Daily Appeal.

MEMPHIS.

WEDNESDAY, : : : : MARCH 9, 1859.

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The Official Journal of the City.

State Convention.

We advertise with usage, and as a necessary means of perfecting the organization and securing the success of our party in the next election, the undersigned, as members of the Democratic State Central Committee, request that the Democrats of every county of the State, will immediately proceed to holding primary meetings in their respective counties, and appointing delegates to the Convention to be held at Nashville, to nominate a candidate for Governor. As there are questions submitted with these, at also with the State Convention, that will probably be brought before the Convention, it is important that every county should be represented, and it is suggested that each meeting appoint proxies to our Committee, in case of inability or failure on the part of their appointees to attend.

We suggest the 17th day of March, 1859, as a suitable time for the holding of the Convention, and would respectfully request the Democratic papers of the State to give publicity to this notice.

A. R. CRISHER,
F. C. BUNNINGTON,
N. S. PINLEY,
State Central Committee.

FIRST PAGE.—The Washington Tragedy; The Howesville Tragedy; The French Emperor's Speech; Adulteration of Liquors; Interesting to Purchasers of Swamp Lands.

FOURTH PAGE.—The Harp of a Thousand Strings: The Crown Diamonds; DeTocqueville on Connecticut; Blood Stains; The Spring Elections.

DEATH OF POSTMASTER-GENERAL BROWN.

We lament the dispensation that compels us to announce this morning the decease of Postmaster-General Brown. Telegraphic dispatches report his demise, at Washington, yesterday morning. We have watched with much interest the fluctuating character of intelligence in respect to his health, and have feared the worst, the realization of which is now forced upon us. A more extended notice will be made hereafter.

THE PROTECTORATE FOR MEXICO

The latest advices from Mexico, says the San Francisco *National*, indicate the dismemberment of that republic, and we shall comment upon it as a country doomed to disruption. It is the sick man of the western hemisphere, which the civilized world has upon its hands; and the United States is the healthy neighbor, standing by, while it is verging upon dissolution, bound in duty to itself to see what is to be done with Mexico.

At the accession of SANTA ANNA to power, for the last time, in 1853, her national debt was one hundred and thirty-three millions, and since that time it has been increasing, and she has not paid all the interest. At that time she had existed, as an independent country, for thirty-two years, and had passed through forty-two changes of government. Most of these changes were attended with such scenes of disorder and armed resistance as to justify us in saying that they were actual revolutions. They gave to the forty-two governments an average duration of about nine months each. Several of them continued but two, four and five months, and one lasted but five days, and one seven days. Before concluding that Mexico is a poor country, not worth having, we should reflect upon the effect of this instability upon all its material interests. It is very true that her manufactures and her agriculture are at present almost nothing. But who would establish manufactories, or even farming, in a country where he held no guarantee of the continuance of order for more than nine months, and perhaps not more than five days at a time? Who would embark in trade, except in such a limited extent, and in such a temporary mode, as to admit of the instant withdrawal of the capital, and its removal out of the country? So it has been in Mexico, and it is for this reason that the vast resources of that rich region now lie undeveloped, and but partially explored. If Mexican wool can be exported to New York, as it has been, and then sold at eleven cents, in the green, at seventeen cents clean, and at fifty cents when made up, that government once established, the product of wool would soon be quintupled, and that woolen factories would begin to rise and hum on the mountain streams? Especially is there doubt of it, when we take into account the vast range of wild pasturage as well adapted to sheep grazing, the same which we have a piece of in California, but enough to insure us that wool is yet to be one of the staple products of our own noble, golden California? The fact is, that in Mexico, farmers, traders and miners have been crushed by revolutionary politics. But let order be planted in the heart of the country, and all would experience a resuscitation. It is this instability which has limited Mexico to a population of only seven and a half millions, on an area of eight hundred and thirty-four thousand English square miles; giving an average of a trifle less than nine inhabitants to the square mile. But there are sources of wealth in the country, as indicated by the riches of the church. Mexican writers estimate the property of the church at four hundred millions of dollars, or three times the national debt, twice and one-third times the entire revenue of the nation, and an income at eighteen millions of dollars. These writers state that one-third of the land is owned by the church, and that in the federal district, more than one-half of the assessed property, which is but little less than fifty millions of dollars, belongs to the church. We cannot vouch for the accuracy of these estimates, but we have not seen them contradicted. One writer shows, by a very elaborate process of figuring, that the difference between the national debt and retain all the church buildings with their furniture and ornaments, all the burial grounds, all the utensils and appurtenances of public worship, and a sufficient amount of invested funds to yield an income of seven millions of dollars; and he proposes that this should be done. Such, by his figures, is the wealth of the ecclesiastical establishment for a population which never exceeded eight millions, of whom three-fifths are Indians.

