

POLITICAL.

THE PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION.

Letter of Alexander Mitchell, Esq., of Milwaukee.

MILWAUKEE, July, 23, 1866.

Mon. J. R. Deolittle, Washington, D. C.:

DEAR SIR: I duly received the call of the "Executive Committee of the National Union Club" for a Convention to be held in the city of Philadelphia on the 14th of next month, and absence from home alone prevented me from sooner expressing my cordial approval of the principles therein set forth, and my intention to support the Administration "in maintaining unbroken the Union of the States under the Constitution which our fathers established."

It is a strange and most melancholy fact, that although over a year has elapsed since every rebel laid down his arms and yielded submission to the Federal Constitution and laws; although the sword has long been sheathed, and those who met in fratricidal strife are now rivals only in the arts of peaceful industry; although nature has covered with her verdure and golden harvests the blood-stained battle-fields, and the whole land rests once more in peace, yet the wounds of the nation remain unhealed, and the results, or which so much blood and treasures were spent, have failed to be fully realized.

The reason is, that our statesmen have not met the problems of peace so ably as our soldiers did the stern duties of war. They have failed to exhibit those enlarged views of public policy and that lofty patriotism which the difficulties of the hour demanded. They seemed to have forgotten that the question was not how to execute vengeance, or inflict punishment and political disgrace, but how the seeds of loyalty could best be planted and fostered throughout the recently rebellious South; how we could best overcome the estrangement that existed between the two sections of our common country, and now best cultivate a spirit of reconciliation and encourage mutual affection, sympathy and respect.

It seems that the smallest possible knowledge of human nature, and the slightest acquaintance with the teachings of history, should have been sufficient to show that a policy toward the South of "implacable resentment for the past, and unconquerable distrust for the future"—a policy dividing the people into victors and vanquished, ever evincing a desire to punish, disgrace and humiliate, however grateful it might be to partisan malignity—would not be likely to bring the two sections into harmony, or restore the devotion of the South to the old government. Neither can it be honestly supposed that the exclusion of the Southern States from a voice in the councils of the Union is calculated to increase their love for that Union; nor will spurring from the doors of Congress even their loyal representatives be deemed the best method of encouraging loyalty. If we of the North really desire the people of the South to become once more true to the Government of their fathers, let us give them some interest in its concerns; if we wish them to cheerfully obey the laws, let us establish some claim to their obedience by giving them a voice in their enactment by welcoming the loyal men whom they send to represent them in the councils of the nation.

The policy of exclusion and alienation so far pursued has, to some extent, destroyed the feeling of kindness and trust manifested by the rebel armies at the time of their surrender, and must eventually debase the character of the Southern people, and wholly destroy their capacity for self-government, a result fraught with untold calamity to the whole Republic. How antagonistic this policy of vengeance and alienation is to the principles of popular government; how it must weaken our power in case of a foreign war; how the doubt, uncertainty and distrust, it engenders injure our national position and retard the material prosperity and development of the South, must be evident to every candid thinking mind, and its speedy and complete abandonment must be the devout wish and earnest endeavor of every enlightened patriot.

The approaching Convention has my warmest approbation, because I think its influence will be to hasten on this desirable end, to obliterate all traces of inter-sectional hatred, to bring the North and South into relations more friendly than they have been for many years, and to lead to the representation in Congress, by loyal men, of every State, from the Potomac to the Rio Grande.

I cannot close without expressing my confidence in the sincerity, honesty, and patriotism of our President. The self-ignorance which he displayed in burying in oblivion all the wrongs and insults he had suffered at rebel hands, when his responsibilities as Chief Magistrate of the Union called him to sink his personal feelings in his duty to his misguided countrymen, must ever mark him as the worthy successor of him who showed "malice toward none, and charity toward all."

I cannot in a brief letter write all that I could desire on these important questions, but I feel constrained to add, that I believe it to be every man's duty to take his place with those whose views are right on the momentous issues of the present hour, and not be carried into supporting a hurtful policy merely because it may be advanced by those who were right on an issue now dead and gone; neither are we to despise the cooperation of any, merely because they may have held erroneous views on questions now settled forever. Our present duty must dictate our present position, and we owe it to ourselves and to our country to work with all who are right now, however much mistaken they may have been before, rather than with those who are wrong now, however sound they may have been years ago.

By the hearty cooperation of all true liberal-minded patriots the Administration can be sustained, and the foundations of the Union re-established in the affections of the whole people; and so shall the great Republic prolong its unparalleled career of progress, and maintain its place in the van of the advancing nations. I remain yours, truly,

ALEX. MITCHELL.

