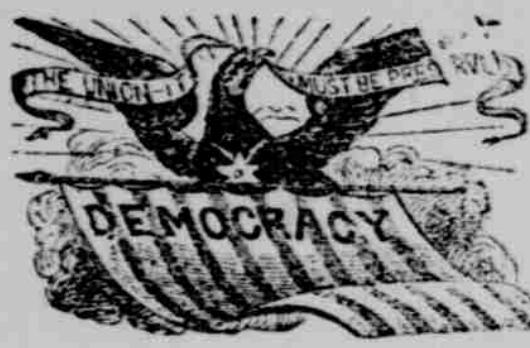


THE PLYMOUTH DEMOCRAT.

D. E. VANVALKENBURGH, :: Editor

PLYMOUTH, INDIANA:

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1863.



OUR NEIGHBOR

In his dogate and second-childhood, our neighbor of the *Republican* has got down into a mud puddle and splashed us with dirty water as a challenge for us to engage him in his native element. We decline the challenge, having too much self-respect to permit us to engage in such a contest.—We admit our neighbor's superiority as a black guard, and shall not attempt to vie with him in calling indecent names; he has had years of experience in this department, beside being peculiarly adapted by nature for such an occupation in life.

We are sorry to refuse our neighbor this opportunity to display his genius, and have no doubt his readers would be highly gratified and amused to hear him call us a cabbage head, a phisit, a puppy, a slimy reptile, a contemptible cuss &c., until his classics were exhausted; but we cannot wage such a contest, the patrons of the *Democrat* have no taste for such literature, and do not care whether Mattingly is a gentleman or a black-guard, therefore we cannot admit the old man into our columns in his present unsightly condition, but if our name will be of any service to him we cheerfully grant him full and free use of it.

TO OUR PATRONS.

Immediately after the publication of this number of the *Democrat*, Mr. Scott, our collecting agent, will take the accounts of our patrons for collection. Our year is not quite up, but the accounts will be made for the full year.

We wish those indebted to us would take a little trouble, if necessary, to settle their bills when presented. We do not like to do nor do we like to be cramped for means in conducting our business—neither is necessary.

The expense of publishing a paper is now fully one third greater than when we entered the business, yet we have not increased our charges, and shall not be compelled to if our subscribers will keep even with us. Mr. Scott will also present the bills of our advertisers for settlement. Our terms are payment in advance, therefore we presume none will complain because we make our bills for the full year.

We trust we shall not be compelled to revert to this matter again.

The Leaguers.

In last week's paper the editor of the *Republican* admits, what all know to be a fact, the existence of an abolition secret society in our place, and then says it is not secret for it is known that it exists and its place of meeting is known to all! Knowing the thing is offensive to the people— even to a majority of his own partisans—the editor justifies it by saying there is an order of the K. G. C's. in the place, and says we are strongly suspected of being a member. For gossip he is either an old woman, or an unmitigated liar; we do not believe a common-sense man in our country believes we belong to the K. G. C's. or that that body has an organization in Marshall County.

Secret political societies are, have been and ever will be, a curse to our people.—This revivis of Know Nothingism, the most infamous organization that ever existed, is no exception. Secret political societies affect the whole people, while the initiated few control and govern them.—When the affairs of our country must needs be governed by men acting under oaths of secrecy, we are truly in a deplorable condition. No political party with an honest purpose wishes to conceal its action *thus*; are the deeds of this clan for their own benefit, or for the benefit of the public? If for the latter do they fear the public would refuse to be benefitted openly? Pshaw! They have thus clammed together for bad, partizan and selfish motives, and the thing is run by office-seekers who thus hope to profit themselves, and we warn good citizens, of the republican persuasion to keep out of these doings, and if their party goes there, under the influence of demagogic leaders, to cut loose from that party.

The principles of these night larks, these dark-lantern profaners, make a fatal line of social demarkation, extending to every relation of life, and will result in the greatest evil a people can know, unless they are frowned down at the outset, as we have no doubt they will be in this locality.

The Commissioner's Court of Marshall County commences its June term at the Court House on Monday next. Mr. ALLEN, who was appointed, on petition, to fill the vacancy on the Board occasioned by the death of Mr. Vortex, takes his seat at this term.

THE INDIANA MEETING

The Speech of Mr. Voorhees on Taking the Chair as President.