There are sources of wealth, then, somewhere in Mexico. But there are some objections urged to the acquisition of Mexico, or any part of it, which are deserving of notice. Therefore, we will now state, in round numbers, at $150,000,000. 2. The banditti. 3. The urban population, inhabiting five hundred and twelve cities, towns, and villages. 4. The mixed races and their diversity of languages.

We may glance briefly at these hereafter, and then look at the resources of the country, on the other side of the balance sheet, to show what compensation Mexico has to offer to any nation that will undertake the unwelcome task of taking and regenerating any portion of that country.

HON. A. H. STEPHENS, OF GA.

A large number of Senators and Representatives—the personal friends of Hon. A. H. STEPHENS, of Georgia—tendered to him a dinner, to be given immediately after the adjournment of Congress, which he declined, on the ground that private business called him home immediately after the adjournment. It is understood that Mr. STEPHENS will not again be a candidate for the seat he recently filled, and which he has held since 1843, with honor to himself and usefulness to his country. Mr. STEPHENS is one of the very ablest, most faithful and reliable Representatives who has occupied a seat in Congress for the last few years, and his absence, hereafter, from the seat which he has so highly adorned, will be not only felt by his colleagues and lamented by his constituents.

His political and personal integrity are of the highest order, which, united with his solid attainments and brilliant talents, have rendered him one of the first and most useful men in the Republic.

MOBILE AND OHIO ROAD.—Immense floods of water have fallen all through the State of Alabama. Many of the rivers had overflowed their banks—the Tigber, Warrior and Tuscaloosa—and a disastrous flood was feared. The Warrior and Tuscaloosa had risen forty-feet, and were still rising. The Mobile and Ohio Railroad was, at many places, under water.

☞ The Hon. W. T. AVERY, our excellent and faithful representative in Congress, passed Grand Junction yesterday, en route to Holly Springs, to meet his family at that place. We learn that he was in fine health and spirits.

THE PRICKLY DILEMMA.—The Vicksburg Whig, of Thursday last, says:

Among the many incidents related to us of this terrible disaster, we have been told that one of the subordinate engineers, while descriptively related to a late the circumstances of the explosion, and in his dying moments exclaimed: "I told him she would not hear so much steam!" evidently referring to the foolhardiness of the engineer who was killed, and who determined to run her to New Orleans within a certain time, or blow her up.

Another incident worthy of mention was the fact that a gentleman went into the barber shop a few minutes before the explosion, and the barber told him the boat had on too much steam, and shook too much for him to shave anybody.

These incidents prove that the boat, being behind time, and the passengers anxious to reach New Orleans, too much steam was pressed on her, attended with the horrible results already detailed.

DEMOCRATIC MEETING IN HAYWOOD.

At a meeting of the Democratic party held in Brownsville, on the 7th inst., Col. S. P. Caldwell was called to the Chair and after having explained the object of the meeting, R. C. Ross was appointed Secretary.

On motion of H. A. Rogers, Esq., the Chairman, John A. Taylor, S. S. Brooks, H. A. Rogers, H. J. Livingston and John D. Cole were appointed a committee to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting. Who, after having retired, returned and reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The Democratic party is the only national and conservative party, and the only party which can preserve the Constitution and prevent the overthrow of the union of States; Therefore

Resolved, That we, the Democracy of Haywood county, in convention assembled, do consent the principles adopted by the Democratic National Convention at Cincinnati in 1856.

Resolved, That we have unwavering confidence in the honesty, fidelity and patriotism of our Chief Magistrate, James Buchanan.

Resolved, That we approve of the time appointed to hold a State Convention for the purpose of nominating a candidate for Governor, and that I. G. Harris is our choice.

