WEEKLY SENTINEL.

MONDAY, - - - - - - - - NOV. 30.

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

The Democratic State Central Committee met Wednesday. 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 in 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 he 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. Athon, 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.

The Change of a few Years.

We noticed recently, in a contemporary, a statement that some soldiers riding along the streets of a neighboring city heedlessly rode over a child and that it would probably be a cripple for life. The reading of this circumstance brought to our recollection the observations made by an intelligent French gentleman upon the character of our political institutions after a careful personal review of their workings in all sections of the then United States, some years ago. After returning to France, in an able and candid review of our Republican form of government, he gave expression to the following sentiments and experience:

He had travelled from one extreme to the other of the United States, but had never, in a single instance, *seen the government;* and he gave it as his judgment that in the United States all the rights of persons and property were more fully and completely protected than in any other government of the world. There, said he, the government is *felt* in its beneficent influences, but so lightly does it set on the shoulders of the people that its weight is no burden. The contrast, he continued, between the government of America and the governments of Europe, is, in this particular, most striking and remarkable. In Europe, the *weight* of the government is everywhere felt as a grievous burden. It is everywhere *seen* in the bristling bayonet, in the strutting and self-important official, who treats the humble and abashed civilian with as little consideration as if he were a brute instead of a man.

It is *felt* in the weight of its taxation, which demands of hard handed industry almost its last farthing. The civilian is regarded as of little consequence except to labor and give of the proceeds of his labor to haughty power, which domineers without compunction and tyrannizes without remorse.

In the United States, on the contrary, continues the same authority, the people, the farmers, the mechanics and laborers, who do the voting and constitute the majority, are everything, so far as government is concerned. The administrators of the law are regarded as the servants of the people, and any office holder who abuses his trust is certain to be hurled from power at the next election. The official in America, unlike the official in Europe, treats the people with consideration and respect, because, in the former country, the person in office derives his station and his importance from the people. In America, the people are the ruling power; in Europe, the people are simply ruled, without being consulted; they are of no value except to make soldiers and pay taxes to those who rule them, as they claim, by the grace of God.

How different would be the reflection of that same Frenchman if he should make the tour of the United States at the present time! Now he would see our Government at every turn, and he could not but observe that the people have a realizing sense of both its presence and its burdens. Here it exhibits itself glittering or bedizzened with the eternal evidences of authority; there it presents itself with fixed bayonet, frowning with all the pomp and circumstance of war. Here it comes as an exciseman; there it demands a pitiful stamp duty in order to legitimate a note of hand or a deed of conveyance. Not only the demoralizing influences of the war in which we are engaged are being exhibited or developed on every side, but the burdens and injustice which it occasions are becoming oppressive to the people. Men are becoming insensible to the value of life, and even incidents occur, like the one we noticed in the commencement of this article, where innocent children are trampled upon with as little concern as the insensible earth which is trodden upon with indifference. As a people we are rapidly degenerating and apparently assimilating the servility of the masses of European despotism. Such are some of the fruits of war, and such some of the legitimate results of the principles and policy avowed in the Chicago platform and the domination of Abraham's "government."

The Political Issues of the Day.

A correspondent writing us from one of the Southern counties in the State, makes the following suggestions as to the position the Democratic party should occupy in the approaching political canvass:

The Democracy of this county are thoroughly organized and ready for the approaching contest. We don't want any pandering to mere success. We must plant ourselves on a platform with justice and right glowing in every line, and then abide the consequence whatever it may be. It is the duty of the Democracy to save the country, and, to accomplish this great purpose, we must oppose the military revolution of the party in power, as well as the revolution at the South. Gen. Mansfield declared in his speech at this place, a few days ago, that "the Constitution as it is, and the Union as it was, made him *smile*," that "all revolutions had a tendency to change existing institutions;" if he is right, then where is the test of loyalty, if we have no constitution? Who can be guilty of treason, if we have a revolution at the North, as his language seems to intimate, and what are we fighting for? I have always thought we were fighting under an organized government and against a revolution.

Let us not be timid because bad men denounce us as traitors. Vice ever wars against virtue. We must meet the issues in the approaching contest like men, and save the government even if Mr. Lincoln's administration goes down amid the execrations of an indignant people determined to be free.

The War News—What Should be the Policy.

The news from General Grant leaves no room to doubt that he has gained a decided advantage over the rebel army under Bragg. Generally the telegraphic reports of victories over the enemy have proven exaggerations, but the details of the engagements in which General Grant has been engaged, have seldom fallen short of the first reports. In the engagement between Rosecrans and Bragg, at Stone river, the telegraphic reports represented, as they now do, that the defeat and rout of the enemy was complete, but such did not prove to be the case. It may now turn out that while the rebel army has met with a decided reverse and great loss, it may fall back to a rallying point in apparent disorder and panic, but that position reached, the rebels may rally and present again, as it has done heretofore, a formidable front. But conceding that the victory over the enemy is complete, and that his forces are demoralized and disorganized, does it not present to the Administration an excellent opportunity, by a wise and magnanimous policy, to strike a crushing blow at the rebellion?

