

NEW NATIONAL ERA.

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THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1872.

What the National Convention of Philadelphia Ought to do.

Never were graver responsibilities devolved upon any political body than those which this National Republican Convention have to assume. The fruits of ten years of labor, suffering, and loss are at stake. The liberty, peace, and prosperity of the Republic peculiarly depend upon the wisdom of this body, certainly more than upon that of any other National Convention held, or to be held in this country.

The Situation in the Liberal Republican Camp.

Every day brings some new evidence of the utter lack of vitality in the Liberal Republican movement. Instead of spreading, as those who are committed to it would fain make the world believe, it is actually losing ground, and disappointment and discontent are coming more and more to the surface.

A Well-founded Complaint.

It gives us no pleasure to find fault with the Republican leaders in Congress, or with the Republican party, but colored citizens have just cause to complain, and to complain loudly and bitterly, because of the position they are now left in before the country.

he has to confront, who has been outwitted in some treacherous enterprise, and, after assuming the part of a leader, finds himself at once pushed where he does not want to go. Just among those who went most pompously and noisily into this Liberal humbug, the expressions of disgust are the loudest and most numerous.

The secret plot alleged to have been discovered, contemplating the organization of an opposition Liberal movement for the object of calling another convention, by which Mr. Greeley is to be thrown overboard to make room for the nomination of some candidate more acceptable to the Democrats, is another significant symptom. Whether carried out, or abandoned in consequence of its timely discovery, it discloses a state of complete demoralization and desperation even above anything that the most sanguine Republican would have expected, and furnishes an example of the natural consequences of combinations and alliances without any common link but that of personal hatred and personal interests.

A few weeks have produced a marked change. Before the convention the Liberals and particularly their non-party organ, the Tribune, took great pains to demonstrate that the whole movement was eminently Republican, exclusively Republican in every feature, but since that event they are evidently far more concerned to win favor with the Democrats.

It gives us no pleasure to find fault with the Republican leaders in Congress, or with the Republican party, but colored citizens have just cause to complain, and to complain loudly and bitterly, because of the position they are now left in before the country. During the last five months they have patiently and persistently sought at the hands of Congress protection from unreasonable, degrading, and galling oppression in the shape of proscription—such as no other class of citizens, guiltless of crime, are compelled to endure.

Congress without even an apology or an approximation to his just demands. It is idle to suppose that this treatment will fail to chill the enthusiasm of colored men who to the Republican party in the political canvass now opening upon the country. Colored voters are like other men. They know their rights, and set a high value upon them. They know the men who befriended them, and the men who assailed them, and know how to remember both classes.

It is not enough that General Grant is our friend, and is ready to favor any measure which will secure to us our equal rights, not only as men, but as American citizens. Colored men must be made to feel that the Republican party as well as the Republican President, is in earnest and mean to do us right and justice. Far better had it been for us if no word had been uttered in Congress in favor of a Supplementary Civil Rights Bill, if, after all, no such bill is to be passed by that body.

"To Be or Not to Be."

Opinions are still about equally divided on the question as to whether the National Democratic Convention which is to assemble at Baltimore on the 9th of July, will or will not, adopt the Cincinnati platform and endorse the Cincinnati candidates. For the Republican party and its standard-bearers, this question is of little importance. The chances of success will be about the same whether Greeley is endorsed or not, and whether the contest is with two parties or with one.

The Political Outlook.

We have had occasion to meet and converse with intelligent gentlemen of both political parties from various portions of the State of New York since the nomination of Greeley at Cincinnati, and have come to the conclusion that the best thing that can be done for the success of the Republican cause is to have the Cincinnati ticket endorsed at Baltimore by the Democrats. That this is what Mr. Greeley and his little band of Republican followers desire and are laboring for there is no doubt, and that this is what the Republicans who hope for the success of the party and its principles should most earnestly wish, is equally true.

whole thing is disgraceful and scandalous, and though the Republican party has nothing to lose as a party by the dishonorable surrender of the Democratic party, we are sufficiently interested in political fair dealing as to wish to see the "Cincinnati swindle" stripped of its ill-gotten influence, by a refusal of the Democratic Convention at Baltimore to comply with its impudent commands.

Colonization.

On Tuesday of last week a petition was presented to the Senate of the United States from colored citizens of Georgia, praying aid from the General Government to assist them in emigrating to Liberia. This is undoubtedly instigated by the Colonization Society. What right has the United States to furnish money to send its laboring population out of the country? We have millions upon millions of acres of land to be cultivated, vast resources to be developed which will give employment and support to more millions than are now in the country.

