

READING MATTER ON EVERY PAGE.

Our Charleston Letter.

CHARLESTON, July 31, 1867.

As a sequel to the Radical Convention, which last week discussed State and National politics at Columbia, a public meeting was called, and held at Hibernian Hall last night. The gathering ostensibly was designed to be general in its character, and the advertisement announcing it invited all who favored reconstruction on the Congressional plan, to be present, and participate in its proceedings; but really it was intended only to stimulate radicalism, and the wire-pulling committee had carefully arranged that nothing should be said or done which would militate against the interests of the great Union Republican Party. About a thousand persons were present, of whom not more than fifty were whites; and curiosity probably influenced many of these to attend. The meeting was organized on motion of E. P. Wall, (colored,) by the election of Dr. Mackey, Post Collector, as President, F. A. Sawyer, Esq., Collector of Internal Revenue, Major D. T. Corbin, United States District Attorney, T. J. Robertson, Esq., of Columbia, and four colored individuals were chosen Vice-Presidents, and H. Judge Moore, David Barrow, and a son of Africa were requested to act as Secretaries.

Upon assuming the duties of his position, Dr. Mackey addressed the meeting, stating briefly the policy which would govern him in the exercise of his duties as Moderator. He stated that as the Union Republican Party invariably upheld the Congressional legislation in regard to reconstruction and the Democrats as invariably opposed it, he could regard the meeting only as one of that party; and that though there might be present those who were not yet prepared to unite with it, that he would give a hearing to any person who was disposed to advocate the adoption of Congressional requirements, but would be compelled to restrain any one who should oppose, or attempt to distract the harmony of the meeting, by the introduction of opinions or sentiments, calculated to militate against this great object.

Upon the conclusion of his remarks—Collector Sawyer was loudly called, and in response arose and spoke a some length. He began by stating, that he had been at heart a Republican, since the existence of the Democratic party in 1860, and that now he had no hesitation in stating that all his sympathies were with the Union Republicans. He referred to the former conditions of reconstruction imposed, and animadverted in their rejection; he alluded to the generosity of the Government in their conduct towards us; and asked "whether, in the history of any country under the sun, there was ever any rebellion against the authority Government, which has been dealt with more leniently than this." He expressed his gratification at the emancipation of the negroes, and avowed his belief in the propriety and justice of granting an unqualified suffrage. In this connection he said:

"I do not believe that I have a right to cast a ballot, to exercise a right of power, and that the man whose skin is a little darker and whose intelligence may be no less than my own, should be deprived of political power. So long as the Southern people kept in quiet a certain number of slaves, it was manifestly impossible for those slaves to enjoy rights of a political character. Since their freedom, there has been no stopping until they were made citizens of the several States. Thank God we think it is right—we know it is right. Instead of being an element of constant discord and fear, they are an element of strength to the community from the very fact of their political equality."

Continuing, he urged that all the whites, who were not disfranchised should register, and co-operate in bringing about the restoration of the South to its former position in the Union; and expressed his belief, that the intelligent portions of the people are now willing "to take any step that will put them in proper relations to the Government". In closing he said:

"Whoever expects we are going to stop, before the whole country is protected by the laws of the whole country, before the right of free speech is protected and every man's labor is assured him, every man's property protected by law, or before it is as safe for a man to preach any political doctrine in Arkansas or Memphis as in New York or Philadelphia, he is very much mistaken. The tide is rolling on, and if the people of the South wish to control it, they must be themselves in a controlling position, and so control it for good

and wise purposes, that nothing should obstruct their prosperity."

Mr. Sawyer's address has elicited very much comment in our community. It is his first public expression of political faith since the close of the war. Most of our people are surprised and disappointed. It was supposed that he was very conservative in his views and feelings; and, though probably inclined to adopt many of the texts of the Republican Party, few thought that he would put himself squarely in the Radical platform.

Mr. Sawyer was followed by several speakers, white and colored, all of whom, of course earnestly advocated the policy and propriety of receiving with gratitude the bitter pills, which the national physicians at Washington have prepared for our political recuperation. After they had ventilated their opinions and sentiments, the platform of the Union Republican Party, adopted last week at Columbia, was read and adopted, and the meeting adjourned.

