

Tuesday, January 14, 1868. An Audacious Scheme.

The application of the Radical majority of the Convention to invest it with the authority to remove the officers under the present State organization, and to establish themselves as the governing power of the State, is the coolest piece of audacity and political knavery that has come to our knowledge. These Radicals know that they do not reflect the sentiments of one out of every fifty of the intelligent bona fide white citizens of the State. Indeed, that they have no constituency outside of the ignorant black rabble whom they are seeking to convert into convenient tools for the promotion of their own selfish ends.

It is well known that when this Convention submits its plan of government to the people its functions will cease; and that it will be absolutely dead when its plan is rejected, as we feel assured it will be since we have witnessed the extremely malignant, destructive and unscrupulous spirit displayed by it. And in that event, suppose Congress should answer its petition and permit the government of its creation to be foisted upon the State, what would be the absurd and ridiculous spectacle presented? When the thing itself shall have been condemned and the life taken out of it, its defunct carcass reeking with all manner of execrable odors, will have been fastened upon the body politic.

Possibly this idea of prolonging a lease of power which it is apparent must be brief, is at the bottom of this most outrageous and iniquitous measure. Its authors will find before they are done with it, that it is a desperate expedient which will hasten their overthrow and heap wrath against the day of wrath upon their guilty heads.

Negro Suffrage in the Northern States.

Capt. Townsend's resolution reciting that in all but six of the Constitutions of the Northern States, the word "white" is used to define the qualification of voters, and that in three of the remaining, the negro is not permitted to vote unless he has both a property and an educational qualification, was a clincher. Here is what the Democracy of Ohio, representing more than fifty thousand majority of the voters of that great State, have to say in reference to the foul libel upon Republican government, and reproach upon the civilization of the age, embodied in the scheme of negro suffrage:

Resolved, That we are opposed both in principle and policy to negro suffrage, that the State of Ohio, by an act of the Legislature, is eternally opposed to its forced imposition upon other States, and that we stigmatize such an imposition by the Federal government as a most base usurpation.

This resolution was reported by Gen. McCook, a gallant officer in the Federal army.

That's the Talk!

Our cotemporary of the Meridian Gazette who participated in the call for the "Constitutional Union" Convention and is we presume a delegate, says:

All who have attended nigger meetings and seen the influence that extreme Radicals have over such assemblages must be satisfied that the true policy is to look to the white people alone for the government of the State. The Democratic party is the white man's party of the nation, and we need no better white organization than that. Let us then discard all such new fangled terms as Constitutional Union, and rally together under the Democratic banner. The Democratic party is the only one that is making war on the enemy and capturing the strongholds. It is now and always has been a white organization. Why not have a Democratic Convention, and at once prepare to co-operate with the National Democratic party?

Under What Political Designation Should the Conservative Elements in the South Combine? The tone of the Vicksburg Herald is undergoing a very decided, and we may add, an improved tone upon the proposition to bring all the Conservative elements in the State, including the party styling itself the "Constitutional Union," under theegis of the National Democratic party, as a "constitutional element" of the same, assuming its name, as well as espousing its principles.

In its issue of the 22d December, the Herald expressed itself emphatically opposed to this proposition, saying: It is very evident from the political movements in all the Southern States, that the people have wisely considered that whatever their sympathy with the Democratic party in the North, it would injure the future prospects of that party, and injure the command of the South. We will not at this time pledge ourselves to the name and policy of the party in question. It is very questionable, the South being in the hands of power between the parties of the North, may command for herself full justice for injuries in the past, and security for impartial legislation in the future. We will not be free to co-operate upon all national questions with the party that clings closest to the Constitution and the rights of the States. That we will cooperate with the Democratic party as it is now organized in opposition to the usurping and consolidating policy of the Radicals, no reasonable man will doubt, but without desiring to call upon the errors of the past, we hold that it would be hazardous to conservative interests in the South to attempt now to rally under the name of Democracy, the conservative majority of the people, in any manner, with secession, which the people hold as the cause of all our troubles. We therefore dismiss the suggestion as impracticable and dangerous, and do not intend to be misled by ambitious disorganizers and political quacks.

