

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the Democratic party of Anderson County will be held at the office of the Anderson Intelligence on Friday, 19th of May instant, at eleven o'clock a. m. All members are earnestly requested to attend, and where members have not been designated by Democratic Clubs, the Presidents are invited to be present, as it is important that every Club be represented.

JAMES A. HOYT, County Chairman.

In response to the request of the Charleston and Orangeburg bars, Judge J. P. Reed has announced his intention to comply with their request and hold his place on the bench.

We print this week another communication from Mr. John E. Breazeale, who indulges in a lengthy explanation of the reasons which induced him to come before the public in advocacy of the coalition policy. We did not imagine that Mr. Breazeale was seeking to satisfy personal friends as to his political conduct, when we admitted his communication into our columns, for we accepted his own clear and explicit declaration that he desired "to make some suggestions as to the most advisable course to be pursued in the coming elections." We were under the impression, moreover, that we did give a "substantial reasons" why the course suggested by him should not be adopted, but it appears that these were thrown away upon Mr. Breazeale, who confined his attention to the first paragraph, wherein we asked certain questions. We have no desire to prolong the so-called "controversy," and are entirely willing that Mr. B. shall relegate himself to the shades of private life, if he chooses to do so, but he is greatly mistaken to suppose that we are at all anxious in regard to the matter, for we have no objection to his appearing every week on the political arena, only that we do not propose for any one to advance what we regard as political heresies in our midst without meeting them fairly and squarely. It may be unpleasant and unpalatable, but we want it distinctly understood by all parties that we propose to call things by their right names during the pending campaign, and that we are not willing to silently acquiesce in the adoption of a suicidal policy any longer. At the same time, we are always ready to give the use of our columns to those differing with us in policy, and we think Mr. Breazeale is the last man in Anderson County to intimate that we desire to "suppress" sentiments not in accord with our own. We leave him to the candid judgment of our readers.

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

We yield much of our space this week to the proceedings of the Democratic State Convention, which met in Columbia on Thursday last. It was an important and imposing assemblage of representative men from every portion of the State. Their action was prompted by an earnest desire to make the occasion subservient to the best interests of the State, and every delegate was animated with zealous devotion to the welfare and prosperity of the entire people. There was developed some differences of opinion as to the proper policy, whether or not to pronounce in favor of a straight-out nomination for State officers at this time. This conflict of opinion was known to exist prior to the meeting, and it was neither surprising nor undesirable that a free interchange of views was made in the Convention, revealing the substantial differences existing, and pointing clearly to an united Democracy in the coming election. One thing was demonstrated beyond the shadow of a doubt, which is that the Democratic party in South Carolina will no longer exist in a "moribund" condition, but that henceforth it will be made effective in whatever sphere it chooses to act. As an aggressive minority, pressing forward to rescue the State from its worst elements and to secure the control of its public affairs in a legitimate manner, the Democracy will exhibit activity, energy and vitality in its future movements, which cannot fail to redound to the permanent interests of the commonwealth. The spathy and indifference of the past few years, on the part of many good citizens, must give way to the higher duties demanded by the prostrate condition of the State, and it is incumbent upon all who really desire to put an end to corrupt rule to bear their share of responsibility in cleansing the Augean stable.

The main business of the Convention was confined to three points: 1. The election of a full delegation to the National Democratic Convention; 2. The reorganization of the State Executive Committee; 3. The recommendation to the various counties for a complete, thorough and compact organization of every element of political strength, in view of the pending campaign. The delegates chosen to St. Louis are gentlemen of recognized ability and character, whose selection will give satisfaction to a majority of the Democrats. They are untroubled and unpledged to any candidate, and will act as their best judgment dictates. The State Executive Committee is composed of new material in that capacity, but they are men of firmness, discretion and sound judgments, whose zeal and activity in the discharge of onerous and important duties will make their impress felt upon the pending campaign. Gen. James Conner, of Charleston, was selected by the members as Chairman of the Executive Committee—an eminently wise and judicious selection. The thorough and complete organization of the Democracy addresses itself to every citizen, and we trust the appeal of the Convention will be made by calling together another State Convention, whenever it may be deemed wise and proper by the State Executive Committee. This action is in exact accordance with Democratic principles and usage, for it gives the people another opportunity of select-

