

THE INDEPENDENT PRESS

ABBEVILLE, S. C.

W. A. LEE, EDITOR.

Friday Morning, June 29, 1860.

The friends of WM. C. DAVIS announce him a candidate for the Legislature at the ensuing election.

The friends of Col. H. H. JARPER respectfully nominate him as a candidate for re-election to the next Legislature.

The friends of Capt. J. N. COCHRAN respectfully announce him as a candidate for re-election to the next Legislature.

The friends of Hon. J. ROSTER-MARSHALL, feeling satisfied with his past services in the State Senate, again nominate him as a candidate for re-election.

See the advertisements of Dr. Edwin Parker, Rev. Thos. A. Hoyt, Messrs. Fleming & Rowland, Dr. J. C. Ayer, Messrs. Potter & Mervin, Dr. C. V. Barnes.

RELIGIOUS NOTICE. The Rev. D. McNEIL TRENKLE will preach at Upper Long Church on the 2d and 3d Sabbath in July—being the 5th and 13th days of the month.

Gen. DONHAM will please accept our thanks for Congressional favors.

COMET. A comet was observed by a number of persons on Tuesday last. It was first seen in the West, and disappeared at 9 o'clock.

VETO OF THE HOMESTEAD BILL. The telegraph informs us that the President has vetoed the Homestead Bill—the favorite measure of the Black Republicans, which gives land to actual settlers at 25 cents per acre.

SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE. The examination at the South Carolina College closed yesterday evening. The summer vacation begins to-day. Both students and professors will soon be seeking recreation elsewhere. Most of the students leave to-day—Carolina 25th inst.

U. S. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. Extensive arrangements are being made for the holding of the eighth annual exhibition of the United States Agricultural Society, at Cincinnati, in the early part of September next. The exhibition is to remain open ten days. It is said that on this occasion a larger number of premiums will be distributed than at any similar exhibition in the world.

SEMON. We had the pleasure of hearing on Wednesday night, a very excellent sermon upon "Growth in Grace," from the Rev. A. W. MOORE, of the S. C. Conference. Mr. Moore is a graduate of Wofford College, with the first honors of his class, and is a young man of fine promise. He is a pleasant speaker—in thought clear, original and striking—in style, terse and polished—in delivery, easy and graceful.

PIKES PEAK. In reply to inquiries addressed to the Philadelphia Mint, a statement has been received in St. Louis, showing that the quantity of Pikes Peak gold dust forwarded to that establishment since July last amount in value to not less than six hundred thousand dollars. This would probably average six dollars to every emigrant in the diggings, and indicates a better yield than the mines had credit for.

REV. THOS. A. HOYT. The Rev. Thos. A. Hoyt and family removed from our village on Wednesday last, for the purpose of taking up their permanent residence in Louisville, Ky., where Mr. Hoyt was some time since installed as the pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church. He leaves many admirers and warm personal friends, whose best wishes attend him in his new home. He is one of our ablest and most eloquent divines, and we prophesy for him a wide sphere of usefulness in the city of his adoption.

THE CONDITION OF THE SOUTH. The Charleston Mercury speaks of the hopelessness of the South obtaining what she needs through the instrumentality of National Conventions or any other ordinary resource, and concludes "that the Northern people have forced upon the South, reluctantly and slowly attained, that no submission on our part can win their forbearance, and no rights escape their violation, and that our safety rests in our selves. In what way the South will secure her protection, time alone can show. Events are in the hands of God—we can only do our duty in the present.

CONGRESSIONAL. In the House of Representatives Mr. BOWMAN asked, but failed to obtain leave to introduce a joint resolution that so long as the United States Government pursues the policy of returning to the Coast of Africa the Africans captured by our vessels of war, the President procure the concurrence of the British Government in returning to said Coast, on the same terms and conditions, those which may be captured by the British Navy. And in case the British Government will not enter into a convention for this purpose the President signify the wishes of the United States to terminate at once the eighth article of the Treaty of Washington, commonly called the Ashburton Treaty.

NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED. Telegraphic despatches from Washington convey the intelligence that Mr. BARKER and Gen. LANE have accepted the nominations tendered them, and that Gov. FITZPATRICK has declined the nomination tendered him by the Douglas Convention. The Hon. HENNING, V. Johnson of Georgia, has been nominated in his stead.

IMMENSE RATIFICATION MEETINGS have been held in Washington to endorse the nominations, at which speeches were delivered by BARKER, LANE, HENNING, V. Johnson, and others.

THE OVERLAND TELEGRAPH. President Buchanan says a special despatch to the New York Daily World, has signed the overland telegraph bill. It is therefore a done deal. The Secretary of the Treasury will soon propose in a few days for building the line.

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTIONS.

