KNOXVILLE WHIG.

KNOXVILLE, TENN.:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1861.

UNION CONVENTION TICKET.

FOR KNOX AND ROANE:

C. F. TRIGG.

FOR KNOX AND SEVIER:

O. P. TEMPLE.

FOR KNOX ONLY:

JOHN BAXTER.

Subject to the Ratification of the People at the Ballot-Box.

List of Appointments!

LET ALL THE PEOPLE COME OUT!

Messrs. Baxter, Trigg, Temple, and others, will address the people as follows:—

Baxter and Temple at Outlaw's Store (Tuckaleechee) Friday, 1st of February.

Trigg and Jno. H. Fleming at Walkers School House on Friday, 1st of February.

Baxter, Temple and Trigg at Concord, Saturday, 2d of February.

Fleming, Brownlow and others, at Hopewell Camp-ground, (18th District) on Thursday, February 7, 1861.

Col. Baxter, and probably others, will fill the following appointments:—

Knoxville, Monday, February 4th.
Mill Camp, Tuesday " 5th.
Cox's, Wednesday, " 6th.
Gleanertown, Thursday " 7th.
John Nynatt's Friday " 8th.

OUR MASS MEETING ON MONDAY!

Let Everybody Come Out!!

The meeting on Saturday last unanimously resolved to have

A GRAND MASS MEETING!

of Union men in Knoxville, on Monday, the 4th day of February. Let the People from every district in the county come out on that day! Let us show the Disunionists that the PEOPLE of Old Knox are true to the Union. Let them hear a little thunder on that day.—Let us make a grand and glorious demonstration, before which the contemptible disunion faction will hide its diminished head. Let the old men come, and the young and the middle-aged! We are struggling for our country and our liberty. Come and see the glorious sunrise of our liberty that we have raised in Knoxville—the ever glorious STARS AND STRIPES! Rise, fellow-men, our country yet remains!

UNION SPEAKING AT NIGHT.

Torch Light Procession!

There will be speaking in the Union Church, in Middle Town, by the Union candidates for the Convention, on Friday night the 8th of February, and a Torch Light Procession. Let everybody come out, and witness a grand rally!

REMEMBER.—Will our friends in East Tennessee and throughout the State send us in the time of their respective districts and counties, as early as possible, so we may present the time to our readers in an early issue.

Be on your Guard!

There are many Union men, who are personally attached to the Disunion candidates in this county, and though differing with them in sentiment, will incline to vote for them, and console themselves with the consideration that the Union ticket will be elected with ease. This is all wrong. Every vote these men get, will be set down as Secession votes, and as the strength of the Secession ticket in Knox, and other counties, but many have none but Secession votes, and the votes they receive, to set down as the strength of the Disunion party. Now is the time to throttle the monster Disunion, and show its advocates where they stand, and who they are! Read them a lesson, through the ballot box, that they will never forget. Lay down to them the law, and tell them that it is the mandate of the Union party.

To the Churches.

In various counties in East, Middle and West Tennessee, we see that efforts are making by the leaders of the Disunion movement, to bring out certain Methodists and Baptists, and some of them preachers, with a view to carry off thousands, through devotion to men, and in this way to make their tickets outrun their party strength. Do these base leaders think that the common people are fools, and that the Church members of these denominations will lend themselves to do such dirty and infamous work as is required of their hands? Our great Confederacy is now in the very jaws of death, and the throes of dissolution, brought upon the country by the politicians and partizan factions, who care more for their own personal advancement, than for their country's peace. It is the religious duty of members of all churches, to throw down their preachers and members, who lend themselves for these purposes, and give them such a rebuke at the ballot-box, as will teach them a lesson in all time to come. No union man of principle, no lover of his country, having one spark of independence, will vote for a Disunionist for the approaching Convention, though he be a Preacher, Deacon, Elder, or Bishop of the Church. Vote him out of the Convention, and then turn him out of the Church for having permitted himself to be used in such an unholy cause!

Proscription, Do you Say?

The threats against us, for our opinions, are about to be met by Union men, and United men others. We are called upon by the Farmers and Mechanics of Knox county, to put out banners in this city, to put out a flag at their windows, either displaying the stars and stripes, or the British flag, or the one star Palmetto flag of South Carolina, that they may know who is for and who is against the Country. They say they want to know, and will know, where we stand. They also desire to know where *Professional* men stand—Doctors, Lawyers, and Preachers. They say they must know—that they have a right to know—and that they will not be kept in the dark upon the only great and momentous issue before the American people.

Proscribing Foreigners!

We take the following from the Memphis Avalanche, a leading Secession organ of Tennessee:

"I pray that our rulers may hereafter be elected for life, or for a lifetime of thirty years, that no man may have the right of suffrage who is not an American-born citizen, able to read and write, and with manhood enough to win and own an acre of ground at least."

