

THE PLYMOUTH DEMOCRAT.

J. G. OSBORNE, : : : Editor.

PLYMOUTH, INDIANA:

THURSDAY, DEC. 3, 1863.



The following named gentlemen will not act as agents for the DEMOCRAT, in their various Townships, until further notice, and are authorized to receive subscriptions and money for the DEMOCRAT OFFICE:

Center Township, H. M. LOGAN,
Germantown, JONAS MILLER,
North Township, CHARLES BARCLAY,
Polk Township, T. B. MERTON,
West Township, JOHN ZEHNER,
Union Township, JAMES BROCKE,
Green Township, DAVID ZEHNER,
Bourbon Township, S. DEALS,
Walnut Township, JAMES M. WICKIZER,
Tippoo Township, DR. O. P. SMITH

Principle versus Expediency.

A couple of weeks ago the M. C. Republican, in an article under the head of "Allowance to Soldier's wives," used the following language:

"We are not only in favor of paying the wives of those who may hereafter enlist \$8 per month and \$2 additional for each child under twelve years of age, but to all who have volunteered since the war commenced.

"Petitions asking for an appropriation, or adoption of an order for this purpose, should be circulated in every neighborhood in the county for signatures previous to the next session of the Board."

The Republican thinks a tax of 25 or 30 cents on the \$100 would be enough to raise a sufficient sum for that purpose, and is also in favor of paying an equal amount to all "whether they actually need it or not," and says: "No loyal man will object to paying his quota of this amount."

It is well for us sometimes before doing things to ask ourselves why we propose to do them. In this case if we ask why sh'd the Board of Commissioners make such an allowance, the answer must be either that the families of the soldiers are poor and used it, or that they are entitled to it as payment for services rendered by their husbands and fathers in the army.

Now, if the allowance is claimed as a charity, we think those only who need it ought to be entitled to it,—if it is claimed in payment for services rendered, then the single men in the army are as much entitled to the extra \$8 or \$10 a month as the married ones.

We are in favor of making liberal allowances for all those who are in destitute circumstances, because that is right, and because it is in accordance with the law, but we do not believe it is right nor in accordance with the law for the Board to appropriate money to persons indiscriminately whether they need it or not, simply because their friends are serving in the army.

Volunteering.

We understand that about one half the quota of this County has been filled. There are yet about 90 men wanted from Marshall. Newton has filled its quota and several other counties are well on the way. Come gentlemen, especially you that voted so vigorously for the prosecution of the war, now is the time to " vindicate the pledge." A contemporary says:

"If these men, or enough of them to answer the call of the President, do not enlist in the war, they add to hypocritism the monstrous crime of betraying the administration in the hour of its extremity. They have no moral right to desert after hurling it into the adoption of policies that they know to be thoroughly obnoxious to the democracy. Those who control the policies should fight for their enforcement."

The 26th was generally observed here as a day of thanksgiving, in accordance with the Proclamation of the "Government" at Washington and the lesser "Government" at Indianapolis. At the Catholic church the congregation was large, and the services interesting. At the Presbyterian church a collection was taken up in behalf of the christian commission, for the sick and wounded soldiers. We understand that about \$180 was raised, for this purpose. The programme was strictly partisan, though Copperheads were permitted to assist in the plate performance at the close of the other exercises. There were no services at the Episcopal Church, that congregation being at present without a Pastor.

The amount of travel through Chicago during the past summer and autumn was unprecedented. The Times says Chicago's ninety-four hotels are now and have been for some months, crowded to the brim, and every train running in and out of the city is filled with passengers. This

Democratic State Convention—Action of the Democratic State Central Committee.

The Democratic State Central Committee met yesterday. The meeting was fully attended, and after a free interchange of views and consultation with prominent members of the party from all sections of the State, it was unanimously resolved by the Committee to hold a State Nominating Convention immediately after the meeting of the next Democratic National Convention. It is supposed that the latter body will be assembled in May next, or early in June. A resolution was adopted by the Committee, requesting the Democratic National Committee to call a National Democratic Convention at as early a day as practicable—not later than May or June.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted, providing for the selection of delegates to the Democratic National Convention:

Resolved. That this Committee respectfully and earnestly recommend the Democrats in the several Congressional Districts of the State of Indiana to meet in their respective Districts on the 8th day of January, 1864, or as soon thereafter as may be convenient, for the purpose of appointing each two delegates and two alternates to the National Democratic Convention.

