

# The Commercial Appeal

VOL. XI.

MANNING, S. C., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1896.

NO. 38.

## WEBSTER REPUBLICANS.

MCKINLEY ENDORSED WITH LITTLE OPPOSITION.

A Platform Full of Platitudes and Phrases That May Mean Anything—Brayton and His Faction Secured—Two White and Two Colored Delegates.

COLUMBIA, S. C., April 8.—There was very little of the "Lily White" about the Webster Republican convention which assembled in the hall of the House of Representatives yesterday. It mostly was black, but here and there among delegates was a string of white or a yellow or tan colored one. This, however, was not the reason for the name of the convention. The convention was a long time in gathering. It was called to meet at 12 o'clock, but at that time there was only one delegate, and he was white, in the hall, and he sat alone in his glory with a long staff on his back. He was reading the "McKinley" edition of the Cincinnati Commercial Gazette, copies of which had been distributed on every chair. This edition contained a full page cut of the leading Republican candidate, besides about sixteen pages of glorification of him. "The picture of McKinley was most prominently displayed under the speaker's desk."

When the hour of meeting arrived, the solitary delegate with the staff hat was holding the floor alone, although he was in front of the State House the faithful were caucusing and hobnobbing right along. Mr. Webster, the chairman, who pulls the strings, however, had the leaders in consultation with him, mapping out the proceedings of the convention, which, after meeting his approval, were subsequently carried out to the letter. It was twenty minutes to two o'clock before Chairman Webster finally secured his crowd together. They were mostly black, as has been said, and most of them were old stagers.

Among the white men were: Tom Johnston, of Sumter, Ostendorf and Smith of Charleston; Lathrop, of Orangeburg; A. C. Merrick, of Florence; Spradley, of Columbia; M. Robinson, of Laurens; Robert Moorman, of Newberry; Poinier, of Spartanburg; J. C. Clark of Lancaster; F. M. Butler, of Anderson and a half dozen or so of Talberts of Abbeville. Among the well known colored men were Smalls, Miller, Crum, Nix, Wilder, Dickerson, Fordham and others.

Mr. Webster at twenty minutes to two o'clock called the convention to order. Rev. J. H. Johnson, of Columbia, acted as secretary. Mr. Webster called upon Rev. W. D. Chappelle to open the exercises with prayer. The prayer was mostly a statement to the Supreme Being that the assemblage was one of statesmen and hoping that the members would return home and receive the plaudits of their constituents. The conclusion of the prayer, Mr. Webster announced that Thos. E. Miller had been selected as temporary chairman and Rev. J. H. Johnson secretary. This was rather cut and dried, but it went, and E. H. Deas of Darlington started to make some sort of motion when a delegate arose and said: "I motion that a committee of three escort Mr. Miller to the chair."

A delegate started to nominate Miller and was quickly followed by other delegates with other names, but finally the number was reduced to three and the chair appointed January Rivers, Major Fordham and Dr. Wilson, all black or colored, who escorted Miller to the chair. The chairman made quite a lengthy speech in which he upheld the organization which had just elected him chairman and also, gave Mr. Brayton and Mr. Melton some rebuke in the gallery at the time and, indeed, during the whole of the meeting. Miller said that he stood where he did as the representative of an organization that had come down from Randolph, Macker, Webster and Miller. It is true, he said, that since 1876 we have been unable to achieve victories as a party. It is true that only in congressional districts have we had any candidates, yet we are the representatives of the party exemplified by Randolph, who fell at the hands of an assassin, and for which Attacks died. There are traitors in the party," he continued, and the sentiment was repeated throughout the hall by cries of "Datsoo," "yes," etc. He went on for a while, but was not for a general ambition, but to preserve the party of Lincoln and Jefferson. (Loud cheering.)

The chairman said there was no half way ground. There were traitors led by E. M. Brayton, because one-half of them don't know how to stand and steal like he does. (Cheers.) Brayton would be ready to drive out every black man from the party to fulfill his purpose. Speaking of social equality, he said that he would rather be damned than be in connection with white men, who thought that political affiliations would give them social position. There are white men in South Carolina who have become "Lily Whites" to escape odium of being Republicans. For these people I have no fellowship. For those who have never followed the Republican banner, and numerous evidence of approval were heard among the delegates, be such exclamations as, "That's so," "Talk more Miller." Continuing, the chairman said that he did not believe in social equality. Although he had been in Democratic and Republican leaders councils, still he never confounded his political views with his social status. He went on to say that Clayton, who had been in Fairfield organizing Republican clubs, was not an offshoot of the old Hendrix, McLane and Russell crowd, and outside of the handsome and well dressed gentlemen from Columbia, Capt. Melton, but one traitor could be named, E. M. Brayton. (Loud cheers.) De nothing to weaken us at St. Louis, he continued.