Office for life, or for thirty years, is the Secession doctrine, and is to be the order of the day in the Southern Confederacy! *All foreigners and naturalized Citizens* are to be excluded from the ballot-box! *Property qualification, with a knowledge of letters, before one shall vote!* Freemen, of Tennessee, will you submit to this? Stand to your guns, and resist it to the last!

Messrs. Sawyers and Walker.

We publish the Circulars of these gentlemen by request, as they desire them to be extensively circulated. We are sorry to see them in the field. We are for the Union candidates, whose names are displayed under our editorial head, Temple, Trigg, and Baxter.

Death of Capt. Baker.

Capt. ABNER BAKER, died in Lancaster, Kentucky, on the 21st Jan., in the 86th year of his age. He was a man of fine intellect, and of sterling integrity, as a king the confidence and esteem of his neighbors. He was the Father of Messrs. Baker of Knox county.

The Union Meeting.

The meeting on Saturday last, the proceedings of which appear in our paper, was an unusually large meeting of the kind. The snow and mud utterly failed to intimidate the Union men of the country, or to dampen their ardor in the glorious cause of our country. Every portion of the country was represented. We have witnessed greater enthusiasm on any similar occasion, in Tennessee. The meeting was a complete success, one spirit, one mind, and one sentiment prevading the glorious Union crowd.

It will be seen from the proceedings, that JOHN BAXTER, OLIVER P. TEMPLE and CHARLES F. TRIGG were nominated as candidates for the State Convention, which will meet in Nashville, on the 25th of February. After the nominations, which were made with great unanimity, and amidst deafening applause, the three candidates addressed the crowd, accepting the position assigned them, avowing their sentiments, and their determination to suffer their right arms to fall from their sockets, before they would sign an Ordinance of Secession! We shall attempt no outline of their remarks, as they will contest the counties of Knox, Sevier, and Roane. The enthusiasm with which these speeches were received, was never excelled in any meeting we have seen held here.

The Union Candidates.

The enthusiasm with which the nominations of JOHN BAXTER, O. P. TEMPLE and C. F. TRIGG, were received on Saturday—the unanimity and good feeling with which these nominations were agreed upon—and the loud, hearty, and prolonged cheers with which their speeches avowing their principles, and their acceptance of the nominations, were received, clearly indicated the heavy vote, and the ever-powering majorities they are to receive on the 8th of February. Knox, Roane, and Sevier, may well be proud of three such men in the approaching Convention, to represent their interests, and to reflect their sentiments. They are able and experienced men, good debaters, bold and firm, and, withal, they are as sound Union men as ever took seats in a Convention, to deliberate upon the affairs of the nation. They are all there on kind personal relations—they are one in sentiment—and they will act in concert. Three such men, acting in harmony, must wield a powerful influence among those agreeing with them, and command respect to those who ever differ with them. Let the good and true Union men of these counties, irrespective of old party ties, give these champions of the Union cause such a vote as they will feel complimented with. This is alike due to them and the principles their nomination represents. Let us have the largest vote ever cast in these counties. The larger the vote, the larger the majority for the Union ticket. It is not men, but the country we are voting for, and let us do more for *our country* than ever we have done for *our friends*.

Let Union Men Stand Up!

No human foresight can determine whether there is reserved for the border States of the Union a peaceful or a bloody solution of the contest now going on. We confess that the indications are in favor of the latter. The *domineering* spirit of the Secessionists, and the *stubbornness* of the Republicans is alike ominous and threatening. Conservatism is to a great extent paralyzed by the indiscretions of ultra men. Our only hope for peace and harmony is in the firm stand we expect the border States to take. Much depends upon Tennessee. Let her remain in the Union, and by her patriotism, firmness, and conciliatory course, hold in check the Fanaticism of the North and the Disunionism of the South. Let Tennessee send to the approaching Convention, unflinching and unwavering Union men, who will not sign an Ordinance of Secession, under any circumstances, and they will defeat the schemes of Gov. HARDIN and his associates, in their attempts to force Tennessee out of the Union, with his SIXTEEN REGIMENTS OF MEN, and his *million of dollars*, to be wrung from the honest farmers and laborers of Tennessee, by *direct taxation*. Knox, Roane and Sevier will do their full share, in this great work, by the election of TRIGG, TEMPLE and BAXTER—than whom no truer, abler, and more efficient men will be in that Convention.

Running up the National Flag.

After the call and magnificent Liberty Pole was raised by the Union men, on Saturday, on the corner of Gay and Main streets, the American Flag, with the stars and stripes, was run up gracefully under the superintendence of Messrs. Douglass, Homer, Joseph, and others—and such a shout as went up, has not been heard in these parts in many a long day! This Banner now floats proudly to the breeze, and is there to float until the winds of heaven wear it out, while our citizens respond:

"Forever float that standard sheet,
Where breathes a foe but falls before us,
With Freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And Freedom's banner waving o'er us."

