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LET US HAVE PEACE!

A PATRIOTIC APPEAL FROM A YOUNG MAN.

Let the White Men of the State Get Together—The New Constitution Shall be Subjected to a Fair and Impartial and Just and Open Discussion in the Private Sanctuary of Each Soul, or the Notingness of a Petty Pride and Resentment when compared with the immutable bonds fixed by Nature—the awful responsibilities of living. In voting for the Constitutional Convention I cherished the hope that the solemn duty of Constitution-making would prove the means of reuniting our distracted people, as a foreign war calls all Frenchmen to but one love and one duty. The character of the men who were elected to make the new Constitution is a fair test of the loyalty of the South Carolinians. Blood is thicker than water, and though, in this commercial age, fellow-citizenship has ceased to mean blood-relationship and the sentiment of patriotism is growing more and more national and patriotic. Hence South Carolina has always stood as a unit, guarding zealously her interest against the rest of the world. Though of late her citizens have been arrayed in two hostile factions, yet who of her passions were inflamed and their understandings convinced as they cannot be again inflamed and convinced against each other, all attempts to bring them to open party division have nevertheless failed. The verdict is unmistakable. In their angriest moments the great body of our people have clung to the semblance of unity. They would not cross the Rubicon. And why should they? Could we know where the path leads to the highest welfare of our State, who would follow another path? If we go different ways we are lagging in the race. All our honest differences are due to want of information and to error of judgment. A moment's reflection on our duty is search diligently, to reason together, and thus finding shoulder to shoulder pursue the true path to the welfare of us all.

With indignation exhausted and persons now weary with understandings sobered and disposed to grapple rationally with the causes of the distressing conditions that are now upon us, with a wider range of view now than when five-mile posts below in our ancient mountains, we formed our opinions and went to battle upon them, there is among a growing consciousness of the groundlessness of continued formal division, and a yearning for unity. To this desired result the new movement of the Constitutional Convention has contributed no little, and the renewed fraternizing of our people should find its consummation on the election of delegates to that Convention and in the conduct of these our deliberations. A country can be shown by chivalric gentlemen.

How shall these delegates be selected in the absorbing problem. Patriotic promoters of unity have suggested a plan, but the task is more delicate, the juncture in our affairs is more critical than seems to be fully appreciated. There is a method which will leave nature to take its course, whereupon the wound will heal on first intentions, and there is a method which might mistakenly interfere with nature's work, keep the wound a running sore and possibly make of it a festering ulcer. A blunder here would be a crime. Be sure we are right, and then go ahead.

The plan of prorogating delegates between the Conservatives and the Reformers was naturally the first to be thought of, and it is a step towards the discovery of one less error. Such discussion and approval as it has received have done much to cultivate and further disseminate that spirit of unity which has been slowly growing among us. But let us not beguile ourselves into believing that a county should select its delegates as Conservatives and Reformers. Let not this Convention go down in history as one in which delegates acted as Philistines and Anti-Philistines, and as we push an artificial and personal division to a result so belittling to the State. Let there be no parties, and consequent causes and dove-like coquetting. Let each member be free to speak to the reason and conscience of the others with expectation of winning, with no recognized impassable gulf between—no lurking prevailing suspicion that every proposition is a Trojan horse. If the Constitution be the product of a Convention, it will be an enduring monument of shame to our State. Let men stand not on past, but on living issues, not on personal or factional, but on rational agreement, with one agreed promise on which all appeals may be based—supreme loyalty to South Carolina. Thus only can the Convention be a deliberative body or afford to succeeding generations an honorable and dignified example of patriotism, as a Convention in which men met as South Carolinians, knowing in their counsels no party affiliation, but the tie of South Carolinians.

