

Athens, Friday, September 20, 1872.

FOR PRESIDENT HORACE GREELEY, OF NEW YORK.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT B. GRATZ BROWN, OF MISSOURI.

FOR GOVERNOR JOHN C. BROWN, OF GEORGIA.

FOR CONGRESS—STATE AT LARGE B. F. CHEATHAM, OF COFFEY.

FOR CONGRESS—DISTRICT D. M. KEY, OF HAMILTON.

ELECTORAL TICKET FOR THE STATE AT LARGE JOHN M. FLEMING, OF KNOX.

WM. A. CHARLES, OF MONTGOMERY. JOSEPH S. FOWLER, OF DAVIDSON.

Monroe and London. The Radical Republicans met in Convention at Philadelphia last Saturday, and nominated S. J. Martin for Joint Representative.

Got the Wrong Man. The Chattanooga Times understands that Hon. Thos. B. McElwee, of Ithaca, whom the Grant men have nominated for Senator in opposition to Hon. E. A. James, is a straight-out Greeley man and a warm supporter of James for the Senate, as the man who has done more for the material interests of this country than any other.

Johnson or Cheatham. We hope our candidates for the State Legislature will not permit themselves to be involved in the Johnson-Cheatham imbroglio. They are both Democrats—one running as the nominee of the party, the other as an independent—and it would be the supreme of folly for the candidates for the other offices to take sides between them in any way except that of exercising the right of freemen on election day by voting for whichever they please. There are other and more important interests involved than any growing out of a mere personal preference between two members of the same political faith.

Conventions. There seems to be a good deal of outcry and prejudice just now against the "Convention system" as it is called, which we can't help thinking is wrong and will prove hurtful—if not immediately, after awhile. No matter how the present Presidential contest may terminate, parties will have to re-organize, and the first step to accomplish it will necessarily be through Conventions—because there is no other safe and reliable way to effect and maintain party organization. No doubt Conventions sometimes fail to reflect the popular bias in the selection of candidates; but the fault is not so much in the system as in the refusal of the masses to participate in the primary meetings and indicate their preference. The safety and integrity of government demand that there shall be two great parties in the country, and the more equally they are balanced the better. Parties cannot achieve anything without keeping their organization solid and intact, and the proposition now made and discussed that one party shall abandon the Convention system, while the other rigidly adheres to it, is too palpably a mistake to need anything like a permanent judgment in the popular mind, or that the sober second thought will not easily get rid of.

Opening the Canvass. Messrs. Johnson, Cheatham and Maynard, candidates for Congress-man at large, opened the canvass at Chattanooga last Saturday. Maynard led off in a speech of two hours' duration; Cheatham followed, occupying twenty minutes; Mr. Johnson coming last, and consuming the same length of time as Mr. Maynard. Pretty full reports of the speeches appear in the Democratic papers of Knoxville, Nashville and Chattanooga. The crowd in attendance is reported to have been large, and the distinguished gentlemen were listened to with great attention and patience. They have an appointment to speak at Athens on Monday, the 30th instant, when many of our readers will have an opportunity to hear them, and when we can judge for ourselves of the matter and manner of the debate and the issues which they discuss. We bespeak for them a large, attentive and appreciative audience at this place.

Mr. Johnson passed up the road on Sunday in the direction of Greeneville, and Gen. Cheatham returned to Middle Tennessee. The newspaper men failed to report what position Mr. Maynard made of himself, but he will probably put in an appearance at Bristol on the 24th, at which time and place the canvass will be commenced in earnest. Keep in mind that the candidates are to speak at Athens on Monday, the 30th.

The Third Congressional District.

