



THE STATE CONVENTION OF THE OFFICERS OF THE CLAY CLUBS MET AT UTICA ON THE FIRST Wednesday in June.

THE CLAY TRIBUTE.—Gentlemen in the city who wish to send a valuable and cheap Whig Journal to their friends in the country during the Presidential Campaign, are requested to send the Prospect of the Clay Tribune, which will be found in another column. Single subscriptions only 25 cents.

The Downfall of Van Buren.

The ignominious overthrow, in a General Convention of his own party, of the man who for over thirty years has been a master-spirit in the politics of our State, and for some twenty has been conspicuous and potent in the affairs of the Nation, is an event which must pass without comment. There is matter in it for grave and profitable reflection.

We allude to it in no vulgar exultation over a fallen adversary. We feel no joy in it, and shall affect none. Confidently believing that Mr. Clay is this year to be elected President, we had hoped to heighten the gratification of that triumph, by the contemplation of the People at the same time administering Justice to Mr. Van Buren. But the Loco-Focos have taken the job into their own hands, and, by administering Justice themselves, have deprived the Whigs of a further opportunity. We regret this.

We are surprised at this turn of affairs, for we believed Mr. Van Buren invincible in that Convention. When last at Washington, a month since, we did indeed perceive influences at work which seemed likely to defeat him; but the moment we passed out of that atmosphere, the old impression returned that Van could not be thrown; and this continued up to the last moment, in spite of daily assurances to the contrary from our well-informed Correspondent on the spot. We thought the pledges, instructions, and reelection of Delegates for that Convention had formed a wall which could not be overleaped. The vote on the two-thirds rule first revealed the truth. The Van Buren men were not out-maneuvered on that vote; they were simply overpowered. Of the 146 votes for Van Buren, all over the 118 given for the majority rule were cast by men who were bound to support him by instructions, but did not want him nominated. He at no time had a real majority in the Convention; if he had, he would have been nominated.

And so we part with Martin Van Buren! From the time we were first interested in politics, in the Election of 1824, we have, boy and man, stood ardently opposed to him. Condemning and resisting the principles and measures of the party he followed or led, we have more especially disliked and opposed the impulses and acts of this man. He has appeared to us the exemplar and chief of sordid politicians—of men who recognize in their party stripes of a Free People no great and generous purposes, no idea of improving, reforming and elevating the mass of men, but a mere game in which voters are the dice, and the most skilful or least scrupulous player must win. We have opposed him believing that the jumbo which he has been the master-spirit have done much to debauch the minds of our Young Men especially, by teaching them to regard Success rather than Truth in their Political action—to regard identification with the majority as the great end of effort rather than the pursuit of noble ends by noble means. Have we judged Mr. Van Buren too harshly? Have we opposed him too bitterly? Call to mind the famous letter addressed to him in 1828 by Silas Wright, and judge. That letter was written in the confidence of intimate Political intercourse. It is a key to the joint operation of the writer and his correspondent. It seems to us to exhibit palpably the character, principles and purposes which have been embodied in the career of Mr. Van Buren. So regarding his course and him, we may proudly proclaim that hostility to Martin Van Buren and his clique of personal adherents, to their elevation, ascendancy and influence, have for years largely animated and strengthened our more general opposition to their party and to the measures of National mischief which it has originated and upheld. We deemed Mr. Van Buren and his jumbo not merely wrong in 1824 in resisting the strenuous demands of the People of New-York to be permitted to choose their own Electors of President, but grossly, culpably wrong; and our mature reflections have but confirmed our juvenile conviction. The Caucus nomination of Crawford by a handful of Members, the assumption that this was binding on the Democratic party, and the attempt to force through that nomination by choosing Electors by the Legislature, and allowing no voice in that choice to the People, fixed forever in our mind the character of the Albany Regency and their Chief. From that hour, their last of Democracy has been to us, but the most base of shallow hypocrites.