Not only is the presence in the Constitutional Convention of Conservatives to represent their faction and of Reformers to represent their faction essentially wrong as well as calculated to keep our people in opposing camps, but to elect delegates on such a basis of mathematical division is to count for naught, the personal preferences of the individual voter and the views of the intended delegate on the vital questions that may or should come before the Convention. Let us not "forget the will of the people," "convert the primary into a machine to register the will of the bosses," or in any way certain the opportunity for free and effective use of the ballot. The time has passed when a Conservative or a Reformer is willing to leave it to leading men of his faction to do his thinking. Especially should those who insist that the Constitution should be refer-

rod back to the people for approval.

advocate the selection of the Constitutional makers by the free and untrammelled individual suffrage of the people after the fullest public discussion and interchange of opinions. However the delegates be selected, dedicate a work, necessarily a compromise of many views, containing possibilities of which experience alone can prove the good or evil, could hardly merit the approval of the people in every detail before it had been tested in operation; and hence, were it the most perfect of Constitutions, the costs of making it would probably be wasted if it must be referred back to the people. But if accepted it must be as it comes from the Convention, without adding to or taking from it. If, therefore, the people are to have their say in regard to their Constitution it should be not after the work is done, but before; the delegates should nowhere be named by meetings, for in these the average citizen takes no part.

The Constitution must be made and put upon us by one hundred and sixty men, and must be largely a compromise of the individual opinions of this small number. The character of the Constitution would be as uncertain as the turn of a die were delegates selected with regard simply to their personal prominence and worth. But as we are least depart from our theory of representative government, we shall run no such risk. If all the men of a county with the prerequisite qualifications of character, to be true to their trust and intelligence, to be competent to carry out their purposes, are urged to go before the people as candidates and present their views backed by every bulwark of truth they can bring to their support, instructing the people in the principles of government and becoming themselves instructed by the new thoughts which debate develops, the minds of the opposing candidates, of the people and of the press will all be stimulated, and the result will be that any one hundred and sixty of the best men in the State could then make a better Constitution than they could have without this friction which generates thought. But the one hundred and sixty elected (if reason is permitted to rule) will unquestionably make the best possible Constitution for South Carolina in last decade of the nineteenth century.

They will be the exponents of the consensus of South Carolina needs and purposes. What we most need and most value to have been the result of the various intellectual and moral forces of South Carolina—the high-water mark of her governmental development at this time. And we must remember that no State should have a Constitution for which she is not by internal evolution prepared. More's Utopia, like Locke's Institutes of Government, would be a dismal failure. That government is best which is the product of the genius of its people.

In illustration of the justness of these principles, consider the disposition of many to incorporate into Constitutions matters of mere legislation. Legislation is experimental and liable to early repeal or modification. What folly it would be to give one hundred and sixty men, whose opinions on this head had not been thoroughly sifted, the power to embody in the Constitution statutory laws which would be as changeable as the laws of the Medes and Persians! Proper discussion before the people should result in a general acceptance of the only safe rule, which is to put in the Constitution only fundamental principles, and to leave the people ample power to deal through the Legislature with any problems that may arise. Matters of legislation should be left for future political and legislative forensic contests, as physical, social, intellectual and moral conditions shall unfold.

If such a canvass and such an election as above indicated can be held, then the Constitution will be the product of the best thought of the State, vindicated as such before the calm reason of the people. In such a canvass present divisions would be obliterated and new and temporary alignments would be made, but the case if debate is not mockery. But such a canvass is impossible unless we can keep off both evil machinations and ill-advised quack remedies. Fortunately we have at hand the means of doing this—the primary provided for state officers by the new Democratic Constitution. By requiring of the candidate an oath that he is not put forward by any faction or clique it forces him to stand on his merits and to leave to the voter to exercise his free choice. This amendment of the party Constitution is worthy of admiration, for it is a long step towards perfecting popular government. Now of all times do we need its beneficial operation.

The State executive committee should provide for the nomination of delegates to the Convention by a primary held in all the counties on the same day after a canvass, and pledges similar to those required of State canvassers by the new Democratic Constitution.

The distinguished patriots who compose "the party" doubtless contemplate such a canvass, and they and the Convention they have called can concentrate in its behalf the normal forces of the State. If I seem to regard the Democratic party as "the people," that is my meaning. I am not prepared to say that in 1860 the South fought for mere slavery and for no principle, that the results of forcible violation of constitutional limitation have ripened into right, that we owe any moral obligation to the war amendments to the United States Constitution, that "prosperity and successful crime shall be called virtue."