The long anticipated rupture has at length taken place at Baltimore, and will separate and independent Democratic Conventions. The rupture of the party is indeed more apparent than real, as the Douglas Convention, after the Seceders had retired, constituted a mere fragment of the Democracy—representing principally Black Republican constituents, and will scarcely be able to carry for a majority, a single electoral vote. With a minority worthy of a better cause, the Convention adhered to their idol, even to the bitter end, and offered him the bare honor of a fruitless nomination. Douglas and Fitzpatrick have about the same right to represent the Democratic party as Bell and Everett, and we suppose will be able to carry about the same number of Democratic votes.

The Seceding Convention on the other hand represented the whole South with Oregon and California, and constituted the great strength of the Democratic party. Consisting of about 210 delegates, and representing 21 States, they unanimously nominated John C. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, for President, and Joseph Lane, of Oregon, for Vice-President—and, with the prestige of such names they will deserve success if they do not secure it.

That our readers may see clearly the steps which led to the late rupture at Baltimore, we make the following brief statement:—

The regular Convention will be recalled to Baltimore to meet at the same resolution upon the place of meeting, recommended by the Democracy of the several States to supply vacancies in their respective delegations. In pursuance of this suggestion, State Conventions were held, and the result was that two sets of delegates were appointed from several of the States, regular and containing longer delegations. The regular Delegates with the exception of those from South Carolina and Florida were accredited both to the Richmond and Baltimore Conventions, and upon the adjournment of the Richmond Convention, proceeded generally to Baltimore.

Upon the organization of the Convention the President, Gen. Cushing, decided that he had no power to decide upon the credentials of the contesting delegates. In three of these cases the credentials were authentic and complete—to wit: in the case of Mississippi, Texas and Arkansas—there being no question of contra-varying delegates. In the States of Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Delaware, there were contesting applications. The matter was finally referred to a Committee on Credentials, consisting of twenty-five members, and upon the Majority and Minority Reports of this Committee, the great battle was fought, which led to the rupture of the Convention.

The Majority Report, presented by Mr. Cram, of Missouri, admitted delegates (Douglasites) in lieu of principals. (anti-Douglasites) from Massachusetts and Missouri; also admitted the Seceders from Delaware, Texas and Mississippi; divided Georgia and Arkansas between Seceders and bogus delegates; and admitted (raving rant of injustice) bogus delegates only from Alabama, Louisiana.

The Minority Report—an able Document prepared by Gov. Stevens, of Oregon—admitted all the Seceders, and also the principals from Massachusetts and Missouri, and invited Florida, to enter the Convention.

The gross injustice of adopting the Majority Report, which excluded the Regular Delegates from Alabama and Louisiana, and dividing the Georgia delegation, is fully set forth in the Minority Report, which shows to what desperate shifts the Douglas men were reduced in order to elect their candidate.

Upon the question of the adoption of these Reports, by the Convention, New York, which held the balance of power long vacillated, but finally voted against the Minority Report, which was rejected by a vote of 150 to 112.

The Majority Report was then adopted. Seceders by the Convention, and the whole South, under the lead of Virginia, together with Oregon and California, finally withdrew. Gen. Cushing the President afterwards retired from the Chair, and with the delegations from Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, withdrew from the Convention.

The balloting then commenced and on a second ballot Stephen A. Douglas, of Illinois, was declared nominated, having received 1814 out of 1914 votes—receiving the votes of the bogus delegates from Alabama and Louisiana.

Benj. Fitzpatrick, of Alabama, was unanimously elected as a candidate for the Vice-Presidency.

The Convention then adjourned sine die.

THE SECEDING CONVENTION. This Convention, which far exceeded the Douglas Convention in numbers, met at Baltimore, in the Hall of the Maryland Institute on Saturday, the 23d inst., and having called Mr. Russell, of Virginia, to the Chair, and appointed a Committee on organization, took a recess until 5 o'clock p. m., when the following proceedings took place:

Upon the calling of the roll, the following States responded: Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Iowa, California, and Oregon.

As the Northern States responded, there was a deafening applause. Gen. WALKER, of Alabama, from the Committee on Organization, reported for President, the name of Gen. CALIX CUMMINS, of Massachusetts.

Mr. RUSSELL, of Virginia, on resigning the chair, congratulated Gen. CUMMINS, that he had resumed the Presidency of the National Democratic Convention.

Gen. CUMMINS, on assuming the chair, said: "Gentlemen of the Convention, we are assembled here, Delegates to the National Democratic Convention, duly accredited thereto from more than twenty States of the Union, for the purpose of nominating the candidates of the Democratic party for the offices of President and Vice-President of the United States; for the purpose of announcing the principles of the party; for the purpose of continuing a 're-assertion' of the Union and the constitutional rights of the several States; Gentlemen, the Convention is in order for business."

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IMPROVEMENTS IN ABBEVILLE VILLAGE.

