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Democratic State Convention.

MORNING SESSION.

The delegates to the Democratic State Convention met at Young Men's Hall Wednesday morning.

On taking the chair Mr. Thomson said he was deeply impressed with the honor conferred upon him.

He was surprised to find that he had been uninvited, and two minutes since was unexpectedly before him.

It was unnecessary to state the causes that have brought this country to its present condition.

We have armed rebellion at the South. We have abolitionists at the North who are striving, as well as the secessionists at the South, to overturn the constitution.

He knew no difference between the hydra-headed treason of arms at the South, or of speech at the North.

It is our duty to lay down those who are warring North or South, against the government, to lay them upon their backs.

A few months ago we possessed a happy country, a government than which none is better.

The President announced the following as the committee on resolutions: A. H. Redfield, C. Joslin, O. W. Bennett, C. H. Dewey, E. H. Lothrop, E. G. Morton, C. E. Stuart, Fred. Hall, R. Twombly, E. H. Thomson, W. L. P. Little, and C. H. Palmer.

The resolution was adopted almost unanimously.

Johnston Niles, of Oakland, moved to amend by allowing the convention to nominate by ballot.

The amendment was accepted by the vote of the majority.

The convention adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At two o'clock the convention was called to order by the chairman, E. H. Thomson.

The report of the committee on credentials, W. L. P. Little, chairman of the committee, reported list of delegates present.

The convention then proceeded to a formal ballot for President, which resulted as follows: H. H. Riley, 214; E. H. Thomson, 212; N. A. Balch, 15; D. Johnson, 12; E. H. Lothrop, 2; G. W. Peck, 1.

The ballot not resulting in an election, the convention proceeded to a second formal ballot, with the following result: H. H. Riley, 318; E. H. Thomson, 193.

Mr. Thomson said he was then declared unanimously elected President of the convention.

Messrs. Lothrop, of St. Joseph, and Redfield, of Wayne, were appointed to conduct the President to the chair.

The President said on taking the chair: GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION—I am not insensible to the honor conferred upon me by my election to the office of President of this convention.

On motion of Mr. Stuart, of Kalamazoo, a committee consisting of one from each Congressional district was appointed to report the names of four persons from each district who shall act as Vice Presidents of the Convention.

It, Stephen Reeves, and A. Thayer. They also reported the following Secretaries: Wm. A. Moore, W. H. Cleveland, Henry Chamberlain, and Charles D. Little.

Mr. Blackman, of Cass, moved that a committee of three from each Congressional district be appointed to report a series of resolutions to be acted upon by the convention.

Mr. Joslin, of Washtenaw, moved that the committee be instructed to have a thousand copies of the resolutions printed for circulation among the members of the convention.

He said he had sat here for the last time to vote on a series of resolutions read from the platform without the chance of reading and inwardly digesting them.

At such a time as this, when, perhaps, the destiny of the nation may hang upon a single word, he was not prepared to vote hastily on this important subject.

He had been times when he was willing to vote for any resolution that might be reported by a committee, but now is not the time for such hasty action.

G. W. Peck, of Ingham, was in favor of having the committee report in print. He wanted every man to scrutinize what he was to vote upon.

It was customary in large bodies of this character, to have the resolutions laid upon the table of each member of them.

In this civil war thus ruthlessly thrust upon us, all the attributes of our higher nature—all the holy instincts of patriotism—all our precious memories of the past, and our glorious hopes for the future take sides with the government, and cluster around the President.

No matter upon what political platform he stood whilst soliciting the suffrages of the people. No matter by what means he acted, or by what majority. It is enough for us to know that he is lawfully in the Presidential chair, under the provisions of the constitution and the forms of law; and that, being there, he invokes our aid to sustain the government, to uphold the constitution, to defend the Union, and to maintain the supremacy of the laws.

E. H. Lothrop, of St. Joseph, offered a resolution that it is inexpedient at this time to nominate candidates for State officers to be supported at the fall election.

The resolution was adopted almost unanimously.

Speech of Hon. F. J. Littlejohn. Hon. F. J. Littlejohn being upon the platform, was loudly called for. He came forward and addressed the convention substantially as follows:

Deeming it due to my official station, I have for the past four years, abstained from attending political conventions.

I was irresistibly impelled in this direction. I became an unrepining captive to my own feelings; a voluntary prisoner to a truly intensified interest in all public movements, touching our national peril, and the vexed problem of a safe, happy, and honorable deliverance therefrom.

I came, however, as an outsider, a silent observer, intending, nevertheless, if need be, to whisper in some friendly ear, words of peace and harmony, words of calmness and caution, and words of hope of many courage and high resolve; and above all to point unceasingly to the precepts and examples of '76, and to the ancient ways our fathers trod.

W. L. P. Little, of Saginaw; Dr. J. M. Hoyt, of Oakland; C. E. Stuart, of Kalamazoo; W. A. Balch, of Kent; J. P. Cook, of Hillsdale; E. G. Morton, of Monroe; W. A. Moore and D. A. Goodwin, of Wayne.

