

MEMPHIS APPEAL

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 1, 1874.

TO-BE-HOLDEN CONVENTION.

The movement inaugurated at Bartlett three months ago, and which has thus far worked so harmoniously, will pass through a trying ordeal to-morrow. If the delegates prove themselves equal to the occasion and to their important duty, they will have secured to occur in the history of Shelby, when a mightier responsibility rested upon her true and patriotic people than on the present occasion. The future political status of Shelby county depends upon the convention to-morrow. This is surely an incentive for conciliation and friendship for settling personal enmities and friendship for the purpose of securing a victory. So far Shelby county has been enabled, through the patriotic devotion of her people, to hold her head above the black and boiling waters of Radicalism that have washed and destroyed the land and prospects of many portions of the south. The county offices are filled by faithful and reliable Democrats and Conservatives, and the county is sustained by civil law, and the people enjoy the blessings of peace, tranquility and civility. So far Shelby has escaped the turmoil, the strife, the agitating apprehension of the future and vindictive, and the terrible thought of irredeemable ruin which has invariably followed the triumphant train of that party, which has been more successful elsewhere in the south than it has been here. It remains to be seen whether glorious and happy days are ahead. August elections will still stand unshaken by the storm, or go down into the yawning abyss that has swallowed up the wealth and hopes of the people wherever Radicalism rules. There is no danger if the convention adjourn to-morrow, and the Democratic and Conservative had they former county elections; if the Radicals had been successful in their efforts to obtain control of the county government, the fate of that South Carolina and Louisiana. We should have had and should still have seen the same proscription and vindictive policy toward the opponents of the party in power, the same predominance of negroes over white men. There was alarm throughout the county during the progress of former campaigns, and it was not unusual. The white people of Shelby had reason to be alarmed. They knew they were menaced by numbers not equal to their own, but they did not know that all their own voters could be brought out to the polls, while there was no doubt that the Radicals would put forth their whole strength. They knew, too, that if they were beaten they would be at the mercy of a merciless foe. And it was well that there was doubt of the result; it was well that the fears of our patriotic people were aroused; it was well that there was a general appreciation of the magnitude of the danger that threatened the county. The people had no desire for politics for the sake of a party. They were depressed in spirit, broken in fortune, and in no mood for participating in elections, as they had done in other days; they wanted to be left alone to pursue their vocations in peace and tranquility, to build up their farms and plantations, and to make bread for their families, undisturbed by office-hunters and politicians. But they saw the necessity of an organization of the patriotic men to resist Radicalism. They saw that unless they took part in the elections the county would be in the hands of a party which would make her desolation more desolate, and, with heretofore resolution, they enlisted in the cause, rallied to the support of the nominees, who were elected and Radicalism routed. The tax-paying white people of the county are still actively engaged in their private affairs, still industriously laboring to promote their own material interests, still indisposed to take part in politics as a mere matter of excitement. But they are also aware now, as they were two and four years ago, that it is absolutely essential to the prosperity of the county in the county government that they shall not only go to the polls and vote for the candidates of their party on the day of election, but they shall organize and exert themselves individually during the canvass for the advancement of the cause. If, by possibility, the Radicals should carry the county, the poorest, as well as the richest, of our white population will suffer seriously from the consequences of the affecting calamity. If there is any white man who has not a proper appreciation of the condition of Shelby, let him look for the under Radical rule, let him look for a moment upon the appalling pictures of those States now subjected to the sway of the party that is mostly made up of ignorant negroes in the south. Let him look around him upon the millions of slaves, ask himself if he would like to see his own race subordinated to it. Let him reflect upon the fact that his party is composed of white men, while the Radical party embraces in its organization almost every negro word. The control now begun of the machinery of the tax-paying people of Shelby. If they succeed again, as they easily can do if they will, we shall continue to have peace and quiet throughout the county; our industrial interests will continue to improve; capitalists from the north who have a horror of negro rule, will come amongst us to make their homes here and to embark in enterprises for the utilization of our resources. On the other hand, if the Radicals succeed, we may expect to have the sort of government that exists under the same party in our sister States of the south that have been brought under its control. The Democrats and Conservatives of Shelby have the matter in their own hands. They have only to be united, and to vote their full strength, to make victory certain for their cause. Our party has no hostility to the negro. It wants him in his rights, and accords to him all to which he is entitled under the laws; but it is not willing that the black race, shall predominate over the white, tax-paying people in the city, county, or State government. It is to the interest of both races that it should not be so; if by the convention to-morrow, it cannot, will not be.

