

Democrat and Sentinel.



M. HASSON, Editor & Publisher.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 1864.

S. M. Pettengill & Co.

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The Democratic Party.

There never was, in the history of governments nor probably never will be, any human institution equal to the Democratic party that administered the affairs of the United States. Its action was based on a Constitution and a creed formed for it, by men of the most strict integrity and most profound wisdom. It had administered the Government for eighty years with slight exceptions, (and these exceptions were universal failures,) in such a manner, that it was thought by the civilized world, that mankind had raised considerably in the scale of social existence. The Constitution was the organic law of the country, and this party continued it strictly and lived up to it faithfully.

It had no jealousy of the stranger, who forsakes the graves and the hearths of his fathers, the land of his birth, the scenes and associations of childhood, the attractions of home and the friends of his youth, and sunder the dearest ties of kindred to enjoy the liberty of this free land. That party had no fear that the stability of American institutions would be effected by the emigration of foreigners. It therefore could not sanction the Native American party. It kept its hands clean and its heart pure from the contamination of the Know Nothing party; because it eschewed bigotry, that hell-born principle, that "has no head and cannot think, no heart and cannot feel, when it moves it is in wrath, when it pauses it is amidst ruin. Its prayers are curses, its communion is death, its vengeance is eternity. Its decalogue is written in the blood of its victims. If it stoops for a moment from its infernal flight it is on some kindred rock to whet its fang for keener rapine, and replume its wing for a more sanguinary desperation."

therefore a system that aims at elevating the masses of mankind by awakening them to a knowledge and a care of their own interest. It inculcates freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of the ballot-box. Whenever any of these rights were assailed, this party stepped into the defense of those rights.

Although its principles are the living innate principles of all the ennobling qualities of the human heart, it has always met with the most deadly hostility that human ingenuity could invent, by leading men, who never could believe that the people were fit for self-government. That was their leading idea, although they came out over a new signature every four years.

These men would start under their new baptism with a zeal that would deserve a better cause. And they would be followed by many honest but unthinking men through all their muddy paths.

"Crooked or straight, through quags or thorny bolls, True to the jingling of their leaders bells."

The Draft.

It was a very humiliating spectacle to observe the workings of this draft here last week. The people don't seem to be over anxious to get Abraham's harness on. Any one who had the good fortune to be toothless or blind of the right eye looked on it as a providential blessing. Many were excused for infirmities, that did not seem visible, while others that seemed very unfit for hard service were elected. Indeed we have ourselves seen a man who had been excused, very anxious for a home fight not long afterwards, and declaring "he could whip any man in Ebensburg." He was a stout athletic man and a very loyal one, but he did not seem to have a taste for whipping the accursed rebels. The loyal men did not exhibit more desire for the army than the copperheads, who are said to be sympathizers with this hell-born rebellion. This board is succeeding very poorly in getting men. If Grant fights on in the same line till he takes Richmond, by being reinforced with recruits sent him by this means, we fear he may fight till Gabriel blows his trumpet. But this board is doing as well as they can, and are attending to this business well, through loyalty and patriotism, for we conclude they are losing money by it. We suppose they are looking out anxiously for peace, as much so, as our farmers are looking out for the refreshing showers for their standing crops.

Propositions of Peace.

