took part in the late great rebellion, was one day blowing in the village tavern to a crowd of admiring listeners, and boasting of his many bloody exploits, when he was interrupted by the question:

"I say, old Joe, how many rebels did you kill during the war?"

"How many did I kill, Sir? how many rebels did I kill? Well I don't know just 'actly how many; but I know this much--I killed as many o' them as they did o' me!"

"Old Cooper" is a Dutchman, and like many another man, of whatever nationality, has a wife that is "some."

One day the "old man" got into some trouble with a neighbor, which resulted in a fight! The neighbor was getting the better of the "old man," which Cooper's wife was not slow to see. The "old man" was resisting his enemy to the best of his ability, when his wife broke out with,

"Lie still, Cooper! lie still! If he kills you I'll sue him for damages!"

"Dar ar," said a sable orator, addressing his brethren, "Two roads tro' de world. De one am a broad an narrow road lead to perdition, and de oder a narrow and broad road dat leads to destruction." "Ef dat am de case," said a sable hearer, "dis callid individual takes to de woods."

Evenings at Home.

A writer in the Ladies' Repository tells the following pleasant story:

The husband greatly to the annoyance of his young wife, had acquired the habit of spending his evenings away from home, and her earnest protest against his practice resulted in his agreement to stay in every evening for a week and allow her to be absent. The result is what might be expected in every case where true and strong affection exists between the husband and wife.

Monday evening came, and George Wilson remained true to his promise. His wife put on her bonnet, and shawl, and he said he would remain and keep house.

"What will you do when I am gone?" Emma asked.

"O, I shall read, and sing, and enjoy myself generally."

"Very well," said Emma, "I shall be back early."

The wife went out and the husband was left alone. He had an interesting book and he began to read it. He read till eight o'clock, and then began to yawn and looked frequently at the clock. The book did not interest him as usually. Ever and anon he would come to a passage which he new would please his wife, and instinctively he turned as though he would read it aloud; but there was no wife to hear it. At half-past eight o'clock he arose from his chair and began to pace the floor and whistle. Then he went and got his flute and played several of his favorite airs. Then he got a chess board, and played a game with an imaginary partner. Then he walked the floor and whistled again. Finally the clock struck nine, and his wife returned.

"Well, George," said she, "I am back in good time. How have you enjoyed yourself?"

"Capitally," returned the husband; "I had no idea it was so late. I hope you have enjoyed yourself."

"O, splendidly!" said the wife; "I had no idea how much enjoyment there was away from home. Home is such a dull place, after all, isn't it?"

"Why, no, I can't say that it is," returned George, carelessly. "In fact," he added, "I rather like it."

"I am glad of that," retorted Emma, "for we shall have a nice comfortable week of it."

George winced at this, but he kept his countenance, and determined to stand it out.

On the next evening Emma prepared to be off again.

"I shall be back in good time," she said.

"Where are you going Emma?" her husband asked.

"O, I can't tell exactly; I may go to several places."

So George Wilson was left alone again, and he tried to amuse himself as before, but he found it very difficult task. Ever and anon he would cast his eyes on that empty chair and the thought would come, "How pleasant it would be if she were here!" The clock finally struck nine, and he began to listen for the steps of his wife.

"I declare," he muttered to himself, after he had listened for some time in vain, "this is too bad. She ought not to stay out so late."

But he happened to remember that he often remained away much later than that, so he concluded to make the best of it.

At quarter to ten Emma came home. "A little late, am I not?" she said, looking up at the clock. "But I fell in with some friends. How have you enjoyed yourself?"

"First rate," returned George bravely; "I think home is a capital place."

"Especially when a man can have it all to himself," added the wife with a sidelong glance at her husband. But he made no reply.

On the next evening Emma prepared to go out as before; but this time she kissed her husband ere she went, and seemed to hesitate about leaving.

"Where do you think of going?" George asked in an undertone.

"I may drop in to see Uncle John," replied Emma. "However you won't be uneasy, you will know I am safe."

"Oh, certainly," said her husband, when she left to his own reflections he began to ponder seriously upon the subject thus presented for his consideration.

He could not read, he could not play or enjoy himself in any way, while the chair was empty. In short he found that home had no real comfort without his wife. The one thing needful to make George Wilson's home pleasant was not present.

"I declare," he said to himself. "I did (CONTINUED ON THE PAGE.)"