A delegate: "Bob Small a good man."

Notwithstanding this interruption, which caused laughter, the chairman proceeded and said that no "Lily White" delegation would be admitted to the St. Louis convention. He was invited to the St. Louis convention by United States Senators and Representatives who met in the privacy of their mansions that the negro was an incubus on the Republican party, still no candidate at the convention would dare say such a thing or even give hint to such a thought. After expressing his thanks for the honor conferred on him, the chairman declared the convention open for business. Deas called for the reading of the names of delegates, and Chairman

Miller asked whether there were any contests. None showing up the calling of the roll was proceeded with.

When Charleston was reached Dr. Crum, who was appointed by Hartley Crum, postmaster of the city, but who didn't get it, asked that the name of H. Young be substituted for that of G. I. Cunningham.

Chairman Miller, interrupting, read the following telegram: To the Republican Convention: Circumstances over which I have no control prevent my attendance, but I recognize this convention as the only Republican convention in South Carolina.

The reading of this message was, of course, received with loud cheering. Deas, of Darlington, then moved that the election of four delegates to the St. Louis convention be entered upon, but suspended it to allow Dr. Crum to offer a resolution that a committee of five be appointed on resolutions and platform. That was merely a preliminary, however, as the platform committee had been written and typewritten copies had been furnished representatives of the newspapers. Still the form had to be gone through with and, at the suggestion of a member from Berkeley, the committee was made seven instead of five and were appointed as follows: Crum, Dickerson, G. A. Reed, C. J. Fride, John R. Tolbert, E. A. Webster, Dr. Wilson.

The following is the official list of delegates as then announced:

Abbeville—J. R. Talbert, R. R. Talbert, Jr., J. W. Talbert, R. R. Talbert, Sr., H. H. Owens, Alternate: L. C. Walker.

Aiken—E. J. Dickerson, A. S. Johnson, B. E. Chaffield.

Anderson—W. A. Clark, F. M. Butler, M. S. Smith, T. J. Harris, J. J. Martin.

Berkeley—W. S. Dixon, P. B. McKnight, Thos. G. Robinson, Samuel Nix.

Beaufort—Robt. Smalls, Geo. Reid, January Rivers, Thos. E. Miller.

Berkeley—D. T. Middleton, R. H. Jenkins, T. S. Edwards, Benj. Mills.

Charleston—W. D. Crum, J. J. Young, T. H. Jones, R. C. Brown, J. H. Ostendorf, W. H. Burney, J. W. Smith, D. L. Adams, Fred Jenkins.

Chester—Addis Walker, Jousas McCullough, B. C. Archie.

Chesterfield—M. D. McFarland, E. B. Burroughs.

Clarendon—R. A. White, S. M. Walker, F. M. Benbow.

Colleton—E. D. Bennett, C. W. Robertson, D. O. Edwards, C. W. Richardson, Jas. Green.

Darlington—E. H. Deas, L. W. Wines, J. T. Barra.

Edgedale—F. P. Simkins, B. W. Jones, W. M. Mackey.

Fairfield—R. L. Douglass, I. S. Byrd, I. F. Moore.

Florence—J. E. Wilson, M. W. Harrell, A. C. Harrell.

Georgetown—J. A. Baxter.

Greenville—L. F. Goldsmith, R. J. Soratley, H. Sims, W. B. Masou, J. W. Miller, Wm. Thompson, D. Hayes.

Hampton—H. Riley, D. Gordon, N. W. Gosb. Kenaw—Franklin Pierce, W. G. Harris, W. W. Carter.

Lancaster—F. R. Massey, Joseph Clark.

Laurens—P. S. Suber, J. W. Robertson, F. W. Williams.

Marion—J. C. McCall, Scipio P. Simmons, R. E. Moore.

Marlboro—E. J. Sawyer, R. A. Drake, H. W. Wines.

