

THE PLYMOUTH DEMOCRAT.

J. G. OSBORNE & Editors.
S. L. HARVEY.

PLYMOUTH, INDIANA:

THURSDAY, MAR. 21, 1867.

Center Tp. Democratic Convention.

The Democratic voters of Center Township are requested to meet at the Court House in Plymouth on

Saturday, March 30th, 1867, at 1 o'clock p. m., to nominate candidates for the several offices to be filled at the election on Monday, April 1st, 1867.

A general turnout is very desirable.

By order of the Committee.

The Louisville Convention. We publish this week a communication from our friend C. H. Reeve, Esq., in reply to an article on the Louisville Convention movement contained in last week's *Democrat*. It seems to us that Mr. R. has not read our article with that care that usually characterizes his efforts in relation to matters of this kind. He fails to understand what we said, and consequently argues with the mark.—

We did not say that the convention was, as a remedy, worse than the disease; *i.e.* the usurpations, tyranny, &c., of the party in power.

We did say, however, that we believed it was the intention of the leaders in the convention movement to "precipitate the country into another war unless they can succeed in engrafting their peculiar views upon the administrative power," and again that war (not the convention) as a "remedy is worse than the disease, and not only that, but it would fail to cure."

Mr. R. denies that these men mean war as a remedy, yet at the same time the Convention and war are so closely connected even in his own mind that he applies what we said indiscriminately to both. He virtually charges us with inconsistency in presuming to put forth an opinion adverse to that entertained by some of our patrons on this subject, and thinks we should call a convention, and after that be governed by and reflect its views; that we have no right to speak till then. This and several other things contained in his communication are not relevant to the real issue.—

The question is simply whether the Louisville Convention under the present circumstances should be held. He affirms and we deny. Now let us see how far we agree, and then as to these things we need have no controversy.

We agree that the present party in power is corrupt, venal, and tyrannical; that the measures adopted by it are calculated to destroy the liberties of the people; that under radical rule the country is fast going to destruction. We also agree that this state of things should be changed and the government be put into the hands of good and true men who would regard the constitution, the laws, and the inalienable rights of the people. How is this to be accomplished? Mr. R. says by means of the Louisville Convention. How? Evidently in one of two ways, either by a more perfect organization of the Democratic party and a sufficient number of additional thermo to give it the ascendancy and place it in power, or else to resist the "powers that be" by force of arms and hurl them from power. Now if we can be shown that the convention will more perfectly unite the party, and materially add to its numbers, then it ought to be held. But will it do so? We think not, and for the following reasons, namely:

A large portion of the party deprecate and oppose the convention, and will not, therefore, take part in it. A large majority of the people still adhere to their old leaders, and look upon the movement with suspicion, if not actual aversion. Can it be possible that under these circumstances the convention would strengthen the party? If not then it would do no good unless it is desirable to inaugurate an armed revolution. This, we think, as we said last week, would be worse than the disease and would certainly fail. With a radical Congress in power moulding the President at will; with Grant, Sherman, Meade, Sickles, Sheridan, Thomas, Schofield, and we may safely say the army generally under their control, and the large body of the "Grand Army of the Republic" thoroughly armed and drilled on the side of the party in power; what chance of success would a fragment of the Democratic party have, should they be so wild as to engage in a revolution with such odds against them? Would not such a remedy be worse than the disease?

But Mr. R. says the friends of the convention do not contemplate revolution. If they do not, then much of what they have said is mere bombast and means nothing. Let any candid man read carefully the articles on this subject contained in the *La Crosse Democrat*, as well as the communication of Mr. R. himself, published in this paper some weeks since, and we think he must come to the same conclusion that we did.

There are other matters in his communication which we would like to notice, but have neither the time nor space to do so now.

Defeat in the South

A Washington dispatch of the 18th inst., says: "Thad. Stevens has a speech already prepared, which he will make in the house before its adjournment, favoring the confiscation of southern property to the amount of \$50,000,000."