But we are not incapacitated by our dislike from doing justice to the better qualities of Martin Van Buren. Though in some respects a time-server, and capable of committing or winking at great wrongs to attain a higher round on the ladder of ambition, he has not been a vindictive politician—has never permitted Political differences to mar the harmony of Social intercourse, as some of his unwise opponents have done—and has, we think, been unjustly assailed as treacherous. We can recall no instance in which he has not been faithful to those who have trusted him as confederates in the same cause. He appears of cold temperament, yet he has strongly attached to his fortunes most of those with whom he was intimately connected in earlier years. There is one point on which we have not refrained from rendering him just commendation while he was the formidable leader of a ruling party, and of course shall not now. Mr. Van Buren is by constitution and principle an eminently peaceful man, and did much, while President, at some sacrifice of popularity, to repress the fell spirit of War, which ever lurks and festers in the bosom of the most dangerous portion of the community. His administration of our Foreign Affairs received the hearty commendation of the great mass of his opponents throughout. If he had ventured to take the responsibility of settling the North-Eastern Boundary on the only basis on which it could be settled, he would

How they did it.

A correspondent of the Albany Argus (evidently no chicken) wrote to that paper one day last week the following graphic account of the maneuvers in Washington to throw Van overboard. It would seem that he don't like the discipline: "The excitement—to use a hackneyed and often very unmeaning newspaper word—is very great here. The brokers on the money change in New-York, know well the difference between the real and the nominal value of the transactions at the recent meeting of their fraternity and the crowd, pell-mell gathering on the sidewalks and at the corners of Wall-street in the afternoon. Well, here on the political change the brokers in availability, reputation and influence are all of equal authority as regards the validity and regularity of the operations performed or attempted. The first held at ten o'clock in the morning, immediately after breakfast, at Brown's and Gadsby's. The meeting of the true House shifts the busy scene to the Rotunda of the Capitol, where business is kept up with the most arduous until the dinner hour approaches. But at eight o'clock in the evening commences the heavy transactions, the real negotiations that precede the closing of the arrangement. From that hour until midnight the busy scene is divided into groups before the doors of the sitting and bar-rooms, and upon the piazzas which surround the interior quadrangle, engaged in earnest discussion, entered with the most animated gesticulation, regarding the nomination, Texas, and the result of the election.

There is a great deal of downright fun in this world for one who is philosopher enough to enjoy it. "Diamond cut diamond" is an entertaining game for the spectators. "The Whigs and their aims made five different efforts through the House of Representatives to an adjournment over from Saturday until Wednesday, in consequence of the Baltimore Convention, but the Loco-Focos and their friends refused to grant their opponents in this particular at all."

We should like to ask who the Argus considers the allies of the Whigs about these days, but we don't approve of treading on folks's corns just when they are tenderest. But we ask the public to judge between the Argus and those Whigs it assails. They knew full well that the Whigs would be done by the majority in the House while the Baltimore Convention was in process of incubation, and they thought it would be better manfully and openly to adjourn than to pretend to sit yet do nothing. But no—the Loco would not adjourn—they were indignant at the idea—and behold the result! Nothing was done—no shadow of any thing—just as the Whigs predicted. Half the Loco-Foco Members strayed off to Baltimore, and the balance spent their time in watching Morse's Telegraph to hear the news from their Convention. The next time we hope they will adjourn, and have no fooling.

LoCo-Foco National Convention.

From our Extra of yesterday. BALTIMORE, Tuesday, 8 P.M. DEAR SIR: The Convention has just adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

The discussion was carried on this morning about the two-thirds rule, by Marcus Morton, Col. Tibbatts, Walker of Mississippi, Robert Rantoul, Lieut. Gov. Dickinson of New-York, Sam. Medary of Ohio, and Gen. Saunders of N. Carolina; but the speeches were not of sufficient interest to be reported—very commonplace, except Walker's when he ridiculed Benj. Butler for skipping about like a dancing-master when he talked of moon-shine and hard cider the night before.

At last, after four hours' talking, the Convention became impatient, and the question was taken on adopting the rules of 1832, including the two-thirds rule, and the following is the result: (See yesterday's paper.) You will see that this result is pretty nearly in accordance with the table that I sent you the other day. As soon as the result was announced, a motion was made that the Convention then ballot for a Presidential Candidate. This was objected to, as several of the States were not ready, and the Convention then adjourned until half past 3. At that hour they again met and proceeded to ballot for a candidate. Van Buren, Cass, Buchanan, Johnson, Woodbury and Stewart were nominated. The Chair announced that 256 votes were in attendance, two-thirds of which, 178, were necessary to a choice.

