THE STATE CANVASS.

General Outlook in Cayuga County.

THE STATE PRISON QUARREL.

A Kelly Current Through the Rural Districts.

ROBINSON'S ENDERS AND TILDEN'S INTRIGUES.

Dissatisfied Republicans Accepting the Inevitable.

AUBURN, Oct. 10, 1879.

Across the main street of Oswego on Thursday hung a banner bearing the likeness of John Kelly and the words "Regular Democratic Nomination. For Governor, John Kelly." Across the main street of Auburn to-day hangs a banner bearing the names of Lucius Robinson and his associates on the State ticket, but without one word to show by what party they are put in nomination. They may be democratic; they may be anti-Tammany; they may be republican; they may be labor reform; they may be prohibition or they may be Tildenites for anything that the canvass contains. The "Regular" on the Oswego banner is regarded as an evidence of considerable cheek. The failure to sail openly under the democratic color in Auburn is looked upon as a very singular omission.

TAPERING OFF.

Coming direct from Oswego to Auburn is calculated on a superficial examination to convey the impression that the Kelly movement tapers off very suddenly after leaving the canal towns. This, however, soon proves to be an erroneous conclusion, for while there is no overwhelming and avowed ascendancy of the anti-Robinson and Tilden strength in Cayuga that one sees at every turn in Oswego, a very little inquiry shows that the rebel movement has its friends in the county, and that they are of a character not to be despised. There is not the avowed and bold support of Mr. Kelly which is met with in Onondaga and Oswego, and which takes the offensive in the battle going on within the democratic party; but there is a firm, settled determination to defeat Mr. Robinson, and by so doing to dispose forever of Mr. Tilden's claims on the Presidential nomination and of his alleged attempt to seize upon the democratic organization of this State as a piece of personal property to be used only for the promotion of his ambitious schemes. This feeling takes anti-Robinson votes or stay at homes all over Cayuga county just as certainly as it carries with it the great bulk of the democrats of the city of Oswego, a fair portion of the democrats of the towns of the county and a considerable share of the democracy of Onondaga.

THE ROBINSON COMMITTEE AT WORK.

A visit to the Robinson headquarters in Auburn showed at once that more real work was being done at this point than in either of the counties of Onondaga or Oswego on behalf of the regular nominee. But it developed something more. The hour at which the HERALD representative visited the committee rooms being early Mr. Alanson West, who has charge of the Robinson canvass in the county of Cayuga, was absent. Two or three of the "rural district citizens," who had driven in with their wagon loads of farm produce, were in the rooms and were discussing the political situation with a person who evidently had charge of the headquarters in the absence of the chairman of the committee.

"Well," said one of the farmyow and cheesepress representatives, "we're all friends here, of course, and so I don't mind saying how I feel. Now, I'll be darned if I like the idea of Governor Robinson's friends at Sy-racuse standing up again all attempts at harmony. It looks to me as if that selfish old cuss Tilden had been at the bottom of it, and wanted to drive Tammany out of the party so as they couldn't oppose him next year. Now I don't see no use a voting for Robinson just to help Tilden, and I tell you, my friend, a many of my neighbors think just like that, and don't care about going to the polls at all. Why, I believe that if they do vote half on 'em will go for Kelly or for this Mr. Lewis."

"I tell you, down my way," said another visitor, "we have a good many democrats who don't like the way things have been fixed at all and who will vote for this Kelly."

VIEWS OF THE COMMITTEE'S CHAIRMAN.

When the chairman of the committee arrived he was found to be in the midst of an active and apparently well conducted canvass of the town, and there seemed to be directness and practical system in his work, which is not observable on the part of the Robinson men in some other places.

"There is undoubtedly some Kelly strength here," he said, in reply to an inquiry, "but I do not care to give my opinion of its extent. You are in search of the truth and perhaps my feelings make me underrate it. I can, however, say that I believe in this city it grows mainly out of dissatisfaction and disappointment on the part of some democrats who were thrown out of employment in the State Prison when the change in the warden ship took place, and of others who sought and failed to obtain appointments from the new warden. A great many of the prominent Kelly men in this town will be found to have some sore spot in relation to this State Prison change, and they strike at Governor Robinson for this reason alone."

"Have you any idea of the number of Mr. Kelly's supporters in this town?"

"I prefer you would inquire of the Kelly democrats themselves. They had a club meeting last night and enrolled 183 members. They claim a greater strength, but I do not see where they get it. At all events I believe they will have less on election day than they have now."

FEELING AGAINST WODIN.

"Do you know of any republicans who are going to support Governor Robinson in place of Mr. Cornell?"

"I do not know of any directly, but I have heard of quite a number who are not satisfied with Mr. Cornell's nomination and are not expected to support him. I presume some of these will vote for Governor Robinson, and I think we shall hold our votes in this town and in the county and that we shall get all out. There is a great deal of apathy on the part of republicans, and I think Mr. Woodin's nomination has caused much ill-feeling here, as well as in Seneca, Tompkins and Tioga. We have nominated George W. Schuyler against Woodin, and think there is a fair chance of his election. I believe that Woodin will run forty behind his party in the town of Throop; that he will lose thirty votes in the town of Victory, and that Seneca will give 900 majority against him. The usual democratic majority in that town is 600."

