

VIIRGINIA FREE PRESS AND FARMERS' REPOSITORY.

Virginia Free Press.
BY GALLAHER & CO.
CHARLESTOWN,
THURSDAY MORNING,
NOVEMBER 21, 1860.

OUR PLATFORM.
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
COUNTRY,
THE UNION OF THE STATES,
AND
THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS
FOR PRESIDENT.
J. H. BELL,
OF TENNESSEE.
FOR VICE PRESIDENT,
EDWARD EVERETT,
OF MASSACHUSETTS.
THE PROBABILITIES.

In view of the extreme grounds taken by the Southern wing of the Democracy, and the determination of the Douglas men not to yield their candidate, a split at Baltimore was deemed inevitable. On this subject the Clipper says:

"If the slavery question shall be introduced at the Convention here, the Northern and Southern Democracy can only agree to disagree. The masses of the people are not ignorant of these facts. The incurable weakness of Democracy—its hopeless inability to bring into the field any candidate in whose support the whole vote can be concentrated—are plainly visible—too perfectly demonstrated to be ignored. Under these circumstances there is but one safe course for conservative men who are anxious to prevent the success of the intensely sectional candidates of the Republican party."

The fact is before the country. Either Lincoln or Bell must be elected. It is worse than useless to wait longer upon the action of the Democratic Convention. It is the part of prudence and of patriotism to take ground at once for Bell or for Lincoln.

There is no occasion for a contest between Northern sectionalism and Southern sectionalism.

Let it be between nationality and sectionalism.

Let it occur between Union men and the Republican disunionists.

This is the battle that must be fought, and no time should be lost by the friends of the Union, whatever may have been their former party affiliations, in concentrating their whole strength upon the Union candidate as the best—the only chance to defeat the Republican party."

THE INDEPENDENT.

Our cotemporary of the *Independent* charges us, in his last issue, with having acted unjustly towards him, in having inferred from his article two weeks ago, that he was "caving in" to the support of Stephen A. Douglas. We disclaim anything of the sort. If by quoting his words, thereby showing his inconsistencies, and wavering independence, we do him injustice, then, indeed, will we plead guilty to the charge, and promise to be consistently and faithfully untrue to him during the present canvass.

JEFF. DAVIS ON PLATFORMS.

Senator Davis, of Mississippi, in his late speech in reference to Douglass, thus expressed his opinion about Platforms:

"The fact is that I have a decided respect for platforms. I would sooner have an honest man on any sort of a ricketty platform, you could imagine, than to have a man I could not trust on the best platform that could be made."

Let the D. neophyte who "busted up" about a platform at Charleston, read and inwardly digest the above, and they will quit taunting the supporters of Bell and Everett, who have put before the country "honest men," and capable, whom all men can trust, upon the simple platform of the Constitution, the Union, and the enforcement of the Laws.

LECTURE.

Rev. J. McKENDARRE RILEY, D. D. will deliver a Lecture on the "Universal Yankee Nation," in the M. E. Church, on Saturday evening next.

The object of the lecture, is to aid in the liquidation of the Church debt.

The commendable purpose of the lecture, and the great reputation of Dr. Riley, should, we doubt not will, attract a large audience.

TICKETS 25 Cents.

MANAGERIE AND CIRCUS.

From the show of the Robinson & Lane Menagerie and Circus, and from report, it is a great affair, and will doubtless attract a large attendance. It is scarcely necessary to call attention to the advertisement in another column.

THE PULPIT.

The pulpit of the M. E. Church, in this town, will be occupied, on Sabbath next, by the Revs. S. S. ROXEL, and J. McKENDARRE RILEY.

The Convention—The session of the Convention on Tuesday, were very brief, and slightly demonstrative. Action is unavoidably delayed, pending the question relating to the admission of the seceding delegates, and to the contested seats.

It's a large Bell and Everett procession passed a few days since, through the streets of New York, with a large bell on wheels, on which a friend has written:

To preserve our country
And the Bell ring on
When Everett goes!

We have reports of a severe hail storm, on Saturday last, in the southern part of the county, which proved exceedingly destructive to all growing crops.

Judge J. W. Brockenbrough is recommended by Staunton Visitation to fill the vacancy on the bench of the U. S. Supreme Court, caused by the death of Judge P. V. Daniel.

CHERRINGE NEWS FROM ALABAMA.