Ours is no lone Star, nor Palmetto flag, like the one erected by the Secessionists, in front of the Lamar House, but THE FLAG OF OUR UNION, of which our people say:

"The star-spangled banner, oh long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

We entertain no hostile feelings towards the Secession flag, nor are we opposed to its being up—its being thrown to the breeze will show the people what is intended, and strengthen the Union cause, as well as increase our vote. A few years ago a man would not dare to utter Disunion sentiments in Tennessee, but by slow degrees the monster is showing its head. It has been given out in broken doses, until such as incline that way are *ready* and *prepared* for a full dose.

Romance is a monster of such hideous mien,
That to be hated needs but to be seen;
Yet soon too off, familiar with its face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.

Our Legislature Union.

The Tennessee Legislature has elected Delegates to a Southern Convention—a work they had no business to undertake, and were not elected by the *people* to perform. We are glad to see, however, that in each case, the Union men were elected by from one to three of a majority. They elected one for each Congressional District, and two for the State at large. And out of the twelve, there are but *two* Secessionists, Messrs. *Tatum* and *Martin*. These two gentlemen, at least, are not down as doubtful by the Nashville *Democrat*. We give all doubtful men to the Secessionists, as Union men never confer themselves to be misunderstood. The following is the list of delegates:

STATE AT LARGE.

A. O. W. Totten, of Madison,
R. J. McKinney, of Knox.

FOR THE DISTRICTS.

1st Dist., S. Milligan, of Green;
2d, " Alvin Cullom, of Overton;
3d, " J. M. Anderson, of Sequatchie;
4th, " W. P. Richardson, of Coffee;
5th, " R. L. Caruthers, of Wilson;
6th, " G. W. Jones, of Lincoln;
7th, " Thomas Martin, of Giles;
8th, " F. K. Zollicoffer, of Davidson;
9th, " J. R. Hawkins, of Carroll;
10th, " W. H. Stephens, of Madison.

McDaniel and Irby.

We publish the advertisement of these gentlemen, who are Commission Merchants at Lynchburg. They are clever men—responsible men—and, withal, they are business men. Mr. McDaniel has for years been the President of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad Company. Virginia produces no clearer men than these are, and those who commit their interests to them will not conclude.

Annihilating Foreigners.

Some surprise is now manifested in this quarter, that so many Foreigners who heretofore acted with the Democratic party, are now so zealously supporting the Union ticket for the Convention! For our part, we are not astonished. In the formation of a Southern Confederacy, they have resolved to drive out all Foreigners. The Helena (Ark.) *Shield*, the home organ of the Hon. Mr. Hindman, in its issue of 12th Jan., makes the following disclosure:

"It is a gratifying reflection to know that the great majority of the Southern Democracy favor the *exclusion of foreigners from the right of suffrage*, in case a Southern Confederacy is formed. We have conversed with a great number of sensible, influential Democrats on this subject of late, and they almost universally concede the necessity of such restriction, it being as perfectly palpable that the foreign *element of the country, combined with native anti-slavery vote, secured Lincoln's election*."

The Montgomery *Mail*, and Eufaula *Spirit of the South*, two Alabama precipitating organs, go further, and say the State Convention must prevent the emigration of persons of *Northern and Foreign birth*, into that Republic, and insist upon driving out all who are now among them. This is an improvement on Know-Nothingism!

Defining Treason.

The Ordinance of the Kingdom of South Carolina, in defining *treason*, makes it mean the levying of war against that Kingdom, and the giving of aid and comfort to those they war against, either in words, or publications, such will promote—say the General Government otherwise. The penalty in such case, is "death without the benefit of clergy."—Nor does the Ordinance provide for *evidence* to establish one's innocence, or an impartial trial by Jury.

So far as we are concerned, we have committed treason against that Kingdom, if the crime can be committed by a citizen of a different State, without being on Carolina soil; and our "death without the benefit of clergy" would be consummated if we were to visit the State.

Who can desire to follow the example of a State that sets out the organization of an independent Government, by rejecting the rules of evidence, and a trial by jury, indispensable safeguards to life, liberty, and the preservation of property? Still, this is South Carolina originating a Southern Confederacy!

"Telegraphic Bulletin."

We have before spoken of the arrangement of our citizens, by subscription, to get the latest news by telegraph. As one of the subscribers we have been giving our readers the latest items of news, but without comment. We feel constrained to say that the telegraphic companies are now controlled by the Secessionists, and that all their dispatches have a *tendency towards Secession*. In some instances they *misrepresent* facts, and in others they give a Secession *coloring* to what they send out. As will be seen in the article we copied from the *National Intelligencer*, recently, they boast of having all the Telegraphic wires and post-masters South, under their "general control." With we shall give the news from day to day, from this Bulletin, we admonish our readers to receive its teachings with grains of allowance! We have seen enough to satisfy us that it is a branch of this Secession movement.

News from West Tennessee.

We are receiving many letters from West Tennessee, and many orders for our paper. The news is cheering in the extreme, for the cause of the Union. We give the note below as a specimen of what is doing in West Tennessee:

DANCYVILLE Jan., 23d, 1861.