"To what is this feeling against Mr. Woodin attributable?"

"In the last Senatorial election, when charges affecting Woodin's public record and career were threatened to be formulated, he withdrew from the canvass, thus virtually admitting their truth. It was not like the act of an innocent man. Wayne county was then in our Senatorial district and was dead against Woodin. We are now joined with Seneca, Tompkins and Tioga, and it is supposed that the change was made to bring Woodin back to political life. But these counties do not like the idea of being used for such a purpose or of having a nominee of Woodin's character thrust upon them as the first candidate in the new district. Our candidate, George W. Schuyler, is quite popular and can, think, with proper exertion be elected."

PER CONTRA.

On the other hand, an inquiry among the leading republicans of Auburn on both sides as to Conklingism and anti-Conklingism, failed to develop any opposition to Mr. Woodin, and the reply to all questions was, "Why, the old matters have been forgotten long ago, and I know of no republican who is going to vote against Woodin now." One prominent republican remarked:—

"Unquestionably a weaker man than Wodin would have gone under with the attack that was made on him two years ago. But he is a man of ability and strong will and has fought against it and beaten it down. He is stronger now than he ever was." Another republican said:—

"Well, Woodin may lose a vote here and there, but he will more than make up any possible loss from his own side by democratic votes. It is an open secret that the intrigue by Charley Beardsley, Smith Weed and Warden Moses, by which it was sought to turn Mr. Wells out of the State Prison and put Moses in, was concocted and perfected in George F. Schuyler's office. Schuyler was the backbone of the intrigue, in fact, and his connection with the will cost him many democratic votes."

THE STATE PRISON RUMPUS.

As all the Auburn people, democrats and republicans, make an especial point on the change of wardenship at the State Prison, and concede that it will have an important bearing in the election it may be well to recall the facts in the case. Mr. Wells, the late warden, is a democrat, but he was not friendly with the Robinson leaders in Cayuga county. Indeed, it is fair to say that he does not seem to have been very popular with any of the politicians, as all concede that he was a gruff man, who would give answers more short than courteous to those who approached him for political favors. His removal was urged, but for some time was refused by the Superintendent of State Prisons. When the time drew near for electing delegates to the democratic State Convention, Beardsley, Weed, Schuyler and others made a vigorous effort to obtain the removal of Wells and the appointment of Moses and they at last succeeded. It is alleged that they needed the influence of the patronage to secure friendly delegates to Syracuse. When Mr. Moses went into the wardenship he made many changes in the officers of the prison. But a great many more promises had been given pending the election of delegates to the State convention than could be redeemed, and now there are democrats all over Auburn who, finding themselves cheated, swear to revenge themselves on Governor Robinson. The statement of the chairman of the Robinson committee that a great many of the Kelly men in Auburn are disappointed applicants for place in the prison or men who have been turned out to make patronage for the friends of the new warden and his patrons is no doubt true; but their votes will count against Governor Robinson just as much as if they were influenced by less personal motives. The republicans are also incensed at Wells' removal and are consequently less disposed than before to do anything to aid Governor Robinson. Whichever way the affair is viewed, the removal seems to have been one of those political blunders into which incapable advisers too often lead the well-intentioned Governor. Promises and expectations of patronage may for the moment have been effective in securing a friendly delegation to Syracuse, but in the end the policy pursued at Auburn has certainly raised up a strong opposition to Governor Robinson and materially increased the Kelly strength in the county of Cayuga.

WHAT WARDEN MOSES SAYS.

The new warden of the prison, who is an editor and an experienced politician, denies emphatically that there is any dissatisfaction at Auburn growing out of the changes in the State Prison. But he admits that there are soreheads now in opposition to Governor Robinson who have been turned out of the prison or failed to obtain appointments under the new régime. He thus concedes that politically the movement has been a blunder. If the new appointees are, as is alleged, the particular friends of the Robinson leaders in the county they would probably have been with the Governor to-day even if they had failed to obtain these places. The men who have been turned out and the men who expected places and did not get them would at least not have had the same inducements to vote against the Governor as they now have, if no change had been made. Hence, while Mr. Moses and his friends are of course benefited by the change, Governor Robinson is politically damaged by it to a considerable extent. Of course this is only the political view of the matter. So far as the condition and discipline of the prison are concerned they appear to be unexceptionable. They may or may not have been the same under Mr. Wells, but certainly a close examination of the prison shows it to be now under very capable management.

THE KELLY STRENGTH IN CAYUGA.