The Hon. JAMES L. CLARK, editor of the *Memphis Enquirer*, is on a visit to Huntsville, Alabama, from which place he has written a letter to his paper in which, after stating that there is an amount of political excitement there, which he has seldom known before, says:

"The Seaboard do not hesitate openly to say that if Judge Douglass is nominated at Baltimore they will vote for Bell and Everett. They seem to regard a third nomination at Richmond as a folly, and if it is, their support of such a nomination will be thrown away. I am told that the feeling throughout the Northern and along the Western border of the State is:

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"I cannot tell what the feeling is in other parts of the State but I have seen enough here to satisfy me, that if Douglass is nominated at Baltimore, Bell will carry Alabama by a decided majority. There will of course be a spasmodic effort among the leaders about Montgomery, to nominate their forces upon a third candidate, but the feeling among the masses is decidedly against it, and I feel assured that it will fail. I had almost given up Alabama as lost to sound principles, but my opinions have undergone a radical change within the last few days, and now look to the results with hope and confidence."

If Douglass is not nominated, there will be a stampede among his friends. In any contingency there is reason to believe that our ticket may succeed in this hitherto hopeless Democratic State.

What glorious, soul-stirring news from our unexpected quarter—even from the strong Democratic State of Alabama! Surely the friends of Bell and Everett in Virginia, and in all the other States should now take courage, and forthwith set about the work of the canvass, vigorously, energetically, enthusiastically. All hands to the rescue, and a glorious victory will be ours.—*Richmond Whig.*

THE BALTIMORE CONVENTION.

The city is full of delegates and outsiders interested in the proceedings of the Convention. Wherever you go, the tumults of Convention attend you, and with the greatest Convention at Front street Theatre, there seems to have assembled half a hundred small conventions, in all sections of the city, and all kinds of places—bar-rooms, street corners, hotels, parlors, everywhere, indeed, except in church. All over the city there is the same din of debate, on the same subject.

The Convention, so soon opened—the prayer was scarcely finished, and Mr. Cushing's address concluded, then the fight, adjourned over at Charleston, recommended at Baltimore.

The motion to admit all the Charleston delegates to seats, was cylinder by an amendment, pledging those delegates to abide the decision of the Convention, and support its nominee. Then comes a substitute for the latter resolution and amendment, proposing to refer the seceding delegates to the committee of credentials.

This was a Douglas move, and upon the fall of the previous question, the Douglas was expected to settle that question to their liking before dinner.

Never were men more disappointed than in New York, voting against the previous question, gave them a discomfiture, from which they declared they would rally in half an hour.

The opponents of Douglas were indignant at this show of numbers, and seem to have become more ardent than ever.

It is now believed that the session of the convention is likely to be a protracted one.

Soon after this division, the convention took a recess for dinner.

Both parties claim the power to control the action of the convention, and shape it to their views. The Douglas men, at least, seem more sanguine, at least, than talk loudly, of greater exhibited boldness.

Their opponents, "wait and see,"—that is a good, old, but hard fact in favor.

So goes the war of words, during dinner time.

The committee say there is no fat calling for legislative action. No such matter is presented either in fact or testimony, as is intimated in the majority report, that the abolitionists of the free states took a course overly intended to produce a treasonable violation of the law's and the peace of the slaveholding states, much less that any such course is countenanced by the body of the people of the free states.

The committee say to discharge from the further consideration of the subject—the report, exclusive of the voluminous testimony, occupies 150 foolscap pages.

REVELATION BEFORE THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE.

The Washington correspondent of the *Herald* of Wednesday says:

"The Govode Committee to-day concluded its testimony. Forney and Wendell were the last witnesses. The former's testimony was shown to the President and several members of the Cabinet. Among others, he stated that he had been offered a position at the Consulate to Liverpool, or the mission to Russia or Prussia, if he would acquiesce in the policy of the administration; but was declined.

"He committed myself to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject—the report, exclusive of the voluminous testimony, occupies 150 foolscap pages.

THE RIGHT SPIRIT.

A gentleman in Alabama, nearly three score and ten years of age, writes to the *Montgomery Mail* as follows:

"If Bell and Everett get but two votes in Alabama, I expect to give one of them—"

"...because I believe they are as pure, undivided and uncorrupted statesmen and patriots, as any two citizens of the United States."

"2d. Because their whole life and actions are now, and always have been, as broad, and as wide, as the whole Union."

"3d. Because they oppose Abolitionism, Black Republicanism and Disunionism every where."

"4d. Because they oppose Squatter Sovereignty, and other disturbing elements resulting out of sectional and party platforms."

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"6th, and lastly, because now in my feeble old age, I expect it will be the last vote I shall ever give for a President of the United States, and I feel it is a conscientious duty I owe to my country, wife, children and friends, to vote for John Bell and Edward Everett."

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