Views of Hon. D. K. Green, of Illinois.

Hon. D. K. GREEN, of Illinois, State Senator and one of the original founders of the Republican Party, has written the following letter relative to the Philadelphia Convention.

SALEM, Ill., June 12, 1866.

A. O. Henry, Esq., Greenville, Bond County: DEAR SIR: Your very kind letter of the 10th inst. is before me. In it you say that it is claimed by the Democrats of your place that I have deserted the Union Party and taken shelter under their roof, that my friends have given the report the lie, &c.—from my former devotion to the Union Party, good sense, &c., you felt safe in doing so.

I hereby authorize you to say to all my friends in Bond County that the statement that I have deserted the Union Party is untrue; also, that I have taken shelter under the Democratic roof is untrue. That I fully endorse the call for the Philadelphia Convention is true, but I do not understand that that is turning Democrat or taking shelter under their roof. I take it that that Convention has been called in good faith and from purely patriotic motives, and if so, it certainly does not make a man either a Copperhead or Democrat to do as I have done, both publicly and privately—indorse fully the objects and sentiments therein set forth.

Since the organization of the Republican Party, I have given it all the support that I was capable of. In fact, I helped to make it, having had the honor of representing this county in part in that glorious convention which met at Bloomington in May, 1864.

Our object then was to restrict Slavery by making Kansas a free State. We succeeded. That, however, was a sectional party—necessarily a sectional party. Our next object was to make all the Territories free, and get a modification of the Fugitive Slave Law. We were successful in that. Then the war came on, and I, in common with all other Republicans, lent my whole energies to the whipping of the rebels, getting rid of Slavery, and the repeal of the odious black laws of this State, &c., all of which had my hearty support in the Senate of our State and out of it.

You will now please pardon me for saying that, after having accomplished all that we ever contended for as Republicans and Union men, I see no further cause for keeping up strife between the North and South. I think neither has anything to gain, but both very much to lose, by so doing. As fast as the Southern States will send to Congress men who are loyal they should be admitted to their seats, Congress themselves being the judge of the loyalty of its members. If that had been done by the present Congress I think we should have had no division or wrangle in our party to-day.

We have conquered the rebels, put down the rebellion, and the flag is waving over all the territory belonging to the Union, and the laws are being obeyed in Florida about as well as in any of the loyal States. Hence, as stated above, I think that all that is to be done on this subject of reconstruction is to see that disloyal men are kept out of Congress; and certainly there can be no risk on the subject when we consider the preponderance of the loyal over the disloyal States in regard to the number of representation. From the above considerations, I think it much better, and high time, that we were returning back to first principles. The above plans make the fight in the South between the loyal and disloyal, and take it away from national politics. I am in favor of our trying to promote harmony and good feeling between sections, neighborhoods, and people, thinking that we have nothing to lose and much to gain by so doing.

Hoping that the above may be satisfactory to you and all my friends in old Bond, and thanking you kindly for the sentiment of personal regard expressed in your letter, I remain, as ever, your most obedient servant,

D. K. GREEN.

Preliminary Meeting in Columbus, Ga.

The Columbus, Ga., Sun reports a meeting held there July 18, preliminary to the appointment of delegates to the Philadelphia Convention. On motion of Hon. M. J. CRAWFORD, Hon. A. H. CHAPPELL was called to the chair; and on motion of A. R. LAMAR, Esq., J. H. MARTIN was appointed Secretary. The Chairman briefly explained the object of the meeting, which was to take into consideration the question and the manner of appointing delegates to the National Union Convention to be held in Philadelphia on the 14th day of August next.

Maj. V. W. WYNNE moved the appointment of a Committee of seven to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting. The motion prevailed, and the Chairman appointed Maj. V. W. WYNNE, Hon. H. L. BENNING, Hon. M. J. CRAWFORD, JOHN L. MUSTAIN, THOMAS DEWOLF, THOMAS RAOLAND and JAMES N. RAMSEY, Esqrs., said Committee.

During the retirement of the Committee, several gentlemen briefly addressed the meeting, in response to calls made upon them.

A. R. LAMAR, Esq., said that he had doubts as to

the propriety of Southern participation in political movements, in view of the condition of the country; but that he gave in his adhesion, in the hope that something might be done to preserve the rights and liberties of the country.

JOHN PEABODY, Esq., urged the representation of the South as a right belonging to the people.

