

GRAND RATIFICATION.

Full Proceedings of the Great Meeting in Indianapolis on the Evening of June 28, 1880.

Speeches by Governor Hendricks, Mr. English, Senator McDonald, Senator Voorhees,

Hon. Franklin Landers, Candidate for Governor, Hon. David Turpie, Hon. David S. Gooding and Colonel J. B. Maynard.

Great Enthusiasm, the Most Intense Satisfaction, and a Manifest Determination to Win the Fight in the Coming Election—Ratification Speeches in Full.

Long before the time fixed for the meeting at the Wigwam great crowds gathered in front of the building and in all the streets leading to it. It was manifest that the meeting was to be an immense success, and subsequent events were such as to carry proof of this expectation. Some time before the meeting, cannon belched forth their congratulations, and as the time approached fire works were sent up in front of the building. At 8 o'clock the building was full, and at 8:20, when the meeting was called to order, it was crowded in every available inch of space and on the outside there were probably 2,000 people who were unable to gain admission, and were compelled to go away unsatisfied.

The meeting was called to order by General John Love, who introduced Ex-Governor Thomas A. Hendricks as President. When he appeared he was accorded a very warm greeting, and after the applause had subsided he made the following speech:

GOVERNOR HENDRICKS' SPEECH.

MY FELLOW-CITIZENS—It sometimes happens to a man that the obligations which rest upon his fellows are so great that he cannot command language to express his appreciation, and that is my position in standing before you to-night. I have received so many favors from the Democracy of Indiana that I only can thank them. For many years you and I have fought together in the cause of Democracy. In former times, when sometimes it was defeat, when sometimes it was success, always we stood together; when the storm was the highest and the wildest, and the sunshine gave them success, you and I were together, not for any personal cause, but for the advancement of the principles of the Democratic party—principles that I believe you and I believed in the principles of the Democratic party—the principles that maintained the rights and prosperity and welfare of all the people. Now, my fellow-citizens, we have presented to us a ticket for our consideration, and for our support. That ticket was made last week at Cincinnati; and the question is shall it be elected? Of the result, I say to you to-night, I have no doubt that General Winfield Scott Hancock and William H. English will be elected. Why, if I had a doubt before I could have none now, when I see this vast crowd of ladies and men here to attest their appreciation of the strength and excellence of that ticket. General Hancock is distinguished in war as he is distinguished in peace. As a warrior he was distinguished in Mexico; as a commander he was distinguished in the late war. No man stands above him as a military chieftain, and when the war was over and the Administration sent him down to New Orleans in command of Louisiana and Texas, he attested his qualifications as a civil ruler. General Hancock, in 1867, about the month of November, was sent to New Orleans to aid in the cruel work, as desired by the Northern extreme and Radical party to oppress still further, to subjugate and almost destroy part of the country; and when he assumed command he asserted the sentiments and principles of American Democracy in the orders which he then issued. In the paper of this evening I observe the first order and the second and the third of the important orders issued by General Hancock at New Orleans. While I read briefly from those orders, because I desire you to understand that General Hancock is much more than a mere military commander, however great he may be in that respect, I want you to understand that he has those sentiments of free government which qualify and fit him to be a ruler of a free people. In this order, No. 40, issued November, 1867, at New Orleans, General Hancock uses this language:

"The General commanding is gratified to learn that peace and quiet reign in this department. It will be his purpose to preserve this condition of things. As a means to this end he commands that no man, except of the civil authorities, in the faithful execution of the laws as the most efficient under existing circumstances. In war it is indispensable to repel force by force, and overthrow and destroy opponents to law and property. But when the civil authorities have overthrown and peace established, and the civil authorities are ready and willing to perform their duties, the military should cease to lead and the administration resume its natural and rightful functions. It is impossible to conceive that General commanding announces that the great principles of American liberty are still the lawful inheritance of this people and ever should be."