It is hoped that this recommendation of the Committee will meet with the concurrence and response of the Democracy of the Congressional Districts, and that the day made memorable in the history of the nation by the Hero of New Orleans will be thus commemorated by those who respect his patriotism, his unselfish devotion to the Union, his gallant services in behalf of his country and the political principles so earnestly maintained as necessary to the perpetuation of a free constitutional government.

The Committee appointed an Executive Board, consisting of five members, viz: Messrs. J. J. Bingham, J. S. Athorn, Aquilla Jones, R. H. Hall and James B. Ryan, to aid in developing a more efficient organization of the Democratic party of Indiana and in the dissemination of sound political principles.

The Committee adjourned to meet on the 22d day of February next.—*State Sentinel*.

It will be seen by the above that we are to have no State Convention on the 8th of January next. Whether the action of the State Central Committee was wise or not, is not now a question for discussion—the time for argument has gone by," the Committee have decided. The question now is, where shall the Convention for this Congressional District be held? We suppose that Plymouth will be as central, and convenient a point at which to hold it as any other and we should be glad to have it held here, though if the District Central Committee fix upon any other point we will be content. Wherever it may be held we hope to see a full attendance and the re-election of delegates to the National Convention who are sound to the core—men who will not compromise principle for supporting expediency, who will dare to hear the usurper in his place if need be, even at the risk of a Lincoln Bastile. With such men for delegates we may expect a sound platform and candidates worthy to stand upon it.

Those abolitionists and abolition journals says the Chicago Times, who have held in the results of the recent elections the death of the democratic party will find a end to their subjoined reference by a republican newspaper to this very question. Says the Springfield (Mass.) *Republican*:

"There is a general jubilation in the republican papers over the assumed death of the democratic party. They had better not take that for granted. A party that has just thrown more votes than ever before in every State except Massachusetts, and that too, under the load of such offenders as Vallandigham, the Woods and Seymours, and has been beaten only by the most extraordinary efforts, can hardly be considered quite dead."

The moral of the political situation for the republican leaders is, that they have no such excess of strength as to make it safe for them to be reckless or defiant as to means and measures; that they are still on trial before the American people as to their ability and integrity in the conduct of the government; and that they can only hope to obtain a renewed lease of power by demonstrating that they can and will use it for the general welfare, rather than for private and partisan ends."

The comments on this paragraph by another paper—not professedly democratic, but certainly conservative—may well be taken to heart, says the Boston *Courier*:

"The efforts which defeated the democratic party are well characterized by our contemporary as extraordinary. They were so, and more so—they were unparalleled in the history of the country, and totally unexpected by the opposition."

But we know what we have to anticipate in the elections of next year, and have time for preparation. Military interference with the freedom of elections has been peacefully tolerated for the last time. Of that, let the radical destroyers of our country be assured. As we have recently stated at least 1,500,000 democratic votes have been cast in the States which own the jurisdiction of the United States, at the elections which have just taken place, and those which not long ago preceded them. It was evident, too, that in several of these States, our own for instance, the conservatives have a strong force in reserve. This

is not a party to be trifled with; and when the question comes up next year, those who have trifled with the freedom of elections will find that they have done so to their cost."

For the Democrat.

PUBLIC NOTICE.
In November, 1862, Eld. J. J. Cooper, of Warsaw, Indiana, and the undersigned, held a public discussion at the town of Akron, Fulton County, Indiana, on two propositions, as follows, to-wit:

1st.—"Do the Scriptures teach that man dies and is conscious, between death and the resurrection?"

J. J. Cooper affirming, and Richard Corbaley denying.

2d.—"Do the Scriptures teach that the wicked will be destroyed in the sense of Annihilation, or utter extinction of their being, immediately after the resurrection?"

J. J. Cooper affirming, and Richard Corbaley denying.

The second Sunday in September last, the said J. J. Cooper, in the presence of a large concourse of people, at the "Miller School-house," some three miles southeast of Plymouth, publicly challenged me to again discuss the above propositions with him, on condition that I should furnish a house, and debate with him in this vicinity. He—knowing I was not present when the challenge was given—requested my friends to give me notice, which I received in due time, and on the Tuesday following I wrote a letter of acceptance, copied and signed the propositions and sent them to him.

I informed me on the Friday following, at Plymouth, that the letter and propositions had been received, and that he would answer in a few days.

I waited from that time until the 7th of October, and receiving no response, I again wrote him, inquiring why he had not written, also telling him if he did not answer the interrogatories contained in that letter within a reasonable time, I should publish him.

And now, up to this 23d day of November, 1863, I have not received any response to either of the letters; neither has he returned the propositions. For the satisfaction of those who were present when Eld. Cooper gave the challenge, I will say that in my letter of the 15th of September last, I notified him of my willingness to again meet him in the discussion of the aforesaid questions, and also that a meeting-house should be erected at the expense of the State Central Committee. I will be content to meet him at any other point, and that I would be willing to pay his expenses.

