



THE COURIER. PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING BY EL. H. SANDOZ & ANDREW MEYNER.

Opelousas: SATURDAY, JULY 19th, 1856.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS. FOR PRESIDENT:

JAMES BUCHANAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA. FOR VICE-PRESIDENT: JOHN C. BRECKENRIDGE, OF KENTUCKY.

ELECTORS:

- FIRST DISTRICT. Elector—C. J. VILLERE. Substitute—L. ST. MARTIN. SECOND DISTRICT. Elector—W. A. ELMORE. Substitute—T. J. SEMMES. THIRD DISTRICT. Elector—T. LANDRY. Substitute—A. JOURDAN. FOURTH DISTRICT. Elector—JOHN McVEA. Substitute—W. E. WALKER. FIFTH DISTRICT. Elector—T. O. MOORE. Substitute—A. GARRIGUES. SIXTH DISTRICT. Elector—H. GREY. Substitute—WM. BEARD.

OUR AGENTS. The following gentlemen are authorized to collect and receive subscriptions and advertisements for the Opelousas Courier, in their respective towns: AUGUSTE MARAIS, St. Martinville, (La.) ARTHUR BULLIARD, Bossu's Bridge, (La.) A. MILLETT, Washington, (La.) E. E. COCHRAN, Marksville, (La.)

GREAT MASS MEETING. And Barbecue of the DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF ST. LANDRY, ON THE 15th.

1000 persons present.

At an early hour of the day our quiet village was thronged with citizens from the adjoining parishes of Lafayette and Calcasieu. Seldom have we witnessed such a lively interest manifested in the event of an election, as was evinced upon the occasion of the gathering together of the great body of the Democratic party of our Parish, to ratify and confirm the nominations of the Cincinnati Convention. They had assembled not only to endorse those nominations, but to affirm anew the articles of their political faith, both as enshrined in the platform of '52, and re-affirmed in that of '56. The action taken by the Meeting, which it establishes the union of the Democratic party upon a permanent basis, constitutes an able vindication of Democratic principles against the assaults of Northern fanatics, and Southern traitors.

Below we append its deliberations. The Meeting was called to order by Benjamin R. Gantt Esq., who moved the appointment of Judge Overton as President, and Messrs. Thomas Overton and Louis Lestapras as Secretaries. The President upon taking the chair, read out the names of the following gentlemen who were appointed to act as Vice Presidents.

Major John Olose, Jean Pierre Lafleur, Thos. S. Hardy, Raphael Smith, Cyrille Lalonde, Col. Wm. Offit, Hippolyte Mallet, Charles Teal, Joseph E. Andrus.

These gentlemen having taken their seats on the stand, Judge Overton, the President, then came forward and explained the objects and purposes for which they were assembled. He would impress them, he said, with a sense of the importance to the South of the issues involved in the approaching election. He thought the south had a deep interest in the issue of this election. It was her interest, it was her duty to wipe out all party differences and party distinctions, to concentrate every element of her strength and throw it into the balance of that power which might best serve her as a safeguard against the aggression of the North. It could not be too patent to all that the North had arrayed herself in hostility against the South, nor could it be dispensed with in that extremity her councils were divided and distracted, while her only hope of safety lay in concert of action. In that crisis he would join upon his fellow-citizens, regardless of party ties or past party affiliations, to rally under the banner of the Constitution, and the Union even though that banner be the banner of Democracy.

He concluded with reading the platform of the Cincinnati Convention, upon which a committee of three were appointed viz: Dr. Lee, Dr. Edward Millard and P. D. Hardy Esq., to read resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting, who reported through their chairman the following resolutions which were adopted by acclamation.

Resolved, That this meeting do hereby heartily ratify the proceedings of the late Democratic Convention held at Cincinnati adopting the political creed contained in that platform as embodying the true principles of the Democratic party throughout the Union, securing to each and every portion of the country without geographical distinction, all the rights guaranteed to us by the Constitution, which is the only bond of Union between the States.

gether, in solid columns the bone and sinew of the country.

The President then announced that the meeting would be addressed by ex-Governor Alexander McLean, born and raised in our midst, who from early manhood, whether in the Senate of the U. S. or in the Legislature of his native State, had been uniformly the steadfast and unwavering defender of those great principles which he then came forward to advocate. The Gov. said, I am from the late Cincinnati Convention as one of the delegates of this State, in that body, he stood before that assembly a living witness to the unanimity and patriotism with which were reiterated and sanctioned the resolutions contained in the Democratic platform of 1852, with the additions thereto, which the present juncture of public affairs required at the hands of the friends of the Constitution and the country. He demonstrated most clearly that the present issue was a momentous one for the future of our free institutions, that without unanimity in the South, in the support of the standard bearers of those great political truths, fanaticism might ride in riotous triumph over the Constitution and the laws, either by the election of the Black Republican candidate in the electoral college, or his subsequent triumph in the House of Representatives. In either event, the interests of the South would be seriously impaired and her dignity insulted and disgraced, and our Union itself must fall as a consequence of so flagrant a violation of the federal compact. The able speaker, for an hour and a half in that persuasive, yet impressive manner, so peculiarly his own, held a large and attentive audience spell bound while he traced those subjects of vital interest to all who stood within the sound of his voice, and closed amidst a thunder of enthusiastic applause.