A motion was put and carried that the body of the hall be set apart for the exclusive use of delegates, and that the galleries be appropriated to the spectators.

The convention adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock.

The causes of this war, when properly sought for, will be ultimately found in aggression, either fancied or real, from without the government circle; in the morbid feelings engendered by the clashings of abstract theories; and the fierce antagonisms of sectional political ideas.

Theories essentially and absurdly groundless; and ideas, on the one hand, diametrically opposed to the flat of nature and providential economy, and on the other, subversive of the fundamental principles, the express guaranties, and the solemn compacts of the constitution itself.

Thus then our government stood—the freest, the mildest, the most perfect on earth—dispensing all its benefactions like the dews of heaven, upon all orders, classes and conditions of citizens, and literally radiating happiness and prosperity from the center to the extremities of this mighty Republic.

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to incorporate or add a resolution expressive of the sense of the convention with regard to the personal liberty laws of this State. Withdrawn.

On motion of Mr. Chamberlain, of Berrien, the committee on resolutions were discharged from further consideration of the subject.

The resolutions, as follows, were then taken up, read and adopted:

Resolved, That in this fearful crisis, which involves the destiny of the Union, it is the duty of every citizen to do all in his power to relieve the whole country, and to restore it to its former proud and elevated position at home and abroad; and that the democratic party of Michigan stands now, as it ever has stood, solemnly pledged to the support of the constitution and the laws, and the maintenance of the Union; that, as well as it ever has done, defend, with all its power, the rights and interests of all the States, and cordially support and sustain the government of the United States in all constitutional measures designed to suppress the rebellion, and promote the union of the States.

Resolved, That, believing as we do, that, without any sacrifice of principle, concord and harmony can be restored to the whole country, we are for the preservation of the Union in its integrity, and shall unflinchingly oppose dismemberment, and therefore we solemnly declare that we will not consent to the termination of the war until all resistance to the government under the constitution shall everywhere cease.

Mr. McClelland, of Wayne, offered a resolution to be placed third in the series. A lengthy discussion ensued, after which J. Logan Chipman, of Wayne, offered the following substitute, which was accepted by Mr. McClelland, and an amendment.

Resolved, That the personal liberty laws, so-called, of Michigan and other northern States, are unconstitutional in their spirit, are based upon the same principle as southern secession, and, therefore, ought to be repealed.

The resolutions, as reported by the committee, were again taken up and adopted as follows:

Resolved, That political abolitionism is as justly chargeable with this war as secessionism; and that we have for us speedily extinguishing the war, and the restoration of the old cordial and friendly union of the States.

Resolved, That in no emergency should we forget our duty to our common country; that our object should be to uphold and support the general government, and the rights of the States under the constitution, and not to wage war with a view to sectional revenge, or for sectional purposes.

Resolved, That the Union can never be restored to its full measure of peace and prosperity without the hearty aid and co-operation of all Union men at the South, and it is therefore the duty of the North, by its example and teachings, and in every practicable mode, to strengthen their arms, to encourage and fire their patriotism, and gradually cultivate and raise up in their midst such sentiments of love and devotion to the Union, as shall everywhere shame treason back into its hiding-place and compel traitors to flee from the path of duty.

Resolved, That all with unforgotten delight the modification of Fremont's proclamation and Cameron's report, and the appointment of the present Secretary of War by the President as indications of his sense of obligation to constitutional injunctions; and that we will cheerfully support him in all constitutional measures to restore the Union and preserve the government.

Resolved, That the infamous extravagance, pecculation and corruption that have from the commencement, characterized the war, cannot be too strongly denounced; that our people are willing to spend their blood and treasure to terminate it speedily, but that they have a right to demand that their moneys shall be expended honestly, faithfully and economically.

Resolved, That it is to be deeply regretted that Congress, regardless of the magnitude of our present struggle, and the imminent danger to the Union, is wasting its time in the fruitless discussion of subjects not legitimately belonging to it, and upon topics tending only to agitate and the prevention of a speedy and proper termination of its difficulties, instead of attending to its appropriate duties, and responding to the urgent calls of the country for means to sustain it in the present struggle.

Resolved, That the volunteer officers and soldiers who have so patriotically rushed to their country's support, as well as the regular army and navy, merit our warmest gratitude and thanks for the noble devotion they have displayed in the support of the constitution and the laws, and that the convention deeply sympathizes with those who mourn the loss of friends who have fallen in battle in the cause of the Union, and the memory of the dead shall last in our hearts as monuments of their patriotism.

It was voted that the proceedings of the convention be published in the democratic papers of the State.

A vote of thanks to the officers of the convention was unanimously passed.

Mr. Blackman, of Cass, offered a resolution that the democratic party charges itself with the duty of sustaining all proper measures calculated to render a just compensation to our citizen soldiers for their losses and sufferings in defense of the common welfare.