JOHN M. McMAHAN, Columbia, S. C., Jan. 25, 1895. The New York Independent tells this story of the late Dr. John Lord, the well-known historical lecturer. "When he was a candidate for ordination in the time of the old Hopkinsian controversies, he was asked the question, 'Would you be willing to be damned for the glory of God?' Perhaps he had been asked by the long exhortation, and his reply was sharp, sudden and characteristic: 'No; but I am willing you should be.'"

AMONG THE PHOSPHATE MINES.

THE ANNUAL TOUR OF INSPECTION.

The Condition of Affairs and the Outlook for the Future—Governor Evans, accompanied by the Hon. J. H. Cullum, Secretary of the State, and J. H. Speer, Secretary of the State Phosphate Commission, has made the annual tour of inspection among the mines in the phosphate territory, and Governor Evans has talked in an interesting way with the reporters about the trip, which lasted more than a week. He was delighted with Port Royal's prospects as a port, and incidentally took occasion to speak of the local coal fields of the future. He said: "Well, we had a great trip. We made an inspection of the land mines and found all the works in operation. There is great complaint that there are no good cargoes, but we have all the dredges at work and plenty of negroes digging. "We went from there to Beaufort, where we were most courteously received by Col. Averett, who took us in charge. The citizens of Beaufort extended to us the courtesies of the town and the phosphate magazines were kind and considerate in every sense of the word. They furnished us with every means for inspecting the territory and accompanied the tour. It was gratifying to notice the active operation in Coosaw river of all the dredges, which a few months ago were capped and in many instances submerged in the water. The dredges are now fully repaired, being as good as new and now are mining rock as if nothing had happened. Signs of the cyclone will remain on the shore however. Many of the warehouses which were blown down have been repaired and replaced. I understand that the Coosaw company is to move to the old chemical works near Beaufort. "The rock seems to be of good quality as ever. Some seems to be of a better quality than the rest of the whole. We have nothing to fear as to the continued demand for Carolina rock. Our rock has advantages over any phosphate rock ever discovered. It is well adapted for fertilizers, and the wharves we have built at Port Royal, leading with rock and nearly all the companies have orders ahead. In fact the largest vessels ever brought in these waters are now there loading. The companies are getting averted from the coast, and the improvements going on and the good feeling among the companies, I am satisfied that the gloom cast over us by the cyclone will soon be dispelled. The company will soon be all right, and their work will be upon a grander scale than they were before. "We went from Coosaw to the Brotherhood company's plant. We found the work in equally as fine condition and an air of prosperity about the whole place. "Western proceeded to the Port Royal naval station, and it is indeed gratifying to the State authorities to find the station in such a fine condition. The improvements going on and the good feeling among the companies, I am satisfied that the gloom cast over us by the cyclone will soon be dispelled. The company will soon be all right, and their work will be upon a grander scale than they were before. "We then proceeded to Port Royal. The captain is as genial and jolly a water as ever touched. Among the statistics tending to show the great advantages of Port Royal harbor, and while Port Royal two years ago was never heard of abroad, the captain said that the steamer Argus, which he had just returned from, had been wrecked on the rocks of Port Royal. The Argus was a large vessel of this company, and she could scarcely put her nose in Charleston harbor. She draws twenty-eight feet of water. "The wharves at Port Royal we found filled with freight ready for export, and three tremendous ships along the wharves loading with cotton, lumber, grain and provisions. This has been accomplished through the untiring efforts of Col. Averett, of the Port Royal and Augusta Railroad, and the States-ore him a debt of gratitude for the efforts he is making in her interests. "Port Royal is destined to become the New York of the South. Grain, lumber and other products of the West naturally flow in this channel for export. One scarcely realizes the grand resources of our State and possibilities of our ports until he has made a survey of this territory. The progress and development of our State is greatly hastened by the infusion of a little new blood into this people, who are growing fat and sleek upon their antiquity, will soon make it the hive of industry that it should have been long ago. "We returned to Charleston and inspected the bills of lading and accounts of sales of the different phosphate companies. It is rather perplexing to arrive at a simple method of ascertaining the State's royalty and the price of rock mined, but I am satisfied Inspector Jones thoroughly protects the State. The officers of the companies were courteous and allowed us a thorough inspection of their books and accounts. I feel assured that the State will receive a fair royalty during the fiscal year. This will give us \$75,000 for the sinking fund and \$25,000 to be used for the ordinary expenses of the State government. Of course this is speculative, but is given me by the phosphate men from the statements of the average shipments now being made by them, and estimated to be made. "We attended the meeting of the State Board of Health, and it was a pleasure to see the deep interest manifested by the doctors of the State, who serve without pay, in keeping out contagious and infectious diseases. "We inspected the quarantine station at Fort Johnson and found it a model in neatness and efficiency. This is one of the best, if not the best, equipped stations on the Atlantic coast. Governor Evans then spoke of Charleston in this way: "I think the peo-