The southern people are already reduced to a condition bordering on starvation; appeals for help are heard from christian benevolent institutions all over the country in behalf of the starving poor of the south. The additional misfortunes of a flood are sweeping over the south, deluging large sections of country, and in many instances carrying away villages and farm houses; never was a people more oppressed with want. While in this pitiable condition and while they are putting forward every means in their power to drive starvation from their doors, a tyrannical Congress places them under its despotic power to be made the slaves of negroes who have just been freed from servitude. Reduced to this condition of servitude—oppressed with taxation, loaded down with debt—this miserly old radical thief has the brazen effrontery to announce that he favors a law to take from these starving people the little bread which they have left. A fair specimen of the spirit that rules the remnant of what once was a free Republic.

The April Election.

Our friends in every township should take care to select good, reliable candidates to fill the offices which are to be filled at the coming election. There is now but little time to spare, and conventions should be held on or before the Saturday preceding the day of election. We publish elsewhere a call for a convention for Center Township, on Saturday, March 30th, at 1 o'clock p. m., to nominate candidates for township officers.

The convention will be held at the Court House. Let the Democrats of Center turn out en masse and nominate a ticket that will command the hearty support of the people.

The Speaker.

We do not think Mr. Colfax's speech on taking the chair, when re-elected to the Speakership, in good taste, or that the Thirty ninth Congress was entitled to any of the censures which he bestowed upon it. Nevertheless we are not sorry that Mr. Colfax was again chosen Speaker. During the four years he has been presiding officer of the House he has tried to be fair and impartial, and has generally succeeded. Chosen by a domineering and exacting partisanship majority, he has yet been as fair to the minority as could have been hoped for under such circumstances. During the present Congress we have no doubt he will pursue the same impartial course. Indeed, while Ashley of Ohio was making his beastly attack on the President on Thursday, the Speaker called him to order and compelled him to pursue a more decent course of remark.

We doubt if, in the dominant party in the House, one could be found who possesses so many of the qualities of a good presiding officer as Mr. Colfax, or one who would be so fair to the handful of members who compose the minority.—*New Albany Leader*. The minority never hoped for any thing fair and impartial from Mr. Colfax, and it is called a radical to order for making a beastly attack upon the President of the United States it was not because he believed it unjust to the President, for thousands of beastly attacks have been made upon the President in the House, and the Speaker was never known to interpose his authority before. The Speaker, if he has tried to be fair and impartial, is entitled to little respect from the minority for the manner in which he has exercised that impartiality. The country has not forgotten that Mr. Colfax is the only Speaker of the National House of Representatives that ever disgraced the chair by moving to expel a member for entertaining different political views from those entertained by himself.

PLYMOUTH Ind., March 14, 1867.

EDITOR DEMOCRAT: In your paper of this date you give us a leaden condemnation of a National Democratic Convention, asserting that it is the offspring of a few ultra radical Democratic papers, and is "intended to drive the Democracy of the country into extreme measures of resistance to radicalism, or to divide and break up the Democratic party." You assert that "the remedy is worse than the disease, and not only that, but it would fail to cure."

You say you "think, the object of the leaders of the Louisville Convention movement,

they mean to precipitate the country into another war, unless they can succeed in engrafting their peculiar views upon the executive power."

You warn your readers to have nothing to do with it. You consider the present state of things bad enough, but this effort for a change would be much worse.

Immediately following is another editorial from the Richmond (Virginia) Times, says:

"Let the South be quiet, and let the Governors of the South who represent the people of the South who represent the people of the South for some concert of plan of testing immediately the strength and validity of this shabby and vindictive act of legislation. We will not be easily swayed by the sophistry of the South, nor will we be easily swayed by the sophistry of the North, for we know the Constitution, all are safe; and it should tell us that the South has done nothing to injure the North, and that the North has done nothing to injure the South. We should be as safe as the South is safe."

There is yet a faint hope that we may be spared the pain of seeing the South divided, and the South, if not the North, will be the gainer.

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