On motion, the thanks of the convention were extended to those who furnished the Hall for its use.

The convention then adjourned without day.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad is being rapidly rebuilt, and will soon be in running order. About 40 miles of iron and cross-ties have been carried off by the rebels.

It is reported at Norfolk that the steamer Nashville, lately at Southampton, England, has arrived at Wilmington, N. C., having run the blockade.

Shall the admonitions of the past still rest upon the unheeding American ear? Shall our misguided footsteps continue to "take hold" on national death? Has not the time now fully come when we, as a people, will listen to the expostulation, the prophetic teachings of Washington? Is there nothing in the deep tolling, the startling peals of Jefferson's "fire-bell by night" to arouse us to new energy, and united effort? Let us retrace our steps, and retrace the road which alone leads "to Union, liberty and peace!" Let us revisit the ancient ways our fathers traversed. Let us re-adopt their creed of governmental faith, and their exalted patriotism. Let us again act upon their quaint but expressive motto, "Este sacri leges, et stare decisis"—Let the laws be held in reverence, and the decisions of our courts stand firm!

Questions of paramount importance are now being thrust upon us at every movement of our army. Their practical and satisfactory solution can only be found in a resort to the principles underlying the whole structure of our government, if the policy to be inaugurated contemplates the maintenance of the old system, the old constitution and the old Union.

The evidences are overwhelming that the northern public will divide, as heretofore, and that, too, upon the very test of the government as now administered. To a considerable section of the republican party, and especially to those who assume to champion its principles, the policy of President Lincoln in his close adherence to the constitution, in his unshaken anxiety to the Union, in his expressed fidelity to our law, and in his conduct of the war, with a sole reference to its only legitimate object, has been highly disapproved.

And now that the question is made as to what shall be the status of the government and the Union when peace is restored, and of those same leaders, and the radical abolition press, with Greeley's Tribune at the head, boldly ignore the old constitution, and repudiate the old Union. This question must be referred to and settled by the people. It is evident, then, that a resort to the ballot-box must be had.

Party organizations must be renewed, and party platforms adopted, at least so far as to the tenets of voters of the time, to the retention of our fathers. There can be no neutral, no middle ground on this issue. Men must now arrange themselves politically either for or against the old Union. The new government flag is already unfurled with its disunion and treasonable motto, "No Union with Slaveholders."

Its adherents are, therefore, not only hostile to the old constitution and Union, but are and have been all along hostile to the President and his adhering cabinet, hostile to the policy of the war—hostile to the retention of the border States in the Union, and hostile to all our conservative Generals and troops—existing in none of our battles fought since Bull Run and Ball's Bluff, and sorely chagrined at our splendid victories recently achieved, since their evident tendency is to bring peace to our borders by the restoration of the Union as it was.

As this same radical class have hitherto manifested an equal repugnance to any peaceful separation between the free and the slave States, it is evident that their desire and design from the start has been to force the war into one of conquest and subjugation; to drive out the adhering border States; to declare a forfeiture, by fifteen States of this Union, of all their rights of equality, sovereignty and independence; to wipe out all their organic and municipal laws and institutions, to emancipate the slaves, to reduce and degrade the loyal white citizens to the same political and social status, and then, from the central throne at Washington, to govern the whole as territorial dependencies.

We at the North have had faith in the loyalty and Union-loving sentiments of the conservative wing of the republican party. How large a section of that party is thus abolitionized we know not. That conservative men of that party can no longer fraternize or stand upon the platform with these disunion radicals, we readily believe. With such affiliation and such a creed, it will be pretended to stand by President Lincoln at his stand by the constitution and the Union.

We hold it settled, then, that the republican party stands virtually rent in twain—a house divided against itself, powerless to prevent its own fall, much less to furnish a Union-saving platform for the nation, and yet such a platform must be had, and a majority party organized and standing fairly and equally thereon, or this nation is lost.

There is a party organization in this country, and has been from the time of Jefferson, its *artifex maximus* ever battling for the constitution, the Union, and the supremacy of the laws. The record of that party forms a prominent part of the history of these United States, both in peace and in war. That record, thus written is known to all men and needs no eulogy of mine.

The northern democracy stand as the embodiment of that party, and the true exponent of its principles to-day. It has been their duty, as a minority in these northern States, to silently and patiently suffer, thus far, during a war they not only did not originate, but most anxiously sought to avert—And yet, as a body of men, represented at the ballot-box by over a million of voters, have they not stood by the President, the constitution, and the national flag from the start? At the first call of the President upon the patriots of the land for instant aid, what class of men rallied sooner, marched faster, or crowded nearer to the flag-staff, than northern democrats? When half a million of soldiers were wanted, and politicians were turning over plans of conscription and drafting, what class of citizens came bounding forward as volunteers, until State quotas were overrun, with greater alacrity, or in equal ratio with northern democrats? And of those who from age, station, infirmity, or pure necessity remained at home, what men have been more active,

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