The following correspondence appeared first in the Republican Journals of this State, taken from the telegraphic despatches to New York. It purports to contain a proposition from a commissioner of the Southern Confederacy, and would, in our mind, be as fair as the North ought to ask. It will be seen from Lincoln's despatch, that the sole object of this war is for the negro, and for nothing else, except his own aggrandizement and continuance in power. He will not treat with them without they liberate the negroes. The Democratic party knew this all the time, but it was strenuously denied by the Black Republicans; they never wanted to interfere with the domestic institutions of the South, but if the abolition of slavery would be an incident of the war, they could not help it. All they wanted was a restoration of the Union! They care about the Union as much as an Israelite cares about Pork. They never did care about it, and would not now, if it were not seasoned with the negro. What cares Abraham about the woe of the widow or the orphans' bereavement? what cares he about the groans of the dying, or the appalling picture of the living maimed? If a man, in this negro war, has been deprived of arms, legs or part of his face, Abraham could console himself by getting Picayune Butler sung to raise his spirits, lest he could get time to reflect on the evils he has brought on the country. A Roman emperor once got his horse madder on gilded oats, and the American people, who held the reins of Government and was the government themselves, elected, not a horse nor a jackass, nor a baboon, but Abraham Lincoln, to preside over their destinies for four years. And this creature, who is neither horse, jackass or baboon, but a man of infinite jest, an undistinguished lawyer in Springfield, Illinois, who never was fit to try a case beyond assault and battery, or dogs and sheep, is placed at the head of the government of the American people. He has admirably sustained himself in imbecility,

stupidity and ignorance. Nor do we blame him, nor is he to blame, except for his falsehood, heartlessness and dishonesty. For his incapacity he is not to blame.— We would as soon blame him for being six feet high or being loose jointed. We would as soon blame the swallow for a late spring, or the woodcock for an early winter, as to blame that poor creature for being unfit for the Presidency. His manipulators knew at the time that he was unfit to preside over the destinies of a great people. But they thought if the country would be lost, that they would enrich themselves, and many of them succeeded.— The people got tired of prosperity, they got tired of honesty and virtue in public affairs, and they wanted a change. They have got it. They want another now, and they will get it, but it can't be another like the last. It must be for the better, and we hope and trust that the Prince of Peace will cease to punish this nation by permitting this modern Attila called the scourge of God, to rule its destinies.

NIAGARA FALLS, Wednesday, July 20. Two weeks ago Geo. N. Sanders, C. C. Clay, of Alabama, Jacob Thompson, of Mississippi, and J. P. Holcomb, of Virginia, arrived at the Clifton House, just across the river from this place.— Their arrival was duly announced in the public press, and the object of their mission was understood to be to consult with the Democratic leaders of the North in regard to the Chicago Convention.

Results proved, however, that they had a double purpose in view, which was first developed to Horace Greeley by George N. Sanders, who wrote to Mr. Greeley, stating that Messrs. Clay, Thompson and Holcomb were duly recognized commissioners of the Confederate Government, and desired to know what terms could be made for terminating the war between the two sections. He added, however, that these commissioners were not specially authorized to negotiate for a cessation of hostilities or a restoration of the Union, but they would like to have an informal conference with such persons as the United States Government might indicate to meet them. These facts having been presented to Mr. Lincoln, he requested Mr. Greeley to act in the matter as he thought advisable under the peculiar circumstances, and stated that he (Mr. L.) would at any time be pleased to receive propositions from those who had been in arms against the Government for a return to their allegiance and duty as citizens of the Union.

He also stated that he would be pleased to see the Union restored upon any terms consistent with the present and future safety, welfare and honor of the Government. Mr. Greeley having settled all preliminaries with Mr. Lincoln, proceeded to this place, reaching here on last Monday morning, and took up quarters at the International Hotel. A correspondence was at once opened with the commissioners, and, as a final result, made the following proposition, and gave it as their opinion that the Richmond Government would approve and ratify the same.— The restoration of the Union in statu quo upon this basis:

First—All negroes which have been actually freed by this war to be secured in such freedom.

Second—All negroes at present held as slaves to remain so.

Third—The war debt of both parties to be paid by the United States.

Fourth—The old doctrine of State rights to be recognized in reconstructing the Union.

This proposition was laid before Mr. Lincoln by Mr. Greeley. The President at once telegraphed to Mr. Greeley the terms upon which he would propose a settlement and reconstruction, to wit:

Executive Mansion, Washington, July 18, 1864.

To Whom it May Concern:

Any proposition which embraces the restoration of peace, the integrity of the whole Union, and the abandonment of slavery, and which comes by and with an authority that can control the armies now at war against the United States, will be received and considered by the Executive Government of the United States, and will be met by liberal terms, on substantial and collateral points; and the bearer or bearers thereof shall have safe conduct both ways.