ing representatives to act in their stead upon important matters which were not confided to the recent Convention. Upon that body when it assembles will devolve the choice of standard-bearers and the erection of a platform for the campaign. Upon the election of delegates will depend the drift and purposes of the Democracy, and the people will not be called upon to act on a more vital question prior to the general election than the selection of their representatives in the next State Convention.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

Washington, D. C., May 6, 1876.

BLAINE'S LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSE.

The most casual observer can readily perceive that, however Mr. Blaine's greatness is increasing outside, it certainly is not augmenting inside the body of which he is a member. When he assumed, as by a sort of divine right, at the beginning of the session, the command of his party in the House, great things were naturally expected of him. It was thought that his special parliamentary talents would bring him out victorious from every encounter. It is said, yet true, that this has not proven to be the case. As long as only parliamentary trickery and expedients were necessary, Mr. Blaine was always on hand; his hair fairly bristling with activity, and his body continually thrown forward over a fox which awaits an unwary fowl. Since his encounter with Lamar, some time ago, and more especially since his tilt with Randolph Tucker, of Virginia, in which the latter, in answer to one of Blaine's frequent interruptions, proved to the satisfaction of all present that however versed Mr. Blaine might be in the tricks of the political demagogue, he exhibited a remarkable ignorance of the most ordinary principles of law, Mr. Blaine has been more quiet, sits in a more comfortable position, and doesn't ask half as many questions as he used to do. He was decidedly worsted in this encounter; and, in fact, the impression made upon the spectators of the scene was not at all favorable to his aspirations for continued control of his party. "Not to put too fine a point upon it," the popular view of the subject is that Mr. Blaine made a demotion donkey of himself, and lost much prestige on his own side of the House. Nothing is more natural than such a thing; seeing that men will rarely acknowledge leadership in an individual, however much they may have previously idolized him, when they discover him to be more ignorant than themselves. This exhibition of ignorance of law on the part of Mr. Blaine recalls one in the President's late message on the salary reduction, in which he twice refers to the President's salary as "fixed by the Constitution," when every school boy ought to know that it is not fixed in that way, but by Congressional enactment. The question arises "where in the world was Pierpont, to let his master make such a blunder?"

THE NEW REPUBLICAN REFORM CLUB.

In New York, has secured temporary quarters at 30 Union Square; but, as it intends to be a permanent institution, is on the lookout for an establishment up town. It has in its fold the men who hold the sinews of war, and they are full of enthusiasm in the work they have undertaken. They contemplate an early public demonstration at Cooper Institute, or the Academy of Music; and have invited a number of distinguished speakers. It begins to be thought that they may endorse Tilden, as a man who embodies reform in himself. It will be remembered that, last winter, Governor Tilden gave a grand entertainment at Albany to America's greatest poet, William Cullen Bryant, who is one of the leading men on the call for a conference of reformers; and that the present distinguished Secretary of State of New York, John Bigelow, a Reform Republican, was the Tilden candidate. Dorseheimer, a Liberal Republican, was also elected Lieutenant Governor on the same ticket with Tilden. All of which only goes to prove that it is the spirit of Reform that is now in the ascendant in New York, that Tilden is the embodiment of that spirit, and that Bing politicians of both parties must stand aside. Of course, all the ex-Members of the old Tweed regime, the Canal Ring men, and other corruptionists, are opposed to the man whose vigorous assaults on them have broken up their systems of public plunder, and literally scattered their leaders to the four corners of the earth. Among those enemies of Tilden are a number of self-styled Democrats, who denounce him to such citizens of other States as they meet, and endeavor to make it appear that there is a want of unity in the support for him in New York; but this is a weak device of disapproving corruptionists, and the figures show that, for every one of their votes lost to the party, two have been gained from the honest voters of the Republican party.