The great aim of the Colonization Society is to rid this country of people who belong to the race that has been so long outraged upon its soil; not to atone for the wrongs inflicted, but to send to Africa the descendants of those who survived the horrors of the "middle passage" in the slave ship, and who have, for nearly three centuries contributed to the largest extent to the wealth of one-half of the nation.

Having robbed us for centuries on this continent, where we have become acclimated, the Colonization Society and its friends now, that slavery and robbery are no longer allowable, would drive us out into a wilderness among an uncivilized people, denying us the benefits that come from our unpaid toil in reclaiming the soil, in developing the resources, in the cities built, and in the commerce increased, a share in the enjoyment of which inexorable justice entitles us.

The Georgetown Almshouse.

On Wednesday of last week we accepted an invitation from the Hon. S. G. Browne, of the House of Delegates, to accompany the Committee on Health and Charities (of which he is chairman) on a visit to the almshouses and other charitable institutions in the District of Columbia. Our first visit was to the Georgetown workhouse or almshouse. We had expected to find a comfortable building with suitable surroundings, a competent manager, and some decent regard for the comforts of the poor inmates.

Senator Ferry Disappoints the Liberals.

Those never-surrender Democrats who favor an out and out Democratic nomination for the Presidency, are jubilant over the letter of Senator Ferry, of Connecticut, whose election was claimed as a victory for Liberal Republicanism, and as the first fruit of the Cincinnati Convention. Mr. Ferry looks upon the election of Mr. Greeley as a "mid-summer madness," and no support of Cincinnati and breed disorders in the party, he will have some show of strength, but in the rural districts he cannot break the Republican line to any considerable extent, even with the aid of Senator Fenton's power and shrewdness.

Take Notice.

We cannot answer inquiries of correspondents made in their own interest and of no benefit to anybody but themselves, such as answering involving cost to us of postage and stationery. A very able Republican paper, The Weekly New National Era, printed in the city of Washington, D. C.—Chattanooga Herald. We can truthfully refer by saying that the Herald is one of the best got-up papers on our list of Southern exchanges, and that it is ably edited.

Examination at Wayland Seminary.

The examinations at this institute have been going on since Thursday, embracing the common branches and the classics. Most of the students are above the age of eighteen and have had no other facilities for acquiring an education than those that have been afforded by this seminary. Beginning studies at an age when those more favored are in the habit of leaving of those students have made a progress at once remarkable and encouraging in the highest degree.

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Death of One of General Washington's Slaves.

Old Uncle Maurice Jasper, who has been paroled for the last twenty years, died at the residence of Mr. Frank Triplett, near Mount Vernon, on Tuesday last. He was the last one of the slaves emancipated by General Washington, and was sixteen years old when his master died. His father and mother came directly from Africa, and well remembered by some of the old residents of the vicinity. Uncle Maurice lived for a time on the tract about four miles from Mount Vernon, set apart by General Washington for his manumitted slaves, but for fifty odd years before his death lived with Major George Triplett and that gentleman's descendants.—Alexandria Gazette.

This old man, Maurice Jasper, lived long enough to become free, to enjoy the privilege of giving his consent in the matter of his government, to see his children allowed to learn to read and write. This freedom came of the second revolution. His emancipation by Washington was only a mockery of freedom. Uncle Maurice and ancestors had been robbed and outraged, kept in ignorance and degradation for years, and then set at an insult to liberty without any attempt on the part of his master to eradicate by education the woful influences of the slavery in which he had held him.

A Representative Colored Woman.

The meeting of the Peace Congress will take place in Great Britain in June next, and Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, the most learned of American women, is spoken of as the distinguished delegate to represent her sex and race.

As the element in literature, eloquence, and philanthropy for America among colored women is now confessedly represented by Mrs. Francis Watkins Harper, no one could be found to more acceptably appear for the colored ladies of the United States, and they should see to it that Mrs. Harper is selected for the distinction.

Civil Rights.

The colored people of Philadelphia ought to move at once and prepare for a meeting in that city, on Tuesday evening next, of leading colored men who will meet there for the purpose of attending the Republican Convention. This meeting should express itself in unmistakable tones for an indorsement of the grand idea of equality before the law by the Republican National Convention. We ask for justice; it is our right as American citizens. Mercy has been extended to would-be destroyers of the nation; while merciful to its enemies, the nation must be just to its friends.

How the Negroes Vote.

At the recent election for Mayor in the city of Petersburg, Virginia, one of the delegates to the late Cincinnati Convention was a candidate. He was a strong Greeley man, but the regular Republican candidate received the negro vote, and was elected. This is a straw which shows which way the wind blows. Baltimore Convention take notice.

