

Leading Democratic Convention.

GREAT SPEECH OF COL. BIGLER.

LETTER OF COLONEL BLACK.

PROCEEDINGS IN DETAIL.

Correspondence of the Pennsylvania.

READING, June 5, 1851.

I thought to be able, by this time, to send you full details of the proceedings and ballottings of the Convention on the several matters disposed of by that body yesterday, but I find events hurrying on too rapidly to admit of this just now, and must content myself and your readers for the present with brief references to the facts as they occur. I will therefore take up the chain of narrative at the point of disconnection yesterday. When my letter was closed the Convention had under consideration the contested Senatorial seat for the Cambria District, in which Adam Moses, Esq., claimed under the authority of one conference, and H. L. Patterson under that of another. After the contestants had been heard, a ballot was taken on the issue, the result of which was favorable to Mr. Patterson. He accordingly took his seat. Thomas A. Maguire then contested the seat of John C. O'Neill. The adverse claim was so weakly supported that the Convention decided by acclamation in favor of Mr. O'Neill. Then came up the great question of the day, the contest between the BIGLER and FRAZER delegates from Lancaster city and county. The interest excited by this issue was profound and universal. It was the topic of conversation everywhere; and when it was at length reached by the Convention the lowest murmur of conversation ceased; and silence and absorbing attention at once pervaded the large assemblage with which the Court House was thronged.

The credentials of both sets of delegates were read by the clerks. In those of the BIGLER delegates, James L. Reynolds, Esq., was substituted, as Senatorial delegate, for Wm. B. Fordney, Esq., and in those of the FRAZER delegates, Col. Frazer was substituted for Peter Martin, Esq. At this stage of the proceedings, Mr. Sterigere, of Montgomery, suggested the propriety of hearing two of the claimants from each delegation on the merits of the case, which being on motion agreed to, Mr. Amwake, of the FRAZER set, proceeded to state their case. The details being very voluminous, and involving references to a great number of inaccessible papers, I must necessarily omit for the present. The great issue was this: whether the County Committee, which called the Convention of March, 1851, by the action of which the FORDNEY delegates were elected, was at the time of calling that Convention a living, and regularly organized and authorized body, having the right to act for the Democracy of Lancaster. Mr. Amwake, in a very respectable speech, contended it was not. He was followed by Mr. Swarr, of the same county, on the other side, who after a brief reference to the necessity of saving the time of the Convention, read, in a most elegant and impressive manner, a printed statement of the claims of the party with whom he was acting. Mr. Swarr was followed by Col. Frazer. His speech was of several hours' duration, in the midst of which, the hour being late, he gave way to a motion to adjourn to 7 o'clock in the evening. After the reassembling of the Convention, he engaged the attention of the delegates some two hours longer in addition.

The address of Col. Frazer was marked by great earnestness and feeling, and general propriety of manner, but it failed greatly in force of argument. It was to all who heard it the effort of a "strong man struggling in a morass." He was followed by James L. Reynolds, of Lancaster, in a masterly and convincing argument, supported with a mass of facts that told with great effect in the Convention. Excepting an irregular debate by some of the delegates following this, the address of Mr. Reynolds ended the discussion.

A motion was then made, that the delegates elected in November, 1850, be admitted to seats in the Convention, to which an amendment was offered, substituting the delegates elected in April. Mr. McCalmont offered the following, as an amendment to the amendment:

Resolved, That James L. Reynolds be admitted as the Senatorial Delegate, and James Patterson, Samuel Parker, Hiram B. Swarr, J. B. Baker and N. B. Wolfe, as Representative Delegates from Lancaster county to this Convention.

Of special interest was the subject of "spicing" moved to postpone the subject. Would that the Convention in favor of ad-

And clung to honest work in favor of ad-

Though pride may spurn the tolling cro-

The tattered garb, the crownless hat, both

Yet God and Nature cry aloud, the

The man is none the worst for that!

Threatened Rupture in the W-

Mr. William Lewis, the Collector of up on

tons for the District of Philadelphia. The years

more triumphant, and will be followed as follows:

from which there have been

made to have him -ken upon the resolution

Cooper and the it was agreed to, and Messrs.

opinion of Reynolds, James Patterson, Dr. Saml.

rad and S. B. Swarr, J. B. Baker and N. B.

President declared the regularly authorized

Notes from the city and county of Lancaster.

Mr. B. Amwake subsequently appeared as a

representative for Dr. Parker.)

On motion, the Senatorial Delegates were

make the Committee equal to the number of

Senatorial Delegates.

This was subsequently, at the suggestion of

Mr. Sterigere, modified so as to provide that

the members of the Committee shall be selected

from the several Senatorial Districts. The

subject was then, on motion of Mr. Frailey,

postponed for the present.

The Committee to select officers for the per-

manent organization, then reported the follow-

ing list of officers:

PRESIDENT—HON. J. L. GILLIS.

Vice Presidents.—C. Kugler, F. Van-

zant, C. Worrall, P. Conroy, T. Brown,

C. Mason, M. Van Dusen, A. H. Tipping,

J. A. Morrison, D. Fister, J. Patterson,

S. Morrett, J. Kennedy, G. M. Lauman,

E. Tolan, J. P. Felty, S. N. Bailey, Ira

Day, S. Strohecker, J. P. Anderson, G.

P. Steel, J. Blanding, D. L. Sherwood,

M. C. Trout, N. Snyder, D. Bois, Henry

M'Cullough, W. W. Dallas, J. D. Leet,

G. W. Bowman, J. S. McCalmont, R.

C. Hale, D. Fullwood, C. Frailey.

Secretaries.—B. F. Sloan, E. P. Dunn,

W. Shaffner, A. McCammon, D. Rankin.

The officers took their stations, when Judge

Gillis, the Chairman, acknowledged the honor

done him in a very excellent address.