I neglected to mention in noticing the organization of the meeting, that an effort was made to have J. P. M. Epping, U. S. Marshal, elected as one of the Vice-Presidents; but the nomination was rejected by an almost unanimous vote. Bowen, too, upon entering the Hall was hissed by a large portion of the assembly. How enviable is the position of these two Radical apostles—ostracised from all decent society, white or black—and besides unable to carry popularity with the rabble! They will probably hereafter eschew politics, and will have many unpleasant reflections on the base ingratitude of the Republic—ans.

The regular term of office of Sheriff Jno. E. Carew having expired last week, Gen. Sickles forbade the holding of any election for a successor, and appointed Wm. S. Hastie, Esq., to the position. Mr. Hastie is well known as senior member of the old firm of Hastie, Calhoun & Co. He is a Northern man by birth, but has long been a naturalized citizen of South Carolina. I believe the appointment is as acceptable to our people, as could be expected under the circumstances attending it; but many, who still have some respect for ethics, wonder how he can take the required "test oath." In this connection, I may state, that General Sickles will probably not remove any of our present civil officers, until the expiration of their regular terms of office; he will then appoint their successors, and invariably require that they take the "iron clad oath."

I heard two days ago, an incident connected with the late Convention at Columbia, which will bear narration. T. J. Robertson, (white) of Columbia, was present as a delegate, and addressed the august and dignified body, stating, that, though a South Carolinian, he was proud to stand with them on their glorious Republican platform, &c. After he concluded, a colored orator arose, and eulogized him, stating that after having uttered such noble sentiments, he ought to be canonized. One of the white spectators, at this instant, forgetting the solemnities of the occasion, interrupted the Speaker a moment, by saying in a not very subdued tone—"Yes, and I wish I could canonize the whole party of you." The Convention frowned, and the visibles of the unconstructed auditors were violently affected.

DELTA.

THE ORANGEBURG NEWS.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1867.

While we reserve to ourselves the right of defining our own political position by means of our editorial columns, we will be pleased to publish contributions from our fellow-citizens upon the grave questions which now agitate the public mind, whether their opinions coincide with ours or not. A district newspaper, we consider, should be an index of the various shades of popular sentiment in the section of country in which it circulates. Our columns are open, therefore, for any communications properly written, accompanied by a responsible name, not personal in their character, nor absolutely injurious in their tendency.

Register, Register.

The various gentlemen who have been appointed by the Commanding General as Registrars for this District, have received preliminary instructions from Headquarters; and the indications are, that it will not be very long before the appointments will be issued for the meetings of the Boards of Registration at the different polls to receive the names of voters, according to the reconstruction scheme of Congress. As this is a new thing to South Carolinians, we revert to this subject again, for the purpose of explaining the *modus operandi* a second time to our readers. The Registrars will give public notice of the days and places of Registration, just like the Tax Collector gives notice of his various District appointments. On the appointed days, they will be on hand with proper blanks and books, to put down the names of all such as desire to vote at the election to be afterwards held, and who are not disfranchised under the Acts of

Congress. Every man who wishes to preserve his right of suffrage appears before these Registrars, and offers his name for registration upon the list of voters. The Board of Registration requires of him an oath, that he has not held certain offices, and afterwards engaged in rebellion, and that he will uphold the Constitution of the United States. If there is any point on which he is doubtful, he submits that point to the Board, and if they decide that he is disqualified, his name will not be put down as a voter; if they say that he is entitled to vote, he takes the oath above referred to, and his name is entered on the list of those who will be allowed to vote.

Now, our readers will perceive, that when the registration is over, and the lists are closed, there will be two classes of citizens in the District,—those who will be permitted to enjoy the right of suffrage, and those who will be deprived of that privilege. The first class will be composed of those, whose names shall have been recorded upon the registration rolls; and the second class will consist of all whose names are omitted therefrom. Under these circumstances, it is needless to ask what is the duty of all good citizens in this emergency. We have only to recollect, that at every election hereafter to be held in South Carolina, not only for the Convention, but for all public offices of any description, no one will be allowed to vote, unless he is registered; and we will at once see the importance of preserving for ourselves this inestimable right of suffrage, if we possibly can. Suppose a year from this time, some great public question arises, in which we are all interested,—suppose, for instance, the very question of confiscation should become an issue to be decided by the votes of the people, it would be too late then for any man to say, "I would like to vote, and I am not disfranchised," unless he has gone forward, and registered his name, so as to preserve his right of suffrage unimpaired.