Newberry—R. H. Williams, Simeon Young, P. R. Hamilton.

Onnee—H. C. Merrick, S. G. Wiggins.

Orangeburg—E. A. Webster, J. H. Fordham, A. Lathrop, C. Pelling, H. A. Bostick.

Pickens—P. S. Little, A. M. Folger, Richard—C. M. Wilder, N. A. Lewis, T. H. Weston, L. O. Scott.

Saluda—L. O. Lindsay, John A. Dickson.

Statenburg—A. F. Meas, E. D. Littlejohn, N. T. Brown, Levi Watson, J. C. Brown, John L. Young.

Sumter—T. B. Johnson, J. H. Belser, W. T. Andrews, W. W. Ramsey, Jr., M. J. Sumter.

Union—E. B. Dawkins, E. Littlejohn, P. R. Davidson.

Williamsburg—A. Tisdale, James Thapp, F. Fortune Gies.

York—C. J. Fride, J. J. Massey, J. M. Clinton, Thos. Simpson.

Nominations being in order, there was an hour or so grandiloquent oratory in making nominations and in seconding them. Deas nominated Webster; Miller, "the chiefest of the Republican cause." Robert Smalls, Dixon suggested Robert Smalls; Jones of Charleston, nominated W. D. Crum; H. H. Owens put before the convention John R. Talbert of Abbeville. There were a number of speeches seconding these nominations, but Deas, in a speech, spoke of the repudiation of Brayton by Republicans and his corruption and his swinging on the coattails of Melton.

Mills of Berkeley raised the point of order that Deas had no right to attack a man's character in seconding a nomination.

Deas said he dared appeal from the decision of the chair. He would have that stopped, he said, but for wolves in sheep's clothing in the convention.

Mills: "You are the biggest wolf in the convention."

The chair, finally, held that Mr. Brayton's record was not before the convention and cautioned members to confine themselves to the nominations.

At least twelve or fifteen delegates noisily addressed the chair at the same time and moved that nominations close. Amid a great deal of confusion the chair decided that the yes had it, and appointed the following tellers: Rev. E. B. Burroughs, J. H. Ostendorf and A. Lathrop.

The vote resulted as follows: Webster, 120; Smalls, 109; Crum, 90; Johnston, 90; Dickerson, 49; Talbert, 35. The first four were declared elected.

Delegate Lewis of Columbia moved that Thomas E. Miller be elected alternate by acclamation, which was unanimously adopted. On motion of General Smalls, Dickerson and Talbert were, also elected alternates. There was no other alternate to be chosen.

January Rivers, of Beaufort, moved that Mr. J. H. Ostendorf be unanimously elected, but was objected to and put in nomination Rev. Burroughs and Allen. The latter declined. Then pandemonium reigned for fifteen or twenty minutes, at least twenty members demanding recognition and calling loudly for it. Finally quiet was restored, and C. M. Wilder, of Columbia, nominated Suber, of Newberry.

Suber, J. H. Ostendorf withdrew and Suber was elected by a vote of 73 to 0.

Suber is a colored man. The delegation stands: two white and two colored, with three colored and one white alternate.

Dr. Crum of Charleston precipitated a big row over resolutions endorsing McKinley, which were expressed in the following language: Resolved, That the Republicans of South Carolina recognize in Hon. Wm. McKinley, of Ohio, the most devoted champion of the Republican policy of protection and reciprocity; that we honor with him as a defender of a sound system of finance, and believe in him as a type of the best American citizenship, in both public and private life; and that we hereby express to the delegates electing us our hearty and unanimous approval of the platform that they should use all reasonable and honest efforts to secure his nomination for the Presidency.

Chairman Miller left the chair and put Delegate Brown of Charleston in it, in order to propose the resolutions. He held that McKinley was no more a leader of the party than was Allison, Reed or Morton and declared on behalf of any candidate about their necks. He didn't believe delegates should go there with metallic badges on their necks, which, probably, was a delicate allusion to the metallic jungle they usually fell in their pockets by reason of their votes.

Fordham favored the resolutions because the rank and file of the people would be misled. Delegates were not sent, he said, to St. Louis for their own aggrandizement, but to give expression to the will of the people.

G. A. Reed, of Beaufort, spoke against the resolutions, holding that delegates should be sent to St. Louis untrammelled and should vote for the choice of the people of the county.