We subjoin a full report of the speech of Mr. Voorhees on taking the chair as President of the great meeting at Indianapolis on Tuesday:

My Democratic Fellow Citizens of the State of Indiana:

For the distinguished honor which you have just conferred upon me in calling me to accept this elevated position, I return to you my sincere and heartfelt thanks. At such a time and under such circumstances as those which surround this hour to be called upon to preside over such an assemblage as the one before me, is an honor to be remembered to the latest hour of life, and to be treasured up as one of the highest, proudest distinctions ever conferred by my fellow citizens. From a grateful heart, a heart often deeply touched by the kindness of my countrymen, I thank you.

We meet to-day in accordance with the time honored custom of political parties since the foundation of this government. There is nothing new in this assembly.—

We meet as our fathers met before us; we meet for the high and holy purpose of taking part in the discussion of those matters which relate to the welfare of a government formed and created, and governed by the people. We do not recognize the fact that any thing has occurred, or can occur to divorce the people of Indiana from an interest in public affairs. We do not admit that the democratic party is in any manner ostracized from a participation in matters of government.

Hold the constitution of my country in my hand, I declare that this is a lawful assembly, lawful in purpose and lawful in act. In this great document I read that it is an inalienable right of the people peaceably to assemble and ask for a redress of grievances. No sadder grievances ever fell the children of men than those which afflict the people of the United States at this time. Confusion and disorder darken the sky; the very earth is laden with the sorrow of our people; the voice of woe and lamentation goes up from every portion of our distracted country; the anguish of death has spread his wings on the blast, and there has been no sacred blood sprinkled upon the door posts of our homes to stay the hand of the destroyer. It is in such a time, my countrymen, that we meet according to the plain precepts of the constitution, to ask the administration to redress those grievances which bear so heavily upon us, and return speedily to the policy inaugurated by the fathers of our government—that policy which made us a happy, united, and fraternal people.

Such being our objects, who shall tell us we shall not meet? Where is the power that shall interfere with or prevent us from peaceably exercising our plain constitutional rights? I for one, plant myself upon the constitution of my country; it is the rock on which I built the church of my political faith, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Having thus peaceably assembled, according to the plain precepts of the constitution, we are met, however, at the very threshold by an issue which we cannot avoid, an issue which it is out of our power to ignore for a single moment. We are met with a plain, palpable, and audacious denial of the liberty of speech. And when thus met what shall we do? What shall we say? I turn again to the constitution—to the rock on which the Temple of Liberty is built—and ask what does that constitution say? What it says, you fellow citizens, and I am willing to do, it is the rule of our conduct and we know no other. It is a safe guide in all cases; it leads us over no uncertain grounds, it has been tried. The constitution is all we want; we will have it as it is, without any additions or subtractions. When I am met with denial of the right of free speech, I will come to the constitution and ask what it says. It says that Congress, which is the only legislative power known to the government, shall pass no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press. Thus saith the book. Let that be true, though all the world be a lie. If the Congress of the United States cannot, under the constitution, pass any law interfering with the freedom of speech, can any body else do it? No. This is the house of my refuge. Higher we will come for safety; we will lay hold of the very horns of the altar, and in the name of American liberty, and with a firm reliance upon a just God, bid defiance to our persecutors.

I ask that this book may speak again in our favor. It says that the constitution and laws of the United States, which shall be made in pursuance thereof, are the supreme laws of the land. There is, there can be, no higher law than the supreme law. You cannot get above it. You cannot escape this conclusion. One of the perilous evils that now unhappily beset us as a nation consists simply in this fact, that years ago a party arose in the country claiming to the world a higher law than the constitution, I tell you that in my judgment, he who proclaims that doctrine, and in the next breath swears to sustain the constitution, is perjured in the sight of

God and man. The constitution is the supreme law. It provides for the maintenance of these great rights of freedom—free speech—free press—and who shall take them away from us.

Yet, my fellow citizens, in the face of this fact, we have been told, here in Indiana, not merely that public discussion was, in general terms, prohibited; but we have even been told what particular measures of public policy we shall not discuss. I am not going to descend into particulars upon this point, but I will tell you this, that the democratic party will discuss the tax bill and the internal revenue policy (for you have the money to pay) It will discuss the confiscation act and the President's emancipation policy. These measures effect the best interests of the white man, and the peace and security of the government for generations to come. To discuss them is our undeniable right. I plant my foot upon the constitution, and solemnly declare in behalf of myself and the great democratic party, that we will never surrender to any power on earth the right to discuss all these measures, which bear so fearfully upon our dearest interests. We will discuss the President's compensated emancipation policy. We will discuss the right of this government to put its hand into the pocket of the laboring white man for the purpose of freeing the negro. We will discuss the conscript act. We will discuss the policy of every law that is now or may hereafter be placed upon the statute book. Those of them that are, in our judgment, wrong we will ask to be repealed. We will test their constitutionality in the courts. In short, we will do all that our fathers have done to assert our manhood and freedom; to demonstrate to the world that we are not the degenerate sons of glorious sires. If we are to give up these privileges at the bidding of a despot, let us hide the face of the Goddess of Liberty in a funeral veil, decieve the world no longer with the semblance of freedom, but accept at once the name of despotism and wear the collar of slaves.