THE NEGROES AND THEIR TRUST FRIENDS.

There is a negro school in Virginia called the Hampton normal and agricultural institute. The closing exercises of this institution, a few days since, are represented as most interesting. The school is maintained by taxes wrung from the pockets of the whites, against whom the blacks never fail to hurl themselves at every opportunity. The school is in the hands of a negro school in the south was something novel, and for the purpose of finding something to censure, several northern papers sent reporters to Hampton with the expectation of discovering something which would reflect on the existing state of Radical hate. But that battery has been silenced. The school was so prosperous, the whites who pay the taxes that support it were present in large numbers and manifested such interest for the people, such kindred for the success of the institution that the reporters and the northern fanatics are filling the northern papers with praise of the Hampton school, and the white people of Virginia who support it. The people of the north will, so soon as they realize the extent of the error that they are not the negroes' enemy. There is no antagonism in the south between the whites and blacks, save that which the carpetbagger has engendered, in order that he may get into some fat office. The people of every southern State, like those of Virginia as represented by the Hampton school, are in the hands of the education of the negro. We, too, have too much interest in the matter to be indifferent to it. An examination of our public school system will show very clearly how much we think about it. We have not hesitated to tax ourselves to the utmost extent of our resources to give our common schools and give our children the best educational advantages as our own children. There is no danger to negro schools if the absurd fanatic, who have assumed the special guardianship of the race, do not attempt to turn the civil rights bill upon us. That, indeed, would be their death-blow. Stop the efforts of the demagogues and fools to interfere in the social relations of the races, and there will be no hostility between whites and blacks. Their interests are identical, and they will work in harmony and accord for their common good, so soon as they are freed from the vile teachings of interested knaves, who pour poison into their ears, for the purpose of making them as "beaters of wood and drawers of water." An incident occurred at Hampton, Virginia, pending the recent exercises, which is worthy of note. A colored preacher by the name of Blyden, a very learned West India negro, but recently returned from Africa, made a long speech to the school, which we have read with great interest. In speaking of his race, he said: "Africa is a great mystery. For many years almost nothing was known of the country or its inhabitants. It was generally supposed that the people of Africa were all heathen or degraded. This was not true, as recent explorations have developed. What was the white man's labor in surrounding the country, but inside this belt the lands were fertile, the climate salubrious, and the inhabitants in a semi-civilized state. The negro originally brought to America could not be considered types of the native African. They were slaves, and they were purchased by the traders who brought them to the island. Their masters were only changed, and it is natural that they were servile and submissive to their new owners. But the people brought here have been benefited by their contact with the whites, and it is his duty to extend the knowledge they have gained to their native land. From personal knowledge he knew that physically, mentally and morally the people of Africa are not inferior to those of America. There are organized tribes there prepared to meet their brethren from this country. In Liberia the whites are in the same condition as the negroes are in America. While in Liberia he demanded for the white 'civil rights,' but the old folks said, 'No, the time has not come; you don't know the white man; he will destroy you.' Every man who is intellectually educated and who is devoted to the advancement of Africa. Let him grow up naturally, and he will find his true level here." There is much food for reflection in the remarks of this intelligent black man. He tells his race that the negroes were slaves before they were brought to this country, and they were benefited by their contact with the whites. He made the important omission in his address. He should have told his people who it was that found the blacks in slavery, bought them, and brought them over to this country; who it was that traded and grew rich on the nefarious traffic. He should have told his people that the south was opposed to the slave trade; that the northern people, who now weep crocodile tears over the wrongs of the poor negro, were the only people that carried on the slave trade. They built vessels for that purpose; brought and sold so many negroes to the south coast, where they were to be trafficked, and the south coast was the only place where the slave trade was engaged. When the constitution was adopted every State in the Union was a slave State, save one. But the work of making free States commenced, not by freeing the negro, but by running him off when his labor was unprofitable, and selling him into bondage to the south. Although most of the northern States became free, they were still engaged in the slave trade. It was not until the slave trade was prohibited, the puritan turned up the whites of their eyes, and inveighed through their noses on the wickedness and sinfulness of slavery! The ancestors of the negroes of the south came from northern States. The northern people sold them to the southern States, where they were to be trafficked, and the south coast was the only place where the slave trade was engaged. When the constitution was adopted every State in the Union was a slave State, save one. But the work of making free States commenced, not by freeing the negro, but by running him off when his labor was unprofitable, and selling him into bondage to the south. 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