The Committee, through Col. CRAWFORD, reported the following resolutions, which Col. C. enforced in some pertinent and eloquent remarks:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting the people of the Southern States should be represented in the Convention to be held in Philadelphia, on the 14th day of August next.

Resolved, That three Delegates be appointed to represent the County of Muscogee in the District Convention to be held, and we suggest LaGrange as a suitable place, and the first day of August as a suitable time.

Resolved, 3d, That Hon. HUGH BUCHANAN and Judge B. H. BIGHAM are, in our judgment, suitable persons to represent us in the National Convention, and we recommend them to the people of the District; but we do not intend thereby to instruct our delegates to the District Convention to insist upon their nomination.

Mr. R. T. SIMONS made some objections to one of the gentlemen recommended as a delegate to Philadelphia, under a misconception as to his position; but after explanations by Messrs. RAMSEY and LAMAR, he withdrew his motion to strike out the resolution making the recommendation.

The report of the Committee was then adopted, with but one dissenting voice.

On motion of Mr. LAMAR, the Chairman was requested to appoint the delegates to LaGrange, and the Chair named the following gentlemen: Hon. R. J. MOSES, Hon. B. A. THOMANTON, and Maj. A. M. ALLEN.

The meeting then adjourned.

The Opinion of Hon. A. H. Stephens

The Covington (Ga.) Examiner has been assured by a gentleman in correspondence with Mr. ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS, that he is in favor of Georgia being represented in the Philadelphia Convention. Mr. STEPHENS thinks that good will result from an interchange of opinions and commingling of the people from both sections in the Convention, and that the friends of President JOHNSON are disposed to fraternize with the people of the South in good faith, on honorable terms, with a view to sustaining the President's policy, and restoring the South to the full enjoyment of her rights in the Government.

The Columbus (Ga.) Sun quotes and incorses the statement as follows: "Having been shown recently a letter from Mr. STEPHENS to a gentleman in this city, we can vouch for the correctness of the above statement. The letter was in response to one addressed to Mr. STEPHENS inquiring whether he would consent to be one of the delegates for the State at large, his name having been mentioned in connection with the appointment. He most earnestly counseled the representation of Georgia in the Convention, but thought his position in the late Confederate Government made him a very inappropriate representative for that assemblage, on account of the use that might be made of it by the Radicals to the prejudice of our friends in the North and West in the coming Fall struggle before the people. We very much regret this conclusion on the part of Mr. STEPHENS, and trust he will waive the objection, and consent to represent his beloved State in the important meeting to assemble in Philadelphia. It is from the wisdom of such minds as Mr. STEPHENS that good results are expected."

A Meeting in Dallas County, Ala.

At the Dallas, Ala., County Convention of the National Unionists, which met a few days ago to send delegates to the State Convention, Hon. ALEX. WHITE offered the following resolutions, which he supported in an able speech, and which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, A call has been made by the Executive Committee of the National Union Club, for a National Union Convention at Philadelphia, on the 14th of August next, and

Whereas, All who in a spirit of patriotism and love for the Union can rise above personal and sectional considerations are specially requested to take part in the choice of such delegates,

Resolved, 1st, That we approve and will cordially cooperate in the proposed National Union Convention, and we earnestly recommend it to the favorable consideration and action of the people of other counties and of the State, as the only means by which the Constitution can be preserved, the equality of the State maintained, and the South restored to her original and proper place in the Union.

Resolved, That, laying aside all party differences and burying all animosities in good faith and sincere devotion to our country and to liberty, that we propose to meet with the people of all sections of the United States to restore the Union and the Constitution.

Resolved, That the Chairman of this meeting appoint twenty delegates to represent the County of Dallas in the State Convention, to be held in Salem on the 21st of August, to appoint delegates for the State at large, and delegates from this Congressional District to said National Convention at Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia Convention.

From the Boston Post, July 25.

The condition of the country gives serious concern to all candid and reflecting persons, and any effort made to relieve the embarrassments and doubts which oppress the people will be received with respect and gratitude by honest and sensible citizens.

That menaciated by sinister purposes may find their way into the Convention is probable; but we believe the element of good in it will preponderate over that of evil, and guide and control its action. In such a case its deliberations and resolves must be of benefit to the nation, and may open a way for escape from evils which render the future a period of apprehension. Indeed, the announcement that men from every State are to convene to consult upon the public welfare has checked the reckless spirit of radicalism, and made unfaithful stewards tremble at the obligation to render an account of their deeds.

From the Galveston (Texas) News, July 13.