THANKS TO THE DEMOCRATS OF INDIANA.

For their timely nomination of Hon. J. D. Williams for Governor! He is just the man for the crisis. He, if any man, can unite all the elements of opposition to Grantism, and can carry Indiana by a larger majority than Governor Hendricks had. We know Williams well in Washington, as a plain, blunt man, unpretentious in manners, simple to a fault in dress, but endowed with ability, sturdy honesty and integrity, which even his political enemies freely concede to him. Added to this, he is bold in thought, independent in speech, and holds a place among the Granger people of the Hoosier State, stronger than any of his contemporaries. It is thought here that his nomination will satisfy the demands of the Landers element of the Democracy of that State; Landers being his warm personal friend who will consequently bring to bear every influence in his favor. Mr. Williams has been, during the present session of Congress, the Chairman of the Committee on Accounts, a position in which he has exhibited administrative ability of a high order. He will most certainly carry Indiana, which will give the State a Democratic Legislature and send Hendricks to the U. S. Senate in place of Morten. Heaven grant it may be so; for the latter is a festering sore, morally, physically and

politically, and is useless for any purpose except to stir up animosity and strife.

AN ACT OF JUSTICE.

Congress did itself credit yesterday by expunging the resolutions of censure of Hon. John Young Brown, of Kentucky, passed at the last session for words uttered in debate with General Butler. Blaine, of Maine, supported the resolution with kindly references to the subject; as did also Hoar, of Massachusetts; and it was unanimously adopted.

DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

Full Representation and Harmonious Session.

COLUMBIA, Thursday, May 4.

In pursuance of the call of the State Executive Committee, the Democratic State Convention assembled in the hall of the House of Representatives at 7 o'clock. Nearly two hundred delegates from the various counties were present. The Convention was called to order by Gen. M. C. Butler, upon whose motion Col. D. Wyatt Aiken, Master of the State Grange, was elected to the chair as the temporary presiding officer.

On motion of Gen. Butler, Mr. T. C. Gaston, of Chester, was requested to act as temporary Secretary.

On taking the chair, Col. Aiken thanked the Convention for the part conferred upon him, and opened with prayer. Rev. E. J. Meynard then offered up a short prayer for wisdom and guidance in the deliberations of the Convention.

On motion of Mr. M. P. O'Connor, of Charleston, the State Democratic Executive Committee were invited to participate in the proceedings, without the privilege of voting. This courtesy was also extended to the County Chairmen of the party.

The roll of delegates was called, and all of the counties were represented, except Lancaster and Marlboro.

Mr. J. S. Richardson, of Sumter, offered a resolution that the convention proceed to permanent organization by the election of a President, six Vice Presidents and two Secretaries; and that the nominations be made from the floor of the convention, and that the election be by ballot.

Mr. Meets, of Lexington, offered an amendment to strike out "by ballot," and insert "viva voce."

The amendment was adopted, and the resolution agreed to.

Mr. Murray, of Anderson, moved that the election of permanent officers be by viva voce; but the motion was laid on the table.

Mr. Wilson, of Georgetown, moved that each county have as many votes as the county has representatives in the lower house. This was temporarily withdrawn.

Gen. Gary, of Edgefield, said that the intention of the State Executive Committee was to give to each county twice as many votes as it has representatives in the House and Senate, and introduced a resolution to that effect.

Mr. O'Connor, of Charleston, contended that the intention was to give to each county only one vote in representation in the lower house.

Gen. Butler, of Edgefield, urged that only one vote be allowed to each delegate, irrespective of county representation.

Gen. Wallace, of Richland, said he understood that the representation was intended to be twice that in the lower house.

Mr. Mullins, of Marion, got the floor and was proceeding to make a somewhat rambling speech, when a point of order was raised that he did not keep to the question. The point was decided to be well taken, and, on an appeal, the delegates were not to be admitted to the floor.