Rev. W. G. Brownlow, Dear Sir:—We send you to day ten subscribers, for your Weekly Whig. We notice in the Whig of the 16th inst., that the impression was trying to be made that the whole of West Tennessee were Disunionists, which we are proud to say, is false; therefore, you need not be uneasy about the company which is threatened to be made up of West Tennesseans, who are to be your executors, for we can assure you, the Union feeling is on the increase, in the range where DAVY CROCKETT used to hill the coons.

Respectfully, &c.,
G. J. CERVANIX,
W. J. LYLE.

Hon. Reuben Davis, of Miss., made a speech at Knoxville, Tenn., on the 7th inst., of which the Whig of that place says:

"Mr. Davis made, as our information goes, a clear, sensible and interesting speech, and we hear it spoken of in complimentary terms. He had the candor to admit what is not generally conceded by Secessionists. He stated that the "nigger" was not at the bottom of our troubles, but that it was the *Tariff*.

And Davis is right. We don't care a straw about the "personal liberty bills," nor the "fugitive slave laws." We did want a repeal of the "Plishery Bounty," the "Navigation" and the "Tariff laws." But "there's no use in talking," now; we are independent; we will pay no Yankee for catching fish; we will have free trade, and employ what ships we please.—*Mobile Mercury*.

This is frank! You care nothing about the nigger, the personal liberty bills, or the fugitive slave law. The *Tariff* was what troubled you! You wanted out of the Union; you wanted to break up and destroy the Government, and to secure independence!—This you could only accomplish in the name of the nigger, and hence you fought under false colors!

Meeting at Jonesborough.

There was a large meeting in Jonesboro' on the 26th, called irrespective of parties, but called by Disunionists. The people come out in their majesty, and adopted Union resolutions, and they nominated JAMES W. DUNIGAN for the county, as true a Union man as lives. Jas. B. McLEA was nominated for the Senatorial district. After the meeting broke up, the Disunionists organized again, as our informant writes, and passed resolutions to suit them!

Hanging next Monday.

We are informed that Mr. ——, of the 9th Civil District of Knox, has proposed to join a company at any time, to come to Knoxville and hang the Editor of this paper. We propose next Monday as a suitable day, and we invite our Union friends to attend and witness the execution! We propose to make a speech under the gallows, and to relate our political experience. There will be a Mass meeting of the party here on that day, and the hanging of the "notorious Brownlow," will greatly add to the interest of the occasion!

The Indian Bond Robbery.

We see it stated in our exchanges upon the authority of their Washington Correspondents, that the Grand Jury has found true bills against Russell and Bailey. The same dispatches state that a bill has been found against Ex-Secretary FLOYD.

The North Carolina Convention Bill Passed!

ELECTION FEBRUARY 21st.

RALEIGH, Jan. 24.—Each House of the Legislature passed the Convention bill to-day—the Senate by a vote of 31 to 8; the House, by 56 to 27. The bills differ materially in minor particulars, but will be made to agree.

Each submits the question of Convention or no Convention to the people, to be expressed upon voting for delegates, who will be elected upon the same principles of the election of the delegates to the Virginia Convention. The election takes place on the 21st of February. Everybody seems to be glad.

Returning Reason.

The Rhode Island Senate, as announced by telegraph, has passed an act, twenty one to nine, repealing the Personal Liberty bill of that State. We hail this act of justice on the part of Rhode Island as a symptom of returning reason in the Northern mind.

Read the Traitorous Circular!

The Secession of Disunionism, is showing itself at Nashville, and in all other portions of the State. The following Secret Circular was sent to a Post Master in Jefferson county, supposing him to be a Disunionist, and he has transmitted it to us. We publish it, and ask a perusal of it. Let it be denounced, and spit upon, and let it be rebuked at the ballot-box, as the offspring of Treason!

NASHVILLE, Jan. 19, 1861.

Dear Sir:—Our earnest solicitude for the success of the great Southern Right movement to secure an immediate release from the overwhelming dangers that imperil our political and social safety, will, we trust, be a sufficient apology for the trouble which we beg to impose on you.

The sentiment of the Southern heart is overwhelming in favor of the movement. Light only is wanted that men may see their way clearly; and the prayer of every true patriot will eventually be realized. Tennessee will be a unit.

Although the time be so very short, this object may yet be accomplished, if a few men only, (the more the better, however,) in each County, will devote their entire energies to it during the canvass for Delegates. We earnestly beg your attention, therefore, to the following suggestions:

1. Be sure to have your ablest and best men in the field, WITHOUT REGARD TO PAST POLITICAL ORIGINS.

2. Be sure that no submissionist, under whatever pretext of compromising our rights, or of waiting beyond the 4th of March for new guarantees, impose himself upon you. Our only hope of peace and safety consists in decided action before the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln.