The Administration and Congress started out with the proposition that the war on our part was waged solely for the restoration of the national authority and with no intention of interfering with the rights or institutions of the States. It was not to be prosecuted for the purpose of subjugation, or with any vindictive spirit. The party in power has again and again proclaimed that it was influenced by no other consideration but the restoration of the Union. That is the issue it presented with the most profound expressions of sincerity. It would not permit its motives in that regard to be questioned. It claimed to be exclusively a party of Union savers, and those who could not subscribe unreservedly to its tenets and its policy were charged with being disunionists. Is the party in power really anxious to restore the Union? It claims to be, and calls upon the people to discard all party organizations and affiliations, and unite with it to a man for the overthrow of the rebellion. If this spirit and these purposes really animate the men who have the direction of the government, the country should now demand of them that they illustrate the sincerity of their professions. If the war is not waged in the spirit of conquest, or for the overthrow of the constitutional rights of the States, in the hour of victory and when it is known that there is a decided Union feeling in the rebel States, let the Administration give some assurance to those in opposition to the government, whether positively or tacitly, that it has no other object in view. And by so doing the entire North could be made a unit, and the South, at the least, divided. If the President should now issue a proclamation declaring a general amnesty and forgiveness to all the people of the old Union for all political offenses, withdrawing all confiscation and emancipation proclamations and pledging to every person their constitutional and legal rights, and even offering to call a national convention to settle the existing difficulties of the country, to all who would lay down their arms and cease opposition to the government within a period of sixty or ninety days, can any one doubt it would be attended with the most successful results? If the rebels refused such an overture for reconciliation, it would unite the North completely and there would be no trouble in filling up the armies promptly. The effect of this proposition would be to demoralize the rebel armies, divide the people of the South, and give courage and strength to the Union sentiment in the rebel States. For two years and a half we have been prosecuting the war, at a terrible sacrifice, of blood and treasure, upon the policy of the Administration party. Is it not just now to ask the party in power to try the suggestions of their political opponents to end the civil war and restore the Union? There is no armistice or suspension of hostilities asked, but simply to offer those in rebellion terms of peace in entire harmony with the solemn declarations of the government. If this is done, and it fails, it will be entirely safe to pledge that the entire people of the loyal States will unite with the Administration in any policy it may suggest for the restoration of the Union.

The "War Democracy"—The Second Chicago Convention.

We copy the proceedings of the meeting of the "War Democracy" of the Northwestern States, which assembled at Chicago on Wednesday last, to advise the people of the character of the proceedings and of the men engaged in it. It was a slim affair in every respect and decidedly of the humbug order. The leaders engaged in the movement are old political hacks, and it is gotten up as an agency to give them prominence and hoist them into some public position by the aid of Republican votes. Perhaps the Administration may be hoodwinked as to the political influence of the individuals who assume the title of "War Democrats," and if if it is, we shall give them credit for playing adroitly a successful game of deception. The Chicago Times in commenting upon the affair remarks:

The little squad of "War Democrats," privately assembled in one of the chambers of the Tremont House yesterday, must have been a melancholy spectacle to each other, as they would have been to the public if they had assembled in any public place. They were certainly prudent in sitting with closed doors, both on account of their meagre numbers and the objects of their meeting. They were a convention of the "War Democracy" of the whole Northwest, but numbered not more than twenty. The object of their meeting was to smooth their own transfer, and to transfer as many others as possible, to the abolition party, and of course neither the object, nor the manner of accomplishing it, could be discussed in public. They possibly imagine that everybody does not know whether they are bound, but in this they are mistaken, and they might as well at once take a through train to their destination as to be tarrying at way stations in the hope of picking up recruits. There is no habitable half way house in the transit from the Democratic to the abolition party, and if there was, these "War Democrats" would only occupy it temporarily as recruiting rendezvous. They are themselves really in the abolition party to day, and they only deceive themselves when they suppose they deceive others in that regard. They do not deceive even the abolitionists as to their numerical or moral consequence, for abolitionism is tame in its welcome of them. It is, we think, without exception, in its magnitude, the most contemptible political movement we have ever known, as in its designs it is the most unworthy.

Here are the proceedings of this wonderful convention, only an omnibus load in all:

The convention of War Democrats from all parts of the Union was held yesterday, in the gentlemens' parlor, in the Tremont House. About thirty persons were present, comprising delegates from all the Northern States. A Mr. Flagg, of Indiana, was chosen Chairman of the convention.

It is confidently asserted by many of those who watched anxiously outside, that members of the Union League figured largely in the small gathering. There was some ground for this supposition in the fact that the sessions were declared to be private, reporters not being admitted. Notwithstanding the previous announcement to this effect, a resolution was introduced to admit the reporters, and three representatives of the Cincinnati press entered the Council Chamber, but incontinently left the room at a hint from the Chairman on the Committee on Resolutions—Mr. Flagg, of Ohio—who inquired if the gentlemen intended to hold a public meeting. But little is, therefore, known of the primary action of the convention. The reporters were subsequently admitted.

The following was the organization of the convention:

Chairman—Gen. John A McBlernand.

Secretaries—A. P. Hart, Hamilton county, Ohio, and R. H. Simpson, of Vigo county, Indiana.

Committee on Resoltions—Ohio: Hon. W. J. Flagg, Dr. J. J. Quinn, and Barnabas Borns. Indiana: Hon. A. Lovering. Illinois: S. N. Delaney, of Cairo, and Col. Funkhauser. Minnesota: J. W. Taylor, of St. Paul. Wisconsin: M. A. Page, of Milwaukee. On motion, the chairman was added to the committee.

Mr. Taylor, of Illinois, took up the question of national finance, contending for Comptroller McCulloch's theory, that small banks ought to be wound up, and the circulating medium supplied by "greenbacks," and the people forced to take them. Government ought not to pay interest on private loans, or U. S. bonds; but greenbacks, as long as the paper and the presses can be had on which to print them.

RESOLUTIONS.

The committee appointed for that purpose reported the following preample and resolutions:

The representatives of the Democracy of the Northern States, who are unequivocally and emphatically in favor of the American Union, and the Constitution under which it prospered and became powerful, having assembled in conference at Chicago, on the 25th of November, 1863, present the following resolutions for the consideration of the country:

We are unequivocally and emphatically in favor of the American Union, and the Constitution under which it prospered and became powerful.

We deny that the Constitution affords any ground or pretext for secession. The Government has no right to commit suicide, or to submit to disintergration at the hand of any portion of its citizens.

We believe the Constitution affords a peaceful remedy for every grievance that may occur in any part of the country, and no violent resistance can be justified or excused.

We regard; therefore, the rebellion now existing, as unjustifiable and wicked, and believe it to be the imperative duty of the Administration to employ all the power of the nation for its suppression.