Resolved, That we approve the system of reform inaugurated by our late Legislature upon the subject of banking, and that such reform should be made in our currency as will insure a sound circulating medium convertable at all times into gold and silver.

Resolved, That the Chairman appoint delegates to represent us in the State Convention, of Nashville, to be held on the 17th of March, and also delegates to represent us in the Congressional Convention to assemble in Summerville.

Resolved, That in the event none of the delegates appointed to attend the State Convention are present, that E. C. Dunnington, Esq., be requested to cast the vote of Haywood county.

Resolved, That we propose to the Democracy of Lauderdale, Tipton and Madison counties the 1st Monday in May next as the time for holding a convention to nominate a candidate for the State Senate, and that said convention be held in Brownsville.

Resolved, That the Democratic party of Haywood meet in convention on the 1st Monday in April next, for the purpose of nominating a candidate to represent them in the next General Assembly.

Thereupon the Chair appointed the following named persons as delegates to the State Convention:

John Kelsoe, Robert Morris, J. M. Payne, William Phillips, ——— Chancey, William M. Walker, J. M. Shaw, J. W. Rawly, D. F. Williams, M. W. Cotter, sr., Alex. Moore, C. H. Strother, H. A. Rogers, H. Taylor, Alsey Bradford, Dr. Gorland Taliaferro, J. L. Brooks, Henry Johnson, John R. Wilson, Thomas Hasbert, G. H. Dunnington, Robert Wilson, H. Anderson, Stephen G. Burns, John Williams, Esau Jones, ——— Potter, Robert Jennings, Isaac M. Johnson, Dr. James Haywood, J. J. Allison, L. W. Livingston, Jeff. Mann, and Thornton Easley; and the following to the Congressional Convention, Raleigh Wolf, Stephen Shrubs, J. W. Caldwell, Thomas Shepard, J. R. Somerville, James Walker, Benj. Tyson, John A. Taylor, Alex. Duckworth, William Moore, W. B. Reed, W. R. Bennett, J. D. Cole, H. J. Livingston, Fred. S. De Walt, Dr. E. Taylor, W. P. Bond, Thomas B. Chilborne, Benjamin Taliaferro, F. A. Claiborne, A. M. Estes, Dr. E. Davis, J. C. Coggeshall, A. Oldham, H. J. Rogers, W. H. Bates, Dr. Charles Read, John C. Davis, Jesse Hayden, John Smothers, Col. John A. Johnson, Dr. Samuel Jelks, Samuel Hughes, G. Robertson, Saml. Oldham, H. A. Rogers.

On motion the delegates appointed to the Congressional Convention, were authorized to act as delegates to the Senatorial Convention.

On motion the Chairman and Secretary of this meeting were added to the list of delegates to the general convention.

It was further resolved that a copy of the proceedings of this Convention be furnished the Memphis APPEAL and the Nashville *Union* for publication.

S. P. CALDWELL, Chairman.
R. C. ROSS, Secretary.

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND ITS OVERFLOWS.

HELENA, Arkansas, March 4, 1859.

