



# VIRGINIA FREE PRESS AND FARMERS' REPOSITORY.

In the American party to which the breaking up of old organizations gave birth, and which has been active in the endeavor to establish an intermediate power between the contending forces that have engrossed the field, will be found a very large element of conservative strength to increase the volume of the proposed organization.

If we add to all these that mass of quiet, undisturbing citizens, who have always turned the turmoil of political life, content to leave the destiny of the country in the hands of others, so that, in the ordinary condition of national progress, were most ambitious to reverse its direction, and who have reposed such faith in the patriotism of their fellow men as to feel no concern in the question of the supremacy of party, but whose the extraordinary incentives of a crisis like the present must awaken to the resolve of an effort to protect the threatened safety of the confederacy, we have elements sufficient, by their combination, to form a great party to which additional strength will be imparted by the exalted patriotism of its principles and objects. Moreover, it is only just to the two contending parties to say, that we do not despair of finding in the ranks of each, numerous individuals who, tired of intestine strife, and alarmed at the threatening aspect of affairs, will unite with the only party which holds out to the country a prospect of repose.

Can it be possible that, with so glorious a cause before us, an appeal to the patriotic feelings of the land, founded on such legitimate grounds as the present exigency supplies, can fail upon untiring care, or fail to rouse the national heart? We will, however, premise that this approaching struggle must lead to victory, but not to peace; to a brief cessation of strife, but not to a restoration of harmony.

WASHINGTON, February 22, 1860.  
J. J. CRITTENDEN, Kyr., Chairman,  
W. M. C. RIVES, Va.  
— WASHINGTON HUNT, N.Y.  
— HENRY M. FULLER, Pa.  
JOHN P. KENNEDY, Md.  
ALFRED C. CHURSON, R.I.  
JOHN BOEKEL, Va.  
JOHN WHEELER, Vt.  
J. MORRISON HARRIS, Md.  
LEWIS CONGDON, Me.  
CHARLES A. CONGDON, La.  
MARSHALL P. WILDER, Mass.  
JOSHUA HILL, Ga.  
JOSEPH N. SNYD, Ohio.  
JOHN A. GILMER, N.C.  
C. C. LATHROP, Pa.  
R. W. THOMPSON, Ind.  
A. S. LEWIS, Ala.  
WM. G. BROWNLOW, Tenn.  
WM. L. TOOKE, Iowa.  
JOHN MCGOWAN, N.J.  
E. J. WHITLOCK, N.Y.  
Committee.  
FRANCIS GRANGER,  
Chairman, National Whig Executive Committee.  
JACOB BROOME,  
Chairman, National American Executive Committee.

plan proposed, as the best this will allow. Such a Convention will avoid some of the objections to which the ordinary and accurate composition of Conventions is exposed. It will be confined to the single duty of selecting the candidates from a number of eminent citizens presented by the several States, and will, "most probably," fix the "decisive" opinion of several State Conventions in favor of the most acceptable individual; a useful guide to the most perfect nomination. And as it will be restricted in its choice to the names presented, it will, under no circumstances, offend the public wish by selecting candidates unknown to or unrespected by the country.

Whether any other principles than those we have enumerated, shall be enunciated, it will be left to the Convention to determine.

"Platforms" have been frequently employed as the shallow devices of party definition, that they have come to be viewed with distrust by the people. We know of no higher and nobler aim than the restoration of peace and harmony to a divided and distressed country, and no platform more acceptable to every true patriot than the Union, the Constitution, and the enforcement of the laws."

Fellow-citizens, the task that has been allotted to be performed, we have pointed out a path by which, in our opinion, the country may be rescued from its perilous position. It is for you to determine whether you will pursue the path or continue on which however the approaching struggle may lead to victory, but not to peace; to a brief cessation of strife, but not to a restoration of harmony.

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**Opposition State Convention.**

The Opposition State Convention met in the African Church, Richmond, on Wednesday the 22d February. Upwards of 1000 delegates were present.

The Convention was called to order at 12 o'clock, by Mr. Henry W. Thomas, of Fairfax, on whom motion, V. W. Southall, Esq., of Albemarle, was elected Chairman, and Mr. James McDonald, of the "Whig" appointed Secretary.

Messrs. T. S. Flournoy and John S. Pennington conducted the Chairman to the platform. He was greeted with loud applause, upon the subsidence of which, he addressed the Convention.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, the Chairman was authorized to appoint a committee of fifteen—from each electoral district—to select the permanent officers of the Convention.

The committee retired forthwith to discharge the duties devolved upon them. Hon. T. S. Flournoy was then called upon to address the Convention, and responded in an eloquent and splendid speech.

The committee on permanent organization presented the following report, which was unanimously adopted by the Convention.

PRESIDENT.  
John Janney, of Loudon.

