

The Columbian.

GEORGE H. MOORE, EDITOR. BLOOMSBURG, SATURDAY, SEPT. 1, 1866.

THE CONGRESS QUESTION.

COMMITTED, in view of all of our convictions and opinions, against the re-election of Mercur to Congress, we have looked with interest if not anxiety upon all movements and discussions concerning the selection of his antagonist. And we are now glad to announce the probability that Hon. William Elwell, President Judge of this judicial district, will be named as such with a fair prospect of election. Upon looking over the whole field, and giving due consideration to the antecedents and views of men who are to support a Union candidate, no more appropriate and acceptable name can be suggested. With abilities of a high order, he has a record of past service and of personal conduct which will recommend him to all Conservative Union-loving and patriotic men, whether their associations have been heretofore with the one or the other of the great parties of the country.

Twenty-two years ago, in the Legislature of Pennsylvania, William Elwell drew our great statute which abolished imprisonment for debt, and which yet stands among the laws of the Commonwealth a monument of humanity and of the advancing civilization of the age.

Four years ago, upon invitation, he came to this county and settled among our people. The invitation was given in the form of a unanimous election to the office which he now fills, and which he has adorned by his learning, dignity, and urbanity. He has become known everywhere in this judicial district as a just, humane, and able Judge, who has so borne himself in his high office that popular confidence, respect, and attachment have concentrated upon him in a most eminent degree, and no one has been less enough or bold enough to asperse either his character or his official conduct.

By his training and the habits of a lifetime he has become familiar with our laws, whether State or National, and fitted for labor in their enactment or amendment. Congressional duties would be discharged by him with intelligence and fidelity which would leave nothing to desire. Besides, he meets one popular requirement, now pressing and important, now perfectly than any man in this Congressional District. That requirement is a candidate who stands comparatively free from recent partisan contests, and upon whom men who have been heretofore politically opposed to each other can cordially unite. The issues of the hour demand united exertion and combined effort among all who think the complete unity of the country essential to its existence and welfare. And it is expedient, if not necessary, to that united action that those who carry the Union banner in this new conflict with all that is detestable and injurious in the world of politics should command support and inspire confidence beyond the limits of any political organization.

Judge Elwell has been to a great extent for some years withdrawn from participation in party contests, though an attentive observer of public events. Before his elevation to the Bench he was not regarded as an ardent politician, and enjoyed the confidence and respect of political opponents as well as friends. At the present time he gives his thorough adherence to the principles announced by the Philadelphia Convention is devoted to the complete re-union of the States, and is content to stand alongside of men engaged in the redemption of the country from all disunion management, influence, or control.

We do not think that two thousand is an unreasonable estimate of the majority which can be given in this county to William Elwell in a contest against the present mis-representative of this Congressional District.

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CONVENTION.

We are indebted to M. F. Eyerly, Esq., for a report of the proceedings of this body, which met in the Court House in this place on Monday last. It will be seen that it is much more full and complete than that already published in the regular party organ of this place, in giving the votes in detail upon the nominations of Senator and Register and Recorder, and the first vote upon the nomination of Associate Judges. We regret that we are unable to give the final vote on the latter question with like detail, as the names were not taken down. But what is furnished will show pretty clearly the course of action in the Convention.

It will be seen that the vote upon Senator was very close, standing twenty-six to twenty-four. The result was evidently produced by a timely and skillful combination of the friends of Mr. Nichol and Colonel Tate upon the latter. As a member of the editorial fraternity we must congratulate the Colonel upon his triumph—a true testimonial.

But we cannot congratulate our neighbor of the *Duaneville Intelligence* upon the endorsement given him by the Convention. An improper and injudicious resolution for appointing Representative Conferences was passed, which will be seen in the proceedings. Captain Chalfant was to have his nomination as made by Mount Courton occurred in upon the express condition that the Senatorial Conferences of this county should support the Senatorial candidate named by this county. This proposition of a bargain, which verged closely upon an insult to Mr. Chalfant and his county, was perhaps passed without much consideration. We are informed that it proceeded from the profound and fertile brain of one of our neighbors of the *Democrat and Star*.

The re-nomination of Colonel John G. Freese for Register and Recorder has been received with general favor, and that of Mr. Jesse Coleman for Prothonotary and Clerk of the several courts was a matter of course under the usage of nomination.

After a well-contested struggle Sheriff Iram Derr obtained the nomination for Associate Judge over several strong competitors, having upon the fifth trial precisely the number of votes necessary to success. His colleague in nomination for the same office residing south of the river succeeded upon his first vote, outnumbering his only competitor from that section.