3. Do not wait for general meetings of citizens but get together immediately a few active, intelligent, discreet, but thoroughgoing, uncompromising, true-hearted, "Southern Right Anti-Coercion" friends, and appoint Committees and Canvassers, who are willing to devote themselves entirely and unceasingly to the great and patriotic work, from this hour up to the close of the election.

4. Appoint Committees, also, for each civil District, of men known to coincide with you and ourselves in sentiment.

5. Organize, forthwith, Southern Rights Anti-Coercion Associations.

6. We will send during the canvass, the UNION AND AMERICAN and GAZETTE, to supply your County. These, we confidently trust, you will send immediately to the District Committee, who will, on the hour of delivery, start out upon the work of distribution, and this though there be but half a dozen copies for each district. Do not, we beg of you, wait for persons to call for documents, or papers to read and CIRCULATE.

7. Write as many letters to your friends possible and urge them, by every consideration of patriotism, to work, work, work.

Please write us immediately, and advise us of your organization, and to whom address we shall send papers, &c., at your county-seat and elsewhere; also, as to public sentiment, and whatever else you may think useful.

Once more, may we not, without offence, beg of you, by all that you hold dear on earth, to give yourself entirely to this great work; that you will know no rest until success shall crown our efforts for our country's safety in deliverance from all further alliance with those whose very breath is poison, whose embrace is death—unless satisfactory guarantees are offered before the army, navy, and treasure of the government shall have passed into the hands of a party virtually pledged to the odious doctrine of coercion.

We can, we must, carry our State. Our hearts would sink within us, at the bare thought of the degradation and infamy of abandoning our more Southern brethren, united to us by all the ties of sympathy and of interest, and of being chained to the car of Black Republican States, who would themselves despise us for our submission; and worse than all, by moral influence alone, if not by force or legal enactment destroy our entire social fabric, and all real independence of thought and action.

Your own good judgment will suggest many things which we can not now allude to.

Very Respectfully,

WM. WILLIAMS, *Chm'n.*
S. C. GONDRALL, *Sec'y.*
ANDREW CHEATHAM,
J. R. BEECE,
R. H. WILLIAMSON,
G. W. CUNNINGHAM,
B. F. CHEATHAM,
W. S. FLIPPIN,
State Central Southern Rights Anti-Coercion Committee.

Meeting of the Union Men of Knox.

In accordance with a public call, a large number of the Union men of Knox county met in the Court-house, in Knoxville, on Saturday, the 26th of January, for the purpose of selecting candidates for the State convention, to be held in Nashville, on the 25th of February next. Jno. H. Fleming, having made an appropriate explanation of the objects of the meeting, moved that Capt. John J. Reese take the chair, and that W. P. Baker and W. H. Plumble be requested to act as Secretary. Capt. Reese, on taking the chair, thanked the meeting for the honor done him in calling him to preside over it, and closed with a fervent and eloquent appeal for the preservation of the "Constitution and the Union of our fathers."

On motion, the chair appointed a committee, consisting of the following persons: Dr. John Byrd, Wm. Hooper, Charles Morrow, J. C. S. McDonnel, John M. Fleming, C. H. Baker, David Burnett, E. S. Doyle, Daniel Hommel, J. D. Johnson, Bartley Griffin, Henry Hoynes, T. D. Edington, James Terwater, Joseph Burnett, Gardner Julian, Wm. Hillsman, Andrew Knott, Martin Varnell, John C. Roberts, S. R. Rodgers, A. C. Callen, J. P. Jack, F. H. Rosado, Isaac Bayless, J. C. Myatt, John Currie and S. N. Bell, to consult together and recommend suitable candidates to represent Knox county in the convention, and also to recommend suitable candidates to represent the districts composed of the counties of Knox and Roane, and Knox and Sevier, subject to the ratification of our friends in those counties.

While the committee were in consultation, Col. Baxter was called upon and addressed the meeting in a bold and forcible speech in favor of "The Union as it is" in the present emergency, and against secession and disunion in any shape.

At the close of his speech the committee returned and, through its Secretary, John M. Fleming, made the following report:

The committee appointed to report nominations to this meeting, beg leave to report that they have unanimously agreed to recommend to the meeting the nomination of JOHN BAXTER, Esq., as a Delegate to represent Knox county in the State Convention.

They further propose that this meeting recommend O. P. TEMPLE, Esq., as a Delegate to represent the counties of Knox and Sevier in said Convention, subject, however, to the ratification of the Union men of Sevier county.

They further recommend C. F. TRIGG, Esq., as a Candidate to represent the counties of Knox and Roane, in said Convention, subject, also, to the approval of the Union men of Roane county.

These nominations are recommended, however, with the conviction, on the part of the Committee, that the gentlemen whose names are above proposed, have no sympathy whatever with the schemes of Secessionism, but on the contrary, are resolved to stand by the Union, as it is in the present emergency, and that they will sign no ordinance or enactment, whereby the political relations of Tennessee will be changed, until such ordinance or enactment shall have first been submitted to and ratified by a majority of the people of Tennessee.