ple of Charleston seem to have a desire to put themselves in harmony with the rest of the State, and the sooner they do it the better for them, and the sooner her young men realize that upon them rests the prosperity and up-building of their city, the better for the city. If they continue their old policy of lying idle and waiting for the rest of the world to come to Charleston instead of reaching out and meeting them half way, I am afraid that, instead of highway robberies committing in her principal streets, the best blacks will be chasing rabbits through her principal thoroughfares. They may rest assured of my hearty co-operation in anything and everything tending to uphold their city and making it what it once was—the pride of the State. "Not an unpleasant incident happened to mar our pleasure during the entire trip. I am satisfied that we are now entering upon an era of good will, progress and prosperity for the entire State."

AN OCEAN STEAMER LOST.

FOUR HUNDRED MEN AND WOMEN DROWNED.

A Great Vessel Run Down by a Small Steamer Near the English Coast and Sunk Almost Instantly.

LONDON, Jan. 30.—The North German Lloyd steamship Elbe went down in a collision with the small steamer Scotch Grantham. The latter was only slightly damaged. The Elbe sank immediately. It is now said that four hundred were drowned—240 passengers and 160 crew. ROTTERDAM, Jan. 30.—The steamship Grantham, from this port for Aberdeen, Scotland, has put into Maasluik in a damaged condition. She was leaking slightly forward, her stem having been stove in by a collision early this morning with a steamship, the Royal Lloyd steamship line. The collision occurred at about 5 o'clock this morning and some thirty-five miles distant from the coast of Holland. LONDON, Jan. 30.—At 8 o'clock this evening, dispatches were received from Rotterdam and from Maasluik, which confirmed the report of the sinking of the Elbe, which seemed to show that a steamer which had put into Maasluik, supposed to be the Grantham, bound for Aberdeen from Rotterdam, had been wrecked. A number of telegrams have been sent to her commander asking him if he rescued any of the passengers of the North German Lloyd steamship. A second dispatch from Rotterdam, which confirmed the report of the sinking of the vessel, owing to a collision with another steamer, and adds that the disaster occurred at about 5:30 o'clock this morning. The Elbe, it appears, was on her way to Maasluik with about fifty stowaway passengers, and 100 steerage passengers and a crew of 180. The morning was heavy and misty and the steamer was making her usual time and kept the ordinary course. Suddenly a steamer was sighted off the port bow of the Elbe and before a collision could be avoided the unknown vessel had run into the Elbe. The North German Lloyd steamer was struck above the engine room and sank so rapidly that there was only time to lower a few of her boats and one of these was swamped shortly after getting away from the steamer. The first boat contained the third officer, chief engineer, purser and about twenty of the passengers, so far as can be learned at present, as the people who have landed are being cared for at various places and it is difficult to get their accurate details of the disaster at this hour. The occupants of the first boat were picked up by a couple of fishing smacks and were taken to Lowestoft, where they have been landed. It has been found difficult to get the officers of the steamer to make any statement until they have communicated with the agents of the Elbe, and the passengers, who have been rescued are as yet too excited to tell anything but rambling stories. But from what can be gathered but a very short time must have elapsed between the actual collision and the sinking of the Elbe. Nothing is known as to the fate of the occupants of the third boat, which was lowered from the Elbe, but it is hoped that they will either be picked up by some passing vessel or else succeed in making a landing on the coast. From what one of the rescued men says, the disaster must have been one of the most terrible in the history of such catastrophes. All of the passengers are understood to have been on deck and asleep at the time of the collision, and nearly all of them must have been either drowned below or have met death while seeking to rush up on the deck. The man who furnished this information was in such an excited state that little more could be gathered from him than exclamations of horror. He repeated time and again: "It was terrible! It was terrible! The women and children went down without hardly being able to utter a prayer. It was terrible! The steamer must be full of dead bodies. They were caught like rats in a trap. I can't tell you any more about it. All I know is that I heard a terrible crash and it was followed by an awful sound of rushing water and escaping steamers. It was very dark down below where I was. But, somehow I managed to push my way on deck. The ship resounded with heartrending cries from all quarters, although the officers seemed to be doing all they could to calm the people. I saw a lot of sailors making a rush for a boat and I joined in with them. "Somehow the boat was lowered and although it seemed to me as if about a hundred people were trying to do the same. We pushed some of them away, for it was utterly impossible to load the boat any more, and we could see that the Elbe was doomed. She was rolling terribly and settling down on one side in a manner which seemed

