

The Daily Herald

D. McCALER, Editor.

WITHOUT any State police, or any extra peace officers, the election of last Tuesday was, perhaps, the quietest that has ever been held in Texas. We have yet to hear of the first disturbance of any kind in the state.

The leading Republican paper of Washington, the Republican speaks of the colored popular in the South. Such language from such a source is at least a cheering evidence that passion is at last giving way to calm, observation and reason. The Republican says:

One lesson the negro will have to learn is this: That having been made citizens and voters, the white people of the North and the government of the United States feel that they have done their duty towards them. No one lasts long, and negroism, like all the other forms of later come to an end. The war and its results pushed the black race into undue prominence. They are now beginning to recede to their proper level. The white Northern race cannot be expected to form a perpetual alliance with them for the political subjugation of the whites of the South. It is not in reason—not in the nature of things that they should do so.

The shrewd Northern mind has already become convinced that negro rule means material ruin, and the Northern people desire that affairs in the South shall be so adjusted as to make that large and productive re-

Holiday party for general prosperity and public harmony.

A VINDICATION.

During the last legislative session and registration bills were pending, Governor Davis manifested, with every appearance of sincerity in private conversations a fear that if the pre-precinct system should be restored, without police at the polls, the white people would intimidate the negroes and keep them from voting. The writer of this, then representing Dallas county, had a free and courteous conversation with the Governor on this subject, in which he gave expression to such fears.

In reply we assured the Governor that we ~~were~~ ~~had~~ ~~believed~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~very~~ ~~best~~ protection the colored man could have would be to ~~vote~~ ~~at~~ ~~home~~ ~~with~~ ~~his~~ ~~white~~ ~~neighbors~~, who knew him—that nearly all the bad blood had been generated by crowding all the negroes at elections in the county seats where many were unknown, and that we truly believed the great body of Democrats would feel a natural and ready aversion to protecting the colored negroes against imposition of intimidation. The Governor replied almost in these words: "I wish I could have your faith, and we would be glad to co-operate in these measures."

From that day to this we have looked forward to this election with ~~real~~ ~~interest~~, fully believing the white people of Texas would vindicate our views of their ~~temper~~ ~~and~~ ~~actions~~. As yet we have heard but from a few counties, but so far as heard everything seems to have gone peacefully and kindly. As to Dallas county, we all know that the utmost good feeling prevailed between the white and colored people. We have not heard of an unkind word or act.

Having expressed our convictions in perfect frankness to Governor Davis, and our desire to restore pre-precinct elections, we should have felt double mortification had any disturbance occurred in our county. We hope to hear of similar happy results throughout the State.

CONVENTION AND A NEW CONSTITUTION.

We have heretofore avowed that the **first** **and** **possibly** **only** **great** **duty** **of** **the** **incoming** **L**e^gis^lature, **would** **be**, **without** **delay**, **to** **call** **a** **convention** **to** **revise** **the** **present** **or** **make** **a** **new** **consti**
tution, **just** **as** **the** **old** **com**
monwealth **of** **Pennsylvania** **has** **done** **but** **a** **few** **weeks** **since**.

We maintain that the needed reforms by legislative enactments, under the present ill-arranged, contradictory constitution, is an impossibility. It was framed by a body of men to a large extent ignorant and prejudiced—many of them strangers—and at a time when their passions were angry on the questions of the war. Moreover, it was never revised or finally completed before they adjourned in disorder, and the scraps were taken and put together by a military commission appointed by General Reynolds of the United States army.

The law recently enacted under this confused mass of constitutional provisions are vague, ill-digested and voluminous. A simple code of laws, suited to our wants, cannot be adopted so long as Legislators are bound by its contradictions and clumsy machinery.

The short, sensible, peaceable mode of relief is for this Legislature at once to call a convention of delegates, to be fairly chosen by the people of the districts, to assemble as early as practicable and make a new one. All the provisions in the present one affecting the race, us white, black, etc., must remain as part of the new one. We want no revolution, no revival of war questions, but a settlement of practical problems—such as the formation of a provice—but this State does want, and must have, a sensible constitution as its organic law.

Some Radicals—such prejudiced and weak-minded men as those who run the State Journal—have heretofore threatened Federal interference if Texas undertook to alter the Constitution through a convention. This is the most impudent and baseless folly to scare the people.

The act of Congress, approved March 30, 1870, to readmit Texas into the Union, plainly imposes the only condition upon which the United States could have the slightest grounds of interference. The people of Texas have

no desire or intention in the proposed convention, to dispense altogether with these conditions. They are passive, and too earnestly desire peace to do so.

Our own belief is that the best possible legislation done this winter, even to call the convention and elect a United States Senator, will be the best for the State. Only measures of a wise, immediate necessity should be acted upon.

That all may fully understand the conditions entailed in the controversial law of March 30, 1870, page 1, and in Part II, see the whole article in the Herald, which will appear soon in full, and follow.

And, for further provided, that the

State of Texas is entitled to representation in Congress, among the states of the Union, upon the following fundamental conditions:—that the constitution of Texas shall never be amended or changed to deprive any citizen or class of citizens of the right of suffrage or of the right to vote, who are qualified to vote by the constitution here represented; and that all institutions for such purposes—any law or statute common law, which the said State has been duly enacted, under law, shall be applicable to all the unorganized and unincorporated parts of the State provided, that any alteration of said constitution, presented in its effects, may be made in regard to the time and place of holding of voters.

Second.—That it shall never be claimed for the said State to be deprived of citizen of the United States, in regard of his race, color, or condition of servitude, of the right to vote, under the Constitution of the United States, or upon any account, or of any privilege of any

privilege of any kind, which may be claimed by the Constitution of the

United States.

Third.—That the State of Texas, in the course of its organization, shall be entitled to the same rights and privileges as the other states of the Union, in all respects, and in all cases, as though it had been a member of the Union from the first.

Fourth.—That the State of Texas,

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