We consider it equally the duty of all good citizens to extend to the constituted authorities of the country their hearty co-operation and support for the accomplishment of the object, and to discountenance any proposition for peace except unconditional submission to the Union, the Constitution and the law.

While we deny the right of secession, justify the employment of force to suppress the rebellion, and extend to the authorities all aid in our power to maintain the integrity of the Government, we claim that the acts of the Administration, and of all public servants, are legitimate subjects of just criticism.

We shall hold the powers that be to a strict accountability for any want of vigor or any want of good faith in discharging their duties.

The organization of our people into the local and domestic sovereignties of States, and into the national sovereignties of the Union, form an essential element for the preservation of democratic principles from the danger of consolidation and imperial crystalization on the one hand, and from the fatal heresies of secessionism and nullification on the other hand, and must be preserved. There are National rights and there are State rights. The State supremacy in all municipal concerns is vital to popular liberty; but no State has a right to be a Nation.

The causeless attack by the rebels upon the integrity of the Union established by our revolutionary fathers, under which we enjoyed so many blessings, is a war upon the principles of civil liberty, and must be overthrown to preserve the institution of freedom, and our example and hope for freemen.

The disbandment of the African contingent of the army, when the rebellion is subdued, is demanded by every consideration of wise and provident statesmanship, and we hereby protest against the incorporation of the African force upon the peace establishment of the American army.

The transplanting of the monarchical system of the Old World, or the further extension or establishment of monarchical colonies or rule in America is incompatible with the safety of popular institutions, and might endanger the harmonious relations of the different nationalities, and the permanent liberty and happiness of our people. We therefore solemnly re-affirm our devotion to the Monroe doctrine of non-intervention in the affairs of this continent by European nations.

We cherish with feelings of the highest gratification and admiration the brave and noble bearing of the men who have volunteered in the trying service of the country, battling with heroic valor for the liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and Union of these States, and we pledge them our warmest gratitude, affection and support.

While the people have poured forth their blood and treasure in support of the institutions and government of freemen, our authorities, both State and national, imperiously required to sternly rebuke all neglect to faithfully apply the public moneys and sustain the public credit, to hold all to a strict accountability, to suppress all lavish expenditures, and, more than all, the spirit of speculation, bleeding the treasury and demoralizing the people, and to visit swift and condign punishment on all speculators and peculators upon the money and means of the people, now suffering innumerable privations in their devotion to the country.

That, during the existence of the rebellion to destroy the Union, we hereby declare that the preservation of the Union under the Constitution shall be the paramount issue with us; and we hereby proclaim fellowship with and desire the co operation of all who will unite with us for the attainment of this object; and we repudiate all parties and their sympathizers, as well as all platforms, which seek or tend to embroil the people of States and incite to treason and armed resistance to law anywhere, and whose avowed, or secret purpose, if consummated, must end in disunion.

That this meeting recommend to the War Democrats of the several States to meet in delegate national convention at Cincinnati, on the first Wednesday in May, 1864, for the purpose of taking such action as they may think best touching the nomination of candidates for President and Vice President of the United States, and to determine such other matters as they might think proper; and that a national executive committee of one from each State be appointed to promote the objects of this resolution.

That we are opposed to the political or social equality of the white and black races, but we are in favor of the separation of the races, and the colonization of the blacks freed by the war at the earliest practical period.

Mr. Egley, of Ohio, thought, in reference to the 17th resolution, that this conference had no right to interfere with the negro question. They had refused to touch upon the rebel whites afthr the war, but had filled themselves with nigger.

The Chairman remarked that at the end of the war 4,000,000 of blacks would be without homes or labor, and they must be provieed for. Perhaps, in some shape, they might be again reduced to slavery, and that, even, under our Yankee neighbors. That the two races could not exist together. God had made a distinction between the races. Colonization, or social and political equality must follow, and they must now look to a disposal of them, or they would be the source of untold trouble, and, if politically equalized with the whites, demagogues would seek to use them for their ambitious measures.

The resolution on the right of the people to criticise or call in question the acts of the Administration was warmly debated—some of the delegates contending that they had an undoubted right to discuss all acts of the Administration, but not in such a manner as to discourage or cripple its efforts in putting down the rebellion—that the Vallandigham policy had such a tendency, but that for such criticism removals from office were unjust and unnecessary. None of the delegates, however, justified the President in all his arbitrary arrests.

The resolutions were adopted, and the following delegates appointed to serve as a National Executive Committee:

Amos Lovering, Hubbard, Indiana, Chairman; Gen. John A. McClernand, Springfield, Illinois; Joseph E. Eglav, Cincinnati; Matt. H. Carpenter Milwaukee; and H. M. Rice, St Paul, Minnesota.

A motion was then made providing for calling a convention of the War Democracy at a time and place to be afterwards agreed upon, for the purpose of nominating candidates for President and Vice President of the United States. The motion was provocative of much discussion; one gentleman from Indiana was not in favor of continuing a single member of the administration in power, but would not go into the ranks of the old time Democracy for a Presidential candidate.

Colonel Stilwell, of Indiana, wanted a more thorough and general organization of the party, and thought the action of the conference did not extend to fixing a time for holding a National War Democratic Convention.

The chairman thought that the business of the conference was not to fix the time for holding such a convention, but to consider whether it would be advisable to hold such national convention.

W. S. Smith endorsed the suggestion of the chair, and thought that the delegates of Indiana were not authorized to enter into an agreement fixing a time for a national convention; that Indiana would hold a State War Democratic Convention, although the conference might suggest the holding of a national convention, and also recommend a time and place for holding such a convention.

Mr. Flagg, of Ohio, alluded to the original organization of the Republican party at a small conference at Pittsburg. That it was the duty of the War Democracy to split the old Democratic party in two, from head to foot, and throw the disloyal part overboard, and it was the duty of the conservative Republicans to pursue the same course and throw the Whitings and Phillipses overboard.