The results of the seven ballottings are as follows: (See yesterday's paper.) Of course, at the close of each ballot there was considerable of a hubbub, and as the Delegates dropped off from Van Buren and went for Cass there was some applause and laughter, which the very excellent Chairman immediately repressed.

After the third, fourth, fifth and sixth ballottings, a motion was made to adjourn, which was promptly rejected, and a man said if they adjourned then, several of the Western men would go home. After the seventh ballot, a Mr. Miller, from Ohio, rose, greatly excited—he was sitting by the side of Sam Medary and McNulty, Clerk of the House—and said he was the youngest man on the floor—that he represented 10,000 Democrats—that he had a resolution in his hand of overwearing importance. (Here he was interrupted by cries of "Hand it to the Chair.") He said it was written so badly that nobody could read it but himself. (Cries of "Read it then—read it—read it.")

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Then BENJ. BUTLER tried to speak, but they would not hear him. He tried to calm Miller and Medary. The noise and row increased and several old gentlemen, friends of Mr. Van Buren from the North and East, became disgusted and left the room.

Mr. BAXTER, the young Acting Gov. of Ohio got on to the benches, and contended that Mr. Van Buren had a right to the nomination, and that the Chairman was all in the wrong.

M'CULTY, Clerk of the House, then got the floor; he appealed from the decision of the Chair. He was going on to denounce the decision and the proceedings of the Convention, when the Chairman told him the rule could only be rescinded by a two-thirds vote, and he must recede his appeal to writing. He did so, and then went on to speak of parliamentary usage, but was continually called to order, and the confusion was continued till the close, when a motion was made to adjourn and carried.

We ended this day's disagreeable proceedings—Some of the Massachusetts Delegates say they are sorry they voted for Van Buren after such scenes. If Mr. Van Buren does not get the nomination, it will be in consequence of the intemperance conduct of Messrs. Miller, Medary, and McNulty, all of Ohio.

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Correspondence of The Tribune. Silas Wright has declined the nomination! The news was sent to Washington by telegraph (Morse's). Mr. Wainwright sent word back the same way in 10 minutes that he declines to serve. Dr. Woodside has just taken this news to the Convention.

Nomination of Polk!!! for President—Withdrawal of Van Buren.

Correspondence of The Tribune. BALTIMORE, Wednesday Afternoon. A rather curious result has occurred. JAMES K. POLK, of Tennessee, was nominated on the 9th ballot, as Presidential Candidate for 1844, on the Loco-Foco Ticket. This result has been brought about by the secession of the New-York Delegates against Cass and Buchanan, and by the unwise policy of the Southern men. These latter persuaded the West to run up a candidate on an independent flag, so as to defeat the nomination of the man who could not be elected—that is, MARTIN VAN BUREN. The West did this; they brought him, and also promised that no Southern man should be run at all. And yet this morning, as soon as the first Ballot took place, Polk was nominated and received 41 votes. The following was the result:

5th Ballot. 9th Ballot. Van Buren..... 114 (withdrawn) 2 Cass..... 104 29 Polk..... 44 231 Buchanan..... 2 Calhoun..... 1 Morton..... 1 Blank..... 1 Total..... 266 266

This is a curious result and puzzled all the politicians here. The Whigs look on it as a surrender.

On the 9th Ballot, you see the entire South voted for Polk, including 35 votes from New-York, and the States of Maryland, Maine, Connecticut, Delaware, N. Hampshire, and 19 from Pennsylvania. Kentucky voted to Johnson as long as she could, and then went for Cass in good faith.

This result has been caused chiefly by the determination of the South to get rid of the "Globe" faction, Benton, Allen &c. The Globe has lately assailed the Whigs for their movements in the nomination—so odious have Blair and Amos Kendall become to the Southern Loco-Focos. Already a new Loco-Foco paper is talked of in Washington, to oppose the "Globe."

It is said here that many of the Southern Delegates were picked out as favorable to Van Buren; but that, finding they could not swallow Van, they settled down on Polk as a Southern and Texas man.