Next came Mr. Henry C. Miller, of New Orleans, one of those young champions of the Democratic faith, professionally educated in the sacred and constitutional truths is inculcated, who, with an unsurpassed ability, reviewed the eventful history of our party, its undoubted preeminence in securing the independence and equality of State sovereignty, the limitations of federal power and in the erection of those Constitutional guarantees, vital to the permanence and perpetuity of our federative system. He next alluded to the Missouri Compromise, to the attempt by the sectional parties of the North to curtail the area of our Southern domestic institutions. He depicted in faithful coloring the fatal errors of concessions on the part of the Union loving South to the fanatical exactions of the North. That the measure was inequitable and unconstitutional. Inequitable, because while it prohibited slavery North of 36 30, there was no corresponding guarantee on their part, that it would be sanctioned south of that line of demarcation. Unconstitutional, because it violated all the guarantees of that sacred instrument. He then alluded to the absence of all good faith on the part of the North to the binding obligations of that compromise, in their opposition to the admission of the States of Arkansas, Florida and Texas, whose territorial limits were South of that line. He next alluded to the territory acquired in part by the blood and treasure of the South, under the treaty with Mexico, to the flagrant attempt of the North to dedicate it to free-soilism—to exclude therefrom the planters of the South with his slave property, in which attempt they were successful. That the terrible and disastrous measures of the Taylor administration, from which disunion and civil war must have ensued, were averted only by the Compromise measures of 1850; another exaction of the North and another concession from the South. For, while it gave to Free-soilism the whole of that vast territory West of the existing limits of the United States to the shores of the Pacific Ocean, it only provided for the future doctrine of non-intervention, which doctrine re-affirmed in the Kansas and Nebraska bill is now the issue, the decision of which is threatening the very existence of this Union. This is but a faint outline of that brilliant effort made by the young and talented orator, during which he riveted the attention of his audience and elicited their frequent cheers during a speech of at least two hours length.

Mr. William Monton was next introduced who addressed the audience in his usually effective and impressive manner. For an hour and a half he commanded the respectful attention of his audience, and was frequently interrupted with outbursts of applause. We regret to be unable to give a synopsis of his speech, on account of our casual and unexpected absence, we regret it the more, for we have understood that it was not without its impression.

After Mr. M. had concluded, the chair announced a recess of an hour. In that recess a sumptuous dinner was served, and discussed with great zest. The table was laden with all the delicacies of the season, and the greatest good cheer prevailed around the board. We have seldom seen a barbecue so well served up, and so entirely to the satisfaction of all.

After the dinner Mr. P. Hardy, of this place appeared upon the speakers stand. His exordium was a finished and masterly exposure of the serious issues involved in the pending contest for the supremacy of power, on the part of the two great divisions of this confederacy, the North and the South. On the part of the former, a daring and most formidable fanaticism and reasonable hostility to the guarantees of the Federal Constitution, in reference to the domestic institutions of the South, had engendered and breathed into active vitality, a popular power that threatened in its pervading violence, and fury, to bear down any resistance to its unbalanced encroachments. That the grave questions, the Tariff, National Bank and Internal Improvements, which a few years since divided the country into the Democratic and Whig parties, had been passed upon by the voice of the people and were no longer debatable and open.

That in the final adjustment of those issues the Whig party had dissolved, and in its stead the Whig and arch free-soil politicians of the North, with the view of enlisting the Whigs of the South, had gotten up and attempted, evidently in bad faith, a national organization of the Native American Party. The inevitable fortune and fate of such a combination was not a matter of abeyance. Divisions and feuds rapidly developed themselves in their counsels and deliberations. The delegation of Louisiana, composed of its most prominent citizens of that faith, who had in common with their constituency, gone into this party organization in singleness of purpose and purity of motives, found upon applying to be admitted as delegates of the party in Louisiana, that the doors of the Council Hall were shut in their faces. They were told that as the representatives of the Catholics of La., they were the judicial subjects of Pope Pius IX, instead of American sovereigns, who acknowledged no controlling power, either religious or political, save God and their conscience, the Constitution.

To be overtaken with a proud and enlighten constituency, the deep indignity offered to their delegation, repudiated on account of their religious faith but who had yielded a patient submission to the wrong, required both tact and strategy. The bestial obstinacy of this over powerful and invincible political organization, which was to sweep over this entire confederacy, subjecting every opposition to its rule and dominion, was destined to be broken in upon by the faithful of this State. The decision resulted in a State Platform, since which, observed Mr. Hardy, the changes and modifications which have been introduced, had taken on a variety of phases of opinion common to one vigorous population. Every vestige of identity, concord and harmony of action is gone. Every ill brings intelligence of divisions and dissensions in this ill-fated and discordant denomination. In the North, the almost entire party has been absorbed by the Black Republicans, in other portions of the West and South efforts are being made to rally the old line Whigs to gather together the dispersed of that once great party, so as to unite, not as aliens and supporters of the Know-Nothing party, but to cast their political power and influence where it will be available in arresting the onward progress of abolitionism and treason to the Constitution.

He closed his very interesting and able speech by an appeal to the intelligence and patriotism of every man of the South, within the hearing of his voice, to stand manfully by the Constitution. That it was only in union that we could be strong and invincible. To divide at a crisis like the present might be suicidal in preventing an election by the electoral college, thus devolving upon the popular branch of Congress in the last resort the election of President. The scenes of 1850 and 1851, the only period in the history of our Government, when that solemn office was then developed, clearly illustrated the dangers of such a contingency. A void, it he conjured them, the American party of the South particularly have it in their power to avert such a calamity. Join us and let us lay low the full band of wild fanaticism, which seeks to destroy and desolate our happy country. Mr. Hardy closed amidst the cheers of the people.

Resolved, That in political affiliation we reject none, whether native or foreign, whose judgment and sympathies are with us upon the principles we seek to enforce, believing that all interests will be promoted to the end by our success.

The imprudence which characterizes the proceedings of the Know-Nothings generally, is of a rare character, but this resolution is superfluous. It is the coolest piece of impudence we ever read. Free to Hamburg—Louisiana Democrat.

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