Judge Gooding, of Indiana, said that there was a people behind the delegates to this convention. He was a States right Democrat of the Jackson kind. If the people, after reading the action of this conference, wanted a national convention, they could call their State conventions and appoint their delegates.

A. P. Wood, of Ohio, wanted a candidate for President for whom he could vote. He did not want to be again put in a position he was at the last Ohio election. He couldn't vote for Vallandigham, and didn't like Brough. He believed that the conference was right—their principles were right, and that was a great deal in a Presidential contest. He was satisfied they would succeed.

Mr. Taylor, of Illinois thought that there was no use in coming together unless they could agree. He did not come there by authority of the people of his State, but upon his own volition, and with the honest desire to unite with the War Democracy; he was no Republican—never had a sympathy that way, or he would long ago have attached himself to that party and voted for the man who has brought all this trouble upon the country.

Mr. Burns, of Ohio, repelled the charge that Gov. Tod and Brough were War Democrats. Tod was elected on the Republican ticket in 1861, against Hugh J. Jewett, one of the best Union men in Ohio; and Brough had just been elected by Republican votes, with the aid of a few War Democratic votes. They were *not* War Democrats.

Col. Stillwell could not vote for fixing the time of holding a national convention, and, if this conference saw proper to fix upon such future action, he would withdraw, as he would not be justified by his people in so voting.

A gentleman from Ohio flew into a passion—he did not like threats. Ohio would not be intimidated—she could threaten as well as Indiana.

The original resolution was lost and No. 15 was adopted.

THE MINORITY REPORT.

Mr. Taylor, of Illinois, called attention of the conference to the minority report on resolutions, and hoped some gentleman would move that they be referred to the prospective National War Democratic Convention. The motion was lost.

Mr. Taylor then moved the adoption of the resolutions, and proceeded to read them. The following are the first two; the further copying of them by our reporter was unceremoniously stopped by the Chairman, who remarked that they were not for publication:

"That the American Union, as well as the progress of Democratic principles, require the total divorce of the party of Jefferson and Jackson from all association or sympathy with slavery.

"That the rebel States, by the action of their public authorities, waged war upon the nation, in violation of the Constitution, and that such war was an abdication of all legitimate State authority."

The substance of the remaining resolutions was that the rebellion of the Southern States had destroyed the last vestage of slavery and enfranchised the African race, and that the proclamation of emancipation was a glorious measure, and went far toward elevating them to social and political equality; and that when the war was ended it would be right and proper to mete out our great western domain to these heretofore poor, enslaved brothers. He sustained his motion by an extreme radical speech—taking the widest latitude, in favor of equalizing them with the white citizen and soldier in all respects.

The feeling between the delegates from Ohio and Indiana was anything but pleasant, and a great deal of recrimination ensued. Speech after speech was made on the minority report, when the previous question was moved, but, before being put, Mr Flagg withdrew his resolution, intended to cover the ground of the minority resolutions, which disposed of the discussion. Mr. Smith, of Indiana, then moved to lay the minority report on the table. The motion prevailed.

Mr. Flagg, of Ohio, then introduced the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That as the only legitimate purpose for which the war may be waged is to suppress the rebellion, the war must cease as soon as the rebellion is at an end; and we would hail with joy any indication by the people of a rebellious State to return to their allegiance, yet we shall not regret if slavery falls as the legitimate consequence of the war.

A Specimen Abolitionist.

A New York letter to the Hartford Times records the following:

Many years ago a student, thoroughly imbued with doctrines of abolitionism, graduated from Yale College, and studied for the ministry, into which he was in due time admitted. During the first year of his priestly life he officiated as a candidate at various churches in Connecticut and New York, but received no call from any source, till he introduced his anti slavery Bible doctrine to a small society in the eastern part of Massachusetts. Here he was appreciated; here he settled and preached the dogmas of Calvin and abolition for nearly four years. At length, finding his sheep were scattering, he was suddenly taken with Southern (instead of European) fever, resigned charge and went South to try the climate of the plantations of Georgia. While there he became acquainted with the daughter of a wealthy planter, and, in the course of a few months married her. The noble hearted Georgian gave his daughter as a marriage portion, a fine plantation on the Savannah River, and four hundred slaves, where the happy couple lived, surrounded by fruits, flowers, willing and affectionate servants, and every enjoyment that heart could wish for three years. At the end of that time they mutually agreed to dispose of their property and remove to New York. The slaves were accordingly sold at the highest market price, and the plantation itself was bought by a South Carolinian at a high figure, and the couple, with their gold, were soon on their way to this city. Upon their arrival here, the money was invested in city and bank stocks, (and is still paying handsome dividends.) After a time our young slaveholder received and accepted a call from one of our up-town churches, where he may now be heard every Sabbath denouncing the sin of slavery as the greatest of all sins, and the traffic in human flesh as a sin which "hell alone can blot out!" Oh, the times, &c.

Call for a Convention.

The following circular has been issued:

New York, Nov. 9, 1863

Dear Sir: You are especially invited to attend a convention to be held at Cincinnati, Ohio, on the 31 day of December next, at 12 M., for the purpose of consultation and taking such action as may be deemed most effective to secure the nomination and election of conservative men in the approaching Presidential campaign. The meeting will be composed of old line Whigs, War Democrats, and conservative men, without regard to former party predilections—friends of Jackson, Webster, Clay and Crittenden, who desire to preserve the Union and the Constitution unimpaired; who are willing to take their stand upon the Kentucky platform, opposed alike to secession and abolition fanaticism; who believe that the war should be carried on until those in armed revolt are compelled to obey the Constitution and the laws of Congress, and who hold that the State governments suspended by the revolt, should be restored under State constitdtions respectively. All such persons are invited to be present.