An inquiry among the Kelly men in Auburn shows the strength of the movement there to be by no means slight. Mr. Charles G. Curtis, one of the leaders, is an active, vigorous politician engaged in the brewery business, and is a member of the regular democratic County Committee. Five other members of the committee, H. B. Fay, Erastus W. Allen, James O'Brien, Daniel L. Hurlburt and Charles L. Adams, are also avowed and active supporters of Mr. Kelly, making six Kelly men out of the ten members of the committee from the city. The anti-Robinson men thus carried six out of the ten wards in Auburn, and in all these wards Mr. Kelly is said to be assured of a majority over Governor Robinson. Mr. W. H. De Groff, of the town of Fleming, another member of the county committee, is also avowedly with Kelly and against Robinson.

"The statement that the strength of the movement is made up of men who are sore about the State Prison offices is not true," said Mr. Curtis. "The feeling against Governor Robinson grows out of the conviction that he is used by Tilden, and this is and always has been since 1875 a strong anti-Tilden county. We do not like Mr. Tilden's management of the party; we do not want to see him secure the next Presidential election through intrigue and trickery, and we intend to put an end to his schemes with the democratic party of New York, now that we have a chance of doing so. Knowing how the election of delegates was managed here we do not regard Governor Robinson's nomination as regular, because it was not the free will of the party, but was secured by chicanery and fraud, and we have no hesitation in opposing him openly and above board. If the vote in Cayuga county should be taken to-day Mr. Kelly would receive 800 out of our 5,000 democratic votes in the county, and I believe the number will increase before election. We have men who are mad about State prison matters with us, of course; but they form comparatively a small part of our forces. Our club the night before last enrolled 183 names on the start, and about fifty have joined since. In the town of Fleming there is quite a large Kelly strength. So there is in the town of Mentz. Port Byron in that town is all Kelly. In Montezuma and Sterling there is a strong anti-Robinson element, and it extends more or less through all the remaining nineteen towns. John Spaulding, who is the most influential democrat in Port Byron, comes out openly for Kelly."

HOW CAYUGA REPUBLICANS FEEL.

Inquiry among leading republican politicians and others who belong to the party, but are somewhat independent in their action, developed these facts:—The county as a rule did not like Mr. Cornell's nomination, and there is an entire lack of personal enthusiasm for the ticket. Up to this time there has been apathy on the part of the leaders and indifference on the part of the masses of the party. The county is anti-Conkling naturally, and against the action of the Syracuse Convention. But the politicians know the overshadowing importance of a victory in the State at this time, as certain to have great influence on the Presidential election, and they are commencing to see the necessity of doing something to wake up the enthusiasm of the party. They have resolved to commence an active canvass, and are even now setting to work in that direction. The business men who have generally acted with the republican party, although not liking Cornell, declare that they cannot afford to allow the democrats to renew agitation and to plunge the nation again into uncertainty and confusion by reopening the financial questions and the issues settled by the war. They pronounce the action of the democrats in the last session of Congress revolutionary and perilous to the reviving prosperity of the country, and on this account they are resolved to endeavor to secure the State for the republican party. A prominent republican merchant stated to the HERALD correspondent that however dissatisfied republicans were they would not stop to think, but would vote. A merchant of Auburn who states that he "votes nine times out of ten with the democrats," said:—"I am now with the republicans. The democrats in Congress have shown what they would do if they could, and I regard Tilden as one of the most dangerous, as he is one of the meanest men in the nation."

THE SITUATION SUMMED UP.

The situation in Cayuga county may be summed up as follows:—The republicans are apathetic, but will in the end come out and poll their votes for their own candidate, with very few exceptions. There is not the least appearance of any intention on the part of the republicans to vote for Governor Robinson. The Lewis vote is likely in this county to take more dissatisfied democratic farmers than republicans, but will be very small. Mr. Kelly will receive about 700 votes in the county. Cornell's plurality over Robinson in the county will be probably 3,900. Morgan's majority over Robinson in 1876 was 2,570. A county in which are to be found such strong republicans as Woodin, General Knapp, Senator Pomeroy, William H. Seward, Jr., General McDougal and Judge Folger is not likely to be suffered to go by default.

THE JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Your timely editorial in to-day's issue advocating that the Bar should take an interest in the selection of candidates for the judical positions which will become vacant on the 1st of January next, should, as it no doubt will, meet with the hearty concurrence of all good citizens, regardless of party feeling or prejudice. The time has passed when mere political service should recommend a lawyer to a seat upon the bench. What the people want are judicial officers who cannot be tempted to swerve from the duty enjoined by their office. If a judge has been faithful in the discharge of his duty, is active and energetic, has held the scales of justice evenly balanced, and is not beyond the age prescribed for his retirement by the constitution, what difference can or should it make what his political faith may be? The press of this city has twice induced the union of all parties on judicial nominees. Chief Judge Daly, who was re-elected the year of the downfall of the Tweed *régime*, and Judge Brady, who was re-elected in 1877, are the instances alluded to. There are judges whose terms of office expire the coming 1st of January who, by their exemplary conduct on the bench, have won the esteem and admiration of the people regardless of political creed. Why do not both parties combine, and, if opportunity offers, as far as possible elevate to even higher judicial offices men who have thus distinguished themselves, instead of making their retirement possible through political contests. Our calendars are overcrowded. Although a party defendant may be perfectly solvent when suit is instituted, owing to the delays incident to the law and the courts before the cause is tried he frequently becomes insolvent, and while a judgment may follow against the defendant, it can seldom be collected. Might the delay not become greater with inexperienced men on the bench? If there must be changes, then let the people secure, in any event, active and energetic judges who will be able to reduce the constantly increasing calendars.