VICE PRESIDENT.

Valentines W. Thompson, Albemarle; William Ballard Preston, Moneta; Beverly R. Johnson, Washington; Waldo Goff, Harrison; Charles F. Utquhart, Southampton; Richard F. Taylor, Amelia; Wm. Martin "Harris" Thomas, Petersburg; Wm. B. Biggs, Westmoreland; Wm. C. H. Carson, Prince William; Wm. Queen, Allen Howson, Prince William; John Brady, Ohio.

PRINCIPAL SECRETARIES.

Robert Ridgway, D. T. Babbie.

ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.

The editors of Whig papers present.

The President was escorted to his seat, by a committee appointed for the purpose, and was greeted with loud cheering. He entered the hall with a spirit of energy and interest, and the audience responded with a hearty cheer.

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BROHER & BRO.

We were much gratified in noticing  
various Waggons, Wagons, &c., manufac-  
tured by Messrs. Roben, on the Island,  
Ex-Perry. These gentleman are do-  
ing business in their line—an evi-  
dence of fair appreciation by the public.

TRUTHFULNESS.

A colored print assured the others  
that by 17 counties were represented  
at the meeting State Convention, which  
feared over two thousand men in  
concourse, represented by over  
delegates. This is a specimen of decep-  
tive reading.

A LITTLE, young THE MOTHER OF  
men—Governess has received a mes-  
sage from Mrs. Ann L. Raley, the mod-  
el of Ed. and Barclay Copper, in refer-  
ence to her position in a postoffice by her letter.

As there seems so anxious to have  
her visit us, if he chooses to go, I  
shall expect him to receive that kind hos-  
pitality at thy home that one of thy sons  
would receive from me. Perhaps a few  
months in the genial climate of Virginia  
might prove beneficial to his health,  
and you would soon become attached  
to him, as he is a pleasant and lovable  
boy.

CLARK COUNTY ITEMS.—The horses at-  
tached to a sleigh occupied by several resi-  
dents, ran off near town on last Thursday  
night threw them out, and very seriously injured  
Mr. C. D. Castleton, one of the par-

Two negro men, belonging to Col. E.  
Smith of this place, got into a quarrel last  
Saturday, on Col. S's farm, near town, which  
resulted in one of them receiving a  
horrible and dangerous cut in the face from  
an axe, dealt by the other.

The Clarke county troops serving at Har-  
per's Ferry, have received \$3,000,70, from  
the Commonwealth.—Clarke County Con-  
siderer.

PAID FOR WORN ARTICLES.

Capt. E. G. Alberts, of this company  
being in Washington, has received the  
money due for services rendered the State.  
On Tuesday last the members of this  
company were paid, the sum due them amounting  
in the aggregate to \$3,683.07.

Owing to some information in the muster  
roll of the Berkeley Border Guards, the  
amount due them, about \$5000 remained  
 unpaid.—Martinsburg Rep.

The sum of twenty thousand dollars  
has been subscribed in Staunton, for the es-  
tablishment of a Boot and Shoe Factory,  
with a Tannery attached. The Company  
will be organized without delay.

THE SHERIFFAFTY.

We are requested to announce JAMES D.  
GIBSON a candidate for the Sheriff, who will  
be supported by

Feb 23 1860  
MANY VOTERS.

Mrs. Editors:—I observe that several gen-  
erals have been named for the office of Sheriff  
at the meetings, and whilst I would not de-  
tract in any way from the qualifications of the  
men named, I feel assured that the interests of the  
county, as well as the people, could not be ad-  
vanced by any man so well fitted for the office as  
JAMES D. GIBSON, Esq. He has had  
heavy and disagreeable responsibilities to perform,  
and those he has discharged with fidelity to him-  
self and the public. Therefore, trust the people  
of Jefferson will concur in my nomination.

A FRIEND TO WORTH.

Misses Editors:—SAML. KIRKOURN, Esq., will  
be supported not only by the working men of Jefferson  
County, but by all classes who appreciate &  
complain of practical injustice.

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MANY VOTERS.

January 19, 1860  
To the Voters of Jefferson County:

We are authorized to announce SAMUEL  
SILKIN a candidate for Commissioner of the  
Revenue of Jefferson County at the annual Elec-  
tion in May next. [March 1, 1860.]

CONSTITUTIONAL ATTORNEY.

We are authorized to announce RICHARD  
HENRY LEE as a candidate at the next Elec-  
tion for Attorney for the Commonwealth  
of Jefferson County.

MANY VOTERS.

January 19, 1860

To the Voters of Jefferson County:

We are authorized to announce JOSEPH  
CRANE as a Candidate for the Sheriff.

Feb. 10, 1860

We are authorized to announce JOHN  
CHISHOLM, Esq., a candidate for the next  
Bridgeman of Jefferson County.

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