I shall not detain you to read the balance of the order. It is in accordance with the spirit of so much as I have read. But his orders did not stop there. It turned out that one of his predecessors had established rules for the selection of juries that were intended to convict all that the party in power did not like, and to acquit all who were the favorites of that party in power, and General Hancock at once said that these restrictions upon the jury should be abrogated. He did not stop there. Thinking men, I dare say many of you have thought that the contest for fair elections was made first at the extra session of Congress last year. In that you are mistaken. The fight for free elections is more than a century old among English-speaking people, but in the politics of this country it is older than the extra session; it is found for the first time in Louisiana and Texas, where General Hancock made the contest for free elections. In his order issued in 1867, he declared the military power in Texas and Louisiana should not at all interfere with the elections, and went further, and directed that no soldier should approach the voting place, unless to exercise the lawful right to vote himself. And when any Republican asks me why I support Winfield S. Hancock, he being a

military man, I say that in the civil Government which he maintained in Louisiana and Texas he did assert those principles that will preserve the liberties of the whole country. My fellow-citizens, this election is a very important one here in Indiana. We are an October State, as it is called, we are to vote first in October—and also Ohio—and it is of prime importance that Indiana shall speak boldly, plainly and strongly in October, so that all the other States that are to follow in November may know how the free men of Indiana stand in this contest. We have got to fight the battle first. We have got to fight the officers of this Administration. Under the pretense that it will not allow its officers to interfere in political affairs it does most corruptly—I believe more corruptly than any Administration the country has ever known—interferes with all its office-holding army. That army is now a hundred thousand strong. A hundred thousand persons are under pay already. They have been called upon to contribute their twenty-four dollars apiece. Already the order has gone forth to contribute this enormous sum of money. When it is known that the Presidential election does turn upon the pivotal State, Indiana, how much of that money is to come here to corrupt our free election? Oh! I trust to you, men, you have stood up in the spirit of persecution when they have prevented our civil and business relations, because of your democracy. You have stood up when soldiers were here to threaten and disturb you; and now, when they send money to influence the election in Indiana, I trust with the greatest confidence that we will maintain a pure election, and the supremacy of the Democratic party.

We were badly discouraged and disheartened here in 1876, and yet we carried this State—and that election by over a quarter of a million votes, although we were cheated out of the fruits of our victory. Yes, if history records the truth, it will go into history and down the stream of time to future ages that two Democrats, the peers of any statesmen in any land, were fairly elected President and Vice-President by the people; that they were cheated out of their high offices, and the places were held for four years by men who were not the choice of the people; that the men who perpetrated this great fraud were in vast numbers rewarded for their corrupt and disgraceful acts with offices which of right belonged to other and to better men. The worst political crime of the age, this smirch upon the fair fame of our institutions must forever rest upon the Republican party, and it is the business which the 5,000,000 Democratic voters of the United States now have in hand to rebuke the authors of this great fraud, and to make its repetition at the next election impossible.

You need have no fears that the men you elect next time will not take their seats. When they do, you will have a pure, economical, constitutional Government, and I trust, a prosperous and happy people.

Senator McDonald was next called out and addressed the audience as follows:

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1880.

SENATOR M'DONALD'S SPEECH.