To the lovers of improvement it must be gratifying to see the improvements now being carried forward in Abbeville Village. The first thing which strikes the mind of one who reflects upon this subject is the contrast which the aspect of things presents now, compared with that of twenty years ago! This contrast is not only in things, but in men. Where are the faces which were familiar in the Village twenty years ago? Many who used to go in and out before us there, are not now seen, and will be seen no more on earth! Many of these now passing and to go, are to those then living, and still surviving, strangers—entire strangers! It is not only in things, but in men. Where is the old Court House—the old Jail? Where is the venerable pile of uncouth but of antique and then fashionable architecture familiarly known as Mrs. Allen's Hotel? Where is the Posey Range—including Mr. Wardlaw's old store house?—Where, let us not forget to ask, is the old Mossy—Ramey Hotel, on the site of which now stands the Marshall House? All—have passed away! But, we cannot say that they have left no wreck behind; for, in their stead now are to be seen buildings of stables, and sizes, and architecture, more in accordance with the taste and spirit of the times which is improvement and progress.

But does not all this present matter for sad reflection? And the question which so naturally recurs—is has the "sad reflection" been had? Have the people now living here, been profited by—taken advantage of—the lessons which these changes, in men and things is calculated to teach? Is it so—can it be true, that, notwithstanding the many evidences which are being daily presented to us of the mortality of the transitoriness of all things earthly, we yet reach no higher in the scale of morality—of brotherly love—of friendship—of humanity? Can it be possible that the teachings of Christ—the only teacher of pure goodness and morality, ever upon earth, to envy—hatred—malice—brotherly love—kindness—temperance—charity—have no more effect upon our consciences now than then? And can this be so whilst we have had so much preaching amongst us of almost every order, not excepting even the Roman Catholic and the Jew? If the Latin poet, in view of the aspect of things in his days, had to exclaim, "O tempora—O Mores!"

What would be his exclamation now? And yet, behold the difference between the light which shines now, and which shone then!

This, however, may be all right. Things may be tending toward their legitimate and proper destination. Something may have been discovered in the spirit of Christ's gospel which even He never thought of or knew. Certainly, it is very remarkable, if members of different denominations—if Christians of different persuasions—are to be ultimately honored in the same heaven—are to sit down around the same throne in the enjoyment of the same felicity and blessings as one people—as spirits akin to each other in unity of purpose and desire,—it is strange, we say,—"passing strange," if this be so, that there should be such antagonisms—such rivalries—such spirits of revenge—of estrangement—of unfriendliness—of uncharitableness—among these same people, here? It is only necessary to ask these questions to know their answers; but there are only a few who take the time who have moral sense enough to ask them, and in the midst of the business and hurry of life, wait for the reply.

One would suppose—and very naturally—without even an argumentation—from reading the Scriptures, that when the unbeliever,—the unbelieving—the gainsaying world—had done wrong—justice, equal justice, to his motives, to his character, he could turn, with lively satisfaction to the followers of Christ for vindication and commendation. But is it so? Does the world or the church make the standard by which the church, practically gives its judgment? To preach to sinners, to repent, or hell will be their portion, and yet to follow their footsteps—to be influenced by their ways and their customs! But yet, is not this the modern protestant Christian Church? Does the church discontinue denouncing! But yet does it not practically encourage hold up the sin of the adulteress? Does it ever exclude a rich man for anything he may do or say? What signifies—what value is there in a theory? It is the practice of men to which we look, for their fruit in whatever is commendable. It is worse than ridiculous—it is lower in the scale of morality than hypocrisy—to point to a theory of men apart from their practice. It is what a man does—not what he says that makes his character. This is, also, of the Church. It is what the Church does, not what it says, that gives character and life to its influence.

But the object of our communication, Mr. Editor, is, so well to point out, and commend, the material improvements which have been made and are now being carried forward in our village, as to ask, as to ask, in all candor, whether a similar advance has been made in the religion, in the charity, in the moral character, of our people! Of this, every one will be, as he may be, his own judge. At my rate, the reflection which this inquiry excites may be well carried home to the common conscience of every man who expects to be judged hereafter for that he has been here, although even if he has had, will do any good on our late day Saint. As it is again here, however, we throw it out, as we cast "bread upon the waters."

But to returning; our Village improvements. It is, indeed, gratifying to see them going on. They argue well for the future and speak well for the past. They show that something has been at work here, certainly. With the railroad—the var-guarded—that is enabling, refining and elevating the manners, morals, and customs of our people, there is a change among also, men of enterprising spirit; keen, shrewd, active, intelligent; who, with the implements of their trade in hand, have gone to work in good earnest; and incorporating with the liberal energy and practical good sense of the younger part of the generation, previous dwelling here, and who form a quarter of a century, never put one brick upon another in the way of substantial improvement in architecture or business, but they have done so everywhere visible in the village. Who can wish this spirit a hearty "God speed!" It is all right and proper, and just as it should be. But it should not be forgotten that, with these improvements, we have had, in our village, a corresponding higher responsibility. Honesty, justice, money, and truth, should be as remarkable in our character, as the material advance is manifest in our community. Of him, to whom much is given, much shall be required. And it will be a most humiliating spectacle, if another generation, the result of the improvements, should be permitted to degenerate into a more debasing and more unimproving than the generation which has preceded them.

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