

THE PLYMOUTH DEMOCRAT.

J. C. OSBORNE, :: : : Editor.

PLYMOUTH, INDIANA:

THURSDAY, FEB. 25, 1863.



Democratic State Convention.

The Democratic State Central Committee met on Tuesday last. The time for holding the State Convention was fixed for July 12th. Delegates to the National Convention for the State at large were appointed.

The Republican declines the challenge we gave it two weeks ago, relative to the blunders of the former Republican Auditor. It acts wisely in so doing; it has not forgotten the old adage, "discretion is the better part of valor." We also stated that the present deputy Auditor was responsible for one of the errors complained of by the Republican, but it seems that in this we were mistaken, as that too was chargeable to the former incumbent. In making up the Assessor's Book for 1863 from the duplicate of 1860, Mr. Fuller copied \$800 instead of \$1800, and in copying that Assessor's Book, the present deputy transferred it exact, hence the mistake of which the Republican complains. We are informed that the present "efficient" Auditor and his experienced deputy have already corrected more than 1800 errors, made by the former miserly blunderer, elected to the office of Auditor by Abolition votes, and there are doubtless some yet remaining which have escaped the observation of the present incumbent.

We were mistaken last week in stating that the Press of the Lepore Democrat was destroyed in the recent outrage committed upon that office.—only the type, cases and other fixtures of the office were destroyed. The press, we are informed, was unharmed. Mr. McDonald's loss is about \$800. Somuch in a single instance is the loss to a good citizen on account of abolition teaching. If the democrats of Lepore county do not make up this loss to the proprietor of the Democrat, they deserve to be without a paper; to be scorned and spit upon and their very names to become a byword and a reproach in all time to come. Let them see to it that the paper is soon started again, and then let them further see to it that it is not again destroyed; or if it is, that summary vengeance be inflicted upon those who perpetrate the outrage, if possible; if not, upon those who have it in their power to prevent it, and refuse to exercise that power.

MILITARY.

We received the following order after going to press last week, with a request to notice the same in the DEMOCRAT. The substance of the order was contained in our news column, but as all are interested in its contents we insert it in full:

STATE OF INDIANA,
Adjutant General's Office,
Indianapolis, Feb. 13th, 1863.

It is announced that the visit of the undersigned to Washington to ascertain the quota to be raised in Indiana under the President's recent order proved unsuccessful, owing to the great press of business before the War Department. The State's quota, therefore, can only be approximated at present. Sufficient data is known, however, to warrant the announcement that after crediting all the enlistments for new and old regiments, and all re-enlistments of veterans, a number equal to one-half the quota of the several counties announced last October will be required to raise a draft on the 10th of March. Unless the quotas of the seven States are filled by that date a draft will be made for all delinquencies without any postponement or delay.

Commandants of Districts, and County and Township committees are particularly enjoined to adopt vigorous measures immediately to raise the additional men called for.

Officers recruiting for new organizations must raise the number required to complete them, or take the chances of consolidation.

All will remember that bounties cease on the first of March, which gives very few days more for recruiting.

By order of the Governor.
Laz. No. 1. Adj. Gen. Ind.

We clip from the Republican of the 4th inst., the following notice by C. Whitmore, the Assistant Assessor for this county.— We suppose that Mr. W. was not desirous of notifying democrats of the provisions of the Excise Law in this regard or he would have furnished a copy for our paper. But here is the order, or notice, or "proclamation," whichever it may be called:

To the Farmers of Marshall Co.

Every Farmer is allowed by law to slaughter six head of Cattle, and six head of Hoggs for his own consumption, and any number above six, slaughtered during the year 1863, or in the month of January, 1864, must be reported to me, forthwith, for assessment, and payment of Taxes made to Collector.

C. WHITMORE, Ass't Assessor,
6th Division, 9th District,
United States Excise Tax.

We see an article going the rounds of our exchanges, in which it is stated that in one of the counties in the southern part of the State, one man sued another for calling him a traitor, and recovered a judgment for some \$275.

We suppose he sleeps easy now, and feels that his good name for "loyalty" is fully vindicated. We wonder what he will do with the money thus recovered for the slander? Would it be well to invest it in a marble monument to be erected in honor of his injured, torn and maimed good name, that his children's children, even to the fourth generation, may not forget that he was truly "loyal?" Or, if this does not strike his mind favorably, we suggest that he buy a piece of land in some conspicuous locality, to be handed down from generation to generation in his family as an heirloom, to be called "The Field of Honor," and ask the Legislature to enact a special law exempting it from taxes for all time to come. Seriously a man who could find it in his heart to smother the outrage to his feelings, occasioned by such a slander, is a pitiful wretch, just such a man as we should suppose would compromise the honor of his wife or sister for a few miserable pictures styled "groudbreaks." We wish him joy of the \$275.