The meeting will be held under the auspices of the National Conservative Union Committee, appointed at the recent Rochester Convention, of which the venerable patriot, Amos Kendall, is Chairman. That committee has been called to meet at the same time and place. In his letter to the Secretary, Mr Kendall writes:

"The only sure platform for patriot men who love the Union is 'the Constitution as it is.' With the gentlemen whose names you mention (members of the committee,) I am prepared to co operate in the attempt to unite the conservative elements of the country in the next Presidential election, and it seems to me no time should be lost in determining upon a line of policy to be steadily pursued henceforth."

Persons arriving to attend the meeting will please report their names to the National Committee, at the Burnett House. Inclosed please find proceedings of the Rochester meeting.

Your presence is earnestly solicited, that we may have the benefit of your counsel.

B. F. Stevens, Secretary.
105 East Forty ninth street, N. Y.

☞ The famous Todleben, who so successfully defended Sebastopool against the French and English, is now superintending the erection of works on the Black Sea.

☞ The percentage of sick through the army is said to be lower at the present time than it has been for the last two years.

What is the Object of the War?

Two remarkable speeches were made last week, each containing the same sentiments, but coming from the two extremes of the social, if not the intellectual scale. The one was by the Rev. Dr. Barnas Sears, President of Brown University, on the occasion of the departure of a negro regiment from Rhode Island; the other by Frederick Douglass, the negro, on "The Mission of the War," at Rochester, in its largest hall, filled by an audience whose applause was echoed the day after by the Republican press.

President Sears asserted that this war is now a war for the abolition of slavery. That we may do him no possible injustice, we quote his language in full, on this point, from the Providence Journal:

The race in whose hands the National Government now is, cannot longer maintain its freedom without procuring that of the colored race; and you cannot obtain freedom for your people without helping us maintain ours.

* * * * * * * * * * *

The great contest in which we are all engaged is whether a human being is, as such, to be free. This is now the practical issue. The whole civilized world is watching the progress of the conflict, and looking for the probable result with an interest more universal and more intense than was ever felt in such a case before. The well-being and progress of mankind are, in an important respect, committed to our keeping. Others can only be interested spectators. Our action alone will, for ages at least, decide the grand question of human liberty. Let us meet the crisis. Let us work together on this battle-ground of freedom until the victory is achieved, and our liberty—the liberty of us all—is established.

Deferring comment, we simply desire to place this utterance by an accomplished scholar and able man, who is thought to fill not unworthily the chair once occupied by a Messer and a Wayland, alongside the ruder phrasing, but identical thought of the negro Fred. Douglass. Mr. Douglass has been an abolitionist always, of course; and his speech, in such juxtaposition, will serve to show just to what point he and his co laborers—Phillips, Greeley, and Garrison—have led the Republican masses, to what degree they have succeeded in abolitionizing their best and ablest men, and what dogmas and principles propounded by these colored and white abolitionists yet remain to be accepted, indorsed, and enunciated by their disciples, among whom even the President of one of our first universities has not disdained to be reckoned.

The Rochester Democrat reports Mr. Douglass in the following language. We quote detached sentences, but in no respect represent the speaker otherwise than as he would wish himself to be represented. The reader will discover that Mr. Douglass recognizes the progress of his white disciples and encourages them in their search for light and wisdom by such words as these: "I am here to say, 'Go on, brethren, you'll come out right after awhile." And in the same breath he commends the President not only for his political principles, but also for his superfine breeding. Mr. Douglass said:

The continuation of the war and its increasing hardships were requisite to the purgation of the political sentiment of the people. He alluded to the insane ravings of the opposition press in relation to the character of the war; averring that it had been changed from a war for the Union to an abolition war, and he deprecated the position of the Republican presses of the country in disclaiming that purpose, when the sooner it was admitted to be an abolition war the earlier it would be closed and the Union restored.

The speaker ridiculed the idea that we should ever have "the Union as it was," a thing as impracticable as it was undesirable. The North had no business fighting for the old Union, after having outgrown the revolting ideas instilled by the former mis-alliance. The war which begun for the Union had become a war for God and liberty, and the conscience of Europe could not fight against it.

A few months ago the idea of arming the black man was received with horror, the emancipation policy was termed fanatical—now the people were in favor of both. He was there to say, "Go on, brethren, you'll come out right after a while" [Applause.]

Mr Douglass facetiously referred to a personal interview with Mr Lincoln, who, he said, received him as one gentleman should receive another. [Laughter and applause.] And he impressed him as a patriot of the noblest type—to be known through all time as Abraham the Honest. If the country is saved, as he believed it would be under Mr. Lincoln's administration, you may write his name anywhere beside George Washington, without doing Washington any damage.

It is the duty of the people to stand by the President. No action of the Government is effective unless the people sustain it. However slow he may be, he is a full length beyond the people. The moment the people demand that this shall be a wide-spread, overwhelming war for the abolition of slavery, that moment it will become such.

The rebellion has broken down every institution of the South, and the question what shall be its future institutions is now open for discussion. Mr. Douglass differed with Gerrit Smith, that the suppression of the rebellion was the only thing to be demanded. First, we must whip the rebels; the copperheads were not of much account; whip or exterminate the rebels. Second, abolish slavery. Third, the initiation of the negro into the body politic—make them not only citizens of the South, but voters.

The abolitionists are the cause of the war, say the Democratic party, and they are logical; if we were logical, we should say slavery is the cause of the war, and must perish. The true mission of the war was to put the enemy of the nation's peace out of existence.

When the rebellion is put down the Government will need friends at the South. The way to have them was to free the slave and give him the ballot. Then he would protect himself and the Government as well. It would be a shame to give the negro freedom and not the ability to protect it.

If the negro knew right from wrong—knew enough to fight, he knew enough to vote; if he knew as much when sober as the Irishman does when drunk, he knows enough to vote. Give the black man a country, and the country will find in him an invincible defender against any foe, domestic or foreign.