A motion was immediately made to adopt the report of the committee, which was unanimously carried, amidst the loudest applause and the wildest enthusiasm.

Each of the gentlemen named in the report, then took the stand, in his turn, and accepted the position assigned him, thanking the meeting for the honor done him, and in the most eloquent and forcible style declared his attachment for the Union and denounced all schemes for its dissolution; each, in conclusion, pledging himself, should he be elected a delegate to the Convention, to use every means in his power and every faculty God had given him to prevent Tennessee from tearing herself from her position in the Federal Union, and rushing headlong into the embrace of Anarchy and misrule which awaits her in a Southern Confederacy.

John H. Fleming arose and offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, In the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that the Union men of Knox county meet together, at an early day for the purpose of interchanging counsel and perfecting their organization. Therefore,

Resolved, That this meeting do hereby call a Mass Meeting of the friends of the Union, to be held at Knoxville, on the first Monday in February next, at which time and place all, who are willing to struggle to the last for the preservation of republican liberty under the Constitution of the United States, are requested to be present.

Upon being put to vote this resolution was unanimously adopted, and on motion of Col. O. P. Temple, Dr. J. M. Boyd, J. M. Fleming and the Chairman of this meeting were appointed a committee to make all necessary preparations for that meeting.

The meeting then, with loud, long and continued cheers for the American Union and the Star Spangled Banner repaired to the corner of Main and Gay streets, where a pole had already been erected by the citizens. At a given signal a large and beautiful American Flag was run up, and as it ascended was hailed with deafening huzzas by the multitude. Soul-stirring speeches were made from the foot of the pole, by Messrs. Trigg, Temple, Baxter, Jno. J. Reese, Fleming, Brownlow and Manley—the enthusiasm of the people, meanwhile, manifesting itself in prolonged shouts of applause.

Late in the evening, the people dispersed.

JNO. J. REESE, Ch'm.

W. P. BAKER,
W. H. PLUMBLE,
Secretaries.

A Good Document.

A friend sometime since picked up, in the streets of Knoxville, an old bundle of MSS., letters, &c., and which, upon examination, proved to be a series of letters, apparently addressed by a gentleman of this city to his friend in the country. Nothing about them indicated the owner, and as some of them refer to subjects just now before the Legislature, and in which we feel much interest, we take the liberty to use them, as occasion may induce, hoping the real owner, if he recognizes them may excuse the liberty. Others of them may yet appear, if not in the meantime reclaimed:

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Aug. 19, 1860.

My Dear Colonel:—On my return from —— Court, a few days since, I received your long and exceedingly interesting letter of the 31st ult. Owing to an unusual demand upon my time, both of a private and of an official character, I have been unable to reply to it with my accustomed promptness. Even now, I find I shall be compelled to confine my observations principally to one of the very many interesting topics to which you direct my attention. Of this you will not complain.

You have asked me to give you my views in *detail*, upon a very grave and important subject; and to do so, will exhaust all of the little hour which I have at present to spare.

You say in reference to the 10 per cent. interest bill, passed by the last Legislature:

"If it can not stand, it goes into operation on the 1st of September next. I observed more than a year ago, on the usual press of the West, an attempt to memorialize public sentiment against the enactment of I saw with apprehension and alarm its introduction into the House of Representatives by a band of borrowing lights from that section, and its final passage into a law by the most astounding and unexplained vote of any that was ever perpetrated by the Representatives of a sovereign free and independent people. * * * That it is unconstitutional, I have no doubt; that it is an open and undisguised violation of the spirit of the Union there is no question; and that members of the late Legislature were induced into its support on certain to say which is that the Democratic party itself is stamped in reprobation. * * * I find, however, I come back attention to the reflection that it is a Democratic measure, and that when the belighted and corrupt advocates shall find that they have been sacrificed to the cupidity of ticket-hunting Representatives, they will rise in their might, and sweep the last vestige of this miserable corrupt party from the confines of the State forever."

If I were less acquainted, my dear Colonel, with your pecuniary condition, and did not know you to be a *lender* rather than a *borrower*, of monies, I might half suspect you were inspired by something more than disinterested patriotism in the above fierce and terrible philippic against our laws and law-givers. But knowing you as I do, I see in it only the evidence of that bold and manly spirit which prompts you at all times to speak the true sentiments of a noble and generous heart, regardless alike in its consequences to yourself, your friends or your foes. Still you must allow me to chide you somewhat for the bitter and apparently remorseless spirit which you sometimes manifest, in speaking of men and measures, when they fail to accord exactly with your high standard of truth and justice. The corruptions which have crept into our public assemblies, and the Democratic party of the country, in the last few years, are but too manifest, and are of course to be most deeply lamented; but at the same time, we should endeavor to be just, and rest the responsibility where it properly belongs, both as to individuals and to parties. Although Mr. Payne, the Democratic Senator from the Memphis District, was properly considered the father of that 10 per cent. bill, and although his whole time and attention during the last Legislature, seemed to be directed to its passage, yet I think it would be hardly just to characterize it as a *demon* measure. It was rather a sectional one, for if I am not mistaken it has for years been a favorite scheme of Middle and West Tennessee, and although opposed and defeated by an almost unanimous vote of East Tennessee, without distinction of party; and even in this case, if I am not mistaken, every member from East Tennessee opposed the passage of the bill.

