

THE CHARLESTON CONVENTION.

GEN. CUSHING PRESIDENT.

Messrs. Corning and Cooper Vice Presidents.

THE HARDS STILL OUTSIDE.

ANOTHER EXCITING TIME.

Douglas Denounced by Mr. Randall of Pennsylvania.

Raw Recruits Rebuked by Mr. Richardson of Ill.

A New Rule in Behalf of the Minority.

The Platform to be Adopted Before Balloting.

DOUGLASS' PROSPECTS BRIGHTENING.

THE PLATFORM.

THE DRED SCOTT DECISION A PLANK.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

CHARLESTON, Tuesday, April 24, 1860.

All the speeches at the meeting of the Southern

Delegation last night were decidedly radical

and uncompromising. Yancy was eloquent and stirring

Reed of South Carolina made a great impression

No voice of conciliation or compromise was

heard, but a determined purpose was manifested to

obtain their demand, or withdraw from the Convention

nothing short of an extreme platform will

satisfy them, except a Southern candidate, and he

must be Hunter.

This demonstration was not designed for effect

against Douglas, but has been seriously meditated

for months, and was well understood in Washington.

It has produced a visible effect on the Southern

States which were inclined to tolerate Douglas,

and upon the hesitating Northern delegates, who

had not heretofore regarded this purpose as fixed.

The North-west meets the dilemma by saying,

let these ultra delegates recede; we will appeal to

the people of their States; but this feeling does not

extend elsewhere.

Douglas's defeat, or the disruption of the Convention,

seems inevitable, and those alternatives

cannot be avoided. It is difficult to see how Douglas

can be nominated, even with a majority of the

Convention at his back, when he has never been

assured, except by sanguine estimates already proved

to be exaggerated. If a combination could be

formed to give him the necessary numbers, six

States would instantly withdraw, and probably nomi-

nate Davis, seconded by Fernando Wood and his

followers.

The Georgia (Agraria) Constitutional and

John Forsyth are laboring earnestly to conciliate

the South for Douglas, but have produced no im-

pression.

Sidell, Bright, Bayard, and party, are estab-

lished at luxurious quarters, and are working

effectively for a Southern combination. Corcoran,

of Washington, is also here, but not with Sidell.

The Douglas men have been reinforced by Davis of

Indiana, and other members of the House.

Mr. Buchanan's letter of withdrawal, which is in

the pocket of a Delegate, was a gratuitous per-

formance, as his name has never been suggested as

a possibility by a single man, even with a large

force of Collectors, Postmasters, and District At-

torneys collected here.

The galleries of the Convention were thronged

to-day by both sexes, and more general interest in

the proceedings was manifested.

When the report of the Committee on Organiza-

tion was submitted and received, an attempt was

made by the extreme South to resist it on the

ground that a new rule, which permitted each dele-

gate to vote individually in States where no in-

structions had been given, was passed irregularly.

That question was decided by Committee this morn-

ing, on motion of Mr. Meek of Alabama, as being

fair, and was only opposed by two dissenting vot-

ers.

Mr. Richardson, on behalf of Mr. Douglas, sus-

tained the action of the Committee, while Josiah

Randall assailed it, and took occasion to denounce

Mr. Douglas as the weakest candidate before the

Convention.

This attack invoked a tart reply from Mr. Rich-

ardson, who commented upon Mr. Randall's recent

conversion in terms that induced the latter to de-

mand a personal explanation, which was afterward

gracefully made.

After a long discussion, so much of the report of

the Committee as effected the official organization,

was adopted by a division of the question, and the

other points concerning the rules was temporarily

postponed.

Mr. Flournoy retired from the Chairmanship,

and Mr. Cushing was installed President, introduc-

ing himself with a well-considered speech, which

was much applauded.

A parliamentary point being raised, he decided

that the previous question pending before he took

the chair on adopting the rules, as amended, ap-

plied, and they were adopted by 107 majority, nine

Southern States voting for an amendment, which

authorized the majority of a Delegation to cast the

vote of a State. On this question a majority of the

Indiana Delegation attempted to vote, and a violent

scene occurred, the majority protesting that the

State Convention had instructed the Delegation to

vote as unit. The Tennessee Delegation also en-

deavored to divide with a like feeling.

Mr. Cushing's ruling was considered liberal and

just by the Douglas men, and the result was claimed

as a victory.

Mr. Payne now renewed his motion of yesterday

to appoint one delegate from each State on a plat-

form, all resolutions to be presented without debate.

The Arkansas delegation led off with one, declaring

that a platform should be constructed before the

nomination for President. This was carried by

238, several States charging as the count pro-

ceeded. When indications of the result became

conclusive, the delegation from New-York, which

was openly against this policy yesterday, retired

for conference, and returned with a solid affirma-

tion.

These proceedings, in the main, exhibited a

greater conciliatory spirit on the part of the South

than was expected, and were regarded as more

favorable to Mr. Douglas, from the feeble

resistance of his opponents, and the chance was

offered to concede on the platform question, and

thus propitiate the extreme Southern section.

The Douglas managers express a willingness that

the Cotton States should recede, regarding such a

movement as quickening the chances for two thirds,

but do not estimate its effect on the remaining

Southern States. The result now depends greatly

on the shape the platform may assume.

Soon after the Convention adjourned, the belief

was entertained that the Louisiana resolutions,

covering Congressional protection to Slavery in the

Territories, could be carried, from the complexion

of the Committee, Northern members being willing

to yield principle for the candidate.