Then and Now.

"I have no purpose directly nor indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so."

* * * * *

"You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the Government, while I shall have the most solemn one to 'preserve, to protect and defend it.'

The above extracts are from the pen of the President, given forth in his Messages to the people who elevated him to power. They are no light words spoken upon trivial occasions, and without thought or consideration, but solemn pledges made under the sanction of "an oath registered in heaven," after mature deliberation, and counsel with his constitutional advisers.—They are presumed to express his matured convictions upon grave constitutional questions. Convictions that accord with the opinions of all the sages of our country from its birth until the day upon which the words were penned. Under such solemn responsibilities, whilst a nation stood bravely to catch the words as they fell from his lips, could incredulity itself doubt his sincerity, or doubt that he would fulfil his pledges to the letter? To give force and significance to his expressions, he called the attention of the world (for the whole world was watching and waiting) to the fact that he was speaking under the sanction of "an oath registered in heaven," and immediately proceeded to assure them that he had "no purpose directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the states where it existed," and assigning, as a reason, that he had no lawful right to do so, and had no inclination to do so. Were ever assurances more solemnly made? Were ever pledges couched in stronger expressions?

Yet hardly were these pledges cold upon his lips until he proceeded to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia! Hardly had the shock of that usurpation ceased to thrill upon the nation's nerves, when he proceeded again and again to violate his solemn pledge, until now it is wholly ignored and scoffed at, and it is boisterously proclaimed that blood shall never cease to flow, nor treasure to be squandered, until the last vestige of slavery should be swept from the land. Such is the fidelity—such the honor of him who is now moving heaven and earth to make himself our ruler for the next four years.—[Miami Co. Sentinel.]

The conference committee on the whisky bill had a meeting yesterday, and, it is understood, adopted the sliding scale with some modifications. The report of the committee will probably be acted upon finally in Congress to day.

Several days ago a party of soldiers, instigated by abolitionists, partially demolished the office of the EAGLE, a democratic newspaper at Lancaster, Ohio; and the democrats retaliated upon the property of abolition leaders. On Saturday last the same soldiers, instigated by the same parties, undertook to complete the work of demolition, when a terrible fight ensued, in which it is reported, five men were killed on each side, and a number wounded. Nothing is known, as to the destruction of property. Soldiers have been sent from Columbus to quell the disturbance.

Gen. Davidson has been relieved of his command in the Army of Arkansas, and ordered to report to the Cavalry Bureau at Washington. Gen Carr has been selected to fill the vacant position.

The Iowa republican State convention met at Des Moines yesterday, and elected delegates to the national convention. Lincoln was declared the first choice of the assemblage for President, and it was recommended that the name of the party should be changed to "republican Union."

Squabbles, an old bachelor, shows his stockings, which he has just darned, to a maiden lady, who contemptuously remarks, "pretty well for a man's darn." Whereupon Squabbles rejoins, "good enough for a woman, darn her."

The New Conscription Law.

Congress has finally agreed upon a conscription law, the chief feature of which is the clause relating to commutation. This provides that, upon payment of \$300, any person may secure exemption from a pending draft, but leaves him liable to the draft under the next call, and even holds him liable under the draft for which he paid commutation, providing the call be not filled at the first drawing. Thus a person may possibly be obliged to pay the \$300 twice, or even three separate times, under a single call for troops. This, in effect, excludes all poor men from the benefits of the commutation clause, as no man of moderate means will pay more than \$300 for exemption from a single draft.

Another new feature of the commutation element is the provision that all clergymen and other people who are "consciously opposed to bearing arms" can be paid \$300, secure exemption from all other drafts during the present war.

Of course this provision was introduced for the special benefit of the "loyal"—those engaged in the "interests of God and humanity" alias that class of whom Tilton says "that it is their prime duty to grasp God with one hand and the negro with the other." Judging from the fact that New England, and other portions of the North, where abolitionism is rampant, the quotas under the various calls are yet unfilled, and that in all communities where democratic majorities prevail there is an excess of volunteers, we reach the logical conclusion that abolitionists everywhere are "consciously opposed to bearing arms." This is the first requisite to exemption, and, as we see, is calculated expressly for the benefit of the "loyal." If "consciously opposed to bearing arms," it is further necessary that their "course of life should have been sincere"—that is we suppose that they have, all their life, been sincere in their "conscientious scruples against bearing arms."