Here it will be seen that the Herald's objections to merging the conservative elements into the National Democratic party, were stated with emphasis. It did not want the "Constitutional Union" men to be called National Democrats because it would injure their party. The name of Democrat was synonymous with "secession" and was therefore odious. It wanted to hold the Constitutional Union party "as a balance of power" between other contending parties—and it was "questionable" whether the people of the South would "ever" bind themselves to any outside organization or political designation.

These views are simply absurd. It is known that two-thirds of the people of the State voted straightout for secession on the election of Mr. Lincoln to the presidency, and that the members of the Convention which passed the secession ordinance were chosen irrespective of parties. Is it not preposterous to assume that the people of the State would eschew a name which in other times represented the sentiments of an overwhelming majority of its selves—and which now, the Herald itself being the judge, is emphatically the representative of a policy which is antagonistic to all the accused heresies of the Radical party? If the Democratic party is fighting the battles of the white race in the South against the aggressions of the negro equality party—if it claims for their States equality of privilege with the other States in the Union, what reason, justice, or sound policy is there in insisting that the conservative elements in the South shall not at once incorporate themselves into its organization and adjoining counties were concerned.

Mr. Mygatt also pronounced the proclamation of Mr. McKee, and was aimed not only at the freedmen, but at the leading Republican of the State. Mr. Castello concurred in the same views and wanted these "gentlemen of high social position" to be brought before the Convention to prove their assertions. Mr. Gibbs was unwilling to see the subject passed over. He wanted to see the persons named in the papers, and the Governor, Gen. Ord, be summoned to stand upon what they based the proclamation. On motion of C. W. Fitzhugh (colored) the amendment of Mr. Field was laid on the table. Mr. Barry said if the charges were true the guilty should be punished; if false, the accusers should be dealt with. He claimed that the Convention had authority to investigate the charges. He cited his own case, and referred to certain slanders that were in circulation concerning him. And his case was not an exceptional one. The object of the Convention was to bring down in the estimation of the copperheads of the North. Mr. Alesh approved the resolution. Mr. Townsend moved to amend by inserting after the words "issued at the request and upon the suggestion of Gen. Ord, commanding 4th Military District." Tabled.

Mr. Barry here arose to a personal explanation—referring to an article in the Lexington Advertiser, which purported to be based upon statements from Washington to the effect that he had procured his commission as Brigadier-General, and other dishonorable means, and he demanded a special investigation in his case. Mr. Morgan moved for the appointment of a committee to so examine. Mr. Field thought the motion should include every gentleman on the floor, who had been charged with immorality and crime. Mr. Barry insisted that he was an exceptional and special case, that he had been directly charged with high crimes and misdemeanors. Had the gentlemen from Lowndes been so charged? Mr. Field—Yes, a thousand times worse. Mr. Morgan moved to amend by inserting, remarking that if the Convention undertook to investigate all the scandal that might be raked up against each individual member, the Convention would not get through in two months. Mr. Cunningham, also, thought it an unending and impracticable task. He was disposed to consider the abuse as highly censurable. Mr. Herbert moved to lay the amendment by Mr. Field on the table. The question recurring on Mr. Morgan's motion was: That in the opinion of this Convention the defense of the private reputation of a gentleman on this floor rests in the hands of the party aggrieved." Tabled.