FELLOW CITIZENS OF INDIANAPOLIS.—On last Tuesday the representatives of the Democracy of the entire Union assembled at Cincinnati for the purpose of publishing to the world the principles of the Democratic party and of selecting standard-bearers that are to lead us in the great political contest of 1880. Those representatives were honest men, selected from the best men in the land and they met there simply to inquire what was best to be done, and after a three days' session in which as far as it was possible, conflicting personal interests and personal ambitions were reconciled, they produced and announced to the world the Democratic ticket for 1880: For President, General Scott Hancock; and for Vice President, William H. English. It would have been better pleased us if they had honored our distinguished Chairman, who sits here, with the place that properly belongs to him—at the head of the ticket—but it was not fault of any Indiana man that he did not receive that high honor. Dissensions in other sections of the country that were held up perhaps threatening the success of the ticket, induced hundreds who were his friends to turn their faces to other candidates, and finally the instinct of that immense Convention selected General Hancock as our candidate. And let me say to you, fellow citizens, that one fact contributed more than any other to his selection was, that when in New Orleans he was not given to Indiana, I am very frank to say to you that the first man my heart reached out to outside of its borders was General Hancock. I know the man well; I have known him long years; I have known him to be the soul of chivalric honor, and I know him not to be merely a high and gallant soldier, as has ridden along the line of battle with thundering artillery belching on his front and the hot rattle of musketry all around at a time when those who now malign him in the columns of the newspapers, crouched in the rear. I know him well as such a man as that and know him as something more; I know him as a statesman by intuition. Educated at West Point let him be; having a career of a soldier, so be it; in camp, all right, but with the instinct of popular liberty. The first time the great question of constitutional government, the rights of the citizens, free speech, trial by jury, habeas corpus even comes to him, he knew them, as a mother knows her child, by instinct. Some men have to be educated to questions of that kind. Some men of great honor gain them, because, after long years of civil service, they know the questions by heart. He knew, these questions the moment they were presented to him at once. Is not such a man as that fit to be President? He perceived their true relations, and announced them at once. My fellow citizens, I witnessed the Cincinnati Convention. It was a wonderful event. I never saw it like before. I never shall see it like again. We had longed for Union soldiers of the Union, fought for the Union. I saw a union in the Cincinnati Convention. This great soldier and statesman when his name was presented, attracted around him those elements, which, for the first time since the close of the war, proclaimed that the war was done. I saw a sight there which I never witnessed before, and which I never expect to again. When it became evident that the nomination of Hancock was a fixed fact, I saw the standards of the States gathered up close together in a little circle like the before me; some of them were borne by one-legged Confederate soldiers, who had fought Hancock at Gettysburg; who had fought him in the Wilderness; men I know personally. I saw them walking on one leg, some bearing the banner in one hand. I saw soldiers from the North, too—from the various Northern States, coming down to the front, and as they put their banners together it seemed as if those banners kissed. I saw General Butler, of South Carolina, limping on one leg, the other he had lost on the field of battle fighting Hancock, placing his banner close up to the banner of Massachusetts. It seemed to me that the millennial of the Union had come, and came in fact at last. Where is the man that talks of the bloody shirt to-night? Where is the poor, sneering, indignant creature, who talks to-night about the disloyalty of the South to the union of the States? When I saw this going on I thought: Can it be possible that I witnessed such a scene? But there arose before me sights like this I saw. As I have often talked with Hancock and others that were with him, I saw a line of battle fixed by him at Gettysburg. I saw him ride, cally, bareheaded, down his line, and I saw, or I seemed to see, at the head of the opposing line Gordon and Pickett and Longstreet and Lee, the tide of battle charging against each other. I seemed to see him march in the strongest position in the wilderness 28,000 muskets at the shoulders of the troops. I saw that terrible conflict of battle between the gray, commanded by Longstreet, and by him, and when the leaden hail fell like raindrops, and I saw at the head of the surviving shock of battle crowned with laurel wreath of scenic glory a man whom they have now chosen to be the Chief Magistrate. Is that a disloyal people? Is that no act of self-sacrifice? Is that no act

at the head of the mass? The Democracy of Indiana will of glory on their part? You tell me that

here is a man fit to be the ruler of a great people.

The only charge the Republicans have made against him is that they imposed a painful duty upon him, and he performed it, as it was his sworn duty as an officer to do. And that is all.

We not only have the right man for the place, but the time has come when there ought to be a change in the Administration. The Republicans have been in power sixteen years with the approval of the people, and nearly four years under Hayes without their approval. Twenty years would be long enough to corrupt any party.

We have no law of entail here which perpetuates wealth in any family, or power in any one man, or in any one party. The great and good men, who formulated our system of government, and our traditions were jealous of strong governments and long leases of power.

A change now could not fail to be beneficial to the people.

The day General Hancock is elected, the gospel of sectional hate and jealousy, so long preached by the demagogues of the Republican party will be forever closed—the hate-filled bloody shirt will be buried beyond the power of resurrection, and the bright and glorious banner of peace and good will throughout all the land will float on every

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