There is not a single Southern complaint or exhibition of feeling which has anything to do directly with the war, or with the fact that the North was victorious. The South yielded the struggle completely in favor of the Union, and does not ask any reversal of that decision. All her complaints are of the use that has been made of the war, and it is utterly impossible for her to be wholly quiet so long as the war is made the pretext for keeping the Union apart. In such a case she feels that both sides have lost everything, and that neither has gained anything. It is, therefore, not of the Northern people, nor of the war, nor of its legitimate results that the Southern people complain. They protest against the dominant party solely because it does not permit the war to produce its proper fruit in the reconstruction of the Union, and it is a great piece of impudence in those who are keeping the Union divided, in subservience to their own party ambition, to assert that the Southern denunciation of them and their diabolical designs is an evidence that the South is unfit for reconstruction. This is of a piece with their notion that the ironing of Mr. DAVIS was a good thing, and that the tolling of it was very wrong and injurious. It is a good thing in them to keep the Union divided, but for the South to object to it is an act of unmitigated depravity.

A County Convention Called in Saratoga.

From the Albany Argus

Yesterday morning a call was circulated requesting the friends of the Philadelphia movement in this county to meet in County Convention on the 7th of August, to appoint delegates to the State Convention at Saratoga. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon the following names, among others, were attached to it: Jacob H. Ten Eyck, John Tweddle, H. Pumpelly, R. H. King, E. P. Prentice, Geo. Dexter, B. H. Mills, Paul Cushman, J. H. Armsby, R. H. Pruyn, John H. Van Antwerp, Chas. B. Lansing, Jacob Leonard, H. J. Hastings.

These are strong names, and represent important business interests. JACOB H. TEN EYCK was the Lincoln and Hamlin elector in 1860, and JOHN TWEDDLE was the Lincoln and Johnson elector in 1864. As yet none of the signers are office-holders.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

A correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, who has recently been traveling in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, writes as follows:

"I have talked to hundreds, I suppose, all along my route, and from every State South. I find them universally accepting the situation—Union men as well as Confederates. They state, without an exception, even the people of East Tennessee, who have been, to a great extent, opposed to the action of the South, that they desire a thorough and permanent settlement of the questions which are now harassing the country, ruining business and keeping the people, both North and South, in perplexity in reference to business operations, as well as everything else. I find the public, without an exception, as far as my observation has extended, and, of course, others with a sense of relief from a situation which, under any circumstances, was unpleasant, say, 'Let us bury the hatchet, let us again resume our original avocations, let us once more live as brothers, and consign to oblivion as speedily as we can all remembrances of the fratricidal war.' If the soldiers or the substantial people of both sections, instead of those who live on politics, had in their power the solution of the question, we should have no trouble; and such is the expression of these people everywhere."

At a recent Democratic Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, to elect delegates to the Philadelphia Convention, Hon. H. B. PAYNE, one of the delegates chosen, in response to a call, made an address, in the course of which he said they were going to Philadelphia to give the South a hearing. He did not wish to be understood as desiring an audience with DAVIS, TOOMBS, WIGFALL, SLIDELL and others of that class who were responsible for the action taken by the South in the late war, but with such men as ALEXANDER H. STEVENS and HERSCHEL V. JOHNSON he would confer with pleasure. He called them the true men of the South, and said the great mass of the Southern people were as loyal to-day, under their leadership, as the people of any section. Hon. F. T. BACKUS, also chosen a delegate, stated that he did not desire to affiliate with the "irrepressible" fanatical leaders of either the North or South, whom he charged with being the cause of our trouble. Inasmuch as the Southern people, outside of the Toombs, Mason and Slidell circle, had offered to do anything within reason to be readmitted, he believed it was wrong to keep them knocking at the door. He was now in favor of an open, liberal and statesmanlike policy, instead of using force toward the South. Love of country could not be driven into their heads at the point of the bayonet.

The Democratic State Convention in Illinois, to nominate candidates for the offices of State Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction and one member of Congress for the State at large, is to be held at Springfield, August 29. The call is addressed to the "Democracy of the several counties of the State, together with all conservative citizens who are in favor of the restoration of the States to their rightful and constitutional relations to the Federal Government, and who are in favor of allowing to all duly qualified citizens of the Constitution, and all who are equal to them by the Constitution and revolutionary policy of Congress by which the Union of the States and the people thereof is made a people."

Democratic Convention in the Fourth Congressional District is to be held at Monmouth, August 4.

