

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

If a lot of Democrats were to get together in convention and up make it interesting for spectators before adjourning, one of the more or less cherished traditions of the party would be ignored. The organization is quite young in this city, but on the occasions spoken of it sometimes engages in a war of words such as would be hard to beat anywhere. The convention of yesterday was quite orderly in a comparative sense; but it was not without a fair proportion of belligerency and noise. There were also plenty of good humor, any amount of oratory and not a little in the way of spicy debate. On the whole the proceedings were creditably and ably conducted, the disorder at no time amounting to confusion.

The most significant feature of the proceedings was not what was done but what was not done. The convention adjourned without making nominations or specific endorsements. The Independent ticket, although not mentioned, was hinted at in the resolutions and it seems to be the tacit understanding that this will receive the party's support. This may not be unanimous, a few delegates having withdrawn from the convention and arranged for another meeting this evening; but as things now appear it will be practically so. Perhaps as election day draws near all differences will be healed and the party present a united front again. Patriotic citizenship rather than untried partisanship would seem to be clearly the business of the hour.

ARROGANCE OF UNIONS.

As an illustration of the pervading and powerful influence exercised by the typographical union, a recent number of Kate Field's *Washington* mentions the debate in the House on the printing bill, showing that the members not only dare not offend but take pains to place themselves on good terms with these organizations. On asking if certain members had constituents in the government printing office whom they feared to offend, the writer was informed that it was not their individual constituents whom they feared but the union itself. It is mentioned that but one member has ever dared to actively oppose the organization—Senator Anthony of Rhode Island. He once, when Mr. Defrees was public printer, procured the appointment of a constituent in the government printing office. The first day the man worked there he was approached by an associate and asked if he had a card, when the following conversation took place:

"Card?" echoed the new printer, "what kind of a card?"

"Aren't you a member of the union?" asked the other.

"No."

"Have you never been?"

"No."

"I shall be very happy to present your application for membership if you will fill out one of our blanks."

"Thank you, I don't care to belong."

"This answer was at once conveyed to the foreman and by him laid before the public printer. Mr. Defrees was notified that he must dismiss the man."

"But he is Senator Anthony's friend," objected Mr. Defrees. "I can't afford to offend a United States senator for such a cause as that."

"You can better afford to offend twenty senators than one typographical union," was the answer. "We're the fellows who make senators!"

Of course the man had to go and the Senator was very mad about it. He made a stubborn fight in the Senate against the union, showing that it should not be permitted to tyrannize over the United States government, but it all amounted to nothing. His associates in the chamber were as silent as so many statues, realizing as they did that if they had the temerity to say anything of a denunciatory character the union might make a diversion from turning out printers and go to turning out senators. Mr. Anthony's protegee, who was unceremoniously dismissed, was refused reinstatement, and there has been no manner of opposition to the union's sway from that time on.

This is not merely an anomalous but a scandalous state of affairs. It is a piece of despotism which if exercised by any of the liberal monarchies would cause a revolt. The art preservative should not be permitted to become the engine of so much oppression and invidious power, more particularly at the seat of the government itself. That it is proper and even commendable for working men, especially skilled ones, to organize for protection against unjust encroachments, for a general understanding and for the cultivation of a spirit of fraternity and sociability, is not to be denied. But that being so organized the employer is to be relegated to the position of an automatic paymaster, with no power over his own business that the union sees fit to deny, is another proposition altogether; it should be combated until it is destroyed.

FASTER AND FASTER.

And still the record tumbles. The new leviathan steamer *Lucania* on Saturday last made the run from Queenstown, Ireland to Sandy Hook lightship, off New York, in five days, thirteen hours and twenty-five minutes, beating the best previous record—that of the *City of Paris*—by fifty-five minutes. This is not exactly flying through the water, but it is going very fast, as fast as most of our express trains, and the end is not yet. There is undoubtedly a limit to transatlantic speed, but it is not yet reached and may not be in our day. Already the *Cramps* are engaged on some ships for an American company one at least of which is designed to chop off a large slice of the *Lucania's* time, and within the decade we may look to see a record with no subsidiary figures attached to the five days. There is every appearance that the once-talked-of railway around the world will not be mentioned any more; the steamers promise to excel the trains in speed, and the latter is the object aimed at.

THE COUNCIL ARRAIGNED.

Mayor Baskin does well in calling the City Council's attention to the municipal financial situation, even at this late day. The showing which his honor makes would be much more startling than it is but for the fact that it is not altogether new to most of our citizens; in fact, the *News* has repeatedly posted them regarding the facts and figures, also stating the conclusion reached by the Mayor that the issuance of warrants by the municipality is illegal, in derogation of the law of Congress and void. This is a condition as scandalous as it is apparent and it has seemed that the sometimes Christianlike forbearance exercised toward our local solons was charity unappreciated if not scorned. But such persons and things get to the end of the public tether at last and are then brought to a short turn.

It was quite characteristic of the Council that the Mayor's message was treated with disdain. Men whose recklessness and disregard of statutory provisions as well as defiance of public opinion and apparent oblivion to the interests they were appointed to subserve are well known usually persevere in that course when let alone, and at last come to look upon their position as that of proprietor instead of bailie. When this frame of mind and firm of department are reached it is only what might be expected that when reminded of their wrong-doing they would ignore the reminder and treat its author contemptuously if not insultingly. But it will not avail them. Unless all signs fail there is a day of reckoning at hand; and it may be beneficial all around for those who occupy a date raised far above the heads of the people to whom they owe their election to learn by practice that there is a tribunal more to be dreaded than organized courts; one of these punishes and passes to something else, the other punishes and remembers.

A REPEAL BILL PASSED.

By a strictly party vote—meaning that all the Democrats voted one way and all the Republicans the other way—the national House of Representatives yesterday passed the Tucker bill to repeal the Federal election law. This was by great odds the most important feature of the Associated Press service yesterday, its agent at Washington evidently realizing this, for it was hurried along and placed in the hands of the *News* telegraph editor within a very few minutes of the vote being declared. This is as it should be and is somewhat in the line of atonement for many instances of remissness in the past.

The majority for repeal was nearly two-thirds, 200 to 101. This is significant in two important respects: It shows that the temporary mixing up of the partisans regarding the silver question has reference to that subject only and that as to all political questions the Democrats are as Democratic and the Republicans as strongly inclined their way as ever before; the other respect is the portent