A cause for regret is that the State and local offices, including judiciary, are all printed on one ticket. If the judicial ticket was a separate one there would then be a better chance to select the more competent persons. As it is, a comparatively small number of voters stop to paste or separate the ballot, and the judicial candidate meets the fate of his particular party's ticket.

The Bar has great opportunity to judge who would be the most acceptable candidates for the coming vacancies in the Common Pleas, Marine, Seventh and Tenth Judicial Districts courts. If the HERALD would endeavor to secure the opinion of the members of the Bar on this important subject no doubt the conventions would feel obliged to take their views into consideration in making the nominations, and the people would have cause to rejoice at the prospect of securing non-partisan Judges.

OCTOBER 10, 1879. E. J.

BUSY POLITICIANS.

ENCOURAGING NEWS AT ALL THE HEADQUARTERS—GOVERNOR ROBINSON DEFENDS HIS REMOVAL OF COUNTY CLERK GUMBLETON.

All the political headquarters wore a busy look yesterday. The greatest crowd was at the St. James Hotel, the headquarters of the Democratic State Committee. Mr. W. A. Fowler, chairman of the Executive Committee, directed the active work of the day, and received the callers. Among the latter was Colonel D. C. Robinson, who stated that the Governor would arrive in the city this evening, in order to review the troops of the First division on Wednesday; Attorney-General Schoonmaker, Dr. George L. Miller, of Nebraska; Hamilton Wilcox, of Lewis county; A. V. R. Henning, of Niagara county; S. N. Wood, of Cattaraugus county; General James B. Pearsall, Henry J. Cullen, and Senator Jacobs, of Kings county. It was stated that an open letter had been received from John O'Connor, of Wellsville, the president of the only Kelly club in Allegany county, in which the writer, in tendering his resignation, says:—"In our local affairs, the men who have been encouraging the Kelly movement, who are republicans, have attempted to defeat the election of Irishmen on our ticket. * * * I can but look upon the movement inaugurated by these gentlemen only as a tail to the republican kite and for the purpose of advancing the interests of a republican candidate for Governor." This is a specimen of the sentiment expressed by the writers of many other letters to which Chairman Fowler caused replies to be sent. General James McQuade said:—"The reports of the canvass come in splendidly. Mr. Kelly may possibly get 8,000 or 10,000 votes in the State outside of New York city."

Mr. Fowler said to a HERALD reporter:—"To a representative of this committee Governor Robinson said yesterday (in response to a remark that Mr. Kelly's anger over the removal of Mr. Gumbleton was because Tammany Hall lost one-half of the fees of the County Clerk's office by reason of his removal) that he also had heard that story. The Governor told our representive that in that matter he had no other course than the removal of the incumbent to pursue."

"REFUSED TO ABIDE BY THE LAW."

Mr. Fowler then read Governor Robinson's words as given in a special despatch from Albany, as follows:—

After having the proof of his flagrant violation of the law in the case, had I not removed him I myself would have been liable to impeachment and would have deserved it, for Mr. Gumbleton was defiant and refused to alter his course so as to abide by the law. Had he shown a willingness to obey the law when his faults were shown him, I could have suspended the charges which were preferred against him. Charges were preferred at the same time against Mr. Loew, the Register. Mr. Loew at once came up and said that the fees exacted was according to the schedule he found in his office upon taking possession and as followed by his predecessors. But if he was wrong in this he would alter the schedule. This he did, making one in accordance with the law, and giving me his written pledge that he would abide by the changed schedule, and he has done so up to this time. Consequently I exercised the discretion vested in me and suspended all proceedings against him. I have no desire to remove anybody from office, but Mr. Gumbleton acted in a manner entirely opposed to Mr. Loew. He was defiant in the extreme, and contended that because his predecessors had pursued the policy that had brought him to judgment, he was entitled to do the same. The law which prescribes the duties of county clerks—the law of 1847—is plain, minute and explicit. It declares what the fees shall be; that certain books showing the receipts of the office shall be kept so that the income thereof shall be known to the public, and declares that at all times these books and all the records of the office shall be open to the inspection of the public. In all of these things Mr. Gumbleton flagrantly disobeyed the law. He extorted fees in excess of those named in the law; he did not keep books which set forth the receipts and income of the office as required by law; he refused to yield up the books and papers of the office for investigation. He defiantly rejected any propositions to alter his course. As a consequence there was nothing left for me to do but to remove him. I should have as flagrantly neglected my duties and official oath if I had failed to do so, as he had done. But this fact seemed to have no consideration from the people of Tammany Hall, and their orators are misstating and falsifying the entire affair to their own ends. No less is it a misstatement and a falsification in their connecting me with the manner in which Mr. Thompson got possession of the office. When finally all means to persuade Mr. Gumbleton to obey the law had been exhausted, I concluded to remove him and appoint Mr. Thompson, who was represented to me as a most worthy man. I made out his commission, committed it to the hands of a messenger to convey to Mr. Thompson at once, and there my connection with the affair ended. Of the subsequent events I had no knowledge until I saw them recorded in the morning papers of New York city. Now, this is a statement of the matter upon which, so far as I can learn, Mr. Kelly based his bolt from the Convention.