The exactly covers the case of our pious abolitionists, for not only will they find it easy to show that their consciences will not permit them to bear arms, (except possibly to rob democrats and destroy conservative printing offices here and there,) but they can bring up, as evidence of their sincerity, the consistency of their whole lives in this respect.

What better argument will the abolitionists of New England need to prove their conscientious opposition to arms-bearing than to point to their history, and show the world that their warfare has never been more dangerous than butchering Indians, hanging Quakers and burning witches?

What else than "conscientious" scruples has prevented them from bearing arms in the present war, one that they themselves inaugurated, and, more than all others, are interested in carrying on in its present character? Nothing else will explain it, and hence they are exempt.—Chicago Times.

Homogeneity.

It is surprising to the unsophisticated mind the extent of the efforts made, and the variety of the means brought to bear, to train the public mind into readiness to receive the last great final doctrine of Abolitionism—the perfect equalization and blending of the races. Indeed, the entire Administration press and party seem to be working as one harmonious wheel, with hardly a jar in the vast machinery, to bring about this devoutly wished for consummation. Greely, Tilton, Beecher, Phillips, and that class strike out boldly for the doctrine. Believing the public stomach prepared, they administer the dose in its full strength and magnitude, while the lesser ones administer compounding draughts and sedatives to quiet the patient, and "keep the medicine down."

We see, in several of the latter class of papers, the doctrine of homogeneity sprung upon the people. Under the mask of homogeneity, miscegenation is being continually slipped forward, that the people may become familiarized to its hideous proportions before they are compelled to embrace the monster. They urge homogeneity of the people—homogeneity of State institutions—and some go so far as homogeneity of the elective franchise, and they insist that all these are essential to the peace and unity of the country. They urge that our fathers blundered in omitting to engrave this principle in the Constitution when it was framed—"not that they doubted its necessity, but from motives of policy," believing that it would expire from natural causes, and now they say "behold the effects of their blunder in the terrible civil war in which the country is plunged." Behold this doctrine, when carried to its logical consequences. All these things once accomplished, what is the next step in this Abolition ladder? Once apply the doctrine to the people, the States, and the elective franchise, and next will come up regular sequence, homogeneity of races; and those outsiders, who are thus beating up the laggards, will at once bring up their forces side by side with Phillips & Co., and embrace the whole doctrine of miscegenation.—[Miami Co. Sentinel.]

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North and South—How the Armies Are Recruited.

The New York Tribune, of the 16th instant, had two leading editorials, one entitled: "The modern Mokanna," the other, "The recruiting business in our city." The opening paragraphs of these two articles, if true, show that the people of neither section have no heart in the war. The first article opens by saying:

"Jefferson Davis has now some two or three hundred thousand American citizens in his various armies. A very large majority of them being there because they were conscripted, and had no choice but to serve or be shot."

The other article commences:

"The system of recruiting which has recently been followed in this city is one of the greatest scandals of the war. It has been one of organized pillage, resort being had to hooliganism with narcotics, poison, threats, violence, false representations and kidnapping, in order to furnish victims to the bounty-brokers, and fill up the army with discontented and unfit men."

If that is the way the war is to be carried on by both sides, it is not high time the people in each section rose in their sovereignty and said: "Thus far shall thou go, and here shall thy proud waves stay!" Both Administrations—that of the Federal and that of the Confederate Government—are carrying on the war—according to the Tribune—against the feelings and wishes of their respective constituencies. In other words, the people of both sections are mere puppets, moved at the pleasure of their rulers and unable to interpose any opposition. That is a rather sad spectacle for the contemplation of American citizens.—[Cia. Enqr.]

In a nation the fundamental idea of whose system is liberty.—EVENING POST.

This assertion is either the assertion of an historical fact or the assertion of an historical falsehood. It is to be judged, not by the feeling or belief of any man, but by a reference to events which admit neither of doubt nor of denial.

Notwithstanding that the population of Denmark, including Schleswig and Holstein, and her West Indian and other dependencies, reaches a figure of only two and a half millions, she is far from being a contemptible foe, as has been demonstrated frequently since her settlement by the followers of the mythical Odin. Often since that time has the prowess of her warriors been felt on both sea and land, and the whole civilized world been compelled to admit her claims to pre-eminence in all that constitutes a nation of soldiers.