The New-Hampshire Democratic State Committee met last week and decided that "as at this busy season it would be inconvenient for most of the laboring people, the bone and sinew of the country, to attend," it was not advisable to call a mass convention to nominate delegates to the Philadelphia Convention, but that the Democratic Committee should appoint ten delegates, one from each county, and that the Conservative Republican organization should select the same number.

The Boston Post says: "There is no disposition to render the Faneuil Hall Convention a Democratic Convention, or to give it any party tinge. It is designed as a step toward a mutual effort by Conservative Republicans and Conservative Democrats to sustain the President in his labor to restore all the States to their legitimate position in the Government, diminish the taxes of the people, and give supremacy to civil over military law."

Hon. A. W. HUBBARD, member of Congress from the Sixth District of Iowa, declines a re-nomination, and Judge WOODBURY, of Marshalltown, who has been strongly urged to accept the Republican nomination, but declined, has now consented to the use of his name in the Convention, which will meet at Webster City on the 1st of August.

Hon. D. K. GREEN, of Marion County, Illinois, who was elected by the Republicans a member of the State Senate two years ago, made a speech July 14, in which he took ground in favor of President JOHNSON's policy and the Philadelphia Convention, declaring that as a Union man, he could no longer cooperate with a party who are striving to perpetuate disunion.

Hon. ROBERT MALLOY, Hon. AARON HARDING, Hon. JOHN L. HELM, Hon. JOHN YOUNG BROWN, COL. BEN C. GRIDER, TRAVIS COCKRILL, Esq., COL. CLAUDE L. DUNHAM, of Indiana, and other distinguished speakers are announced to speak at a Democratic picnic, at Mumfordsville, Ky., August 3.

Gov. CONY, of Maine, it is stated, will call an extra session of the State Legislature about the middle of August, to ratify the amendment to the Constitution, and to consider the expediency of remitting the State tax on the citizens of Portland, in consideration of their severe losses by the recent fire.

The Toledo (Ohio) Commercial says: "We learn that the delegates from Paulding County favor the nomination of Hon. JAS. M. ASHLEY for Congress. With Williams, Fulton and Dehance instructed to vote for him, his re-nomination would seem to be secured."

Col. ROBERT R. STEWART, who raised the first cavalry company in Indiana, and who won distinction in the war, announced, in a recent speech, his disapproval of the course of Congress, and his determination to vote, hereafter, as he had fought, for a full restoration of the Union.

A Convention for the Third New-Jersey District is to be held at Somerville on Thursday, Aug. 9, to appoint two delegates to the Philadelphia Convention. All supporters of President JOHNSON are invited to participate.

Dr. EZRA B. READ, one of the delegates from Indiana to the Baltimore Convention which nominated Mr. LINCOLN in 1864, has come out in a letter in favor of President JOHNSON's policy, and also in favor of the Philadelphia Convention.

The Supervisors of Registration of Callaway county, Mo., have selected four Conservative and five Radical Registrars for the county. The Telegraph expects "loyal Callaway" to be fairly registered.

A Johnson Club has been organized at Quincy, Ill., every member of which is a Republican. It is quite large, and embraces some of the most influential citizens of the place.

The Delaware Union State Convention, to nominate candidates for Governor and member of Congress, is called to meet at Dover, on Wednesday, Aug. 8.

The call for a public meeting in Mobile, to make preparations for representation at Philadelphia, met with universal approbation, the Register says, not one person declining to sign it.

Gov. PATTON, of Alabama, has ordered an election on Monday, Sept. 3, for member of Congress in the Second District of that State, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Hon. GEORGE C. FREEMAN.

The Louisville (Ky.) Volksblatt names the late Attorney-General SPEED to replace ROUSSEAU in Congress.

The Frontier Sentinel suggests Hon. ROMEO H. HOYT of St. Albans, as a fit candidate for member of Congress from Vermont.

A. H. WILHE, G. F. MOORE, RICHARD COCKE, GEORGE W. SMITH and S. P. DONLEY have been elected Judges of the Supreme Court of Florida.

The Republican Journal, a Democratic paper published at Belfast, Maine, which was suspended eighteen months ago, has been revived.

Bayless W. Hanna, Esq., law partner of Hon. DANIEL W. VOORHEES, has been selected to reply to Gov. MURPHY's speech of the 20th of June.

After four months' wrangling, the members of the Columbus (Ohio) City Council have agreed upon a basis of organization.

The Republicans of the Fifth District of Missouri have renominated Hon. JOSEPH W. McCLUNG for Congress.

Col. SLATHAM, of West Virginia, declines to be a candidate for reelection to Congress.