

THE PLYMOUTH DEMOCRAT.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY T. & P. McDONALD.

PLATT McDONALD, Editor.

PLYMOUTH, INDIANA.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 1861.

DEMOCRATIC UNION STATE CONVENTION.

At a call meeting of the Democratic State Central Committee, held at the residence of the Editor of the Democrat, on the 23rd inst., the following resolutions were adopted: Resolved, That the Democratic Union State Convention be held at Indianapolis, on Thursday, the EIGHTH DAY of JANUARY, 1862, at 10 o'clock, A. M., for the purpose of electing delegates to the National Convention, to be held at New York, on the 15th inst., and for the purpose of adopting such resolutions as may be deemed proper.

THE NEW ALBANY LEDGER.

The last New Albany Ledger copies a short editorial which appeared in this paper a few weeks ago, relative to the appointment of Col. Slack, and also one from the Huntington Democrat on the same subject, and appended to them some remarks which, as they were intended to apply to both papers, we shall briefly notice.

In the first paragraph of his remarks, the editor makes an erroneous statement, which is attributable either to inexcusable ignorance or an uncontrollable desire to misrepresent. He says:

"Marshall and Huntington were among the few remaining Democratic counties in Northern Indiana. Of course we are not surprised to hear that when the professed organs of the party in these counties put forth such sentiments as the above, the Democratic party was beaten at the late election, and the county offices thereby passed into the hands of the Republicans."

Marshall county has not given a Democratic majority since the Presidential election in 1856. She has not had a Democratic office since the expiration of the terms of those who were elected previous to that time. So much for Marshall being "among the few remaining Democratic counties in Northern Indiana."

We made no charge against Col. Slack of treason to the Democratic party, and of course the Ledger's remarks under that head were no, for the Plymouth Democrat. Our position on the question of Democrats fighting in the present war, is probably not unknown to the Ledger. We have not stigmatized those who have enlisted, as traitors to the party, nor attempted in any manner to cast odium on those who have entered into the service of the government. We have doubted the purity of the motives of some who have volunteered to accept a commission, and have expressed those doubts publicly. The Ledger seems to think it sacrilege for a Democrat to question the propriety of anything that is done in connection with our military affairs. Does the Ledger think that one half the offices it names would be in the army, if they had failed to receive commissions? Our opinion is that not one in twenty would be there. It is a significant fact that not a prominent politician of the State can be found serving his country as a private in the ranks of the army, enduring the hardships, performing the duties, and receiving the pay of the common soldier. If, at the end of the war, the Ledger can point to such an one, we will show it a man who has proved his patriotism by his works. The announcement that prominent Democratic politicians have come out in favor of the President's policy of suppressing the *habeas corpus* in loyal districts, and violating the law when its enforcement would insure the desired end, is generally followed by the intelligence that they have been "authorized to raise a regiment for the war." They are heralded by such men as the editor of the Ledger, as the most adorable patriots, and if a man dares to intimate that they might have proved their patriotism by accepting the position of a high private, he is denounced as a rebel sympathizer.

The following sentence from the Ledger's remarks, was doubtless designed to be pious, severe and prophetic:

"But, thank God, these editors and the cliques which surround them do not speak for the Democratic party, as they will discover to their sorrow."

We speak for ourselves and not for any clique; and have the gratification of knowing that the views expressed by us during the time we have conducted the Democrat, have met the approval of the Democracy of this country. If our sentiments do not accord with those of the editor of the Ledger, it is as much evidence to us that he is wrong as it is to him that we are wrong.

The Ledger is very much exercised about the call for a Democratic State Convention, and thinks it is through such influences as the Democrat exercises that the call has been issued; it even goes so far as to announce the result of the Convention, which is, the passage of resolution "encouraging the rebels to persevere in their unholy warfare against the Union and the Constitution." We are surprised that a paper which has labored so long,

and with such apparent earnestness, in support of Democratic policy, should now turn round and oppose the policy which has always guided the party in this State, and give aid and comfort to its enemies by opposing the action of its Central Committee, who but performed their duty in calling the Convention at the time specified, in conformity to the customs and usages of the party. Surely nothing but the greatest anxiety to demonstrate his patriotism to the satisfaction of the Republicans could have induced him to pursue a course

calculated to lessen the confidence of the people in that party, the adoption and carrying out of whose principles, he has so frequently declared would save the Union from dissolution and the country from the horrors of civil war. If there is no attempt made by the Ledger to commit the party to the Republicans before the sitting of the Convention, we take pleasure in assuring it that there will be no effort made by those entertaining views similar to ours to convert the party into a "Rebel Sympathizing Society." The Ledger has joined with the Indiana Journal, the most inveterate hater of Democracy in the State, and they twain having become one, they are now engaged in abusing the Democratic Committee. If the Ledger can take pleasure in such an occupation, in such company, it may be some advantage to the Democracy to know it.

ECONOMY.

We do not pretend to know what the management of the affairs of the Agricultural Society has been, further than our dealings with it are concerned, and to that extent we desire to bear testimony to the economical manner in which they have been conducted. We published the premium list, and notices of the regular and called meetings of the Society, which, if we had charged for at the usual rates for that amount of work—but for which we made no charge—would have amounted to thirty or forty dollars; yet the Society officers did not deem these favors worthy the compliment of a fifteen-cent admission ticket to the Fair. When it is considered that it is not uncommon for officers of Agricultural Societies to present complimentary tickets to newspaper men in adjoining counties, expecting nothing in return more than a mere announcement of the time of holding their fairs, the action of our Society can be more clearly appreciated.