Do we propose, as democrats, to do anything wrong? Do we love our country the less that we intend to assert the heaven from right of free discussion? No, as for me, so help me God, it is because I love my country more. What is your country and mine? I have no country outside the provisions of the written law. Mr. Lincoln and his cabinet constitute not my government. They are merely public servants, to be held responsible for their acts by an intelligent and a patriotic people. Am I, in making these declarations, preaching to you doctrines subversive of the principles and precepts of the Fathers? Let me ask you in all candor, does it not seem wonderful that I may at this very moment be talking myself into a prison by uttering these ancient sentiments of liberty? It sometimes seems to me as if a fevered dream had come upon this country, and as if, after a while, we should wake up and find that we had simply been plagued with a hideous and oppressive nightmare. But we look around us to day and the sun is shining, the air is blowing, all is real, and yet in the midst of all this reality, and as if, after a while, we should wake up and find that we had simply been plagued with a hideous and oppressive nightmare. But we look around us to day and the sun is shining, the air is blowing, all is real, and yet in the midst of all this reality, and as if, after a while, we should wake up and find that we had simply been plagued with a hideous and oppressive nightmare.

On the 12th at Raymond, on the 14th near Jackson, on the 16th at Baker's Creek, and on the 17th at Big Black River. In these engagements the rebel loss is reported at 9,350 with 60 pieces of artillery. On the 13th Vicksburg was invested closely.—On the 19th Haines' Bluff was taken, and on the 20th the rifle pits on the north of Vicksburg. The 29th is the latest date we have. On that day, according to "official information," the battle was still raging, with every prospect of capturing the entire force in Vicksburg.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—What does the democratic party propose to do? It purports, by the help of God, to preserve this constitution. The constitution made our Union; without it the Union would never have had an existence.—It brought your States together. It, and it alone, held them together for more than eighty years, and it alone can bring them together again. It is the only power that can restore the Union. We are constantly told that it is incumbent upon us to do everything in our power to restore the Union. We are ready and willing—yea, we are anxious to do anything and every thing but what is wrong, and a wrong can never restore the Union. The right, however, can, and that we propose to do.—The democratic party will take its stand upon the eternal, immutable, ever living principles of right, by truth and justice, and leave to a righteous God to shape the consequences in the future. If this Union is ever to be restored, it will be done by doing right—by preserving the constitution, and the bond that made it. This is my only hope for my country. I follow it as the children of Israel followed the pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night. It, and it alone, will lead us through this wilderness of war, and blood, and desolation; and if it is preserved the time will come when the sky will clear away, and in a brighter, better, and happier land we will look back upon this scene with proud satisfaction, as we reflect that we did not bow the knee in the hour of trial to base tyranny and lawless usurpation.

In the meantime what do we expect? Do we look for ease and comfort? Do you, to day, expect me to tell you of an ease way to a haven of safety, where these troubles and dangers shall no more beset and afflict us? If you do, I cannot gratify you. You are not to repose on flowery beds of ease while others in time past forth to win the prize of freedom and sailed through the vicinity of Summerset, Ky., but they

were subsequently compelled to recross. A State convention of "Loyal Leagues" is to be held in Chicago to day. Some of the abolition State officers left Springfield last evening to attend the meeting.

European dates are to the 17th inst.—France and Russia were negotiating for a European Congress on the Political question. On the 7th of April a fight took place off Jamaica, between what was supposed to be the Alabama and three other vessels. The result was not known.

WASHINGTON, May 27.

Reports from Vicksburg are conflicting. Rebel soldiers on the Rappahannock and a rebel deserter at Fortress Monroe report that the city has been taken. Federal advices up to Friday night say that Grant's forces were within a mile and a half of the Court-House; that he had captured 6,000 prisoners and 74 cannon; that the fleet were actively employed in bombardment; and that it was expected that the place would be taken on Saturday. Rebel advices state the Federals had made three desperate assaults, and been repulsed; that Johnston had succeeded in throwing 10,000 to 12,000 men into the city; that the rebel loss had been slight, and the injuries to their batteries trifling; that the garrison were well supplied, and confident of their ability to hold out. They also give a report that Yazoo City had been captured by the Federals; but say it was disbelieved, and announce that Helena, Ark., had been captured by Gen. Price.