Gen. John Morgan, with six of his officers, escaped from the Penitentiary at Columbus, Ohio, during Friday night.—The escape was effected by digging a trench to a sewer leading to the river. A note was left, directed to the Warden, announcing that the work had consumed sixteen days, and was effected with two small knives. A thousand dollars reward has been offered for the capture of Morgan.—Squads of troops have been sent in all directions, and the belief was expressed that he would be recaptured before this morning.

Gen. Banks has captured Corpus Christi and several smaller places in Texas. At Arkansas Federal took a hundred prisoners and three cannon.

By way of new Orleans we have a report that Charleston was on fire, and had been burning for 63 hours. Two weeks' later intelligence from the Palmetto City makes no mention of any such occurrence.

A rebel force of from 5,000 to 10,000 is endeavoring to concentrate at some point a short distance above Port Hudson, with the view of interrupting navigation on the Mississippi.

TUESDAY, December 1.

Considerable heavy skirmishing occurred in Virginia since the commencement of the Federal movement; but the belief is entertained at Washington that no general engagement has as yet taken place. Meade has found himself unable to push forward as rapidly as was expected, and is feeling his way slowly and cautiously. There is a report that the rebel left has been cut off from the main army, but it lacks confirmation.

The appearances are that Lee will make a stand at Hanover Junction or Gordonsville.

Chattanooga advises state that there has been no fighting since Hooker attacked Bragg's rear at Ringgold on the 26th ult., on which occasion the rebels were again whipped, suffering considerable loss. The Federals held the country as far as Ringgold and Cleveland, and the rebels are held now Tunnell Hill. The campaign is probably at an end. In the recent series of engagements the Federal loss in killed and wounded was about 4,000. The rebels lost 6,000 prisoners, 48 cannon, and 7,000 stand of small arms.

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Intelligence from Knoxville is up to Wednesday last, at which date Longstreet was still before the place. It is considered impossible that he can form a junction with Bragg, and fears are expressed that he will march to Bristol, and thence move to reinforce Lee.

John Morgan, who escaped from the Columbus (Ohio) Penitentiary on Friday, arrived at Toronto, C. W., yesterday. The prospect of Neal Dow's liberation is not so good as it recently was.

The republican caucus for the nomination of a candidate for speaker of the national House of Representatives will be held on Friday. Messrs. Washburne, of Ill., and Colfax, of Ind., are the only parties whose names are prominently mentioned in connection with the position.

The balance due the State of Illinois from ex-Gov. Matteson has been settled by the transfer to the former of 4,225 acres of land in Kendall county, at a valuation of \$7 per acre.

We need no longer wonder at the Parisians who thronged the theaters during the worst excesses of the French revolution. In the midst of this terrible civil war, which is draining the best blood of the country and mortgaging its property with a debt our children will stagger under, we here in New-York are spending more money in amusements and gayeties than ever before. Our young people are determined to drink, dance and be merry, no matter how many of their friends or rela-

tives may be dying on the Rapidan or Tennessee. All the public halls are engaged

for every night to the end of February, and some of them far into April. Private halls

and parties were never so numerous, and as for theaters, they were never so thronged.

It is quite safe to say that this winter will see twice the money spent on balls, parties, theaters, opera, and dresses to attend them, of any former season in the metropolis. This state of things cannot last always. The intoxication the country is now laboring under will be followed before long by a season of profound depression.

—N. Y. World.

THE NEWS.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.

Meade's army is all across the Rapidan, and moving rapidly forward to meet the enemy. The passage of the river was effected with but little opposition. The Heights of Fredericksburg have been occupied by Federal cavalry. Lee is falling back, but it is believed that he will risk a battle between Orange Court-House and Gordonsville.

Later.—Considerable heavy skirmishing has occurred, and a general engagement has possibly been fought. It is believed that Lee is falling back to Gordonsville. The Federal forces are now between 80 and 90 miles from Washington.

Rebel accounts of the battle of Chattanooga state that the Confederates fought desperately, but were overpowered by superior numbers. They acknowledge a loss of over 5,000 prisoners.

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Army of the Potomac up to noon on Monday. At that time the antagonistic forces

were divided by Mile Run Valley, about twelve miles from Orange Court-House.

Lee was strongly intrenched, and exhibited a determination to make a desperate resistance. An offensive movement was commenced by Meade on Monday morning; but the rebels being found stronger than anticipated, the movement was checked, and, at last advised, all quiet.

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