IMPORTANT, IF TRUE.

We learned by telegraph late last night, that an effort is making to supersede Gen. McClellan with Gen. Halleck, who is on his way for California. This change would create a new revolution in military and civil circles, where the greatest confidence is entertained in Gen. McClellan.

WE are under obligations to Mrs. E. S. CUSHMAN, of Tycer City, for the most beautiful Bouquet it has been our pleasure to behold at this season of the year. The flowers are admirable, and their arrangement unexceptionable. Many thanks.

MORE ABOUT "INSTIGATORS."

The following communication was handed us for publication, after the usual time for receiving communications, and we have consequently had no time to prepare a reply to that portion which refers to ourselves, had we desired to do so. We publish it for the purpose of giving the community an opportunity to judge of the matters contained in it, and not because of any intended or actual injustice to the author, in the articles which he quotes as having reference to him, for there was none. Our remarks relative to citizens of this town inciting soldiery to violate law and the rights of men, merely to subvert their own base ends, were intended only for those to whom they were applicable; and if street-talkers coupled them with any rumors that he was one of those to whom they might with propriety be applied, we cannot help it. That is a matter for him and them to settle. We are responsible for what we publish, but not for the perversions of street rumormongers.

It was currently reported in town shortly after the arrest of Thompson, that Corbin, and others whom we shall not name publicly, were the instigators of it, and had endeavored to have other arrests made. These rumors were circulated before Thompson's release, and of course could not be wholly attributable to him. In our remarks we published no names, and made no reference to them, only as the authors of that measurage.

The communication appears to be more of an attempt to make out a case against Thompson, than a defence of its author. We shall have something to say next week relative to the card of Col. Miller.

EDITOR OF DEMOCRAT: Some days after the arrest of James Thompson, certain slanderous reports were put in circulation by enemies of mine, to the effect that I had reported Thompson to Col. Miller as a traitor and secessionist, and had been instrumental in procuring his arrest. Through their zealous efforts, worthy of a better cause, and the secrecy with which their lies were promulgated, much currency was given them, and I had no opportunity of branding them as false. In the midst of these reports, in your issue of the 3d inst., following an article on the arrest of Thompson, you use the following language:

"Who are the instigators?—We have it from reliable authority, and from those who know whereof they affirm, that the instigators of mob violence, which has been threatened, by soldiers and others, on citizens of this place—amongst the number—are residents of Plymouth."

A portion of them take this method of venting their political spleen; but the principal workers in this scheme are actuated by personal enmity. The community, who are interested in law and order, will doubtless see that such incineraries are properly cared for. No ordinary punishment is severe enough for those who would instigate such proceedings."

Following this, in your issue of the 10th, in commenting upon an article from the LaPorte Union, you use the following language:

"This is another evidence that the instigators of this mob violence are residents of this town. It is a duty which the community owe themselves to ferret them out. The soldiers were but the instruments of more desecrately crimes who worked upon their passions and prejudices to subvert their own base ends."

Your articles referred to, whatever your motives were in writing them, did me great injustice when taken in connection with such reports. In order, therefore, that an honest community may know whom to brand, I request you to do me the favor to publish the following communication from Col. Miller, the genuineness of which can be tested by calling on me and examining the original in my possession:

"HEAD QUARTERS 29TH REG'T IND. VOL'S. CAMP NEVIN, NOLAN, KY., Oct. 14th, 1861. 'HORACE CORBIN, Esq., Plymouth, Ind.—Dear Sir: In reply to your letter making inquiry as to statements reported to have been made by me to James Thompson, during his stay at Camp Jackson, LaPorte, to the effect that you had, previously to the arrest of Thompson, reported him to me as a secessionist, I will state that I made no such statements to Thompson. I will state further, that as I never requested the arrest of Thompson, so far as I know, and you have never made any statements to me which influenced me in the slightest degree to allow the arrest of Thompson by soldiers under my command. I never made any statement to said Thompson concerning you, in the slightest degree, with his arrest. The truth is, that Thompson had been reported to me as a secessionist several weeks before his arrest, and many persons had urged his arrest long prior to your visit to LaPorte—the only time I saw you while in camp. The fact of Thompson's secession was proven by his own conduct, was not only proven by his own conduct, but was proven by the fact that he had been reported to me as a secessionist, and I am conscious of having said Thompson's life for many of the brave and loyal men under my command had determined to rid society and the country of him, and it was with great difficulty that they were restrained. I fear that I exerted the power of my position to a wrong result, it reports are true. James Thompson was a solemn oath, and made a solemn promise, under circumstances calculated to make a man feel the obligation of such an oath and such a promise, that he would raise the flag of the Union over his dwelling, and maintain it there so long as the present war shall last. I fear that he has failed, and refused to make that promise good and to keep his oath. If this be true, I certainly am in a position to maintain a soldierly right in taking his life. The original card is inclosed herewith."

With very much respect, I am, Sir, Truly yours, J. MILLER, Col. 29th Reg't Ind. Vol.

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THE PLYMOUTH WEEKLY DEMOCRAT.

From Washington.