We are glad to see that all classes of our people are awakening to the necessity of registering as voters. We are now living under a military despotism, as hateful as it can be made by an injudicious and autocratic chief-tain; but if our readers think that this form of government is the worst that they can possibly be called upon to endure, let us tell them, in all sincerity and candour, that the government of a faction, unrestrained by any conservative influence, and governed only by ignorance, fanaticism, and the wild passions of the hour, is tenfold worse. Persons are accustomed to say that we staked our all upon the issue of the late war, and we have lost, and nothing worse can befall us; but we would assure our fellow-citizens that there are some things which we have yet to lose, and which will be wrested from us, if we lie supinely upon our backs, and make no efforts for our preservation. We have a family hearth-stone, around which cluster the objects of our fondest affections. We have a few acres of ground, around our homestead, where, from the bosom of mother Earth, we obtain food and raiment for those we love. We enjoy the privilege of doing what we will with our own, and we can call it ours. Are these rights of property nothing to us? Add to this, our social position,—a position of intellectual superiority, of greater intelligence and refinement,—are these of no value? And shall we see all these threatened by the wild pragmatists of the present day, and not rally to their rescue? Forbid it, God of Nations and of Liberty! By every feeling most dear to the heart; by every impulse of patriotic duty; by every hope, that even the most desponding cherish, of better days; by all that is nearly lost, which we cannot afford to lose, let us come up to the requirements of the times, and discharge this simple duty to our country, our neighbors, our loved ones, and ourselves. LET US REGISTER IF WE CAN!

The Radical Convention.

We cannot say much about this Convention. The platform adopted by the would-be "elders of the people," will be found in another column.

We can only state that the platform was passed, as Congress passes its Reconstruction Acts, by the shut-down-debate and ride-over-minority plan.

We were surprised to find that the only two citizens of Orangeburg, who had been appointed delegates to the Convention at Charleston, Rev. William Dannelly and David Gillaney, were thrown aside; and in their places were substituted two outsiders, Rev. B. F. Randolph, and a man by the name of Cain, (not, however, the man who slew his brother Abel, we hope.) So that not a single Orangeburgher was there.

Several rich scenes happened at the Convention. The white and the colored elements did not entirely harmonize. One delegate left in disgust, and begged his way in again the next day. One delegate left for good; and the President complimented him with the Scripture

name of Judas. One white delegate from Charleston wanted all opposed to reconstruction to be sent to Castle Pinckney; but the more sensible darkeys put down the idea with decided expressions of dissent.

Of their platform, we have nothing to say at present.

[FOR THE ORANGEBURG NEWS.]
Reflections on the Times.

MR. EDITOR: How shall we act, so as to insure the best possible good to our State and people? This inquiry is particularly interesting to our citizens under the present situation of our political affairs. No reasonable man can feel indifferent to the events transpiring now, especially when the destiny of our country, and our own future for weal or woe, depend upon the final result. However diversified may be the means we desire to use, our ultimate aim should be the same; and to adopt any measures to this end, there must be unity and concert of action on the part of our people—inactivity or division may be our ruin. Every one should be willing to yield something, in order to unite with others in promoting the public good.

The party, which now controls the political affairs of the nation, is supposed to have sworn allegiance to the government, and obedience to its constitution and laws; but its history for the last six years has been nothing but a record of perpetual and accursed perjury. All its enactments have been conceived in malice and carried out in a spirit of revenge. It is guided neither by reason, expediency, or the Constitution. It believes and acts upon the principle that in times of revolution there is no Constitution—no authority—no law higher than the will of the conqueror. Upon this it will continue to act, until the last mite is forced from the South. In this spirit, its agents in control of the Government at Washington, adopted the present reconstruction policy, knowing that the entire negro vote, and such white men as will affiliate with them, will place absolute power in their hands for a number of years to come. Hence, we need not expect any yielding or justice, on the part of Congress but what accords with the will of the conqueror. So far from it, if the South comply with every condition of the late acts, she will not get representation until she pays the last farthing, yields the last right, and sacrifices the last sense of pride and honor. These acts of Congress are the laws of the land, notwithstanding their unconstitutionality, the President's opposition, or Mr. Stanberry's recent interpretation. The South, of necessity, must accept them, and it is her duty to act in the premises, as becomes a brave but conquered people, quietly submit to the law, and give faithful obedience to the authorities that be. The immediate effect of this policy is to enfranchise every male citizen twenty-one years of age, regardless of color or previous condition, except certain official victims, who are denied the privilege of voting and the right of holding office, refused any part in the Government, and who are intended to be degraded by making them an exception from political society, in consequence of the part they performed in bringing about the so-called rebellion against the laws of the United States. Of these voters in South Carolina, sixty thousand are negroes, totally ignorant even of the first principles of government, unaccustomed to the exercise of political privileges, and not yet divested of the vices incident to a state of slavery. They are not only ignorant and uneducated, but inexperienced, and are not capable of taking a direct and absolute part in the affairs of government. Such has been, and still is the judgment of the North itself concerning them. There it is a question whether or not they are fitted for the exercise of such privileges.