Let us then examine this matter fairly and impartially, upon its merits, and if possible arrive at just conclusions, unbiased by the shadow of passion or prejudice. I think we will find enough to justify your most gloomy apprehensions.

As to the constitutionality of the law, I am not prepared at present to give you a decided opinion. From a very hasty perusal of its provisions, I am inclined to agree with you in opinion, that it is not constitutional, principally because of the manifest discrimination it attempts in *squeezing income with common rights into classes with distinct properties*. But, as before remarked, I do not propose, at present, to discuss this feature of the bill, both for the want of time and because that point will, of course, be settled sooner or later before the proper tribunal, the Supreme Court. Independent of this, the objections to the bill are so many and so grave in their character, and are destined to operate with such oppressive severity, that it cannot, in my opinion, survive the first week's meeting of the next Legislature. How it ever passed the last Legislature and became the law of Tennessee, is to me yet a matter of surprise. The arguments employed by its friends in urging it through the House were as fallacious as they were certainly ingenious, and I suspect Mr. Payne himself did not use them without a feeling of secret astonishment at the strange incredulity of his hearers. The principal, and indeed I may say the only plausible argument which I have ever seen used by the peculiar friends of this measure, and which was repeated and dwelt upon with all the intemperate zeal incident to a weak cause was, that its first and immediate effects would be *to check the outward flow of a large amount of surplus capital, which was now finally sent out of the State to find a better than 6 per cent. market, and that it would, prematurely, cause a rapid influx of money from other points to such an extent, but it would, in less than two years, absolutely reduce the current rate of interest below 6 per cent.* This argument, though scarcely specious, and certainly not deserving of a serious reply, seems for a time to have addressed itself with powerful force to the unreflecting mind. Many excellent and most worthy gentlemen, both in and out of the Legislature, were induced by it into the countenance and even into the support of the measure. However active and apparently severe Mr. Payne seemed in proposing this flimsy argument, to assure the doubtful and inspire the wavering hopes of the needy, it would be an unwarranted reflection upon his reputed ability and experience to suppose him to be, himself for a moment deceived as to the practical operations of the law. In the first place the money now sent out of this State seeking higher rates of interest, must be in amount so small, that if it all belonged to, and were to be returned in a single day, it would scarcely produce a single momentary sensation "upon change" in the little village of Marysville. A few active and enterprising old miners in the neighborhood of Nashville and Memphis, may indeed have gone out in quest of *per centage*, but these are few and exceptionable cases, and even they, inspired by the natural timidity and morbid anxiety of the money changers, are gone in quest of additional *security*, as well as additional interest. It is hardly probable that they will from purely patriotic considerations, be induced to recall investments now safely resting upon real estate in St. Louis or Cincinnati, and place it upon the same in Knoxville, or even Knoxville, at the same or less rate of interest. For many years past these laws have been conventional. In most laws, and under its operation money has constantly commanded from 10 to 20 per cent., most generally the latter, upon each second and third class paper as is most familiar to the bankers of Knoxville. Besides, the *legal rate of interest* in all the surrounding States, approximate to, and in most of them equal our *conventional rate*. For instance, it is in Georgia and Alabama 8 per cent., in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, 10, and, if I am not mistaken, the same in Missouri, Kentucky, and Ohio. Let me repeat, then, is it likely that capitalists will recall their investments from these States, where it is already long and secure, and risk it upon the contingencies this obnoxious law, which is sure to be swept from the statutes by a whirlwind of public indignation, as soon as the people can get an opportunity once more to interest their representatives.

Had Mr. Payne been really sincere in the argument with which he so successfully beguiled others, namely, that "*this 10 per cent. law would bring in so much surplus capital as to ultimately reduce the rate of interest below the present legal rate of 6 per cent.*" he might have been induced by the very natural and simple question "If these capitalists whom you represent, now go out to St. Louis, Cincinnati, and New Orleans in quest of 10 per cent., *what is likely to prevent their returning to their State and cities immediately after the rates here are reduced* (by reason of a redundance!) *to less than 10 per cent.?*" If, however, by the exercise of a bold and confident assurance, and all his *elaborate* sophistry, Mr. Payne would be able to answer this plain and common-sense question to the satisfaction of a single mind, he might be silenced effectually and forever by pointing him to the city of New York, that great vortex into which flows almost every dollar of surplus capital in the United States, and I might say of the whole continent of America. There (whatever may be the local laws or restrictions) MONEY IS CHEAP. It is daily bought and sold upon the streets, like calico, for what it is worth.—There it is more abundant just now than ever before in the history of the country; it is seeking investment in almost every species of securities, and yet how is it, to-day it is loaned on "call," (you know what that is, the most infamous trap ever set to catch the unwary borrower) at 5 per cent., on first class paper (10 and 20 days,) 6 to 8 per cent. on second and third class paper (Knoxville sort) 10 to 16 per cent.