EDITORS APPEAL: In my previous article I find several mistakes which cannot now be corrected, and I must trust to the intelligence of your readers to correct them, or any which may occur in this, as I cannot get to read the proof myself. Anyone now to give my opinion in regard to the Mississippi river and the consequence of *attempting* to levee it. I say attempting, for I have no fear of successful contradiction when I say there will never be a levee from Commerce, Missouri, which will hold anything like the amount of water which came down the river last summer. Levee theorists attempt to apply a law in regard to the effect of more or less water in a channel, which I admit to be correct, provided the banks are no opposing circumstances, viz: that the more water you can confine to a channel the less rate of fall per mile is necessary to give the stream current sufficient to wash out its bed. This is correct, undoubtedly, and could be applied to the Mississippi, provided some of the water should never be let out on banks to spread again, but found its way to the gulf, as is the case below Red river. There (below Red river) the levees have, most undoubtedly, produced this effect, as the bottom lands have not only given the river bed the additional capacity necessary to carry off the additional water, but have also overcome the necessary elevation of bed consequent upon the extension of the delta, which should have been some three to five inches at Baton Rouge, in the last twenty years, as the extension of the delta within that time, according to a late survey has been from one mile and quarter to one and a half. The same law would apply to the St. Francis swamp, provided it had a free outlet, as it was, in 1844, but this not being the case it would not apply, as the additional water would elevate the surface both above and below the mouth of St. Francis river. Now suppose the portion of Cairo, St. Francis, Yazoo etc., but our reservoirs, which take off the surplus water when the river gets above a certain height and hold it until the river commences falling, and then returns its waters so that the river is kept at or near high water mark for a greater length of time, and allowing the river below to carry off its water without the great elevation necessary should the water be all confined to the channel. Could the exact stage of the river last spring, at Commerce, Mo., Cairo, Helena, Napoleon, Vicksburg and Baton Rouge, be known, the effect of their "swamp reservoirs" could be determined almost exactly. I know the effect at Helena, at least have the authority of the river report of the St. Louis *Republican*. The Mississippi came to a stand and commenced falling from the 5th to the 15th. This fall, had it been confined by a levee, should have reached Helena June 21st, whereas the river did not commence falling here until July 5th, *fifteen* days after it should. Allowing the same, or thereabouts, for each of the swamps, and the fall did not reach New Orleans much, if any, before August 15th, or even September 1st. With the levees to confine all the water, the whole rise would have been at New Orleans about June 27th, or in twelve days, and the current would easily have carried a flatboat of any light thing the distance to that place. The question may be asked, how can this have anything to do against your law? I will answer, by saying that I probably should have put first. Every person at all acquainted with the Mississippi, or in fact any river, must know that when the river is low the bed fill up, and the water is much wider than it. There must, therefore, be a point at which the bed either fills up or washes out; this I call the point stationary," and may be supposed to be when the river is some twenty-five feet above low water, at any point above Natchez; and as the current is greatest during a rise, we may suppose that "point" to be at twenty feet above low water mark, and as less when falling, put it at thirty feet; although I am inclined to think the bottom will begin to wash at less than the twenty feet, and, according to this calculation, the bed will commence washing long before the water gets over the banks. With the levees, the time the water would be kept up would be much longer, and the same from St. Louis to the Gulf, and with such a rise as last year, (the June one,) would give the whole river a "scouring" or washing, out capacity of not more than three weeks, which was the time at Memphis. The St. Francis swamp confined this for near four weeks longer below the mouth, and each of the other swamps affecting in proportion the river below. Red river was above the "point"—that is, had a "scouring" capacity for nearly three months, instead of weeks. It must be borne in mind that this "point" varies below Natchez—as, for instance, the elevation of high water above low water at New Orleans is only about twelve feet. I should like to know what amount of increased current would be necessary to do in weeks what has heretofore required months. The river below Red river, with such a spring as last year, has a "scouring" capacity of six months, and fills up six months; with the levee the scouring capacity would be for not more than two months, and of course would fill up two months. This will account for why the Red was rising at thirty feet instead of thirteen inches. The greater portion of this elevation would take place without any regard to the delta. The delta could only effect in proportion to the distance it would extend, say three inches to the mile of extension. This shortening of the time of flow of the water, is, in my opinion, the great danger from the levees. As it must be evident that it would be impossible to expect to increase the current enough, with the present rate of fall to the mile, to make the water work out in two months the accumulation of six months, when (as at present) it has six months to work and six to fill. It would necessarily involve the choice of the "point stationary," which could only be done by elevating the bed of Red river, so that the bed would commence washing at a much lower stage of the river, as is the case above the mouth of each river. For instance the rate of fall about St. Francis is about four inches to the mile, and the bottom of the river will at until the river commences falling, and then returns its waters so that the river is kept at or near high water mark for a greater length of time, and allowing the river below to carry off its water without the great elevation necessary should the water be all confined to the channel. Could the exact stage of the river last spring, at Commerce, Mo., Cairo, Helena, Napoleon, Vicksburg and Baton Rouge, be known, the effect of their "swamp reservoirs" could be determined almost exactly. I know the effect at Helena, at least have the authority of the river report of the St. Louis *Republican*. The Mississippi came to a stand and commenced falling from the 5th to the 15th. This fall, had it been confined by a levee, should have reached Helena June 21st, whereas the river did not commence falling here until July 5th, *fifteen* days after it should. 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