Gen. Gary having withdrawn his resolution, an amendment was offered to the original motion of Mr. Richardson, that a majority of the votes cast be necessary to a choice, and the motion, as amended, was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Hammon, of Spartanburg, moved that the vote be taken by counties. This was ruled out of order.

It was then agreed to proceed to nominate permanent officers.

Gen. Butler, of Edgefield, nominated Gen. Kershaw for permanent president. There were no other nominations for the position, and Gen. Kershaw was unanimously elected.

The following vice presidents were then unanimously elected: First, M. L. Bonham, of Edgefield; second, Thomas Y. Simons, of Charleston; third, James A. Hoyt, of Anderson; fourth, A. McQueen, of Chester; fifth, B. F. Perry, of Greenville; sixth, Johnson Hagood, of Barnwell.

Mr. T. C. Gaston, of Chester, and Mr. J. F. Fox, of Colleton, were elected Secretaries.

On motion of Gen. Butler, the Chair was requested to appoint a committee to draw up a platform for the President elect, and escort him to the chair.

The Chair appointed Gen. M. C. Butler, Capt. W. B. Stanley and Col. J. B. Moore as the committee, who escorted Gen. Kershaw to the chair.

Gen. Kershaw, upon taking the chair, briefly addressed the convention. He assured the gentlemen of the convention that it was as much a surprise as gratification to him as being called upon to fill so distinguished a position. He felt that any man in the State of South Carolina can occupy at the present time is to be envied. The office of a convention of that class of ostracized citizens whose voice should always be heard in shaping the destinies of the State. He excused himself from saying more than assuring the convention of his heartfelt thanks for the honor conferred. He felt that he was here to take entire charge of the affairs of the Democratic party for two years. The Convention had not done anything yet, and his impression was that the Convention was afraid to do anything.

Mr. O'Connor explained the character and purpose of the Hagood resolutions, and suggested that the Executive Committee be authorized to refer to the Executive Committee, and that the resolutions be adopted as a substitute for the third resolution.

Mr. Pope, of Newberry, said that he did not ask that any definite policy be adopted to-night, but if the Hagood resolutions, as a whole, be adopted, no policy will be adopted, except that of inaction. Scrupulous care had been taken in selecting delegates. This meant something more than the mere election of delegates. If there are reasons why lips shall be sealed, let the Convention hear them. If potential with the few, they will prevail with the many. We must not dodge the issue. When an opportunity offers for a consideration of this matter, if it is in our power, let us speak. The resolution of Gen. Butler, in his judgment, was the proper one.

Mr. Lipscomb, of Newberry, inquired whether nothing more in the way of organization was to be had; whether this Convention was to be in power for two years; whether there was to be any platform.

Gen. Hagood said that a minute organization was not necessary. It was only necessary to sound the bugle and beat the drum, and they would come out. The duty now was to elect the delegates and State Executive Committee, to which committee the rest could be safely left.

Gen. Butler moved that the questions asked by Mr. Lipscomb be put to a vote.

Mr. Tilman, of Edgefield, made a long speech, arguing that a State Convention should not have been called to elect delegates to the National Convention, and that delegates should not be elected by the Congressional districts, as in Georgia. He hoped that a State Convention would never again assemble, except to make nominations of officers and erect a platform for the party.

Mr. Lipscomb moved to go into secret session on the resolutions, and that a committee of fifteen be appointed, to be known as "The Committee on Business," whose duty it shall be to propose a plan of action for this Convention, and that the committee report at 10 a. m. to-morrow.

Gen. Butler thought that the resolutions and all others should be referred to a committee, which could—frame a thorough plan of organization. He proposed this only in order that the Convention might be advisedly on Gen. Hagood's resolutions.

Gen. Kennedy moved as an amendment that the committee on business consist of three from each Congressional district. The amendment was accepted.

Mr. Tilman said he was opposed to a secret session, and likewise to Gen. Butler's substitute.

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resolution, as amended, was adopted. The second resolution of Hagood was then adopted, with amendments providing that delegates shall be elected viva voce, and that a majority shall be necessary to a choice.