(Signed) ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Clifton House, C. W. July 21, 1864.

To Hon. Horace Greeley—Sir: The paper handed to Mr. Holcomb on yesterday in your presence by Major Hay, as an answer to the application to our note of the 18th inst., is couched in the following terms:

Executive Mansion, Washington, July 18, 1864.

To Whom it May Concern, &c:

(Here follows the President's instructions, already given.)

The application to which we refer was elicited by your letter of the 17th instant, in which you inform us that you were authorized by the President of the United States to render us safe conduct on the hypothesis that we were duly accredited from Richmond as bearers of propositions looking to the establishment of peace, and

desired to visit Washington in the fulfillment of this mission. This assurance, which we then gave, and still do give, entire credence, was accepted by us as the evidence of an unexpected but most gratifying change in the policy of the President; a change which we feel authorized to hope might terminate in the conclusion of a peace, mutually just, honorable and advantageous to the North and South; exacting no conditions but that we should be duly accredited from Richmond as bearers of propositions looking to the establishment of peace, thus offering a basis for a conference as comprehensive as we could desire.

It seemed to us that the President opened a door which had previously been closed against the Confederate States, for full interchange of sentiments, free discussion of conflicting opinions, and untrammelled effort to remove all causes of controversy by liberal negotiation. We indeed could not claim the benefit of a safe conduct which had been extended to us in a character we had no right to assume, and had never affected to possess; but the uniform declaration of our Executive and Congress, and their three repeated and often repulsed attempts to open negotiations, furnished a sufficient pledge that this conciliatory manifestation on the part of the President of the United States would be met by them in a temper of equal magnanimity. We had, therefore, no hesitation in declaring that if this correspondence was communicated to the President of the Confederate States, he would promptly embrace the opportunity presented for seeking a peaceful solution for this unhappy strife. We feel confident you must share our profound regret that the spirit which dictates the final step towards peace had not continued to animate the councils of your President—that the representatives of the two Governments met to consider this question, the most momentous ever submitted to human statesmanship, in a temper of becoming moderation; and equally followed as their deliberations would have been, by the prayers and benedictions of every patriot and christian on the habitable globe.

How is it that the frightful waste of individual happiness and public prosperity which is daily saddening the universal heart might not have been terminated, or if the desolation and carnage of war must still be endured through many years of blood and suffering, that there might not at least have been infused into its conduct something more of the spirit which softens and partially redeems its brutalities? Instead of the safe conduct which so solicited, and which your first letter gave us every reason to suppose would be extended for the purpose of military negotiations, in which neither Government would compromise its rights or its dignity, a document has been presented which provokes as much indignation as surprise. It bears not a feature of resemblance to that which was originally offered, and is unlike any paper which ever before emanated from the constitutional executive of a free people. Addressed to whom it may concern, it precludes negotiation, and prescribes in advance the terms and conditions of peace. It returns to the original policy of no bargaining, no negotiation, no truce with rebels, except to bury their dead, until every man should have laid down his arms, submitted to the Government and sued for mercy. What may be the explanation of this sudden and entire change in the views of the President; of this rude withdrawal of a courteous overture for negotiation at a moment it was likely to be accepted; of this emphatic recall of words of peace just uttered, and fresh blasts of war to the bitter end, we leave for the speculation of those who have means of inclination to penetrate the mysteries of his Cabinet, or fathom the caprice of his imperial will? It is enough for us to say that we have no use, whatever, for the paper which has been placed in our hands. We could not transmit it to the President of the Confederate States without offering him an indignity, dishonoring ourselves and incurring the well merited scorn of our countrymen. Whilst a desire for peace pervades the people of the Confederate States, we rejoice to believe that there are few, if any, amongst them who would purchase it at the expense of liberty, honor, and self-respect, if it can be secured only by their submission to terms of conquest. The generation is yet unborn that will witness its restoration. If there be any military autocrat in the North who is entitled to proffer the condition of the manifesto, there is none in the South authorized to entertain them. Those who control our armies are the servants of the people, not their masters, and they have no more inclination than they have right to subvert the social institutions of sovereign States, to overthrow the established Constitution and to barter away their priceless heritage of self-government. This correspondence will not, however, we trust, have been wholly barren of good result if there is one citizen of the Confederate States who has clung to a hope that peace was possible with this administration of the Federal Government, it will strip from his eyes the last film of such delusion; or if there are any whose hearts have grown faint under the suffering and agony of this bloody struggle it will inspire them with fresh energy to endure and brave whatever may yet be required to preserve to themselves and their children all that gives dignity