After a long parliamentary wrangle as to who was entitled to the floor, the resolutions were put to a vote, finally got a hearing and said that he regarded the resolutions the most opportune that could be adopted. He didn't want to see delegates who would jump on either side to the winning man. They should be men of principle. He had been a Reed man, but since we had four contesting colors, green and red, and two of them had been bad men, (Cheers.) He was not for Harrison. Every district in Indiana had declared for McKinley. Wisconsin did the same thing, although she had a favorite son. He was for McKinley. (Cheers.) He believed it would be an impertinence in South Carolina, which couldn't cast a single Republican electoral vote, to stand out against the people's choice. McKinley would be defeated by the machinations of politicians. He was willing to take the organization of the Republican party in this State on the success of the people's candidates.

General Smalls said he was pleased to see that something had made the chairman of the committee make a speech. It had been asserted that couldn't make a speech, but something had been favorable to Allison, and he would stay at home before he would tied, hand and foot, by any resolutions. Other men had been sent to the convention tied, but when they got there, they weren't tied.

Miller offered the following substitute. Resolved, That we request our delegates to support either Allison, Reed, Morton or McKinley by their acts at the national convention and assist in nominating a strong man to stand out, except for the resolution, that the McKinley resolutions were adopted.

Deas introduced the following resolution, which was adopted: "That an early State convention be called to nominate a State and electoral ticket to be voted for at the coming election."

The convention, then, after the usual resolutions of thanks to officers, at 5:50 adjourned.

THE PLATFORM. The following platform was adopted: The Republican party of South Carolina through their chosen representatives in convention duly assembled in the capital of the State, undaunted by intrigue of designing men for their destruction, congratulate their fellow Republicans everywhere upon the splendid victory achieved by the party through the country, in State, Congressional and Senatorial elections, as well as upon the propitious signs of the times of coming victory for the Republican party in the Presidential election in November of the present year.

We reaffirm our faith in the doctrine of protection to American industries which under Western Republican legislation more than any principle has advanced the material and the onward march of prosperity for the working men of our country, by the reduction of prices of manufactured articles of general consumption and by levying duties upon such imports coming into competition with the products of American labor, as well as to equalize the selling price thereof to the cost of production of similar articles in the country and to prevent home labor from its overcrowded condition of pauperism.

We stand with our party in the reiteration of its demand for "both gold and silver as standard money." We believe that legislation should secure and maintain the parity of values of the two metals, to be had and that the purchasing and deb-paying power of the American dollar, silver gold and paper, shall be the same any and everywhere. We believe that bimetalism alone can sure this result.

The right to cast a free ballot in public elections and have it fairly counted and honestly returned, is of the essence of American citizenship, and any attempt to abridge that right, except for the commission of crime, for which the party shall have been duly convicted, strikes at the very root of our government and saps the foundation of the highest American institution, the government founded by the people, for the people, and of the people.

We appeal to the people of the State to enforce the wise and timely provisions of the new Constitution to suppress lynching, and ask ministers of the gospel and the public press to join us in a righteous crusade by teaching respect for law and order on the one hand, and regard for the virtue of women on the other, while prompt exact justice be meted out to all, except for the commission of crime, for which the party shall have been duly convicted, strikes at the very root of our government and saps the foundation of the highest American institution, the government founded by the people, for the people, and of the people.

The opening of the crop season can, at this time be briefly summarized in this way: Farmers are well up with their work; fall sown crops look promising, but it is generally too cool and dry, the latter being the more serious drawback.

A Kansas newspaper wound up a compliment to a young schoolman with a good word about "the reputation for teaching she bears. The teacher, Parrott, Gray, Irby, Jones, and chased him down the street with a blue umbrella, and at every jump in the road she screamed that she had never taught a she bear in all her life.

to the Cubans, engaged in a war for independence from Spain, would be but a tardy act of justice, founded upon general humanitarian principles and in accordance with the lessons taught by the United States, the foremost of American governments, especially since the advent of the inhuman Weyler upon the scene. We endorse the wisest of Congress to take decisive action in the premises, an act which will thus force peace by shortening the struggle and minimizing the destruction of life and property.

We join the progressive spirit of the nation which prompted Congress to re-memorize the liabilities of ex-Confederate soldiers, thus forgetting the war and bringing in closer touch the whole of the American people to the end of promoting more general unselfish and genuine patriotism, North and South, East and West, for our grand and glorious country, proving the grand old party a national and not a sectional party.