The third resolution was then put and, before its adoption, a motion was made to adjourn to to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Col. Haskell moved that the Convention go into caucus to-night after adjournment.

The motion to adjourn having been renewed, Gen. Gary said that his voice should not be stifled. The secret session must be had. He intended to be heard. He had always been a straight-out Democrat, and believed the right plan— the Mississippi plan—was the best.

Col. Haskell insisted that there should be a caucus before the executive committee was chosen.

Governor Bonham said he had moved with the purpose of having a caucus to-morrow.

The Convention then adjourned until 10 A. M. to-morrow.

Second Day's Proceedings. COLUMBIA, Friday, May 5.

The State Democratic Convention re-assembled in the hall of the House of Representatives this morning at 10 o'clock. Gen. J. B. Kershaw in the chair.

The President called the convention to order and announced that the first business of the third of the resolutions introduced the previous evening—that the convention go into caucus.

Gen. Gary moved to amend by striking out "caucus" and inserting "secret session."

Col. Haskell opposed a secret session, as he was willing that his friends and opponents alike should know what he had to say and do, and what were the intentions of the convention.

Gen. Gary said he was not the author of the secret session, but made the motion in accordance with an agreement had with the author of the resolution for a caucus. He showed the necessity for a consideration of the circumstances surrounding the delegates from those counties in which the Democrats are in the minority.

Col. Haskell then offered a resolution that the convention adjourn to meet again at 12 m. this day.

The resolution was adopted, and at 10:30 the convention adjourned to meet at 12 m.

Col. Haskell took the chair, and requested the delegates to the convention to remain for the purpose of holding a caucus, and upon his motion, Col. C. H. Simonton, of Charleston, was called to the chair.

The reporters of the press, and others not members of the convention, were then requested to withdraw.

The caucus was then held, in which the plans and policy of the Democratic party of the State were fully discussed, but no definite plan of action agreed upon.

Col. Simonton was called to the chair. Exit reporters and spectators.

The caucus remained in session until 3 P. M., when the convention re-assembled, and the following result of the balloting was announced:

For Delegates from the State at Large—Gen. John Bratton, of Fairfield, 130 votes; Hon. W. D. Porter, of Charleston, 112; Col. D. Wyatt Aiken, of Abbeville, 116; Gen. J. D. Kennedy, of Kershaw, 112.

Gen. M. C. Butler, of Edgefield, 113 votes; ex-Gov. B. F. Perry, of Greenville, 108; Col. J. A. Hoyt, of Anderson, 105; ex-Gov. M. L. Bonham, of Edgefield, 104.

The convention, at 3:15, adjourned to 5 P. M.

At 5 P. M. a majority of the delegates were present in the hall, but the time was consumed by the delegates from the Congressional Districts in making their selections of two delegates each, until 6 o'clock, when the President called the convention to order.

The proceedings were opened by the President announcing his readiness to receive nominations for two delegates and two alternates from each Congressional District to the St. Louis Convention.

The following nominations were made and unanimously confirmed by acclamation:

First District—J. S. Richardson, of Sumter; J. G. McClure, of Marion.—Alternates—E. R. McIver of Darlington; J. B. McLaurin, of Oconee.

Second District—M. P. O'Connor, of Charleston; John F. Ficken, of Charleston. Alternates—John L. Manning, of Clarendon; J. F. Izlar, of Orangeburg.

Third District—S. McGowan, of Abbeville; W. B. Stanley, of Richland.—Alternates—W. B. Hall, of Laurens; Sampson Pope, of Newberry.

Fourth District—J. H. Evin, of Spartanburg; B. F. Perry, of Greenville.—Alternates—W. H. Wallace, of Union; Gabriel Cannon, of Spartanburg.

Fifth District—J. C. Sheppard, of Edgefield; William Elliott, of Beaufort. Alternates—J. F. Fox, of Colleton; Paul F. Hammond, of Aiken.

resolutions, which had been read in caucus, and were submitted for reference to the committee on resolutions without reading.