FACTS AND FIGURES.

The Kelly State Committee at the St. Nicholas had a busy day of it. A force of clerks was engaged in preparing a circular for transmission by mail, in which it is attempted to be shown that the State taxes have been increased under the administration of Governor Robinson. It was stated that several new Kelly clubs had been formed, and that an additional list of names of his supporters had been received. It was also said, as a sign of the times, that a vote was taken last week in a locomotive works in Schenectady, with this result:—For Kelly, 650; Cornell, 150; Robinson, 0.

Mr. A. B. Cornell, General Chester A. Arthur, Edwin M. Johnson and Henry A. Gledden were closeted for several hours at the republican headquarters in the Fifth Avenue Hotel in regard to the canvass of their organization in the interior. Active preparations are making for the mass ratification meeting at the Cooper Institute on Wednesday night, which is to be addressed by "Zach" Chandler. The latter was one of the visitors to the committee rooms yesterday.

The corridors of the St. James Hotel were impassably crowded at night, while the Executive Committee of the Committee of Fifteen, consisting of Messrs. Charles E. Loew, William H. Wickham, James O'Brien, John Fox, Peter Bowe and Robert B. Nooney, were in session. Three or four hundred representative democrats who had been sent for by this committee were there. The districts were called up in numerical order, and the ten representatives of each were given their instructions in regard to the details of organization in the districts. As soon as the organization is completed permanent headquarters will be established at some central location.

YOUNG MEN'S ROBINSON RATIFICATION.

Cooper Institute was comfortably filled last night, the occasion being a Robinson ratification meeting, under the auspices of the Young Men's Democratic Club. Mr. Francis F. Marbery was called to the chair, and a long list of vice presidents and secretaries was announced.

Mr. John McKeon indorsed Governor Robinson, and said he should be supported by every honest man in this community.

A series of resolutions were then read and adopted. At the name of John Kelly there were mingled hisses and cheers, and it seemed for a moment as if there was to be a contest between two democratic elements in the hall.

Mr. Charles H. Winfield was introduced. He regretted that his frosted locks showed that he could no longer belong to a young men's democratic club, but while he was no longer young he could work hand in hand with the young men of the State for the re-election of Lucius Robinson. What means his defeat? It means the sacrifice of the pivotal State in advance of the Presidential election.

The next speaker was Mr. Frederick R. Coudert, whom the chairman described as a happy combination of native gravity and French grace and wit. Mr. Coudert said it was very much in Governor Robinson's favor that the chief of Tammany Hall admits scornfully it is true that he is honest. There are three aspirants for the ownership of this State. The first is the great republican Senator. He makes a great speech, and he makes it very often. Mr. Coudert said he read it with increasing pleasure every time it was made. Senator Conkling was, it is said, preparing another speech, which was to be the greatest effort of his life. The republican party is controlled by this one man. After Senator Conkling there was another man who laid claim to fee of this State. Who is he? [A voice—John Kelly.]

"Yes, John Kelly," said the speaker, "and who is John Kelly?"

Another voice:—"Nobody."

"Yes, he is somebody," Mr. Coudert argued. "He has personality enough to carry off men who ought to know better." The third applicant for the ownership of New York was the people and this was the one in which the speaker had confidence.

Messrs. Wheeler H. Peckham, Senator Ecclesine and Lawson N. Fuller closed the proceedings with speeches.

SOCIALISTIC NOMINATIONS.

The Socialistic labor party met last evening in Germania Hall, in the Bowery, and made the following nominations:—

State ticket.—Governor—Caleb Pink, of Brooklyn. Lieutenant Governor—Osborne Ward, New York. Secretary of State—M. F. O'Reilly, New York. Comptroller—C. E. Collenburg. Treasurer—J. B. Johnson, Harlem. Attorney General—L. Samel. State Engineer—Henry H. Muenker.

County officers.—Sheriff—Frank Siard. County Clerk—E. Langerfeld. Coroners—Drs. Julius Hoffman, George Stiebeling and Fritz Lienthal. Aldermen-at-Large—Ferd. Fiely, Theodore Millot, Hugh Corrigan, Michael Cassel, Paul Kaiser and Thomas Davis.

MASSACHUSETTS GREENBACK NOMINATION.

BOSTON, Oct. 13, 1879.