This at least is outspoken. The frankness of this negro, who openly avers that "the war has been changed from a war for the Union to an abolition war," and the straightforwardness of Mr. Sears, who says the practical issue of our great contest is whether a human being, as such, is to be free," will make it harder for more artful politicians, like the Tribune, Times and Post, to deny what their party has done and is striving to do. Advocating abolition, applauding abolition, praising nothing but what frees negroes in the progress of the war, these journals still affect a sentiment which they do not feel, and protest that their party has not perverted the war for the Union into an abolition war. The Union which they have spent their lives in deriding and belittling seems now to them a name to conjure by, and they still reiterate the sham and the deceit which Fred. Douglass is too manly and Dr. Sears too honest to tolerate for an instant.

Republicans can perceive what their next step is in the abolition programme. Mr. Douglass names it "the initiation of the live negro into the body politic—make them not only citizens of the South, but voters—free the slave and give him the ballot." Well, the logic is good, from abolition premises. President Sears says "the race in whose hands the national government now is cannot longer maintain its freedom without procuring that of the colored race," and (unless he means to draw an ethnological distinction between Mr Lincoln's administration and Democrats), if twenty millions of white folks cannot maintain their freedom without negro help, then the negroes who help had better be freed and given the ballot. That's fair. But it had better then be taken from the white man.

Good heavens! what insufferable insults are these which are heaped upon the American people, the American army, the American cause! A thousand thousands of brave men have enlisted to fight for the Union, the Constitution and the laws. Listen! it is not for the Union that you must fight, but for the abolition of negro slavery. Congress has declared the sold object of the war in a memorable resolution. Listen! says Mr. Douglass and all the abolitionized Republican party—listen Americans! those records of your sacred and lawful purpose were idle words! The object of the war is to free the negro and "insert the live negro into the body politic."

For the Union, O citizens, you were ready to send almost a generation to the field of death, but for the negro it is worth while to spend more money than the whole cash value of the whole slave population of the South, and to slaughter of your sons, man for man, one adult white for every adult black. And the result, O Americans, is "a battle for God and Liberty," and an entrance upon "the true mission of the war."

The issues of the future are rapidly crystalizing. This will be the main one: "Shall the war be continued as a war for freeing negroes, or as a war for the restoration of the Union? Honest Republicans declare already for an abolition war. Every Democrat and the whole army will declare for a war for the Union.—[New York World.

"How He Nicks Them,"

The following letter from the Attorney General of the United States to a Federal office holder at St. Louis, is the most pointed epistle of its kind that we have seen—excepting that of the removal of Lieut. Edgerly for voting the Democratic ticket in New Hampshire:

Attorney General's Office,
Washington, November 2, 1863.

W. W. Edwards, St. Louis, Mo—

Sir: Your recent participation in political enterprises hostile to the known views and wishes of the Executive Government of both the Nation and the State, render it unfit, in my opinion, for you to hold the office of United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri. Such being my opinion, the President, at my request, has caused your office to be vacated, and another appointed in your stead.

Yours, Ed. Bates,
Attorney General.

☞ The Chicago Times charges that the original draft of the Emancipation Proclamation has been clandestinely sold for $3,000 instead of being put up in the open market, as promised.

THE CAPTURE OF NEW ORLEANS.

General McClellan's Orders to General Butler.

[From the New York Journal of Commerce.]

Little by little, in spite of the efforts at Washington to suppress them, we begin to get at the details of the work done by Gen. McClellan, and the greatness of the debt of gratitude which the country owes him. Mason Brothers, New York, have published Mr. Parton's History of General Butler in New Orleans, containing much new matter. It seems that Gen. McClellan is entitled to credit for laying down the plan of operations in the Southwest, and, if Gen. Butler had done all that he was ordered to do, we should have had a very different story from there. Gen. McClellan's genius and foresight are admirably exhibited in the orders under which Butler went to New Orleans, and whatever credit is due to military operations there clearly belongs to the young Commander-in Chief. The orders are as follows:

Headquarters of the Army,
February 23, 1862.

Major General B. F. Butler, U. S. Army:

General: You are assigned to the command of the land forces destined to co operate with the navy in the attack upon New Orleans. You will use every means to keep the destination a profound secret, even from your staff officers, with the exception of your Chief of Staff and Lieut. Weitzel, of the engineers.

The force at your disposal will consist of the first thirteen regiments named in your memorandum handed to me in person, the 21st Indiana, 4th Wisconsin and 6th Michigan, (old and good regiments from Baltimore)—these three regiments will await your orders at Fortress Monroe. Two companies of the 21st Indiana are well drilled at heavy artillery. The cavalry force already en route for Ship Island will be sufficient for your purposes. After full consultation with officers well acquainted with the country in which it is proposed to operate, I have arrived at the conclusion that three light batteries fully equipped, and one without horses, will be all that will be necessary.

This will make your force about 14,400 infantry, 275 cavalry, 580 artillery; total, 15,255 men.

The Commanding General of the Department of Key West is authorized to loan you, temporarily, two regiments; Fort Pickens can probably give you another, which will bring your force to nearly 18,000. The object of your expedition is one of vital importance—the capture of New Orleans. The route selected is up the Mississippi River, and the first obstacle to be encountered, perhaps the only one, is in the resistance offered by Forts St. Phillip and Jackson. It is expected that the navy can reduce the works; in that case, you will, after their capture, leave a sufficient garrison in them to render them perfectly secure; and it is recommended that upon the upward passage a few heavy guns and some troops be left at the pilot station, at the forks of the river, to cover a retreat in the case of a disaster. The troops and guns will of course be removed as soon as the forts are captured.

Should the navy fail to reduce the works, you will land your forces and siege train, and endeavor to breach the works, silence their fire, and carry them by assault.

The next resistence will be near the English Bend, where there are some earthen batteries; here it may be necessary for you to land your troops, to co-operate with the naval attack, although it is more than probable that the navy, unassisted, can accomplish the result. If these works are taken the city of New Orleans necessarily falls.