The President announced the business of the convention now to be the nomination of delegates to the St. Louis Convention, to be composed of two from each Congressional District and four from the State at large—fourteen in all.

On motion, it was agreed to vote first for the four delegates from the State at large.

The President then announced his readiness to receive nominations. The following nominations were then made:

General M. C. Butler, of Edgefield; Governor B. F. Perry, of Greenville; General John Bratton, of Fairfield; General Wm. A. Evans, of Chesterfield; General M. L. Bonham, of Edgefield; Colonel D. Wyatt Aiken, of Abbeville; General J. D. Kennedy, of Kershaw; Hon. J. R. Campbell, of Charleston; E. W. Moore, of Sumter; Colonel James A. Hoyt, of Anderson; Colonel William Wallace, of Richland and Hon. W. D. Porter, of Charleston.

Mr. Sheppard, of Edgefield, moved that the four nominees receiving the majority of votes be declared elected delegates from the State at large, and all receiving the next highest number of votes be declared elected alternates.

Agreed to.

Mr. Richardson, of Sumter, moved to reconsider the motion just adopted, for the reason that there are twelve nominees, and six of them are from the State at large, and the votes necessary to a choice, and there would be no election, thus necessitating a second ballot; therefore it would expedite the business before the convention by electing the delegates first and the alternates afterward.

On being put to a vote, the motion to reconsider failed.

The President appointed Messrs. Woodward, Bacon, Ball, Sheppard, Keitt and Brooks as tellers when the convention proceeded to vote by ballots as agreed upon.

General Harlee, of Marion, moved that the delegates from each Congressional District nominate two delegates and two alternates, who shall be voted for by acclamation. Adopted.

General Harlee moved a recess for fifteen minutes, which was laid on the table; Mr. Murray, of Anderson, making use of the order of the recess, and the delegates could not nominate delegates and alternates from their Congressional Districts until they had been informed who had been elected as delegates from the State at large.

General James Conner, of Charleston, then addressed the convention briefly, and he had no objection to the caucus held earlier in the day was for the purpose of ascertaining from the delegates the desires and views of their constituents as to the course to be pursued by the Democratic party of South Carolina; but as such a purpose had not been developed, he moved that the convention, when it shall deem proper, into caucus, give expression to the opinions of their constituents as to the proper course to be pursued by the Democratic party of the State, and that speeches be limited to five minutes. Agreed to.

An amendment to make the time for speeches ten minutes was voted down.

Col. McKissick, of Union, *sotto voce*—Five minutes is enough time for me. There are too many of us for ten minutes time.

On motion of Gen. Conner, the convention, at 8:00, went into caucus, and no caucus held, while the ballots were being counted.

Col. Simonton was called to the chair. Exit reporters and spectators.

The caucus remained in session until 3 P. M., when the convention re-assembled, and the following result of the balloting was announced:

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The convention then proceeded to the election of three members of the State Executive committee from each Congressional District, with the following result:

First District—W. W. Harlee, J. A. Law, T. B. Frazer, of Marion.—Second District—T. Y. Simons, J. F. Izlar, James Conner.—Third District—A. C. Haskell, J. N. Lipscomb, John B. Moore.—Fourth District—W. L. DePass, T. Stobo Farrow, B. H. Izard.—Fifth District—A. C. Massey, G. D. Tillman, T. J. Conner.

tions submitted to them for consideration, but recommend that this convention urge on the respective counties the utmost vigor and zeal in perfecting a thorough and compact organization of every element of political strength, in view of the coming election.

We further recommend that the State Executive Committee take such action at once as may be deemed proper to precipitate action at once upon the people of South Carolina, when cool, calm and deliberate judgment was necessary. We should wait until the national Democratic party had adopted their platform. While every Democrat in the State would be ready for action when the long roll of the party was best for the present he advised caution and prudence.

Col. Ball sustained the resolution offered by Gen. Gary. The Democracy were organized for the first time since reconstruction, and they were ready now to take action.