

SOUTHERNER.
EDWARD, NORTH CAROLINA.
W. M. BIGGS,
EDITORS.
NOV. 14, 1867.

CONVENTION AND DELEGATES.

Against a Convention.

DELEGATES:
JOSEPH HENRY BAKER,
HENRY AUSTIN DOWD,
HENRY CHURCHILL CHERRY.

No ticket not in the above form will be counted, and each one must be so filled that the words CONVENTION AND DELEGATES will be plainly visible, without showing any other part of the face of the ticket.

Bingham's Latin Grammar.

Nothing is more worthy of consideration than the influence employed in the development of the youthful mind. "Deeper than all questions of Reconstruction, Suffrage, and Finance," it has been profoundly observed, "is the question, What kind of culture shall the golden youth of the nation have?" The formative period is the most critical season of human life; the seed is the germ of the harvest; and, as the rising generation must very shortly succeed the present in the rapidly expanding field of thought and surely nothing can exceed, in its influence and responsibility, the voice of an instructor of youth, and means of education which he can impart.

It is perfectly satisfied that the teacher is altogether competent to establish the intellectual, if not her political independence; and, therefore, we have no hesitations as to its high expediency, we will heartily endorse every respectable movement in this direction.

There are among us few practical philologists so well qualified as the Messrs. Bingham of North Carolina, to produce grammatical text-books combining accuracy of scholarship with unusual convenience. If it be true, as is affirmed by the greatest of modern thinkers, in harmony with the declarations of many other philosophers, that "the exercise of teaching is a necessary condition of a perfect knowledge;" certainly a zealous and enlightened family experience of seventy years in this indispensable exercise should have secured an extraordinary degree of scholastic proficiency.

A careful examination of the Revised Edition of Col. Bingham's Latin Grammar, and a rigid comparison of its merits with those of similar European and American works already in use among us, have afforded us sincere pleasure in the conviction of its decided superiority in many important particulars, and, especially, of its unequalled availability as an introductory Latin textbook. In the Teacher's library, of course, there can be no substitute for exhaustive treatises of the German masters; and we rank Dr. Harrison's Exposition as a philosophical work of the highest value to the instructor for private consultation. But, as a primary text book, both for those who are just beginning the study of the language, and for those who may not be able to prosecute it through a University curriculum, Dr. Andrews' and even Prof. Harkness's late admirable contribution to the English treasures of Latin philology, are certainly inferior to the compend of Col. Bingham. "The usual school practice," remarks Prof. Youmans, in his recent able volume on the "Culture Demand by Modern Life." "The usual school practice of thrusting the young into the grammar, even of their native tongue, is well known to be one of the most efficient means of the artificial production of stupidity; but the habit of introducing them to a foreign language through this gateway, is a still more flagrant outrage. The natural method of acquiring speech is the way we all acquire it; the knowledge of words first, then their combination into sentences, to be followed by the practical use of the language; rules and precepts may then be intelligently applied. But to begin with this is to put the complex before the simple, the abstract before the concrete, generals before particulars, and, in short, to invest the natural order of mental processes, and to work the mind backward, under the plea of 'acquiring it.'"

We would adjourn the consideration of every other excellency of Bingham's work, (and they are not a few,) to dwell briefly upon the distinctive and important characteristic that it is the only Latin Grammar in the English language, that teaches the natural method of acquiring a knowledge of this most desirable of foreign tongues, by introducing short vocabularies, and reading exercises. Latin to be rendered into English, and English into Latin—so early as under the First Decension, and continuing them uninterruptedly through the book's giving at its close full Latin-English and English-Latin vocabularies for all the exercises. This restoration of the order of nature is a most important branch of mental culture, and its happy, attractive as its

pedestrian system of antiquity. "Out of pure, blind sympathy with railway trains," says the acute Dr. Quincy, "men will very soon begin to trot through the streets, and, in the next generation, unconsciously, they will take to cantering." Time—the gain of time—is the most momentous lever in this rapid age. Bingham's Latin Grammar dispenses with the necessity of creeping through the dull odds and ends of an artificial and interminable Reader, and puts the power of acquiring a clear and practical knowledge of a language which is the foundation of one third of our vernacular, into the hands of the children of our common-schools.

All honor, then, say we to the noble North Carolina scholar who has so far distanced every other competitor in this most useful department of popular education!