Mr. Vandigham arrived at Murfreesboro on Sunday night, and on Monday morning was conveyed, under a strong guard, to the rebel lines. The officer commanding the rebel outpost declined at first to receive him, but subsequently consented. Mr. V., on being transferred, stated to the rebels, in the hearing of the Federal party, that he was a citizen of the United States; that he had been sent into the rebel lines against his will; and that he wished to be received as a prisoner. Mr. V. was to be sent to the rebel headquarters at Shelbyville as soon as possible. While at Murfreesboro, Gen. Rosecrans announced to him that, in case he should return within the Federal lines, he would be sent to Fort Warren, such being the orders of the President.

My countrymen, our proceedings here to day will, I trust be characterized by prudence, firmness, and justice. Prudence consists, in times like these, in a bold adherence to truth and right. I invoke upon this meeting the spirit of good for our State, the spirit of peace for our people, the spirit of Union for all the States of America; and I trust in my heart of hearts that the result of your deliberations will conduce to the prosperity and unity of the whole people.

THE NEWS.

WASHINGTON, May 25.

Gen. Grant is achieving signal victories in the Southwest. On the 1st of May he defeated the rebels at Port Gibson, on the 12th at Raymond, on the 14th near Jackson, on the 16th at Baker's Creek, and on the 17th at Big Black River. In these engagements the rebel loss is reported at 9,350 with 60 pieces of artillery. On the 13th Vicksburg was invested closely.—On the 19th Haines' Bluff was taken, and on the 20th the rifle pits on the north of Vicksburg. The 29th is the latest date we have. On that day, according to "official information," the battle was still raging, with every prospect of capturing the entire force in Vicksburg.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—Vicksburg has not yet been taken. It is closely invested by Grant, and according to a dispatch of the 29th, from Admiral Porter, its capture was "a mere question of a few hours." We have advices, however, to 1 P. M. of the 21st, announcing that "the battle was still raging," and that "the rebels may hold us at bay for several days." Haines' Bluff was occupied by Porter on the 18th, the enemy having evacuated it. Fourteen cannon fell into our hands. Communication has been opened between Porter and Grant. All the rebel troops in the vicinity have concentrated at Vicksburg, except a force under Johnston. The opinion is expressed that Johnston may receive sufficient reinforcements to attack Grant in the rear. Later.—We have advices from Vicksburg to Friday morning. A furious cannonading was going on all around the city, the army and navy both participating. It was thought that Grant had captured the battery on Walnut Hill.

A dispatch from Washington states that Butler has failed to secure a command.—The Philadelphia Press, however, says that he is to be placed at the head of a new department, embracing all the free States west of the Alleghany, and that the enforcement of the conscription act will be his principal business.—He has required his subordinates to devote themselves to their legitimate business, witness the event of Hurlbut's raid upon the circulation of this paper at Memphis. All this has been displeasing to abolitionists, and Gen. Grant's head in a charge has been demanded, and there has been reason to fear that it would be obtained before he could take Vicksburg. Had it been, Vicksburg would not be taken at all, and the rebellion would beat the government. And now there is nothing but regret and bitterness at the bottom of the heart of abolitionists at the prospect of taking Vicksburg by Gen. Grant. They would a thousand times rather it should never be taken than that Gen. Grant should take it.

How fruitful Gen. Grant's victory shall depend wholly upon the administration. They may, and probably will, trite its value all away. They will probably speedily retire him, as a first step, in fear that, given further opportunity, he will win further laurels. They will not follow up this grand success elsewhere as they might, and in a little while the rebels will have recuperated and presented another formidable front.

A rebel letter from Cumberland Gap, dated the 17th inst., reports that a Federal force of ten regiments is advancing at that point. It promises them a "happy reception."

A rebel force crossed to the north side of the Cumberland River on Sunday, in the vicinity of Summerset, Ky., but they

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Aug. 28. 1863. 31m³New Advertisements.
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with the utmost care to the wants of customers and will be sold to cash and short time buyers on the very best terms, my motto is

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STOCK OF DRY GOODS, GROCERIES

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And in fact almost every kind of goods used in this country; which they offer

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Will bear examination both as regards quality and fair price, and if you have to pay fair prices buy the best quality and kind of goods I keep and will sell the best kind of goods as cheap as any other house in Plymouth.

You will find at the "Regulator" a good assortment of the following Goods:

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