But the Radicals know that such a class at the South can easily be made the willing tools of unscrupulous demagogues. They have already sent their emissaries throughout our country, with millions of money, to establish societies, and to teach the negro their peculiar version of his rights, and their paradoxical absurdities about social equality. And in every instance, they have succeeded in undermining our whole political and social system. They equally know, that these negro voters are "homeless and landless," whilst the whites are the recognized owners of the property, hence there must be and is a feeling of jealousy on the part of the one against the other, which will over-balance any identity of interest we may imagine to exist between us. There is wanting on the part of the ruling party no means of augmenting this jealousy; and if they can, they will inflame it to a religious hatred, thereby making them a powerful instrument to subserve their purposes of power and spoil. The negro understands his importance in the emergency, and will be loth to undertake any measure which involves to him the least appearance of doubt as to his rights. He

also understands, and I think properly, that the Convention which is to meet ostensibly for the purpose of framing a Constitution for the State, is unlimited in its power; and that any act of that body looking to their own pot measure, and extreme Radical policy of confiscation or punishment, will be approved and sustained by the voters, who elect the delegates, and by Congress itself. As much danger from confiscation hangs here, as from the bill of Mr. Stevens in Congress.

Now, Mr. Editor, this whole Radical policy is intended to be nothing more than a gigantic scheme to obtain power and spoil, by taking the government of the Southern States out of the hands of the white citizens, and transferring it to the negroes or their elected agents. If this be true, it does seem to me that our duty and policy is plain. We must register, if we can thereby secure the right to vote; then let us bring to bear upon the negro every influence which prudence, reason and honesty would dictate, and secure as many as possible to vote with us against the Convention. In doing this, we do not violate our oath of allegiance to the government. We do not intend with ungrateful hands to tear down the pillars from the edifice of Union—nor to kindle the prejudices and passions of the people—nor to array parties against each other in the field of strife—nor to digest means of revenge against those who prosecute us; but as a part of the American people, meekly and faithfully to discharge the duty we owe the government, in accordance with its Constitution and laws. If this course bring confiscation upon the country, where is the less danger from the other? On the other hand, the returning sense of justice from the reaction now going on at the North, is ground sufficient to base our hopes of an early settlement. And the immense debt, which Southern people owe Northern merchants, the enormous increase of the national debt and decrease of the revenue tax receipts, in connection with the North-western cry for repudiation, and the crushing effects it will have upon the national credit; are all arguments sufficiently strong to preclude the possibility of confiscation. It is also said, this course will bring a conflict of the races. I ask, if taking the government of the Southern States, out of the hands of the white man, and transferring it to the negro, will do less. In the name of pride, of honor and of our oppressed country, let us not ourselves complete the ruin our enemies began; but do our duty as law-abiding and faithful citizens of the United States. Any other course will establish universal suffrage forever, which will open the door for confiscation and a conflict of the races. I confidently believe that the work once begun will go on to completion, and in a few years more justice will be done, and representation in Congress be awarded us: then the dark clouds which have been hovering over our unhappy South will be dispersed, and the wanted sunshine again cheer our desponding people. Then the revolution begun in 1860, shall have been ended—the great principles which we fought to establish and for which we sacrificed so much money and blood, shall have been as things which were. The names of Calhoun, McDuffie and our great political teachers, shall exist only in memory. The establishment of the Union shall be a fact—a new epoch shall be ushered in, from which succeeding years shall be numbered, and generations dated. Let us then, when we emerge from the disastrous conflict, try to lay aside our old, but dear notions, and take up the energies and principles of the new age, and keep pace with the times in which we live.

The Doctrines of the "Rads" in South Carolina.

For the information of our readers, we publish in full the platform adopted by the Union Republican Convention in Columbia last week:

PLATFORM.