In that event it will probably be best to occupy Algiers with the mass of your troops, also the eastern bank of the river above the city—it may be necessary to place some troops in the city to preserve order; though, if there appears sufficient Union sentiment to control the city, it may be best for purposes of discipline to keep your men out of the city.

After obtaining possession of New Orleans, it will necessary to reduce all the works guarding its approaches from the east, and particularly to gain the Manchac Pass.

Baton Rouge, Berwick Bay, and Fort Livingston will next claim your attention.

A feint on Galveston may facilitate the objects we have in view. I need not call your attention to the necessity of gaining possession of all the rolling stock you can, on the different railways, and of obtaining control of the roads themselves. The occupation of Baton Rouge, by a combined naval and land force, should be accomplished as soon as possible after you have gained New Orleans; then endeavor to open your communication with the northern column of the Mississipi, always bearing in mind the necessity of occupying Jackson, Miss., as soon as you can safely do so, either after or before you have effected the junction. Allow nothing to divert you from obtaining from full possession of all the approaches to New Orleans. When the object is accomplished to its fullest extent, it will be necessary to make a combined attack on Mobile, in order to gain possession of the harbor and works, as well as to control the railway terminus at the city. In regard to this, I will send you more detailed instructions, as the operations of the northern column develop themselves. I may simply states that the general objects of the expedition are, first, the reduction of New Orleans and all its approaches, then Mobile and all its defenses, then Pensacola, Galveston, &c. It is probable that, by the time New Orleans is reduced, it will be in the power of the Government to reinforce the land forces sufficiently to accomplish all these objects; in the meantime, you will please give all the assistance in your power to the army and navy commanders in your vicinity, never losing sight of the fact that the great object to be achieved is the capture and firm retention of New Orleans.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
George B. McClellan,
Major General Commanding, &c., &c.

[From the Washington Gazette.]

The Delaware Election.

Whether the contest would have been a hotly contested one or not had the orders of Schenck not been issued, we are not prepared to say. Until these orders were promulgated, however, we thought the chances favorable to the election of Mr. Brown. We were informed that Kent and Sussex, notwithstanding all the exertions of Mr. Smither's friends, would have given Mr. Brown a larger majority than they gave to Mr. Temple; and we were induced to believe that New Castle county would have given Mr. Smithers a much less majority than it gave to Mr. Temple. The Republicans themselves, as the election approached, doubtless began to fear the defeat of their candidate; hence the clamor which was raised the two or three days prior to the issuing of the military orders, for such action. Nor did they become confident until these orders were published.

On Monday evening we understood some of the Democrats became possessed of the order of Gen. Schenck. It was read in their association, and after some consideration, it was resolved that Mr Brown should not actively proceed further with the canvass; accordingly several gentlemen were sent to Christiana, Md., where he was advertised to speak that evening, with directions to tender a suitable apology for the absence of the Democratic candidate. This was done, the gentlemen finding a large meeting there assembled. A meeting of the Democratic State Central Committee and the delegates to the last Democratic State Convention, and such gentlemen of the party as could be got together, was announced to be held at New Castle on Tuesday. The conclusion arrived at by that meeting will be found in an address in our columns this morning. This address, in connection with the orders of Gen. Scheuck, were printed and circulated through the county and State on Wednesday morning.

On Thursday morning, a large body of troops landed at the foot of Fourth street—loaded, fixed bayonets and marched up Market street, stacked their arms in the City Hall yard, and were distributed in squads at the various polls. So far as we have heard, the men conducted themselves with propriety.

Of course, we cannot at this writing tell what will be the ultimate effect of the address issued by the Democrats. Its present effect will be to give Mr. Smithers almost the unanimous vote, as so far as we have heard, very few Democrats will attend the polls.

The vote in the city, on Thursday, was 1,678. Mr. Smithers received the whole vote. Mr. Brown did not receive a vote, so far as we have heard.

Unconditional Unionism.

The favorite expression of the Republicans now-a-days is that they are for the Union without a why or a wherefore. A leader of this party is Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts. He regards himself a Union man *par excellence*. In a speech delivered a short time ago, he uttered the following sentiment, which illustrates his idea of Unionism:

"This extra anxiety about the Union is merest cant. The country is sick of it. The sad fate of the chiefs of the Union cry for the past three years must convince every member of Wilbraham that this sitting up with the Union does not pay expenses."

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Army of the Potomac still North of the Rapidan—Defeat of Burnside's Army—Exposure of More Administration Falsehoods—Abolition Speeches at Gettysburg—King Abraham and his Body-Guard on their Travels—The Mexican Monarchy to be formally recognized by the Administration.

[Special Correspondence of the Chicago Times.]

Washington, November 21.