Let every Teacher adopt this very best of preparatory Latin text-books. Whoever wishes to learn the Latin language with readiness and accuracy, cannot possibly make a better beginning than by procuring Bingham's Latin Grammar.

Mr. John Norfleet, a white man, and one whom the people of Edgecombe county once dedicated to honor, added nothing to his laurels on Tuesday last. We are at a loss to find a proper classification for the conduct of this man in the meeting of Tuesday, conducted so utterly unbecomingly a Southern gentleman, no intelligent negro could be found to imitate or approve it. We pity the man in his degradation, and would gladly spare him the contempt of his former friends and fellow citizens, had we not a duty to perform, in which we cannot consult delicacy.

Mr. Norfleet was pained to see the whitemen and negroes moving harmoniously together in the county, and in the interest of his radical masters, he attempted to break up the meeting, by driving from it every one participating except those of his own depraved sentiments and feelings of enmity for his kind. He was not a delegate to the County Convention, but he went to the meeting as soon as it was called with a resolution in his hand that was prepared before he left home. In order to be able to present and defend his resolution he induced, by a very irregular and unbecomingly proceeding, one of the colored delegates to move his admission to a seat in the body, a motion that of course was carried as soon as made. The following is the resolution introduced by Mr. Norfleet, as the Convention was about to go into an election of delegates to the State Convention:

Resolved, That a person shall be considered a delegate to this meeting, and he pledges himself in case of his election to the Constitutional Convention, to vote therein for the elective franchise on all white persons as entitled to vote for delegates to said Convention, as provided for by the act of Congress, leaving him free to vote for conferring the elective franchise on all white persons as now excluded by said act of Congress, as he may think proper.

Mr. Norfleet proceeded to defend his resolution at some length in which he was aided by a Mr. Turner, colored delegate, who proposed to go a little further, and pledge the nominee not to remove the disability now resting on the disfranchised. At this stage of the game it was moved by one of the white delegates, that Mr. J. M. L. Bridges be allowed a seat in the Convention, which after some difficulty was carried. Mr. Bridges then disagreed to the resolution of Mr. Norfleet, and amended by striking out all after the word "Congress" in the line, and inserting "and to vote for conferring the elective franchise on all who are now disfranchised, except for crime"—which was finally adopted.

We have alluded to the above merely to show the animus of Mr. Norfleet, against the people of the community in which he was raised, and toward those who for so many years retained him in one of the county offices in the State; as well as to exemplify the good sense and feeling of the meeting, in not adopting the resolutions without the amendment, the credit of which does not attach to Mr. Norfleet.

Assuming that no true and right thinking man can vote for a Convention, understandingly, we find that General Canby has left us no alternative but to vote against a Convention, and we ought to act in concert and harmony, so to defeat the measure, which can easily be done, with a white majority of over thirty thousand in the State.

While thoroughly opposed to Convention, we rather advised non-action so far as that question alone was concerned, but at the same time held it to be of the first importance that we vote for delegates. As we were lately apprehensive, it is decided that no ticket will be counted that has not CONVENTION AND DELEGATES, FOR OR AGAINST A CONVENTION followed by the names of the delegates or delegate CHRISTIAN AND SURNAME in full.

The following letter from the head quarters of General Canby, renews all doubt on the subject.

DEAR BROTHERS: D. M. MILITARY DISTRICT, Charleston, S. C., Nov. 6, 1867.
Messrs. Henry, Davidson and McDaniel, Editors North Carolinian, Wilson, N. C.

GENERAL:—In reply to your communication of the 26th ult., I am instructed by the Commanding General to state that the acts of reconstruction have no discretion as to the subject referred to by you, only those votes for delegates which conform to the acts of Congress by being informed either "for" a convention, or "against" a convention can be counted in the canvass of votes.

Colonel D. M. Carter, of Beaufort county, addresses a two column and a half letter, through the Raleigh Sentinel, to the Honorable John Pool, in which the writer takes decided ground against a Constitutional Convention of the people of North Carolina.

If the "proof of the pudding is chewing the bog" as we have been taught, then Colonel Carter's position to "manhood suffrage" is not without reason. For as he candidly admits, he sat a guest at the Holden-Harris feast at Raleigh last Spring, and partook of the Negro politically seasoned, to the fullest extent, and now he freely confesses that he does not like him as a steady diet—that such food is unwholesome to the body politic. We cannot boast Colonel Carter's experience, but our aversion to universal suffrage quite as great, and in his view of opposition to Convention, we quite agree with him.