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to threaten turning her over entirely. Somehow or other we got away and a number of people were drowned as they jumped into the sea and swam after us. Of course we could not put back for anybody as we should have been pulled under by the people who were already struggling in the water. Sometime later, I can't say how long for I was too horrified to think, the Elbe gave a fearful lurch sideways and sank with a bang sound. It seemed to me as if something below had burst as she went down. "I don't know what became of the vessel that ran into us. I saw a light somewhere in the distance and supposed it was her; but I can't say anything for certain. I had a brother on board, who was from Germany like myself. We were on our way to the United States where we have relatives. I don't know how many people were drowned. I don't know how many were lowered at about the same time that we got away, but it sunk soon afterwards. I think it was so crowded with people that it could not float. The chief engineer, who had charge of our boat, is a very nice man and he did all he could for us while we drifted about. He says that he is certain that a third boat was lowered from the Elbe and he believed that she will surely be able to reach the coast of Holland in safety. We wanted the fishing smack to take us to the German coast, but the fishermen insisted upon bringing us here."

VEST ON A HIGH HORSE.

He Takes Occasion to Free His Mind on the President's Recommendations.

WASHINGTON, January 30.—A very animated consideration of the financial question took place in the Senate, as soon as the session opened today. Mr. Cullum, Republican of Illinois, presented a dispatch from all the leading banks of Chicago, urging the President's recommendations be carried out at the earliest day possible. Mr. Vest, Democrat of Missouri, followed with a similar dispatch from the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, which was the last for one of the most stirring scenes that the Senate has heard in many days. Mr. Vest said the Chamber of Commerce of St. Louis did not represent the feeling of the people of Missouri, or of the country, on the financial question. He did not believe the people favored a retirement of \$500,000,000 of greenbacks and treasury notes and the substitution of no currency at all. He did not believe in the favored gold obligations running fifty years, with the interest aggregating \$75,000,000 at the end of that time. It was a selfish suggestion that posterity should be left to pay this bad debt. The obligations of this Senate were as binding toward posterity as toward the present. It was as much the duty of the Senate to protect the suggestion of the President to look after the present and let the future look after itself. Mr. Vest was by this time putting such energy and dramatic force in his speech that he was given much attention. "The President has declared war on silver," proceeded Mr. Vest. "He would make us accessories to this effort to fix the gold standard upon us." The Senator asked if any man really believed the supposed emergency could not be met by treasury payments in silver. And yet the impression was being conveyed to the public that the country was on the brink of ruin. If the President had the power he would force us to the single gold standard. "But," said Mr. Vest, impressively and raising his right hand in emphasis, "so far as I am concerned, I will never vote to issue bonds to secure gold and place us on a single gold standard." Mr. Cullum rose at this point with a question as to what the finance committee, of which Mr. Vest is a member, intended doing towards securing some definite policy. Mr. Vest proceeded for a moment before replying, and then said: "It might be more proper to let the chairman of the committee answer that question. But in his absence I will say that I do not believe there is the slightest possibility of the finance committee agreeing on any measure to report to the Senate."

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