There has been very little change in the relative positions of the two armies on the Rapidan, since my letter of November 12. The Confederates still hold their strongly fortified position on the Rapidan, chiefly between the railroad crossing and Orange Court-House, but with their cavalry outposts extending to Stannardsville on the left and to Germania on the right. Thus posted, they can watch every movement of Gen. Meade, and act as circumstances may require. It is stated here to day, in an exulting tone, that our army has advanced to Madison Court-House. That may be so. To do so would be in exact obedience to Lincoln's order. But the only effect of the movement is to take our army thirty miles further from its base than it was when on the Rappahannock and to add thirty miles to the already long route over which all their supplies must be drawn, and to necessitate the detachment of another division from the main body of the army, in order to guard these thirty additional miles of road. Madison Court-House is fifteen miles southwest of Culpepper, but it is also ten miles north of the Rapidan. At that point, however, the Rapidan is a narrow stream, scarce deeper than Bull Run at Centreville, and therefore no obstacle to the crossing of infantry and cavalry. Artillery would require a bridge. But that is not the point. The point is, that, once across the Rapidan, Gen. Meade will be eighty-five miles from his base of supplies, and will have eighty five miles of road to guard through a hostile and barren country. Depleted by the 20,000 men necessary for this service, his little army of, say 50,000 troops, can be held at bay for weeks at the strong position of Gordonsville, by 30,000 Confederates. In the meantime all the rest of Gen. Lee's army can be, and will be, employed elsewhere. If there are 60,000 or 70,000 of them, it would not be beyond Lee's ability to concentrate them at Fredericksburg, where they would be within thirty-five miles of the defences of Washington. But there is more reason to think that, instead of that, Gen. Lee has recently sent two or three strong divisions to Eastern Tennessee, to co operate with the troops that were already there operating against Burnside. Gen. Longstreet's corps, some days ago, had already joined the troops sent by General Bragg across the Hiawassee River, who took possession of London, and who have now defeated Gen. Burnside at Kingston. Burnside is thus between Longstreet, with probably 25,000 troops, on the west, and General Jones, reinforced from Lee's army, with probably 25,000 more troops, at Rogersville, on the northeast. As Burnside cannot have more than half as many men as are thus arrayed against him, and, as he is thus caught between two fires, he will either have to retreat or evacuate the whole of East Tennessee, or else be cut to pieces. The latter he will not do. He is not the man for any such act of heroism. He may leave his troops to get out of the scrape; but he will be sure to reach a place of safety. Burnside wiped out (if this is really what Gen. Lee's detached troops are doing) the next we hear of Longstreet probably will be that he has rejoined Gen. Lee with 40,000 troops.

If, then, Gen. Lee's army is raised to 80,000 or 90,000 men, while Gen. Meade is seeking to fight him near Gordonsville, we may look out for another grand retreat to Washington. But, with Gen. Lee holding the inner line, and having such greatly superior forces, what will become of our army and our capital?

For some days past the administration papers have endeavored to make a great deal of capital out of the allegation that the Confederate authorities at Richmond refused to permit our prisoners there to receive articles of clothing and provisions that were sent them from the North. There is not a word of truth in the story. Immense quantities of clothing, blankets, food in great variety, and various articles of comfort, have been sent to Richmond by flag of truce, and all of the supplies, of whatever kind, have been safely received there and faithfully distributed to those for whom they were intended. On this point I have the most positive and direct testimony. There need be no further physical suffering on the part of our prisoners there. If the southern government is unable to clothe and feed them, it will throw and has thrown no obstacle in the way of our doing it. Yet the whole country was recently shocked, for several days in succession, by elaborate statements of the brutality of the rebel authorities in refusing to permit the Union prisoners to receive the supplies of food sent to them. What must be thought of the morality of people who will originate and aid in the dissemination of such falsehoods? Yet they are no worse than the systematic lies with which the Republican newspapers have been flooding the country for years, representing the southern people as monsters of cruelty, and which conduct was the cause of bringing about that feeling of hostility toward the South which resulted in the present war.

Your readers will not have failed to observe the exceeding bad taste which characterized the remarks of the President and Secretary of State at the dedication of the soldiers' cemetery at Gettysburg. The cheek of every American must tingle with shame as he reads the silly, flat and wish watery utterances of the man who has to be pointed out to intelligent foreigners as the President of the United States. And neither he nor Seward could refrain, even on that solemn occasion, from spouting their odious abolition doctrines. The readers of the Times ought to know, too, that the valorous President did not dare to make this little journey to Gettysburg without being escorted by a body-guard of soldiers. For the first time in the history of the country, the President of the United States, in traveling through a part of his dominions, on a peaceful, even a religious mission, had to be escorted by a body guard of soldiers. When it is added that his route was through Baltimore and a part of Maryland, the recent scene of such flagrant outrages on the rights of the citizens of that State, you will readily comprehend that it was for fear of his own personal safety which led the President to go escorted, as any other military despot might go.

And this is the man who, not contented with trampling on the Constitution of his country, taking away the liberties of his fellow citizens, and abrogating the Monroe doctrine, is now ready to strike hands with the Emperor Napoleon for the establishment of a monarchy in Mexico; for it is said that overtures have been made to the Administration to the effect that, if our Government will recognize Maximilian as Emperor of Mexico, then the French armies will withdraw from Mexico. The Administration, it is said, has entertained the proposal favorably, and will no doubt agree to the infamous proposition. What else could be expected from an Administration with such antecedents? X.

[From the N. Y. Express.]

OUTRAGES UPON THE PERSON.

A Citizen Handcuffed, Taken Through the Streets and Thrown into a Filthy Dungeon.

To the Editor of the N. Y. Express:

If events of this kind have not become of too common occurrence to claim any consideration, I would respectfully call your attention to a gross outrage to which I have been recently subjected. While employed on Thursday afternoon last at the desk of Mr. F. Burke's hat and fur establishment, at the corner of Broadway and Fulton street, where I am engaged as book-keeper and salesman, I was arrested by two men, who, without any explanation, ordered me to accompany them.

Waiting to obtain an explanation, I was immediately handcuffed and forcibly hurried off. I was then taken to the Park Barracks, where I learned that I was accused of being a deserter from the 18th New York cavalry. In spite of my denials, taken on oath, I was shut up in a filthy over-crowded dungeon with 30 or 40 others, and in this miserable condition compelled to pass the night.

Hiring one of the outside soldiers to take a letter, I managed to inform some influential friends of my whereabouts, and in this manner, and through the personal exertions of Mr. Burke, managed eventually to obtain my release. It was near noon, however, before my friends succeeded in bringing my case before the authorities of the fort for decision, and when at length, after much effort, the case was brought to trial, the only authority that could be produced were a photograph which bore no resemblance at all to myself, and a similiarity in the family name of the deserter and my own. I was, of course, discharged, after having been arrested without explanation, taken handcuffed through the streets of the city, and passed a night in a filthy, loathsome dungeon.

Benjamin B. Lewis.

☞ The tax-rate in Philadelphia for 1864 is $2.50