Once Denmark conquered and ruled both Norway and Sweden, and at an earlier period that power which sang "Britannia rules the waves" was overruled, subjugated and ruled by Canute, a Danish chieftain. Twice since that time has Denmark been engaged in several hostilities with England,—both these wars having occurred in the present century, and are yet within the memory of men of this generation. It is a fact which affords data for comment upon the mutability of human affairs, that to-day England is pledged by treaty, and obligated by the relations arising from an intermarriage, to assist by arms the very nation with whom she has twice been in conflict, and by whom she has once been completely subjugated. This is strange, but not more so than the fact that the next century will probably witness, with but little difference, what has seen ten centuries ago the Danish element ruling the English nation—now in the person of Ulric, and hereafter in the person of the son of the Prince of Wales.

After the Articles of Confederation had done their work during war, and were found insufficient for peace and prosperity, the present Constitution was adopted.

Liberty was not the subject of contention and debate. The white population had it, and were not careful, or rather were indifferent to the interests of the black man—just as indifferent as to the well-being of the Indian.

The only subject of contention was the respective rights and advantages of larger and smaller, slave and free, commercial and plantation states. States were the bargainers. Individuals did not make the Constitution; if they had, the instrument in all probability would have been very different. States made it, and states alone have the right to alter and amend it. The great object of the Constitution was to let the majority work the machine, not after it. The Republican party tried to alter the machine in a manner not agreed upon, and to substitute liberty for rights, as its fundamental principle. It wanted to turn a good steam engine into a balloon.

The result, so far, has been that, for the first time in the history of the United States, there is no liberty for the white man—that is, there is no tribunal to assure the rights which an Englishman enjoys, and the worst of all is, that there is no public opinion which looks upon liberty as a right.

The most lamentable feature of this whole war is the moral cowardice of the community. The doctrine of the Post is utterly opposed to that of Jefferson and Jackson, and is the "insane root that has made men mad."

The fundamental idea of our system is, rights—rights beyond the power of majorities and above all the passions and follies of the moment. The method adopted to secure them was to select a certain set of subjects upon which the majority should govern, and exclude all others. Liberty was not one of the subjects upon which majorities have any voice.—New York World.

THE NEWS.

From the Chicago Times Feb. 23.

An official rebel dispatch, dated the 18th inst., states that Gen. Sherman had arrived at Quitman, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. This place is the capital of Clark county, Miss., and is on the east side of Chickasawha River, ninety-two miles east by south from Jackson. Sherman's force is estimated by the rebels at from 25,000 to 35,000 men. He is destroying the railroad and bridges as he advances. So far he has met with but little opposition, tho

Lee's cavalry is harassing his flanks; but it is asserted that he will not be allowed to take Mobile without a desperate battle. Admiral Farragut's fleet lies in Pensacola Sound, the weather being too bad for action. The Governor of Alabama has issued a proclamation announcing that Mobile is about to be attacked, and calling upon non-combatants to withdraw.

It is reported that Lee will attempt to drive Meade back upon Washington by a demonstration along the Blue Ridge, and force a battle, if possible in the vicinity of Bull Run.

The Republican National Committee met at Washington yesterday, and agreed upon a call for a national convention at Baltimore on the 7th of June. Only those States which are represented in Congress will be allowed to send delegates, the object being to prevent the packing of the convention with Lincoln delegates from seceded States.

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Of the one hundred and nine Federal officers who escaped from Richmond, forty-three have arrived within the Federal lines, and fifty-eight have been recaptured, leaving but eight whose fate is undecided.

The "Freedom Convention" met at Louisville, yesterday, and selected Wm. P. Thomas, of Ky., as President. The anti-Lincolnites have a majority of the assembly. Resolutions will be adopted of the most extreme radical character.

THE WAR FLAME IN EUROPE.

The long smouldering difficulties between Denmark and the German Powers have at length burst into flame, and are now blazing with all the fierceness which characterizes the conflagrations of actual war. As we learn, on the 31st of January the Austro-Prussian commander ordered Danish force to evacuate Schleswig, which they refused to do. The German army immediately crossed the frontier, and on the 2d of the present month, attacked the Danes at a place called Missunde, and were repulsed.

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When the thirteen colonies separated from Great Britain what was their declaration of independence due to, and what was the exact point of quarrel between them and the mother country? England asserted the right to tax the colonies. They denied the right. The question between them was not of liberty at all, but of government. The amount sought to be raised was trifling, not the cost of one week's war; but the principle was of vast importance. England was willing to forego the exercise of the right, but not to abandon the claim. The colonies insisted upon its distinct abandonment. Therefore it was truly said, "The Revolution was fought upon a principle."

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