Reed or Morton and declared on behalf of any candidate about their necks. He didn't believe delegates should go there with metallic badges on their necks, which, probably, was a delicate allusion to the metallic jungle they usually fell in their pockets by reason of their votes.

Upon this platform we are willing to be judged, willing to stand or fall, and we call upon all patriotic South Carolinians, without regard to past affiliations, to join us in our efforts to promote these ends in the election of Republican Congressmen and a Republican President and Vice President of the United States in November next.

We assure all of a hearty welcome in our ranks and ample rewards for their faithful services by sharing with them the results of our achievements, and proper recognition by elevation as their worth and character may demand, to honor and place.

THE WEATHER AND CROPS. Crop Season and Vegetation in General is Backward.

This bulletin covers the weather and crop conditions for the week ending with Saturday, April 4, and in its preparation were used reports from one or more correspondents in each county of the State.

The general weather conditions during the past week favored the farmers in the preparation of lands for planting, but during the week ending Saturday, the weather was generally unfavorable for germination of seeds and growth of vegetation.

The mean temperature for the State was about 62, the normal for the same period is approximately 59. The first four days were extremely warm, which condition ended in general thunder showers during the evening and night of the first (Wednesday), and was followed by falling temperature.

This was a refreshing change from the western portion of the State on Friday (3d). Light frost was general on the morning of the 3d and 4th (Friday and Saturday), but fruit and vegetables were apparently uninjured by it.

The highest temperature reported was 92 degrees at Shaw's Forks, Aiken county, on March 31st. The Aiken county, on March 31st, the Aiken county, on March 31st, the Aiken county, on March 31st.

The rainfall during the past week came in one series of thunder showers during the evening and night of April 1st, and was quite general over the State. The rainfall was for the most part light, but in the lowest amount, 1.39 and 1.38 inches respectively. The average amount of all places reported rainfall was 0.66 inches. In a few localities the rainfall was heavy enough to wash lands badly.

The sunshine averaged about 60 per cent. of the possible, with the highest percentages in the northwestern portion of the State and the lowest in the central portion. There was a high wind, of short duration during the afternoon of April 1st, but with an exception of uprooting a few trees and blowing down some fences, it did very little damage.

The crop season and vegetation in general is backward, owing to the prevailing cold weather during the month of March. The germination of early planted seeds and such crops, corn, potatoes, etc., that were up and nipped by the frost of Friday but not entirely destroyed. The dryness of the ground has also been against rapid germination or growth, nor were the rains of the week sufficient to remedy this adverse condition.

Corn planting has been pushed in the northern portion of the State and generally begun elsewhere. The ground is dry enough to permit the planting of bottom lands as well as uplands.

Ground is quite generally prepared for cotton, but as yet little has actually been planted except in the southeastern counties where considerable has been planted, part of which is of the island variety.

Wheat is looking well generally and free from insects, except in Orangeburg county where Hessian flies have appeared.

The general condition of fall oats is good, and but two correspondents, both from the same county, report poor stands. Like all other vegetation oats are making slow growth.

The truck farmers along the coast report early vegetables ready for shipment, but that generally the season is late; eighteen days late one correspondent states.

It appears to be the consensus of opinion among correspondents that peaches are only partially injured, if at all, and that apples, pears and other fruits generally were entirely unaffected by the late and previous freezing weather.

Gardens are for the most part very backward.

The opening of the crop season can, at this time be briefly summarized in this way: Farmers are well up with their work; fall sown crops look promising, but it is generally too cool and dry, the latter being the more serious drawback.

A Kansas newspaper wound up a compliment to a young schoolman with a good word about "the reputation for teaching she bears. The teacher, Parrott, Gray, Irby, Jones, and chased him down the street with a blue umbrella, and at every jump in the road she screamed that she had never taught a she bear in all her life.

## A LIVELY MEETING

OF THE DEMOCRATIC STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Chairman Irby Makes a Big Speech in Favor of His Views, but the Committee Referred the Whole Matter to the State Convention.