1. That in order to make the labor of all our loyal fellow-citizens more effectual for carrying out the provisions of Congress, for the restoration of law and order in our State as well as for the peace and prosperity of our entire country, we the people of South Carolina, do form ourselves into a political organization, to be known as the Union Republican party of South Carolina.
2. That as republican institutions cannot be preserved unless intelligence be generally diffused among all classes, we will favor a uniform system of free schools and colleges, which shall be open to all.
3. That we will favor a liberal system of public improvements, such as railroads, canals and other works, and also such a system of awarding contracts for the same as will give all our fellow-citizens an equal and fair chance to share in them.
4. That as large land monopolies tend only to make the rich, richer, and the poor, poorer, and are ruinous to the agricultural, commercial and social interests of the State, the Legislature should offer every practical inducement for the division and sale of unoccupied lands among the poorer classes, and as an encouragement to immigrants to settle in our State.
5. That the interest of the State demand a

revision of the entire code of laws and the organization of the courts.

6. That it is just and proper that taxes should be *ad valorem*, and proportioned to the property of the citizens.

7. That the ballot being the surest safeguard of the rights of the citizen, all executive and legislative officers of the State should be elected by the people; and therefore, Resolved, That in our opinion a purely republican government is maintained only by making our rulers responsible directly to the people by frequent elections—not by the Legislature, but by the people themselves; therefore,

Resolved, That the delegates we shall send to the Constitutional Convention about to be called by the Commanding General, be instructed to so frame our new constitution that the Governor and Council, Senators and Representatives of the State Legislature, and all subordinate officers, except those of the judiciary department, be chosen by the people, to hold their respective offices, not for two years, but for one year; and that in the election of President and Vice-President of the United States, chosen every four years, the electors, as they are now in every other State in the Union, shall be chosen by the people directly, and not by the members of the Legislature.

8. That the poor and destitute, those aged and infirm people, houseless and homeless, and past labor, who have none to care for them, should be provided for at the expense of the State; and that, in the reconstruction of our government, we will see to it that they are not neglected and forgotten.

9. That the unhappy policy pursued by Andrew Johnson is, in its effects upon the loyal people of the South, unjust, oppressive, and intolerable; and, accordingly, however ardently we desire to see our State once more restored to its proper position in the Union, we would deprecate restoration on any other conditions than those prescribed by the Fortieth Congress, to which we give our cordial and entire sanction, believing the principles enunciated by the Republican party, through that Congress, to be just and wise.

10. That the adverse discrimination towards the agricultural laborers of the Southern States, as manifested by the enormous tax on Cotton, is unjust and oppressive, and should be abrogated at the earliest practicable moment.

11. That we sincerely exult in the fact that, as a nation, we are now absolutely a nation of freemen, and that, from the St. Lawrence to the Rio Grande, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the sun no longer shines upon the brow of a slave.

12. That a wise care for the public safety, sometimes renders it necessary that those who have sought resolutely to overthrow a government should not hastily be restored to the privileges of which they have deprived themselves by their crime of treason—certainly not until they have shown evidence of sincere repentance, and a disposition as energetically to support as they have in the past sought to destroy the Union; and that we consider willingness on the part of these men to elevate to power the men who preserved unswerving adherence to the government during the war, as the best test of sincerity in professions for the future.

13. That we will not support any candidate for office who will not openly indorse the principles adopted by the Union Republican party; and that we pledge ourselves to stand by the regular nominations of the party, without any reservation whatever.

The Whites in Virginia.

A Virginia correspondent of the New York Times, gives some information of the startling fact, that the probabilities are in favor of there being a majority of negro voters in the State of Virginia, and says:

This is due to the refusal of many of the whites to register themselves under the military bill. It is believed that about 90,000 negro voters have been registered, while the whites, who could have registered to the number of 125,000, are, according to the computation now made, several thousand behind the blacks. That the negroes will act compactly in politics, and make strenuous attempts to elect their own special representatives, black or white, there is little doubt; and that much bitterness of feeling between the two races will be engendered in the contest for political supremacy, is evident from the present course of things. The large preponderance of registered blacks over whites, in a portion of Eastern Virginia, has filled the people with gloom and alarm. The reproaches which are visited upon the delinquent whites are very severe, and the indignation which is everywhere felt against the blind and senseless newspapers which have misled the white men into so deplorable a blunder and crime as turning over Virginia to the power of negroes, pervades every part of the country."

What is here stated about Virginia will probably happen in other Southern States, and those who hold aloof from registration will find out the seriousness of the mistake when too late to remedy it.—Lawrenceville Herald.

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wax, Tallow, Hides, Furs, &c., &c., by
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