Montgomery Cole, of Sugarloaf, for County Commissioner, was nominated, his only competitor having declined the contest. His case may be thought by some to be desperate, as P. John has announced to the public in due form that no Fort Millin prisoner can be elected to office. But then P. John is not infallible, as has been shown upon sundry occasions, and there is a pretty general opinion that the less he says about Fort Millin the better.

The nominee for County Auditor is but little known in the county. We allude to the recommendation of Judge Elwell for Congress in another article.

In speaking of political bodies and of popular candidates we are constantly impressed by the advantage of position which is held by an independent journal over regular party organs. We are not obliged to puff worthless men nor abuse good ones, and can say as little or as much as comports with the propriety of the occasion. Having no personal objects to subserv, other than to obtain the confidence and respect of the public, an independent journal can be just, frank, manly, and instructive; can bid defiance to low prejudice and partisan passion; and convey to its readers that impartial information which is necessary to them in their capacity of electors. Our patrons may expect from us in the future full and adequate notices of all meetings, conventions, and candidates in this section, whether of one party or another, concerning which or whom they may desire knowledge.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 27, 1866. DEAR CAPTAIN.—Washington, after having been so long looked upon as the source whence many evils have emanated, at the dictation of a Radical Congress, has gone far to redeem its character by the large and enthusiastic ratification meeting of Saturday night. The meeting, which was held in front of the City Hall, was one of the largest and most enthusiastic I have ever witnessed here, while the close attention paid the speaker and total absence of anything calculated to mar the harmony of the proceedings marked the presence of our most respectable citizens.

At the principal stand, which was handsomely and appropriately decorated, the meeting was organized by the election of Philip R. Fendall, Esq., as chairman. A series of resolutions heartily endorsing the action of the Philadelphia Convention and course of the President were read and adopted by acclamation. Eloquent and convincing addresses were made by the chairman, Mr. Fendall; General Durbin Ward, of Ohio; Hon. E. O. Perrin, of New York; Hon. R. T. Merrick; Hon. A. J. Rogers; and Major-General Heath. At the same time addresses were being made at a side stand, more particularly to the Irish portion of our population, by Dr. Antisliff, F. M'Nerhan, Esq., Dr. Wenscroft, General Rawlings, and Lewis Schade, Esq.

Although the people of the District are debarred from aiding by their votes the organization of a great party, yet such a spontaneous outburst of enthusiastic sympathy with the lovers of Union cannot fail of having its influence throughout the country. The ear of progress and reform has been set in motion in Philadelphia. We have been the first to put our shoulders to the wheel to aid its onward progress, and it only remains for our fellow-patriots throughout the land to follow our example to convert its course into a triumphal march, bearing down all opposition before it, and leaving behind but the disjointed and scattered members of the party now in power. The good work has been nobly begun; let it be carried on in the same spirit, and our own endeavors will be crowned with the proudest success—the triumph of Charity and Peace over hatred and prejudice.

The unprecedented unity and concord which characterized the proceedings of the Convention, and the enthusiastic and unqualified endorsement of the measures by the people, proves that the hearts of all true patriots are in their work, and no frantic outcries of disappointed politicians, no malignant aspersions of character and motive, which now constitute the chief, if not the only, weapon of the Radical press and leaders, can deter them from the glorious result, the grand, the Federal Union, not as it was, but purified by the bitter struggle of four long, weary years; not as it was, with the pretentious of the one section inflamed by bitter ignorance of the merits of the other; but as it is to be—a Union founded on mutual respect, more closely enjoined to mutual desire to subserv the common weal, the common welfare of the whole country. This is the final end, to attain which our patriotic countrymen from one border to the other are ready to cast aside all past bitterness, and labor, shoulder to shoulder, in the common cause. And this constitutes a traitor in the unprejudiced eyes of the Radical Republican party. To attempt to vindicate the integrity of the American Union, to support the cause for which millions of treasure have been expended, for which thousands have laid down their lives, is in the clear and unswerving judgment of these our legislators a heinous crime.

Little by little the timbers of the Republican platform of '60 have been swept unheeded away by the tide of bitter, sectional prejudice, and not until fairly engulfed in the angry tide will these men realize whether they are tending.