The Convention then, on motion of J. C. Mc-

Calmont, proceeded to nominate candidates

from which to select one to be supported by the

Democratic party of Pennsylvania at the next

election for Governor of the Commonwealth.

G. R. Barrett nominated Wm. BIGLER, of

Clearfield.

Wesley Frost, of Westmoreland, nominated

Col. SAMUEL W. BLACK, of Allegheny.

The Convention being about to take a ballot,

Col. Keenan, after a few words of explanation

and the warmest protestations of esteem and

support on the part of the friends of Col.

BLACK, presented the following letter with draw-

ing his name:

PITTSBURG, May 27, 1851.

GENTLEMEN:—The nomination of Col. Bigler

by the Democratic State Convention, is already

an ascertained certainty.

The purpose of this letter is to request that

you will depart from your instructions, and not

name me as a candidate for the office of Gov-

ernor.

Concept of thought and unanimity in the

evening preparation, gives goodly promise of a

glorious day in action. Let not me be an obsta-

cle in the way of perfect harmony, but rather

let us rejoice that we in the West can minister

to the triumph of the Party that knows no

section in State nor Country.

If I did not believe that the entire nation was

interested in our success at the State Election,

I might be content to rest at the first of the

fight; but I do believe that the security of the

Union depends upon the issue in Pennsylvania,

and, therefore, "in my heart of hearts," feel

most anxious.

Governor Johnston, against whom and towards

whom I never have, and never will employ an

unkind word, has dedicated himself to a re-

election. His resources are neither few nor

feeble. Suppose he succeeds, it is a declaration

on the part of Pennsylvania that she is deter-

mined to disturb the measures of conciliation

and compromise which have put rest troubles

to sleep. To these measures the Democratic

party is so far committed; and he, I think,

is equally committed on the other side. Let

the centre of the Union shake the Union, and

what becomes of the trembling branches of the

tree? I do not belong to the school of secure sinners,

and do not think there is any need of alarm,

because danger does not thunder daily at our

doors. Nor do I admire the blind bravery of

men who will not look at perils because, like a

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of resolutions, thoroughly national in their

character, which were adopted by the Con-

vention by acclamation. The following are the

resolutions:

Resolved, That the time has arrived when

not only the prosperity of the people, but the

preservation of our blessed Union, requires that

the Democratic party, in all its measures, shall

strictly and faithfully adhere to the funda-

mental principles established by its wise, patriotic

and glorious founders; and among the most in-

portant of these principles we may enumerate a

strict construction of the Constitution of the

United States, a total abstinence on the part of

Congress from the exercise of all doubtful pow-

ers; a sacred regard for the rights reserved by

the Sovereign States of which the confederacy

is composed; an absolute non-interference by

the people of the several States, with the do-

estic institutions peculiar to each; and a right

economy in the expenditure of the taxes raised

from the people, confining the appropriation of

public money by Congress to national objects,

plainly authorized by the Constitution.

Resolved, That these vital principles of

Democracy been faithfully observed in the ad-

ministration of the National Government, since

March, 1849, we should not now witness the

spirit of discord and alienation which at pre-

sent prevails between the north and south on

the question of domestic slavery—threatening

as it does eventually to dissolve the Union; we

should have occasion to deplore the enormous

appropriations of public money, approaching

in a time of peace, to the war standard of

expenditure and endangering an entail upon

our posterity of the fatal incubus of a perma-

nent national debt.

Resolved, That the Democratic party of

Pennsylvania are true to the Union, the Consti-

tution and the laws, and will faithfully observe

and execute, so far as in them lies, all the mea-

sures of compromise adopted by the late Con-

gress, for the purpose of settling the question

arising out of domestic slavery, and this not only

from a sense of duty as good citizens of the

republic, but also from the kind and fraternal

feelings which they cherish towards their

brethren of the slaveholding States.

Resolved, That the Sixty-third section of the

Act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, passed on

the 3d of March, 1847, denying under severe pen-

alty, the use of our State Jails for the detention

of fugitive slaves, while awaiting their trial,

ought to be expunged from our Statute books,

both because it interposes obstacles, by means

of State legislation, to the execution of the

provisions of the Constitution of the United States,

and because it is a virtual disregard of the

principles of compromise, and is calculated

seriously to endanger the existence of the Union.

Resolved, That the matter of levying duties

on foreign imports by the general Government,

we are in favor of the reciprocal interchange

of our products with the other nations of the

earth in consonance with the enlightened spirit

of the age, recognizing clearly the practice of

the Government to maintain and preserve in

full vigor and safety, all the great industrial

privileges of the country.

Resolved, That in Col. William Bigler, our

candidate for Governor, we recognize a long

tried, able and faithful Democrat, in whom there

is no guile, and a man, who by his own pre-

minent merit, has risen to the exalted posi-

tion which he now holds in the affection and

respect of his fellow-citizens. We hail him as

the worthy representative and chosen standard

bearer of our great and glorious principles, and

pledge ourselves to do battle for the cause of

Democracy under his banner, until we shall

achieve a signal victory and redeem the Key-

stone State from the misrule of its present Whig

Governor.

Resolved, That we will cordially support the

election of Seth Clover, as Canal Commissioner,

believing him to be an able, honest, and incor-

ruptible Democrat, and well qualified to dis-

charge the duties of that important and highly

responsible office.

After the passage of the resolutions, the dis-

posal of some incidental concluding business,

and a good speech from the President, Judge

Gillis, the Convention adjourned sine die.

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