COLUMBIA, S. C., April 7.—When the Democratic State executive committee met tonight there was quite a gathering of visitors, composed of Columbians and many from outside of the city interested in the proceedings of the committee. The Senate chamber was selected as the place of meeting in view of its commodiousness, but it subsequently proved to be entirely too large and to have too many places of observation had any one been inclined to eavesdrop. When the committee met the usual formality of the roll-call was temporarily suspended and Chairman Irby took the middle of the aisle and had at least one say before the doors were closed.

He spoke extemporaneously and said that he had called the committee together, as the representatives of the Democracy, for two reasons. As this was a Presidential campaign year it was necessary to make a good start. Under the Democratic constitution there is an ambiguity as to when the party is called together.

In one place it seems to be provided that the club meetings should be held the first week in May, and in another section that time is provided for the county convention. This is a most important matter. He recommended that the committee fix a certain day for all clubs to meet and another day for the county convention. The party constitution provides that the State convention meet on the third Wednesday in May. Another reason for the call, and one that was of vital and great importance not only to the success of the Democratic party in the State, but in the nation, had to be considered. He said that he felt that if the members could appreciate the Democratic party and supremacy of the white people, they would pardon his trespassing on the time of the committee. The committee, notwithstanding any challenge that might have been made against it, is a true Democratic committee. It is the successor of the committee of 1876, and it is the only committee that had right to the legal right to call the party.

The first chairman of the committee was Judge Haskell, and then Col. Moore or Gen. Kennedy, and then Col. Hoyt, and this committee as their legal successors are here rather as Democrats than as bolters, or ascenders, and the responsibility is upon us as their successors. I assume my share of the responsibility and say that we have come to a certain crisis in the history of the party, and as chairman of the Democracy I dare speak out and warn you of the danger that threatens us. We have come to the time when there is a division in our ranks, and the issue must be fairly met. We came into control of the machinery under a direct pledge that we would continue it as Democrats, and if we are faithful to our party, the party of our fathers, then let us have an enough and bold enough and honest enough to say so and go and join any party of our choice, and not masquerade as Democrats. The people gave me the position as chairman of the Democracy and I claim to be a Democrat of Democrats, and that I have honestly been the trustee of the true element. The Democracy has been threatened. We have met the Conservatism, and we have met the Populists, and we have met the Socialists. Now we are hooked with perhaps more serious opposition. We are challenged by a distinguished Democrat. We are challenged by one who has been one of its greatest beneficiaries since the war. We are told in so many words, that if this State does not get what she wants in the National Convention, she will go to the aid of the bolters. "We are going to bolt."

Eighteen men are going to say to this great country that this State will not stand this or that. I speak not as a candidate for any office, but as chairman of this committee and as a Democrat. It is not honest for us to bind a certain element of the State to a nominee for officers, and to have the nominees of the national party to prepare for a bolt. What's sauce for the goose ought to be sauce for the gander. The proper thing to do is to go into the fight and stand by the result and work for a glorious victory of the Democracy.

As soon as chairman Irby had finished his talk he directed Secretary Brown to call the roll and that demonstrated that there were only three absentees, those from Georgetown, Kershaw and Colleton. A telegram was received from Mr. Kirkland, of Kershaw, in which he said that his position, and he believed that of Kershaw was to abide the result of the National Convention.

It was then that the unexpected happened. The newspaper men had been given to understand that they would not only be welcomed, but that they would be expected, but it seemed that if another programme had been mapped out.

Mr. Evans moved that the committee go into executive session, and he said that it was very evident to all who had the interest of the Democracy at heart that its enemies should not know all the secrets, and that if there were any divisions they should be healed tonight. Sheriff Brahm seconded the motion.

Mr. Gadsden, of Charleston, opposed the motion, and said that the committee was to discuss the interests of the whole people, and that the people should have a chance to be present and see and hear all that was done. The people have as much at heart what was being done as anyone, and they were entitled to see what their representatives were doing in their interests. There was no doubt that the newspaper men would get all they wanted about the meeting, and there was no use to have garbled report given the papers when the reporters were present to give an accurate account.

The secret session element, however, carried the day by a vote of 15 to 8. Those voting in favor of keeping the doors open were Messrs. Martin, Cunningham, Parrott, Gray, Irby, Jones, Jackson and Gadsden.

Those for closing the doors were: Messrs. A. Y. Jones, Jordan, Mayfield, Sweney, Badham, Watson, Traylor, McCowan, McWendy, Derham, Elliott, Evans, W. D., Sligh, Stribling, Earle, Lewis.

man, Redfearn, Eard, Montgomery, Robert, Benn, Lytle, E. M. Brayton, Blackwell, Glenn and Donaldson. So the newspaper men got up and left with the balance of the crowd.