To provide a remedy for such existing evils the Constitutional Union party was organized; to its success we must look for our haven of safety. Its very name indicates its purpose; no call is made for its supporters to sacrifice conscientious conviction on the shrine of party power; but it calls for support all who venerate the institutions perpetuated by the founders of our liberties, upon all who are willing to labor for the benefit of the many, casting aside petty, personal ambition, and through that support to strike a death-blow to Radical power and sectional legislation. This is the object of the party, for this it labors, and let us hope that it may meet with the same unqualified support throughout the country as it did here on Saturday night. A. M.

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

The Convention convened in the Court House in Bloomsburg, on Monday, August twenty-seventh, at one o'clock P. M., and organized by calling George Scott, of Catawissa, to the chair as President, and appointing Reuben D. Folk, of Henlock, and Isaiah Bower, of the Borough of Berwick, as Secretaries. Upon the township being called the delegates presented their credentials, and the following named persons were admitted to seats in said Convention: Bloom—Peter Billmeyer, L. B. Rupert, Borough Berwick—Isaiah Bower, Frederick Niecy, Berwick—Samuel Keckner, David Miller, Benton—Peter Case, Elias M'Henry, Beaver—Andrew Shuman, Nathan Bredtender, Centre—Isaac George, John Hill, Catawissa—Erwine Scott, Joseph Martz, Borough Centralia—Patrick Killian, John Chapman, Cunningham—Daniel T. M'Keirnan, Edward Fougherty, Fishing Creek—Emanuel Unangst, Cyrus Robbins, Franklin—Hiram J. Reader, Reuben Knittle, Greenebrook—Isaac Dewitt, William Eyer, Henlock—Reuben D. Folk, Aaron Smith, Jackson—John M'Henry, Henry Wagner, Locust—Henry Fink, Mayberry Snyder, Main—Henry Bauman, Charles Fisher, Millin—Thomas Aiter, Samuel Nuss, Montour—Elias Giger, Peter Heimbach, Multnomah—A. K. Smith, Lewis Schuyler, Mount Pleasant—Russell Appleman, Joseph Keeler, Orange—John Snyder, Samuel Zimmerman, Pine—Luther A. Garman, Jacob Long, Rising Creek—Nathan Driesbach, Peter Mensch, Sugarloaf—Almas Cole, H. C. Hess, Scott—Joseph Lilley, James Lake, On calling Pine Township two sets of delegates presented their credentials. On motion the case was laid over until the townships were all called. Townships being all called, the contestants made explanation, one claiming seat on account of holding delegate meeting at the old place of holding election, and the other claiming seat on account of holding delegate meeting at the new place of holding election. Whereupon a motion was made to admit the delegates elected at the old place of holding elections. Motion amended to admit those elected at the new place of holding elections. Yeas and nays were called, but no decision was had. Motion made to amend the amendment by voting direct for one of each set of delegates. Upon vote being taken, resulted in the admission of Luther A. Garman, and Jacob Long by a vote of twenty-five to twenty-three.

Leonard B. Rupert, of Bloom, offered the following resolution: Resolved, That John M' Reynolds and Elijah R. Keeler be appointed Congressional conferees to support Hon. William Elwell, of Bloomsburg, for Congress. Convention proceeded to nominate candidates for State Senator. Peter Billmeyer, of Bloom, nominated Levi L. Tate, of Bloom; Cyrus Robbins, of Fishing Creek, nominated Peter Ehl, of Scott. Nominations closed. The vote being taken stood as follows: For Tate—Messrs Bredtender, Billmeyer, Rupert, Killian, Chapman, Scott, Martz, Erwine, Hill, Knittle, Reader, A. Smith, Folk, Fink, M. Snyder, Bauman, Fisher, A. K. Smith, Schuyler, Aton, Nuss, Giger, Heimbach, Keeler, Appleman, and Driesbach—26. For Ehl—Messrs Shuman, Case, E. M'Henry, Niecy, Bower, Keckner, Miller, Fougherty, M'Keirnan, Unangst, Wagner, J. Snyder, Zimmerman, Garman, Long, Meusch, Lilley, Lake, Cole, and Hess—24. Whereupon Levi L. Tate, of Bloom, was declared the nominee for this county. L. B. Rupert, of Bloom, offered the following resolution: Resolved, That Peter Billmeyer and Richard Fruit be the Senatorial conferees, with instructions to support Levi L. Tate. Which resolution was adopted. The following resolution was offered by Aaron Smith, of Henlock: Resolved, That John Snyder and Robert C. Fruit be the Representative conferees to support the choice of Mountour County, provided they support the candidate of this county for State Senator. Peter Billmeyer, of Bloom, nominated John G. Freese for Register and Recorder; and John Hill, of Centre, nominated Samuel Neyhard. The vote being taken, stood as follows: For Freese—Messrs Shuman, Case, E. M'Henry, Billmeyer, Rupert, Bower, Lillian, Chapman, Scott, Martz, Fougherty, M'Keirnan, Unangst, Robinson, Knittle, Reader, Dewitt, Eyer, A. Smith, Folk, J. M'Henry, Fink, M. Snyder, Aton, Garman, Long, Lilley, Lake, Cole, and Hess—37.