The Douglas men claim an accession of more

than twenty votes by the rule allowing delegates to

vote individually in delegations which have not

been instructed to vote as a unit. He will gain

eight or ten in Pennsylvania, and if New-York

should unite as expected, he would have more than

a majority on the first ballot.

It is said that should Mr. Douglas be nominated,

he will come here to address a ratification meeting.

P. S. 12 o'clock, p. m.—The Committee on a

Platform have just adjourned, after six hours' ses-

sion. They had an exciting discussion. One test

vote was taken on the Cincinnati Platform, pure

and simple, which was rejected, 16 Nays to 16

Yeas.

Mr. Stevens then moved to incorporate with it the

principle of the Dred Scott decision, which is still

pending. It is believed that it will be adopted to-

morrow, and be reported to the Convention as a

basis of settlement.

1 o'clock, a. m.—The more conservative portion

of the South have conferred with the Cotton States,

and persuaded them to remain in the Convention

until after the nomination, with a view to control-

ling it, if possible.

The present belief is there will be no bolt till

then, as Alabama's instructions fix no point of time

for a secession.

It is not improbable that a contingency may

occur in which John Cochrane and others from the

New-York delegation may go with the seceding

South, if the platform be unacceptable, looking to

an ultimate fusion with the Wood interest in the

State of New-York. He will vote for Mr. Douglas,

unless a sudden reaction occurs, and his friends

claim 152 on the first ballot, that included.

The Committee on Credentials is still in session,

but a majority favor the South. A large minority

will present a report, favoring the Wood delegation.

The Illinois case is now under consideration.

REGULAR REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

CHARLESTON, Tuesday, April 24, 1860.

The National Democratic Convention reassembled

at 10 o'clock this morning.

The Committee on Permanent Organization reported

in favor of the Hon. CALVIN CUSHING for President,

and one Vice-President and Secretary from each State

in the Union. Those of New-York are Erasmus Cor-

ning and J. Edward Cook; Maryland, W. D. Bowie

and B. F. Lowe; Pennsylvania, Thomas Cunningham

and F. Van Zandt.

A dispatch from Washington was shown around the

hall from a Member of the Cabinet, declaring that

the reports of disunion in the Cabinet growing out of

Walker's testimony, are entirely destitute of founda-

tion, and that the Cabinet were never more satirically

harmonious.

The Committee on Permanent Organization also

reported an additional rule, to wit: That in any State

in which it has not been provided or directed by its

State Convention how its vote may be given, the Con-

vention will recognize the right of each delegate to cast

his individual vote.

Mr. Wright of Penn., made a strong appeal for

harmony. If harmony did not prevail here, the nomi-

nations to be made would not be worth the paper on

which they were recorded when brought before the

people. He was in favor of the rule. Every dele-

gate should be permitted to cast his vote in accordance

with his convictions and those of his constituents.

Pennsylvania had never voted as a unit except when

the sentiment was unanimous. He closed by de-

manding the previous question, and the vote was then

taken on that part of the report relating to presiding

officers, and it was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Flournoy then returned thanks, counseling

moderation and harmony. We are all marching under

one flag—the Democratic party has but one flag, the flag

of our country. He denounced sectionalism, and hoped

no more allusions would be made to such divisions.

The Hon. Caleb Cushing was then introduced to and

addressed the Convention.

The following is Mr. Cushing's address on taking the

chair.

AFTER THE CHAIR HAD SUBSIDED HE SAID:

GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION: I respectfully

tender to you my most earnest expressions of profound

gratitude for the honor which you have this day done

me in appointing me to preside over your delibera-

tions. It is, however, a responsible duty imposed

much more than a high honor conferred. In the dis-

charging of that duty, in the direction of business and

of debate, and in the preservation of order, I shall

my constant endeavor to have this day done

to stand by your minister, and not humbly to reflect

your will. In a great deliberative assembly like this,

it is not the strength, but your—your intelli-

gence—your sense of order—your interest in self-re-

spect. I rely, gentlemen, on your sense of duty, not

on the prompt and parliamentary dispatch of the

business of this Convention. Gentlemen,

you have come here from the green hills of the East-

ern States; from the rich States of the Imperial cen-

ter—from the sun-lighted plains of the South;

from the fertile States of the mighty basin of the Mis-

sissippi—from the golden shores of the distant Oregon

and California. [Loud cheers.] You have come

hither in the exercise of the highest functions of a

free people, to participate, to aid in the election

of the future rulers of the Republic. You

bring with you the representatives of the Southern

party—that great party of the Union whose

pride and mission it is to maintain the public lib-

erty, to reconcile popular freedom with constitutional

order, to maintain the sacred reserved rights of the

States, and to stand by the Constitution.

To stand, in a word, the perpetual sentiment of the

spirit of the Constitution. [Cries of "That's the

talk," and loud and enthusiastic cheering.] Ours is

the motto inscribed on that scroll in the hands of the

monumental statue of the great statesman of South

Carolina—"Truth, Justice and Liberty."

[Loud Cheers.] Opposed to us are those who

labor to overthrow the Constitution, under the

false and insidious pretense of support-

ing it; those who are aiming to produce

in this country a permanent sectional conspiracy—a

traitorous sectional conspiracy of one-half of the

States of the Union against the other half; those who

impelled by the stupid and half insane spirit of faction

and fanaticism would hurry our load on to revolu-

tion and to civil war. These are the basest

enemies of the Constitution. It is the duty

of the high and noble part of the Democracy

of the Union to withstand to strike down, and to con-