Last week we took occasion to refer to the evident apathy and indifference existing in this part of the country in regard to the approaching elections. In the First Congressional District, the canvass has commenced in good earnest. In the Second, Mr. Caldwell, the Democratic nominee, has commenced speaking; but in the Third, embracing seven counties, though both parties have made their nominations and the nominees have accepted, yet there is no intimation that we have seen as to when the canvass will begin. It is only six weeks from next Tuesday till the election, and there is less talk and less feeling among the people on the subject than there was six weeks ago. We, for one, think it is about time for the candidates for Congress and for Electors to begin to show some signs of life—to buckle on their armor and get ready for the fray. If we are to have an efficient canvass it is time to commence. Experience has taught us that when there is work to do—hard, earnest work—the sooner we take hold of it the better. It is all nonsense to think about being caught up and carried along on the great popular wave. There is no such wave as that in motion now, and the man who secures promotion must labor for it. The Radicals are organizing throughout the State, while on the other hand there are causes operating to disorganize. It is best to be candid and speak plain. The canvass for Congressmen at large has opened vigorously enough; but that contest will not benefit the other elections, but rather complicate and embarrass them, thus rendering it more necessary for those personally interested in the latter to go to work promptly and earnestly. It will not do to stand idle and see all interest absorbed in a three-cornered fight between Johnson, Cheatham and Maynard. The Radicals will gain in such a game as that, while we must lose. Mr. Johnson is laboring in his own behalf; Gen. Cheatham is doing pretty much the same thing, and the candidates for Congress in the Districts and for the Legislature must take care of their own cases, otherwise some of them will wake up the morning after the election to find themselves "distressed" higher than Gilderoy's kibe.

Andy Johnson. We regret to see some of our Democratic contemporaries losing their temper and uncorking and pouring the vitals of their wrath upon the independent candidate for Congressman at large. His candidacy at this time is to be regretted, but we don't believe that is exactly the way to fight him—certainly not the best way to defeat him. It only stimulates and warms him up for his work. We all know what sort of stuff the man is made of. While we are trying to fill up and bridge over one chasm let us not reopen others, broader and deeper, to be filled and bridged hereafter. We desire to see Gen. Cheatham succeed in this contest, because we believe he fully comprehend the situation and has more real, good, lay-horse sense than both his distinguished competitors together; but while Mr. Johnson is dealing the great Ring Master at Washington such terrific blows and his policy of horse Maynard as handsomely as he is said to have done at Chattanooga, we couldn't think of saying anything disparaging or disrespectful of him. Besides, there are other elections on hand than the one for Congressman at large—a fact some of our contemporaries over the mountain seem to be rapidly losing sight of. Their programme may do for their section, but it wouldn't begin to win on this side of the ridge. We are a plain, simple, matter-of-fact people over here, and whatever else we may think or say, we can't avoid having some respect and consideration for the man, who, by his own efforts, energy and indomitable will and courage ascended from the bottom to the topmost round of the public ladder. For reasons eminently satisfactory to ourselves, we pretty much all expect to vote for Cheatham, but when Mr. Johnson and his competitors come along on the 29th we promise him one of the largest and most respectful and attentive crowds of hearers he has ever had in East Tennessee.

The Difference. In a recent speech Gen. Thomas Fleming, of Ohio, said: "We Democrats find ourselves in this campaign co-operating with Sumner, Trumbull, Schurz, Gratz Brown, General Brinkerhoff, General Banks, and supporting even Horace Greeley for President; while the Republicans are in close affiliation with Robert Toombs, Henry A. Wise, Blanton Duncan, the guerrilla Mosby, and Brick Pomeroy. The marked difference, however, between these new affiliations of the two parties is that we are associated with the heads of the Republican party and they with the tail of ours. We are allied with their corps commanders, and they with our bummers."

Hon. A. E. GARRETT, independent, Andy Johnson Democratic candidate for Congress in the Second District, is advertised to speak a piece at Knoxville on the 24th instant. He was a soldier of the Union, and is strongly opposed to Conventions, though he swears his former election to Congress entirely to the action of a nominating Convention. GEN. SUMMERS, who has been assisting the eldest born of President Grant to make the tour of Europe, Asia and Africa, returned to Washington a few days ago in good health. Singularly enough no mention is made of the whereabouts of the young Prince.