After a long wrangle on Saturday the Greenback State Committee placed the name of A. C. Woodworth on their ticket for Lieutenant Governor, Wendell Phillips having declined to accept their nomination. Mr. Woodworth is also a candidate on the Butler ticket.

The declination of W. F. Whitney, of Ashburnham, to stand as a candidate for State Treasurer was not accepted.

NOMINATION ACCEPTED.

BOSTON, Mass., Oct. 13, 1879.

John Quincy Adams has written a letter accepting the nomination for Governor as tendered by the regular democrats at the Faneuil Hall Convention last week.

THE TWO CHIEFS.

Political Interview with Governor Robinson.

MR. KELLY AT UTICA.

Squarely Assailing the Democratic Administration.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

UTICA, N. Y., Oct. 13, 1879.

Before leaving Albany to-day your correspondent called on Governor Robinson and had a conversation with him extending over a period of half an hour.

"What do you think of the political situation?" was the first question that suggested itself.

"I don't think anything about political matters," responded the Governor, who was looking well and hearty and was more disposed to be communicative than ever I found him before. "I don't think," he repeated, "anything about political matters, for I leave all that to the people. On the 4th of November I expect to celebrate my birthday, and if I am elected Governor the celebration will be additionally bright; but if I am not elected the fact will take very little away from the cheerfulness with which I shall commemorate the natal festivity."

"You don't seem, Governor, to care for a re-election."

"I don't want the office, sir, and I never would have taken the nomination if it had not been for the attitude of John Kelly."

"What had Kelly got to do with it, Governor?"

"Why, Kelly put the democratic party in such a position that it had to nominate me and I had to accept the nomination. On the day of election John Kelly and his crowd will vote for Mr. Cornell. They are not the men who will give away a vote, or even half a vote, if ever they can utilize it for their purpose."

THE PARTY ON A SOUNDER BASIS.

"But how will this contest affect the party?" pursued your correspondent.

"It will place the party here on a sounder basis than ever it was on before. No matter about the issue that is now being tried. That is ephemeral and its influence is only for the time being, and the great old democratic party will survive the shocks that threaten it."

"Of course you consider Mr. Kelly's action altogether irregular?"

"Well, if the Convention had submitted to the dictation of John Kelly it would have perpetrated an act of the grossest cowardice, and nothing injures a party more than the reputation of cowardice. There was only one course left to the party—either to submit to Kelly's dictation and bow down to Tammany Hall and the leaders of it or to assert itself in the spirit of true democratic independence."

"Why don't you take the stump, like Kelly?"

"As I said before I don't want to resort to any extra means to insure my election. I leave that thing entirely with the people, and they may elect me or not."

MR. KELLY'S RECEPTION IN UTICA.

This evening Mr. Kelly and his party arrived in Utica and were met by a delegation of Utica democrats of the most enthusiastic stripe. As the train rolled into the depot a salute of twenty-one guns was fired, and Mr. Kelly was carried to Bagg's Hotel almost on the backs of the citizens. The balcony of the hotel was crowded with people, evidently awaiting Mr. Kelly's arrival. They had come from far and near, and they had an idea that Kelly was the biggest circus that ever appeared in their region.

"Aint he a solid looking man?" they would say, as they gazed at the stalwart form of the boss of Tammany Hall.

"That's just John Kelly, by gosh!" a man would remark who had exhausted himself in contemplating the Tammany chieftain.

"You bet he'll wollop that old fraud Robinson," remarked another, and thus the discursive conversation went on.

I attended two meetings this evening, one of which was held in behalf of Mr. Robinson and the other in behalf of Mr. Kelly, and I must candidly say that Kelly had the biggest crowd and the most enthusiasm, and a thousand people can make affidavit to the same effect.

IN THE OPERA HOUSE.

After supper Mr. Kelly and his friends, accompanied by Mayor Buckley and a delegation of citizens appointed by the John Kelly Central Association of the city, repaired to the Opera House in carriages. The streets in the vicinity of the hall were packed with people and the interior of the hall, from orchestra to gallery, was so crowded that standing room was at a premium. At eight o'clock the visitors, preceded by the Utica committee, made their appearance on the stage, which was the signal for long and continued applause. Mayor Buckley was selected as chairman, and, after a brief speech, introduced Mr. O. B. Potter, of New York, who reviewed the action of Governor Robinson in vetoing certain financial measures which were of the most supreme importance to the city. Assemblyman Grady was the next speaker, and discussed at length the principal cause of opposition on the part of the democratic organization to the re-election of Lucius Robinson. Assemblyman Holahan was introduced after Mr. Grady, and was given a cordial reception. After he had spoken about thirty minutes the star of the evening, John Kelly, was brought forward and received a storm of applause, which was continued for several seconds. After quietness was restored he spoke as follows:—

I have been told that none outside of New York would vote for me. I don't know how many of you will vote for me—("All! all!" cheers)—but the enthusiasm satisfies me that some of you will. Why are we here? Does anybody believe the story that I am simply inspired with ambition to be Governor? I was never led away by selfish aspiration. Principle alone actuates me to save the party from the men who are destroying it. The sooner the people are aroused to this danger the better. We complain that some legislators and officials are unfaithful to their trusts; but how can we expect good government when it is in the hands of those who have conspired to destroy it. I would be criticised for saying anything disrespectful about an opponent, but you have heard what Mr. Robinson has done. We do right in guarding our interests. We stated our objections at the Convention, saying that the people of New York county would not vote for Robinson. No attention was paid to our protests or appeals. Those who controlled the Convention had resolved to nominate Robinson because they had not the sense of children.