Disaffection.

It will be seen by the following call for a meeting by the Free Trade League in New York, that a powerful opposition to the Greeley movement is about to be developed in the very camp of the office hungry bolters. This move is likely to tend to the calling of another mass convention followed by the nomination of Charles Francis Adams, or some other gentleman more acceptable to the Democratic party than Horace Greeley, with the strongest probability that that party will endorse and accept him as their party candidate. Poor Greeley will then be left to wriggle out of his mortifying position the best he can, and will be amply qualified to give to the world a peculiarly interesting work when he knows about vain ambition.

We, the undersigned, in behalf of the American Free Trade League, and friends of a Revenue Tariff who have associated or cooperated with it, deem it our duty to protest in the most emphatic manner against the betrayal of the cause of Reform by the recent Convention at Cincinnati. That body, although not we are informed, that it was the desire of a reduction of the tariff on a revenue basis, proved to be composed in considerable part of men who were either indifferent or openly inimical to this reform, and through their influence the Convention was induced to accept an evasion of the issue by referring it to the several Congress Districts. This determination is wholly in favor of the Protectionists, since in doubtful districts they can, under the banner of Liberal Republicanism, run candidates as thoroughly Protectionist as Mr. Greeley himself, who will find nothing to commend in the Cincinnati platform which they desired a reduction of the tariff on a revenue basis, proved to be composed in considerable part of men who were either indifferent or openly inimical to this reform, and through their influence the Convention was induced to accept an evasion of the issue by referring it to the several Congress Districts.

While the friends of Free Trade were thus betrayed and placed at a disadvantage, they ought not to overlook the opportunity now offered by the breaking of party ties to secure important gains in the election of Senators and Members of Congress. This is no time for dependency or inaction. On the contrary, a reform of the Tariff, the chief object which led thousands to look with hope to the endeavor to form a new party, is still within reach. Remembering what slender prospect there was one year ago of pushing genuine reform through the then compact lines of opposing parties, in the face of great bodies of voters declaring their independence of former ties, and avowing their determination to act in the elections solely with regard to the living questions of the present. Of all those questions, that of Tariff Reform can be said to be the most important, and we therefore call upon our friends to support us in every effort to secure the passage of a Reform bill which no President will venture to veto.

We call upon the friends of Tariff Reform in all the districts and States to perfect organization, so that they may act together intelligently in the coming election. Let leagues or clubs be formed in every county, with branches in every town, and communicating through an executive committee in each district. The district committees will be placed in communication at once with a central organization. Let the men who mean to do something, and earnest action, that they may not be disregarded in the elections. Let them teach politicians who seek to avoid it, that no question can ever be settled until it is settled at the polls. In order to give public and general expression to these views, a meeting will be held at Steinway Hall, on Thursday, the 30th inst., at 8 o'clock, at which William Cullen Bryant will preside, and which we are authorized to

Periodicals.

The Atlantic Monthly, volume 30th.—The publishers of the Atlantic Monthly, which has been published since 1857, will be concluded in August. The Poet at the Breakfast Table, The Comedy of Terrors, and The Life of Jefferson, will be continued throughout the remainder of the year.

The next volume, beginning with the July number, will contain a paper of peculiar interest on an obscure phase of Post-Revolutionary history, by Advocate General Boileau; a story in three chapters, by T. B. Aldrich; several literary papers by E. D. Steedman, in the vein of his article on "Tennyson and Theocritus"; a chapter of Early Jesuit Adventure in New York State, by Francis Parkman; stories by J. W. DeForest; two short romances by H. James, Jr.; sketches of Southwestern Life, by Wm. M. Baker; Siamese stories, by Mrs. Leowens; a paper on Mythology, by John Fiske; Poems, by J. T. Trowbridge, John G. Whittier, J. R. Lowell, &c., with many other attractive articles on various subjects.

New Music.—We are indebted to J. L. Peters, 599 Broadway, New York, for the following selection of new music:

Darling, weep no more, song and chorus, W. S. Hayes—35 cts.; Only for you, romance, Ch. Dellous—30 cts.; Don't forget to write me, darling, song and chorus, Cox—30 cts.; Under the Walnut Tree, song or duet, Dressler—35 cts.; We won't leave the Farm, male voices, Parsley—25 cts.; Stars of the Summer Night, male voices, Glover—25 cts.; Sensation Waltz, Becht—30 cts.; Freddie's Galop, Kinkel—35 cts.; Awakening of the Birds, caprice, Kinkel 50 cts.; Drops of Dew, vase brillante, Allard—50 cts.