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Mississippi State Convention. SIXTH DAY. JACKSON, MISS., Jan. 13, 1868. The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the Chaplain. Journal of Saturday, read and approved. On motion of Mr. Mygatt, Mr. Peyton of Copiah, was granted leave of absence for ten days. Mr. Field, submitted the following: That we, the people of this State, from which it is impossible to extricate them without the aid and assistance of this Convention, are in a state of ruin, and are totally destroyed, that the obligation to comply with old contracts, so unequal, oppressive and unjust, and ruinous, that it requires the interposition of the sovereign power to equate the rights and obligations of the people, so as to carry out the spirit of the contracts existing before the war; therefore, It resolved, That the Committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reporting an ordinance requiring the holder of any claim of any sort against the State, to pay the same, and to accept any property the owner may tender, in satisfaction for the value at the market price, when such obligation was entered into, and upon refusal to accept such tender or offer the obligation to be null and void. The resolution was laid over for reference. Mr. Bean offered a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee to ascertain the amount of the public debt, and to collect in this State in the years 1866 and 1867, and what disposition has been made of the same, and to call upon the acting officers of this State, for the information desired.—Laid on the table. Mr. McKee offered a resolution which he deemed of vital interest to the members providing for the issuance of State warrants amounting to thirty-five thousand dollars, for the purpose of defraying the current expenses of the Convention. He was satisfied that Gen. Gillem would sanction such action, and he moved for the issue of such warrants, and that sheriffs and collectors would not dare refuse to receive them. He would not unnecessarily add any single item to the public debt, and he would not oppress the people, and was therefore opposed to such a levy, to be enforced by an army of tax-gatherers, whose very duties would help to make odious the action of the Convention, and the constitution it might adopt. Mr. Strickland offered a substitute, an ordinance providing for a per capita tax of \$2.50 to be collected by the sheriffs or registrars of the counties, and to be paid to deposit his ballot, and the money thus realized to be applied in redemption of warrants issued on account of the Convention. On motion of Mr. Mygatt the substitute was adopted. On motion of Mr. Hanser, the resolution of Mr. McKee, was laid on the table, with a view of reference to finance committee. Mr. Gibbs moved to amend by providing for the appointment of a committee of three, to inquire into the validity of the charter of Jackson Gas Light Company, with power to seal the books and papers of the company. Mr. Field objected, on the ground that it looked like a spiteful reply to a very polite communication. Mr. Barry favored the resolution, stating that it was a fact, that the company does not exact security of other consumers; and suggesting that if the company was not able to run the thing, it had better be turned over to the people. The resolution was adopted. Henry Mayson (colored), offered a resolution providing for the appointment of a select committee of seven, to inquire into the charges preferred against a portion of the people of this State, as promulgated in a recent proclamation by B. G. Humphreys, "Provisional" Governor of Mississippi. Mr. Morgan tabled it, referring to the committee on legislation and relief. Mr. Gibbs moved to amend by declaring, declaring his conviction that there were not twenty people in the State, who believed there was one iota of truth in the proclamation of the Provisional Governor, and that the Convention should simply declare its belief that there were no grounds whatever for the issuance of the proclamation. Mr. Alderson concurred in the views expressed, and pronounced the whole thing a foul slander—deliberately concocted to excite the people, and to bring about a collision between the black and white classes of the State. He had positive knowledge of this so far as Jefferson and adjoining counties were concerned. Mr. Mygatt also pronounced the proclamation of Mr. McKee, and was aimed not only at the freedmen, but at the leading Republican of the State. Mr. Castello concurred in the same views and wanted these "gentlemen of high social position" to be brought before the Convention to prove their assertions. Mr. Gibbs was unwilling to see the subject passed over. He wanted to see the persons named in the papers, and the Governor, Gen. Ord, be summoned to stand upon what they based the proclamation. On motion of C. W. Fitzhugh (colored) the amendment of Mr. Field was laid on the table. Mr. Barry said if the charges were true the guilty should be punished; if false, the accusers should be dealt with. He claimed that the Convention had authority to investigate the charges. He cited his own case, and referred to certain slanders that were in circulation concerning him. And his case was not an exceptional one. The object of the Convention was to bring down in the estimation of the copperheads of the North. Mr. Alesh approved the resolution. Mr. Townsend moved to amend by inserting after the words "issued at the request and upon the suggestion of Gen. Ord, commanding 4th Military District." Tabled.