PRISON LABOR.

I might occupy your time in examining the weak points of Robinson's record, but will content myself with saying I am at least as good a democrat as he. He claims to have wrought reforms, especially in the prisons and canals. I would not deprive him of any deserved credit, but I cant see where the reform comes in. Before the constitutional amendments were adopted the prisons almost paid their expenses under the old system. The new system has no advantages, while it is ruining and beggaring mechanics, and the contractors grow rich on convict labor at forty cents a day. Two thousand hatters, 1,000 iron moulders are thus idle, while the wages of all are cut down. One contractor made $500,000 last year, but the State received no benefit. Mr. Seymour lately said that the whole trouble began in the present Superintendent's bad theory of treating criminals as if all were condemned for life. Mr. Kelly would not advocate idleness or anything inhuman. He would favor the system indorsed by reformers and recommended years ago which would let convicts earn money even to help support their families and yet not compete with free labor. The Governor may sympathize with the convicts, but during the whole of his term he has never visited a prison.

He also had singular democratic notions on education, holding that nobody should be taught above his sphere, which means that if a boy or girl is born poor they must remain so, getting no incentive to rise. Now the poor man, as a rule, is most anxious to school his children; and no American, rich or poor, will grudge the money with which to do it. The men who founded our government believed that intelligence was the best basis of liberty.

TAXES IN NEW YORK.

In relation to New York we desire economy; not penury, but prudent, honest government. We tried to do as your worthy Mayor and Council are doing—(applause)—and we are impeded at every step. Labor really pays the taxes; rents pay taxes on real estate. High taxes mean higher rents. We democrats proposed some finance measures to the republican Legislature. They passed unanimously, but were vetoed by the Governor for no reason than the mortal offence of differing politically with him. He is old and in his dotage. I pity him from my heart. Surrounded as he is by insidious knaves and a bad son who mis lead him from discharging his duty according to his oath, the old man's infirmity merits sympathy, the son reprobation. I bear the Governor no personal ill will. I only complain of the injuries he has done to the State. What other man who ever held his exalted office has resorted to such despicable methods? You have been told that I want to elect Cornell. No; I mean to elect John Kelly if I can. (Cheers.) I never saw Cornell and probably never will. I am a democrat, always regular, but can't vote against conscience.

Mr. Kelly here reviewed the history of Gumbleton's removal, which was done to crush and intimidate Tammany, and told of MacLean's still hunt and burglary as being dishonorable and infamous.

Having alluded to labor interests "I don't desire," said he, "to create any class bitterness. I simply want justice." (Cheers.)

Before the close of the meeting a despatch was received from Congressman Cox stating that he was ill, but would be able to join Mr. Kelly and his party before the close of the week.

A NOX AMBROSIANA.

BANQUET TO A DEFEATED CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR—"J. WASHINGTON NIXON, OF ERIE"—A POLITICAL JOKE THAT ENDED IN A JOLLIFICATION.

Seldom was a more genuine and delightful joke practised in the midst of a political convention torn by bitterly contending factions than that which the Robinson men perpetrated at Syracuse, and which was brought to a most laughable culmination last evening by a grand formal banquet to "General J. Washington Nixon, of Erie," at the Westminster Hotel. It will be remembered that one midnight, in the midst of that exciting convention, the rumor was started that John Kelly had, after all, triumphed; that Robinson had been defeated; that the "anybody but Robinson" whom Kelly was willing to support had been fortunately discovered at last in the person of "Nixon, of Erie." The name of "Nixon, of Erie," passed round like wildfire. The Robinson men looked aghast and the Kelly men shouted themselves hoarse for "Nixon, of Erie." The wildest enthusiasm prevailed in Tammany's quarters for the great unknown—for nobody knew who "Nixon, of Erie," was—and next morning the Tammany organ of this city duly published, under startling and exulting headlines, the impending nomination of "Nixon, of Erie." "Who is 'Nixon, of Erie?'" people asked. "Never mind who he is," was the reply of the Tammany braves, "hurrah for Nixon! hip, hip, hip, hurrah!" Nixon was the hero of the day. The only information that could be obtained as to the individuality of this distinguished personage was that he was a "rich brewer in Erie county." It soon turned out that the whole thing was a stupendous sell, an egregious hoax, a huge joke on Tammany and Kelly, and that no such person existed; and it was carried to still greater length when Ambrose H. Purdy actually undertook to personate the shadowy and mythical Nixon. The credit for first inventing Nixon, of Erie, and "selling" Tammany in this ludicrous fashion was generally accorded to the Mayor's Marshal, John Tyler Kelly. Yesterday the crowning climax of this joke on Tammany was reached in the grand banquet given to the mythical Nixon by the hilarious and triumphant Robinson jokers. Elaborate invitations on satin paper were issued, reading as follows:—

Grand Banquet
at
Westminster Hotel
on Monday evening, October 13, 1879,
at half-past six o'clock,
tendered to
General J. WASHINGTON NIXON, of Erie,
by his admirers and supporters, in testimony of his statesmanship, patriotism and honesty.