and value to life, hope and consolation to death. For the solicitude you have manifested to inaugurate a movement which contemplates results the most noble and human, we would return our most sincere thanks, and are most

Respectfully and truly Your obedient servants, (Signed) C. C. CLAY, J. P. HOLCOMB.

The War.

We have at length received some details of the movements on Atlanta. To affect the crossing of the Chattahoochee, Gen. Sherman moved his forces some distance up the river, and massed them on the enemy's right flank. This compelled Johnson to fall back. Sherman's whole army immediately crossed, and on Sunday last had advanced to within five miles of Atlanta. On Monday Gen. MPherson's corps occupied Decatur, on the Augusta railroad, thereby severing the enemy's communications east. On the same day General Hooker took up a position on MPherson's left, and additional forces were being sent to advance the line further southward. On Wednesday the Confederates attacked the position, but were unable to force it. On Thursday fighting was resumed. The Confederates were again repulsed. General Sherman pushed forward a portion of his line. An associated Press despatch from New York, yesterday, states that there was telegraphic communications with Atlanta. No official announcement of its capture had been received, however.

Further advices do not confirm the reported capture of three hundred wagons from the Confederate raiders at Snicker's Gap. A New York despatch says that only one hundred were taken, while a telegram from Washington does not mention any capture at all, but says one of the plunder trains was burnt to prevent it from falling into the hands of the attacking Federal force. The same discrepancy exists as to the number of prisoners, one account making it three hundred, another eighty-six.

From Missouri we have startling accounts. The whole State is overrun by bands of the enemy, and the citizens were everywhere joining them. The total Confederate force in Missouri, is estimated at nearly twenty thousand. They have occupied Plattsburg and Marion, in the northwestern part of the State, and are moving to cut the railroads. The Federal commanders are powerless, and the State militia will have to be called out.

The Indians are beginning to be troublesome in the northwest. We hear of them on the Colorado mail route, and it is reported that they have captured some Federal posts.

There is no news from General Grant's army.—Age.

From Missouri.

THE GUERRILLA WAR. St. Joseph's, July 21.—The guerrillas turned back from Livingston last night and occupied Caldwell county. After being joined by another band from the west, the combined force, numbering some five hundred men, marched on Pittsburg, in Clinton county, where the surrender of the garrison, consisting of two companies of militia, was demanded in the name of the Confederates States Army.

Captain Turner, commanding the party refused to surrender, and told his men to escape. A fight ensued, in which Turner was killed. Most of his men have arrived here.

General Fisk's appeal is being promptly responded to, and the men are being sent to the field at once. One thousand men, under Gen. Ben Loan, will soon be here from Andrew county.

The Guerrilla War in Missouri.

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, July 21.—A despatch received this morning from Col. Ford, at Liberty, Missouri, says the people in the country north and east of that place, are joining Thornton's band, which is increasing rapidly. Col Ford has his troops well in hand, but his force is too small to effect much, and reinforcements are asked for. Arms have been sent from here to St. Joseph's and Kansas city, for arming the loyal men called out by Gen. Fisk.

A later despatch from Col. Ford states that Thornton, with 2,000 men, is moving north, probably with the intention of striking the railroad. Plattsburg and Marion were in their possession last night. Col. Ford left Liberty at 4 p. m. to-day, in pursuit.