For Neyhard—Messrs Bredtender, Niecy, Keckner, Miller, Erwine, Hill, Wagner, Fisher, Nuss, Giger, Heimbach, Keeler, Appleman, J. Snyder, Zimmerman, Driesbach, and Mensch—17. Whereupon John G. Freese, of Bloom, was declared the nominee of said convention for the office of Register and Recorder. On motion of L. B. Rupert, Jesse Coleman was nominated by acclamation for the office of Prothonotary and Clerk of the several courts of said county. On proceeding to select candidates for Associate Judges, Cyrus Robbins, of Fishing Creek, nominated Thomas J. Hutchison; John M'Henry, of Jackson, nominated Iram Derr; Isaac Dewitt, of Greenebrook, nominated Jacob Evans; George Scott, of Catawissa, nominated Stephen Baldy; John Snyder, of Orange, nominated Elijah G. Ricketts; Nathan Driesbach, of Rising Creek, nominated Peter K. Hehrline; Peter Case, of Benton, nominated Andrew Freese.

The following was the vote in detail: For Derr—Messrs Shuman, Bower, Keckner, Miller, A. Smith, Folk, J. M'Henry, Wagner, Giger, Keeler, Appleman, Long, Driesbach, Mensch, Lilley, Cole, and Hess—17. For Hutchison—Messrs Bredtender, Case, E. M'Henry, Niecy, Killian, Chapman, Martz, Erwine, Hill, Fougherty, M'Keirnan, Knittle, Reader, Fink, M. Snyder, Aton, and Nuss—17. For Baldy—Messrs Case, E. M'Henry, Scott, Unangst, Robbins, Bauman, Fisher, A. K. Smith, Schuyler, J. Snyder, Zimmerman, Garman, and Lake—13. For Hehrline—Messrs Shuman, Billmeyer, Eyer, Dewitt, Eyer, J. M'Henry, Wagner, Hill, Keckner, Fisher, Schuyler, Aton, Giger, Heimbach, Appleman, J. Snyder, Zimmerman, Long, Driesbach, Mensch, and Lake—27.

For Hehrline—Messrs Bredtender, Rupert, Dewitt, Eyer, and Heimbach—5. For Hutchison—Messrs Unangst and Robbins—2. For Hehrline—Messrs Shuman, Billmeyer, Eyer, Dewitt, Eyer, J. M'Henry, Wagner, Hill, Keckner, Fisher, Schuyler, Aton, Giger, Heimbach, Appleman, J. Snyder, Zimmerman, Long, Driesbach, Mensch, and Lake—27.

Peter K. Hehrline having twenty-seven votes, a majority of the whole, was declared nominated. Before proceeding to the next vote the name of Thomas J. Hutchison was withdrawn, Judge Baldy also in person withdrew his name.

First vote—Hutchison, 2; Derr, 17; Evans, 5; Baldy, 17; Ricketts, 13; Hehrline, 27; Freas, 17. Second vote—Derr, 18; Evans, 5; Ricketts, 10; Freas, 17. Before proceeding to the third vote Judge Evans in person withdrew his name.

Third vote—Derr, 23; Ricketts, 9; Freas, 18. Fourth vote—Derr, 21; Ricketts, 10; Freas, 16. Before proceeding to fifth vote Elijah G. Ricketts in person withdrew his name.

The Constitution of the United States, and that which shall be hereafter adopted, shall be supreme law of the land, and any State or States which shall have any power or authority in violation thereof, shall be null and void, and the people of the United States shall be bound to support and defend the same, and to maintain the same against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and to secure the same against all attacks, and to preserve the same inviolate, and to protect the same against all attempts to subvert the same, and to maintain the same against all attempts to destroy the same, and to support the same against all attempts to overthrow the same, and to defend the same against all attempts to invade the same, and to protect the same against all attempts to oppress the same, and to maintain the same against all attempts to oppress the same, and to support the same against all attempts to overthrow the same, and to defend the same against all attempts to invade the same, and to 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