Then Mr. McSweney tried to have the representatives of the press admitted, but that failed, and the committee went to work with blissful thoughts of its own security. After the press had been disposed of, Mr. Evans thought it best to appoint doorknockers. Mr. Lytle, of Fairfield, was allowed the privilege of the floor. It was decided that the county clubs meet on Saturday, the 2d of May, and the county convention on the first Monday in May, and the State Convention on the third Monday in May.

Then the fight of the night began. Mr. Sligh, of Newberry, offered the following resolutions: Whereas, since the executive committee is acting under authority delegated to it by the Democratic party of South Carolina, and therefore possesses no original powers; be it

Resolved, That in the opinion of this executive committee it would be transcending its powers to undertake to decide issues and questions which belong appropriately to the Democratic State Convention. But it is furthermore the opinion of this committee that it is unwise to discuss all such issues and questions since it would be an effort to forestall the action of the sovereignty of the people, and furthermore, that the only duty this executive committee can properly perform is to direct the reorganization of the local Democratic clubs and the holding of county conventions and that of State conventions.

Mr. Sligh took the position that the matter called to the attention of the committee by Chairman Irby could not be officially acted on, as it was not properly before the committee, which had no right to act. The committee was the servant of the people and could not pass on any qualification and which belong to the State Convention, but it was the duty of the committee to do with any personal controversy between two Senators.

Senator Irby said that the committee had ample power to act in the absence of a convention, and it was all wrong to talk about the committee being powerless.

Then Gen. Gray came to the front with the following resolution: Whereas, an issue has been raised questioning the loyalty of the Democracy of South Carolina to the national Democratic party, and whereas a delegation has been made that delegates to the National Democratic Convention from this State should bolt the National Democratic Convention on certain contingencies; and whereas the State Democratic executive committee considers it would be suicidal on the part of the Democrats of South Carolina to sever its connection with the national Democracy, now be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of this committee that no person shall be eligible to membership in Democratic clubs who is not a qualified voter at primaries of the party as provided by the constitution of the party, and who will not pledge himself to support the nominees of the State and national Democracy.

Gen. Gray supported his resolution with the following resolution in which he cited the Constitution for the authority for passing the resolution he proposed. He urged that the issue had to be met, and should be met at once.

Senator Irby made another and a red hot speech in favor of the Gray resolutions, and said that the committee were the watchmen on the Democratic tower and were responsible for the safety of the party. The committee was acting under powers granted by the people, and if it could not stand under a pledge to support the nominees, whoever they may be, the committee is either responsible to the Democratic, Populist or Republican party, and if it stands for Democracy it should look to its interests alone.

He said that it was a most remarkable thing that when it came to a State election the committee was anxious enough to stand and all who participated in it when it came to a national election there was a desire on the part of some to avoid being placed under the very pledge that was exacted of others. Every voter in 1892 and 1894 was made to go under a pledge, and there was no objection to it at that time, and it was a very poor rule that did not work well both ways. Was the party going backward now, and standing under the whole principle of pledging, or was it to apply only when it did not hurt those who were making the rule? A bolt seemed to be proposed before there was any cause or excuse for it. If free silver was ever to be gotten he did not think it could possibly be secured by a bolt.

Only thing the South to do was to stand by the party through thick and thin. The national party has done too much for this State for it to drift off at this time. He was very emphatic in his warnings to the committee that if it sanctioned a bolt trouble would be sure to result. It would be the ruin of the Democratic party.

Mr. Blackwell, of Williamsburg, made a strong argument against the Gray resolutions, and said that if Cleveland was a Simon-pure Democrat then he was no Democrat at all. The Convention alone had any right to do any binding and the committee had no business taking up such matters.

Mr. Sligh and Senator Irby had a general and free discussion, during which Mr. Sligh asked him if it could bolt the Convention if a gold bug were nominated and he were sent under instructions to bolt or something like that, and Senator Irby replied: Before God and man I would not.

Mr. Gadsden, of Charleston, took up the fight for the Gray resolutions. He said that the Democracy had done little for the Conservative wing, which he represented, and that the national tie was about that, and that that was binding his people to the party. Now if it