General Childs has several armed boats patrolling the Missouri river, to prevent the rebels from crossing. Pickler and Banks are reported to have 10,000 men in northwest Missouri, and to be threatening Fort Scott and our Southern communication. It is believed that 5,000 of Price's men are now in Missouri. These joined by Thornton's guerrillas and the Paw-Paws, will make a formidable force. Our State militia will be called out, and troops are being concentrated for co-operation. Gen. Blunt is here awaiting orders.

The Indians are troublesome on the Western Colorado mail route. Rumors prevail of the captures of Larned and the post at Walnut Creek by them.

Democratic State Central Committee.

The Democratic State Central Committee met at Brant's Hall, Harrisburg, on Tuesday, July 19th, at 3 o'clock P. M.

The Committee was called to order by C. L. Ward, Esq., Chairman.

A quorum of members was present. Robert J. Hemphill, of Philadelphia, was unanimously elected Secretary.

On motion, R. E. Shapley, Esq., was admitted as a member of the Committee from the Fifteenth Congressional District, to fill a vacancy.

On motion of Mr. Leisenring, it was Resolved, That the Chairman be authorized to appoint a Treasurer, two Clerks and Standing Committees on organization, finances and printing.

On motion of Mr. Quigley, it was Resolved, That twenty-four members of this Committee constitute a quorum for transaction of business at all future meetings.

On motion of Mr. Sansom, it was Resolved, That this Committee procure for the use of the Chairman, the names of the Chairmen of the Democratic County Committees in each county of the State, and that the Chairman be requested to send a circular to each of them urging proper steps to be taken immediately to organize the party in each township and ward in the State.

On motion of Mr. Spangler, it was Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed, in accordance with a resolution of the last Democratic State Convention, to report rules for the government of future Conventions.

On motion, the Committee adjourned to meet at the call of the Chairman. The next meeting of the Committee will be held at the Merchants' Hotel, in Philadelphia.

ROBERT J. HEMPHILL, Secretary.

From Nebraska.

OMAHA CITY, N. T., July 22.—Some Indians attacked a train last night 20 miles above Fort Laramie, cut loose fifty-two horses and ran them off. A sharp fight ensued, in which about 20 sheep were fired and some Indians wounded. Most of the horses were subsequently recaptured. The women are reported to be leaving Plum Creek for a place of greater security. It is reported that a large party of hostile Indians are about 40 miles from that place.

Substitutes for Drafted Men.

POKESKIE, New York, July 22.—The following dispatch, which explains itself, has just been received by Mayor James, of this city:

WASHINGTON, July 22.—George Jones, Mayor of Pokeskie: One three years' man will not count for three twelve months' men. Count them man for man. (Signed) JAMES B. FRY, Provost Marshal General.

PEACE MOVEMENTS.—The various, and, we may say, novel rumors of peace negotiations with which the public are now being entertained, can in no way affect the fact that the best and cheapest place to buy goods is at J. M. Thompson's P. O. Building.

THE LADY'S FRIEND—AUGUST NUMBER.—A beautiful steel engraving, called "HARVEST TIME," opens the August number of THE LADY'S FRIEND. The Steel Fashion Plate, a double one, is also, as usual, of the first quality. The wood engravings are also excellent, especially "The Bridal Dress," and the following four pages. The literary contents are varied and excellent, including "Sicily Wayne," by Virginia F. Townsend; "Love's Answer," by Carrie Myer; "Unto The Dawn," by Harris Byrne; "To My Sister," by Mattie Dyer Britts; "First and Last," by M. C. P.; "Aureole," by Charles Maurice; "The Transformed Village," by Louing Twice and Twice Wedded," by Mrs. James; "The Mistaken Kindness," by Mrs. Denison; "Signs and Tokens," by Aunt Alice; &c., &c., &c. Price \$2 a year. Single numbers (post paid) 20 cents.

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