These are all well authenticated, *practical* facts. They should be thoroughly considered. They are, in my opinion, alone sufficient to undermine and completely overthrow all the flimsy arguments that have been raised upon the throne of "*influx of capital and reduced rates of interest.*" How in the face of them any intelligent, well informed man could be deceived into the support of the measure, I cannot imagine. How in the face of them a gentleman of Mr. Payne's boasted abilities—notoriously acting as the special advocate of a few grasping, avaricious money-changers—could drive a majority of the Representatives of the people into the support of the present conventional interest law—a law beyond all question the most infamously unjust and cruelly oppressive, upon the unfortunate *debtor*, that ever disgraced the statutes of Tennessee—is to me the most remarkable event in the legislative history of the country. I desire not to do Mr. Payne or any friend of the present law, injustice. I therefore ask you will read carefully the following second clause of the bill:

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That the rate of interest now established by law, shall continue equal and uniform throughout the State as heretofore; and no greater amount than six per cent shall be paid on any contract or obligation, unless stipulated by the parties, according to the provisions of the first section of this Act; and any contract made contrary thereto, or for any sum or article then borrowed or owing, for a greater rate than six per cent, shall be considered usurious, and subject to all the penalties hereafter prescribed: *Provided*, That it may be lawful to renew debts actually created for the sale of money at the rate of ten per cent. per annum; but no debt, or liability, shall be so construed as to authorize any debt or liability not originating for money actually loaned, due to be renewed, and all efforts by direct or indirect means, to take and receive a greater rate of interest than six per cent. per annum for any debt, demand or liability, the origin of which is not for money actually loaned, shall be deemed unlawful, and operate as a release of the debtor from the entire amount of such debt, demand or liability.

You will notice how carefully every interest except the *money lender* is ignored. The merchant, the mechanic, the farmer and the manufacturer are all zealously excluded from the slightest participation in the supposed benefit of the law. But I have already said too much under this head. In my next, I will give my opinion of the probable effects of the law upon the individual property and commercial interest of the country—for the present, good night.

J. CASSIUS.

For the Knoxville Whig.

To the Voters of Knox and Roane.

The Legislature of the State, now in session at Nashville, have by a law, passed almost unanimously, called a Convention of the State, and the 8th of February is the time appointed for you to vote for delegates.

A few days since, Fellow Citizens, I announced myself through the papers as a candidate to represent you in that Convention, promising to present to you my views, in a circular.

It is evident to every informed man, that we are in the midst of a Revolution, and so far a bloodless one.

Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi all border States of Tennessee, occupying several hundred miles of her Southern boundary, (and the States in which the people of Tennessee sell three fourths of all her surplus products,) have through the solemn act of their Conventions, dissolved their relations to the Federal Government.

These States through their citizens have taken possession of all the Forts and Arsenals belonging to the Government within their respective jurisdictions. They have spent several millions of dollars to arm their people, and now stand ready to defend their lives, their liberties, and their sacred honor. These are facts, fellow citizens, that stare us all in the face. I shall not stop to discuss whether the people of these States have acted wisely or not. Whether the causes that impelled them were sufficient, or not, the act has been done, and though we may, most of us, regret it, and some even think they have acted too hastily, yet it has been done, and we, in Tennessee have to act in view of the changes produced in the government by their action.

The Legislatures of Nort Carolina, Virginia, Arkansas and Missouri, now in session, have each called Conventions of their States to assemble about the time the Convention assembles in Tennessee, and for the same purpose. The Legislature of Kentucky, now in extra session will do the same. And in my humble opinion, if the Crittenden compromise measures, or some other equitable compromise is not adopted very soon, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, North Carolina and Virginia, will also secede. If they do, all the outlets of Tennessee's commerce will be through foreign governments, where it will be subject to tribute and other embarrassments of such character as to very materially injure the interests of our people. By our geographical position, then, we would be compelled, in self-defense, to abandon our connection with the General Government, and form a connection with the people of our immediate vicinity. Whether it would be with a United South, or with the Middle States, or Cotton States, whichever would best promote all the interests of our people, would be my choice. I have not taken a politician's view of this question. Why should I? Is there not patriotism enough left in this country to attempt a solution of our troubles without seeking to divide our people upon old party lines, in times of such peril as these? Who but politicians and fanatics are responsible for the present state of things?

Should the Government of the United States attempt to coerce the revolutionary States into submission, they will call upon Tennessee to furnish a portion of men to subjugate these States. Tennessee would also become the bloody battlefield of the opposing armies. Our altars and firesides would be desecrated by an excited and heated soldiery. Many of our best citizens, through sympathy with the weaker side, or from sympathy with