From the New York Herald. We publish to-day in another part of the paper the appeal of the committee representing the straight-out Democrats of the Louisville Convention to Mr. O'Connor to accept the nomination for the presidency, the reply of that gentleman, and the final action of the Committee in making him a candidate, though he still persisted in formally refusing the nomination of the Louisville Convention. The whole proceeding is very singular, and adds a curious chapter to the varied political history of the country. We will not say that Mr. O'Connor has been expunging with the Democrats who met at Louisville, though that might be inferred from the course he has taken all through the movement, and particularly from his last response to the committee. We take it for granted that he did not desire a nomination, and that his refusal to accept one, both at first and at last, was honestly given. But as he puts this in his reply, which we publish to-day, on the ground of repugnance to political conventions, and as he declares in favor of the spontaneous action of the people in choosing the President, it is to be inferred that he would not refuse to serve should he be elected to that high office. That evidently is the conclusion the committee of the Louisville Convention came to when they declared that he should be their candidate, in spite of his formal declination of that honor. We may consider Mr. O'Connor, therefore, to be fairly in the field as the candidate of the straight-out Democrats and for all the fragmentary political elements opposed to Grant on one hand and to Greeley on the other. It is probable, too, that Mr. Adams may accept the second place on the ticket under this new phase of the political situation.

Voters for Pennsylvania. We have met with several paragraphs like the following lately. We hope they don't mean that there is danger of the Liberals and Democrats losing the election in October: "WASHINGTON, Sept. 15.—The work of taking voters into Pennsylvania on the 10th of the Radical party for the October election in that State, has already begun. The first enlistment left this city last night under the escort of twenty white men, and consisted of twenty-five blacks. The men on being questioned said they were going to Philadelphia to work on the railroad; they did not know for whom they were going to work, nor the particular railroad upon which they were to be employed, but that their expenses had been paid and that they would return about the middle of October. They also gave the information that they intended to vote for Grant at the October election, they undoubtedly believing that they could vote in that State for President at that time."

Railroad Rings and Bond Thieves.

Ex-Senator Henry B. Gibson recently delivered a speech at Knoxville, which is published at length in the Chronicle. It reflects severely upon the management of the railroad interests of the State, past, present and to come, and embraces figures enough to determine the exact period of the millennium—that expected epoch when the ox and the ass shall feed from the same trough and a little nigger shall lead them both to water. We don't propose to criticize Mr. Gibson's remarks at this time, or to question the accuracy of his estimates, though he makes grave charges against some men whose characters in public and private life are above reproach, and who have long enjoyed the confidence of the people at large. If they can afford to let such imputations pass without notice or contradiction—imputations which involve almost every one in the State who has had to do with railroads, from the inception of the old Illinois enterprise down to the present time—it would hardly be worth while for us to interfere. We simply refer to the subject to let our readers know that war is to the knife, and from the knife to the bit, upon our railroad interests is to be a prominent feature of Radical policy; and to note the fact that there is a singular omission in Mr. Gibson's tables, which we hope he will supply the next time he undertakes to cram his lists with "Facts and Fancies." Come now, Henry—"honest Injun"—tell it all, no *ex parte* business.

We quote an extract from Mr. Gibson's speech, as we find it reported in the Chronicle, that our readers may see in what high esteem the Tennessee Legislature and the Railroad men are held by this Clero of the Radical party.

RAILROAD RINGS. It is charged that the "Railroad Ring" ruled the Radicals. The "Railroad Ring" was composed of Democrats, the very Democrats who got the bonds. Now I will tell you a little instance to show you what party is ruled by "Railroad Rings." When the Democrats went into the Tennessee Legislature in 1870, they were high in the market. The Democrats in the Legislature in January, 1870, passed a law authorizing the railroads to pay their debt in bonds of any "series or number." This was the first step in their grand scheme. Now the next step was to bring down the price of bonds, so that the railroads might buy them up at a few cents on the dollar. Accordingly the Democratic Legislature opened its doors to the Tennessee Legislature, and they never would pay a single bond, and I put the tax down to 20 cents on the hundred dollars, at the same time breathing vengeance and slaughter against the bond holders. What was the result? Tennessee bonds fell at once to about 10 cents on the dollar. The railroads rushed into the market, bought up the bonds at these rates, and sold them into the State Treasury, and they did not mean to say a word of it, and they never would pay a single bond, and I put the tax down to 20 cents on the hundred dollars, at the same time breathing vengeance and slaughter against the bond holders. What was the result? Tennessee bonds fell at once to about 10 cents on the dollar. The railroads rushed into the market, bought up the bonds at these rates, and sold them into the State Treasury, and they did not mean to say a word of it, and they never would pay a single bond, and I put the tax down to 20 cents on the hundred dollars, at the same time breathing vengeance and slaughter against the bond holders. What was the result? Tennessee bonds fell at once to about 10 cents on the dollar. 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