Dress, dine, drink as you please.

R. A. CUNNINGHAM, Chairman.
J. TYLER KELLY, JAMES FITZGERALD, C. M. SMYTH,
GILBERT BURNETT, Committee.

THE MENU.

The invitations were accompanied by the following unique *menu*, which gave the invited guests a foretaste of the fun they might have reason to expect:—

"Eat, drink and smoke without fear of any writ of prohibition."

MENU.

Whiskey à la Nixon, straight.
Oysters, raw, and à Schell roast.

SOUPS.

Cream of chicken. Printaniers, Pale Sherry.

HORS D'ŒUVRES.

Celery. Olives. Syracuse Pickles. Radishes.

FISH.

Croquettes of Salmon à la Tartan. Sauterne.
Injunction shad and certiorari cod, from Westbrook.
Suckers, stewed, Kellie sauce.
Sardines à la R-o-b-e-r-t-s.

RELEVES.

Bouchées à la Montglass.

ENTREES.

Filet of beef, with mushrooms. St. Julien.
Sweetbreads à la jardiniere.
Boiled calf's head, Quinc(e)y's sauce.
Lamb's tails au Bold Billie.
Spinoli Collares, steamed (Holly process).

VEGETABLES.

Pommes de terre parisiennes. Potatoes, mashed, à la Purrol.
Dawsheimer beets and choice roots from Dudli's Field.
Cabbage head greens, à la Gradi. "Steve" French peas.
Tomatoes, stuffed, Tammany style.
Roman Punch. City Hall "Sauer's." Champagne.

ROASTS.

Leg of lamb, mint sauce.
Reed birds on toast. Chiccory and lettuce salads.
Sachems, done brown } Served in
Sagamores, well basted, } Gumble-tins.
Boiled crow, only for the Haskin'. Sauce à la Horoscopi.

DESSERT.

Charlotte Russe. Ice Cream. Tortoni.
Gale pudding, Jamaica sauce. Pieces montees.
Mixed cakes. Candied dates. Nuts and raisins.
Tuscarora and Malaga grapes. Ogallala figs.
Strawberries. Gooseberries. Huckleberries. Waterberries. French coffee.
S. O. P. brandy. Monongahela whiskey.
Reina Victoria cigars.
"Westminster." October 13, 1879.

THE DINNER.

Although the invitation was for half-past six, it was an hour later before the Nixon jokers assembled at the Westminster Hotel, and then the name of the honored guest of the occasion was formally entered on the hotel register by one of the reckless wags of the company. "General J. Washington Nixon, of Erie county, and crowd," was the serious entry made. At eight o'clock the company filed into the dining hall, which had been prettily decorated. Besides the committee, whose names were given above, there were present Frederick H. Hamlin, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works; Ambrose H. Purdy, A. P. H. Abell, Clarence Levey, Tom Costigan, Adolph Sanger, Winthrop Choate, Jr., Alderman Kenny, Jeremiah Murphy, Colonel Tracey, Major Duffy, James Fitzgerald, Charles H. Truax, Bartholomew Buckley, E. D. Farrell, Louis Cohen, Henry Ford, Emile Benneville, private secretary to Mayor Havemeyer, and others. The dinner having been fully done justice to, the speechifying began at about half-past nine.

THE TOASTS.

Mr. Adolf Sanger, who rose to respond to the first toast, "Our Country," said:—"We should be grateful for one thing, that we were sired by so distinguished a statesman and dammed by everyone who holds our railroad stock. (Laughter.) And we should be grateful to our country for having given us so distinguished and pure a statesman as General J. Washington Nixon." (Tremendous cheering.) Instead of saying, "Our country, right or wrong," he would say, "The regular ticket, right or wrong." He then proposed three cheers for General J. Washington Nixon, which were given with uproarious enthusiasm.

The Chairman announced, amid great laughter, that a letter had been received from General J. Washington Nixon, of Erie county, and called upon Mr. Truax to read it. Mr. Truax read a farcical letter burlesquing the extravagant promise of financial-reform-made candidates, enumerating the hundreds of thousands he had saved in his present position—supposed to be Comptroller of "Guffalo"—in sealing wax, stationery, &c. Then the letter contained many hits at John Kelly, as, for instance, "I do not expect to be Governor, but I expect to beat Governor