Mr. Peters will send any of the above pieces, post-paid, on receipt of the marked price, or the entire lot may be had by sending 30 cents for the June number of "Peters' Musical Monthly."

England's Iron Resources.

Every geographical observer who investigates the distribution of the coals and iron ores of America, and the facilities which exist for bringing them together, must arrive at the conclusion that the lapse of time will see another generation, the United States will be the great iron and steel producing country of the world. This country is now at the head of the iron interest, having some 600 furnaces which annually consume upward of 1,500,000 tons of ore, and bring out a product in iron of over 1,000,000 tons, valued at over £13,500,000 sterling. In going back a single decade, we find that in Great Britain the rate of increase has been only about 44 per cent., while in the United States the rate has been at least 120 per cent. There are causes in operation which will prevent any rapid expansion of the iron industry of this country, while in the other the great sources of that industry are comparatively untouched. Among these causes may be mentioned the limited supply of good ores in Great Britain, the necessity which arises each year of sinking deeper for the fuel to smelt them, and, consequently, the increase in the cost of raising it. The great body of British ores is derived from the coal measures and the lias. These formations occur in the districts of Yorkshire, Derbyshire, North and South Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Shropshire. They are argillaceous in character, and yield about 25 per cent. of iron. In contrast to Percy's great work on the "Metallurgy of Iron," where the assays of 100 specimens of these ores are given, we find that in every instance he detected the presence of phosphorus, and while the average amount reached 65 per cent. in some cases it went up to 1.12. No metallurgical skill has thus far been able to eliminate this deleterious ingredient from the ores, or prevent it from passing into pig-iron, nor is it wholly extirpated from the manufactured bar. In the Bessemer process it adds to the cost of the iron in every stage and in undiminished quantity. With 1 per cent. of phosphorus iron becomes fit for but few purposes. Sulphur is also present in these ores, which is to some extent expelled by calcination and the subsequent process of puddling, but sufficient remains to render the iron unfit for the manufacture of high quality steels. The coal measure ores of the world over, as though the organic matter which formed the coal, being charged with these substances, communicated to the iron ores. In the district of Hartmoor and Devonshire there are limited deposits of magnesia, which they contain about 2 per cent. of phosphorus, which renders them nearly worthless. In the carboniferous limestone of Cleator Moor, Cumberland, a compact, pulverulent, unctuous ore is obtained, yielding 60 per cent., and free from any deleterious compound; at Linsdale Moor and Ulverston, a hard, compact hematite is obtained, yielding 65 per cent. and of an excellent quality. These are the most highly prized of British ores; and so great is the demand for them to be employed in the Bessemer process that within two years their price has advanced 40 and even 70 per cent. and the product of the mines has been contracted for up to the year 1873. Another significant fact showing the deficiency of England in ores suitable for the higher qualities of steel is this: that notwithstanding she is the largest exporter of iron in the world, she is unable to furnish at any time a very considerable importer from Sweden and Russia of pig metal made from specular and magnetic ores, similar in composition to those derived from Lake Superior and Missouri, and daily used by the iron masters of India for ordinary purposes. A Sheffield steel manufacturer has stated that 230 tons for this iron, when ordinary British pig can be had at a price five or six times less. These importations reach 50,000 tons a year. Here are considerations which ought to arrest the attention of American statesmen and political economists in reference to the future growth and grandeur of that country. In Indiana there is a vast body of fossil fuel which has all the merits of charcoal as a reducing agent; in Missouri and on the borders of Lake Superior are vast deposits of iron ore, free from noxious ingredients and eminently adapted to the production of the highest grades of iron and Bessemer steel, and the natural and artificial communications are such that the union between the coal and iron can be effected as cheaply as in any region of the earth.—London Mining World.

Silent Men.

Washington never made a speech. In the zenith of his fame he once attempted it, failed, and gave it up, confused and abashed. In framing the Constitution of the United States the labor was almost wholly performed in Committee of the Whole, and George Washington was day after day the Chairman, and he made but two speeches during the convention, of a very few words each, something like one of Grant's speeches. The convention, however, acknowledged the power and wisdom of the man, and had it not been for his personal popularity and the thirty words of his first speech, pronouncing it the best that could be uttered upon the Constitution would have been rejected by the people. Thomas Jefferson never made a speech. He could not speak. Napoleon's executive ability is almost without a parallel, said that his greatest difficulty was in finding men of deeds rather than words. When asked how he maintained his influence over his superiors in age and experience when commanders-in-chief of an army in Italy, he said by reserve. The greatness of a man is not measured by the length of his speeches and their number.—Philadelphia Ledger.