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Mr. Gibbs moved to amend by providing for the appointment of a committee of three, to inquire into the validity of the charter of Jackson Gas Light Company, with power to seal the books and papers of the company. Mr. Field objected, on the ground that it looked like a spiteful reply to a very polite communication. Mr. Barry favored the resolution, stating that it was a fact, that the company does not exact security of other consumers; and suggesting that if the company was not able to run the thing, it had better be turned over to the people. The resolution was adopted. Henry Mayson (colored), offered a resolution providing for the appointment of a select committee of seven, to inquire into the charges preferred against a portion of the people of this State, as promulgated in a recent proclamation by B. G. Humphreys, "Provisional" Governor of Mississippi. Mr. Morgan tabled it, referring to the committee on legislation and relief. Mr. Gibbs moved to amend by declaring, declaring his conviction that there were not twenty people in the State, who believed there was one iota of truth in the proclamation of the Provisional Governor, and that the Convention should simply declare its belief that there were no grounds whatever for the issuance of the proclamation.

Mr. Alderson concurred in the views expressed, and pronounced the whole thing a foul slander—deliberately concocted to excite the people, and to bring about a collision between the black and white classes of the State. He had positive knowledge of this so far as Jefferson and adjoining counties were concerned. Mr. Mygatt also pronounced the proclamation of Mr. McKee, and was aimed not only at the freedmen, but at the leading Republican of the State. Mr. Castello concurred in the same views and wanted these "gentlemen of high social position" to be brought before the Convention to prove their assertions. Mr. Gibbs was unwilling to see the subject passed over. He wanted to see the persons named in the papers, and the Governor, Gen. Ord, be summoned to stand upon what they based the proclamation.

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On motion of C. W. Fitzhugh (colored) the amendment of Mr. Field was laid on the table. Mr. Barry said if the charges were true the guilty should be punished; if false, the accusers should be dealt with. He claimed that the Convention had authority to investigate the charges. He cited his own case, and referred to certain slanders that were in circulation concerning him. And his case was not an exceptional one. The object of the Convention was to bring down in the estimation of the copperheads of the North. Mr. Alesh approved the resolution. Mr. Townsend moved to amend by inserting after the words "issued at the request and upon the suggestion of Gen. Ord, commanding 4th Military District." Tabled.

Mr. Barry here arose to a personal explanation—referring to an article in the Lexington Advertiser, which purported to be based upon statements from Washington to the effect that he had procured his commission as Brigadier-General, and other dishonorable means, and he demanded a special investigation in his case. Mr. Morgan moved for the appointment of a committee to so examine. Mr. Field thought the motion should include every gentleman on the floor, who had been charged with immorality and crime. Mr. Barry insisted that he was an exceptional and special case, that he had been directly charged with high crimes and misdemeanors. Had the gentlemen from Lowndes been so charged? Mr. Field—Yes, a thousand times worse. Mr. Morgan moved to amend by inserting, remarking that if the Convention undertook to investigate all the scandal that might be raked up against each individual member, the Convention would not get through in two months. Mr. Cunningham, also, thought it an unending and impracticable task. He was disposed to consider the abuse as highly censurable. Mr. Herbert moved to lay the amendment by Mr. Field on the table. The question recurring on Mr. Morgan's motion was: That in the opinion of this Convention the defense of the private reputation of a gentleman on this floor rests in the hands of the party aggrieved." Tabled.

Mr. Alderson approved the resolution. He thought the members of the Convention should combine to put down such slanders, and he considered that he would commit a crime did he circulate a newspaper containing them. Mr. Townsend moved an amendment, providing that the expenses of such investigation be borne by the delegate in whose behalf it is made. Without disposing of the resolution, the Convention proceeded to other matters. The President having announced the receipt of 150 copies of the Alabama Constitution from the Executive Committee of the National Union Republican Party. Mr. Cunningham moved a vote of thanks to the printer. Mr. Watson objected. He hoped the Convention would confine itself to the specific duties for which it assembled. He did not understand why so many thanks were necessary in that or any other case. Mr. Watson. Although a staunch partisan himself, he was opposed to the Convention thinking partisan committees. Mr. Watson moved a resolution, the resolution was so amended as to thank the committee for what it had already done, and what it intended doing in future; and so amended, was adopted.

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