We have no room for the letter this issue, and will not dwell or comment thereon, further than to state one of the reasons which influence the Colonel to oppose the Congressional plan of reconstruction. The letter is replete with argument against the measure, the subject thoroughly treated, and the objections stated in that clear and concise manner peculiar to the distinguished abilities of the writer. The principal objection stated to the reconstruction act of Congress is that it depreciates intelligence, and fixes a premium on ignorance, that the franchise is to be regulated that ten millions of white people are placed in political subjection to less than four millions of ignorant blacks.

We can forget the past errors of Colonel Carter, and forbear comment and criticism on that portion of his letter which touches upon his war record, if he will lend the weight of his talents and audience toward defeating the odious measure of negro supremacy about to be thrust upon us.

And in conclusion we would say to the reader, that if one of Colonel Carter's past views and conduct, finds it proper to oppose Convention, there is no impropriety in others doing so on strictly Constitutional grounds.

As Democrats we vote to the people of North Carolina, VOTING AGAINST CONVENTION; and to be ready for the emergency, in the event that a Convention is called, vote for men of principle to represent you, and thereby prevent radical legislation.

Abandoned Lands. General Grant has issued the following order to the officers of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, which looks, in uncontradicted eyes, very unrepentant in spirit.

The right of the United States Government to seize upon the lands and property of persons who left them when it was not safe to remain at home, has never been very clearly defined to the satisfaction of Justice, and we question if any government short of an absolute monarchy ever fathered an order the equal of this. It would re-echo rather strangely in Constitutional atmosphere.

As there is still quite an amount of abandoned property on your returns and much of it occupied by the former owners who abandoned it according to the definition of the law, and who, through contempt of the Government of the United States and of the President's authority, decline to make any application under the orders, approved by him for the restoration, you are hereby instructed to give notice to all such persons, through your officers and agents, that their property, coming under the above head of "abandoned property held by the Government," and now on your returns, will be taken formal possession of by the 1st of January next, and rented to refugees and freedmen, in accordance with the provisions of the law.

In case they make application in accordance with the law, formal restoration of which he was raised, and toward those who for so many years retained him in one of the county offices in the State; as well as to exemplify the good sense and feeling of the meeting, in not adopting the resolutions without the amendment, the credit of which does not attach to Mr. Norfleet.

A telegram from New Orleans, informs us of the arrest by General Ord, of Colonel W. H. McCardle, Editor of the Vicksburg Times. The cause assigned for the arrest, was personal denunciation of General Ord.

General Ord has been regarded by the Southern people as the best and least tyrannical of all the Military Commanders, and it will be remembered that Congress refused to include him in the vote of thanks passed, at its last session for meritorious and faithful discharge of duties to the Commanders of the Military districts of the South.

We have therefore formed a very favorable opinion of General Ord as a Commander, and are forced to the conclusion, that this act was not one of power and simple tyranny and abuse of power, but the result of an indiscriminate abuse of the liberty of the press, by our esteemed contemporary of the Times. At all events, we deem it to be better taste to suspend judgement against either, until the facts are known.

and climate which are the best in the world for the production of cotton, so far as known, the continuance of the tax is glaring waste of national resources; that while the tax discourages the production of cotton in our own country, it encourages it abroad, to the great detriment of our shipping interest and of the internal trade of the United States; that the tax is injurious to the freedom and the laborers in the South, because it obstructs the cultivation of land and employment of labor; that the present value of cotton is so low in the interior of the South that the tax amounts nearly to 20 per cent upon the gross value; therefore the tax ought to be abolished with the least possible delay.

Address of the National Democratic Committee.

The following is the National Address of the Executive Committee of the Democratic party, which being our own thunder, and teeming with patriotism, we appropriate. It commends itself to every county loving man throughout the Union.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: Patriotism and fraternal love unite their voices in calling upon every American freeman to remember that one day spent in the service of his country may avert many days of national disaster and distress. The immediate present, fraught with the mightiest affairs of States, cannot be neglected by the supporters and defenders of constitutional law and liberty. The present involves a turning point in our history. A splendid and glorious victory for Democratic Conservatism, the stability and the integrity of our nationality will render our progress in the march of nations equal and indivisible. It is not our object to specify in detail the reasons that ought to govern the action in this crisis of all sincere friends of the true principles of our Government.—They are weighty and manifold. They appeal to the reason and judgment of the people with the same force and with the same power. 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