

is the curse that centralism has never failed in any age or any land to entail upon any government. Centralism and corruption have imposed upon ten states the rapacious tyranny of carpet bag rule, and since the peace have added \$200,000,000 to their debts. They have infected the Government of our southern states and northern cities with the same disease of extravagance and fraud. They have debauched the federal government itself and made the names of scores of its high officers and public men our public scandal and an open shame. The record is horrible for incapacity, venality, waste, fraud, and the party which has been powerless to head down and trample under foot its corruptionists, with stupendous effrontery, is pledging itself to a reform of which it has become incapable. So the party pledged itself to restore specie payments, but every year taking us farther from specie payments, so it pledged itself to civil service reform, and then dropped and mocked its reformers, so it pledged itself to protect American labor, and with its monstrous custom house taxation on over 3,000 articles, it has impoverished American labor. A few score monopolists, a few thousand corruptionists have been enriched; but capital, in the hands of those who earned it by industry and saved it by frugality, is everywhere distrustful, and rusts, unused, while honest labor goes about the streets begging for bread. Is this, then, the final outcome of a century of republican self government? Forbid it, gracious God! But we have wandered far from the right path; we must return to the constitutional principles, the frugal expenditures and the administrative purity of the founders of the republic. This is the first, the most imperative necessity of our day and nation. This is the appeal we have to make to our fellow-citizens of every former political affiliation. This is the one supreme commanding issue to which all others are inferior, all others trivial. Reform! Reform! Reform! If you shall recognize this imperative necessity; if you shall guarantee in your platform the successful achievement of this arduous work of national regeneration; if you shall select standard-bearers true to your pledge, victory in the November contest is already yours. Incarnate the vital issue of reform in your candidate and platform, and the States that have honored Douglas and Lincoln, the States which honor Hendricks and Thurman, Hancock and Parker, Bayard and Tilden—these States, with all their vast population, will rise like the woods and the winds that followed the fluting Orpheus, will rise and follow you to victory.

It being announced that the platform committee would not be ready to report earlier, the Convention adjourned till eleven o'clock to-morrow morning.

NEW YORK, 27.—Horace Fairbanks was unanimously nominated by the republicans for governor of Vermont. Other State officers were nominated by acclamation.

CHEYENNE, 27.—The following additional particulars of the murder of Albert Curtis, near Laramie city, on Saturday, have been received: After threatening Curtis and receiving the reply, "Oh no! you would not shoot any one," Chandler knelt down, took deliberate aim, and fired, killing Curtis almost instantly. Chandler afterwards entered his house and loaded a shot gun and revolver, determined not to be taken alive, and then swallowed a dose of powdered opium. By this time the house was surrounded by armed men, who watched some time, but finally ventured cautiously in and found the murderer in an insensible condition. Efforts to revive him were unsuccessful. He died at two o'clock next morning. The body was brought to Laramie city yesterday.

In the same city, yesterday, Ben Murphy, a banjoist, was found dead in his room. An investigation showed that he had been shot, and a man named Henry Laurie has been arrested, and is said to have confessed the murder, giving as his reason that Murphy married and deserted his sister.

A wagon train from Crook's camp arrived at Fort Fetterman to-day, bringing the wounded in the late engagement. They endured the trip well and all are likely to recover. Captain Henry, whose wound is in the face, will be able to leave Fort Russell in a

few days. General Crook will make short excursions with the cavalry until the return of the train and infantry, when he will endeavor to strike the Sioux hard.

ST. LOUIS, 28.—Every seat and standing place in the Convention Hall are filled.

President McClelland called the convention to order.

Prayer was offered by Father Brady.

Various resolutions were put, and the Convention was addressed by Senator Doolittle, Breckenridge of Ky., Gratz Brown, and Wallace of Pa.

The convention was called to order at 2.15 by Judge Meredith, of Va.

The chairman of the committee on resolutions presented his report. He stated a great many resolutions were presented, all of which had been carefully examined and discussed before coming to an agreement. He requested Dorsheimer, of New York, to read to the convention as follows:

#### THE PLATFORM.

"We, the delegates of the democratic party of the United States, in national convention assembled, do hereby declare the administration of the federal government to be in urgent need of immediate reform, and do hereby enjoin upon the nominees of this convention and of the democratic party in each State a zealous effort and co-operation to this end, and do hereby appeal to our fellow-citizens of every former political connection to undertake with us this first and most pressing patriotic duty for the democrats of the whole country. We here reaffirm our faith in the permanence of federal union, our devotion to the Constitution of the United States, with its amendments universally accepted as a final settlement of the controversies that engendered civil war, and do here record our steadfast confidence in the perpetuity of republican self-government in absolute acquiescence in the will of the majority, the vital principle of republicans; in the supremacy of the civil over the military authorities; in the total separation of church and state for the sake alike of civil and religious freedom; in the equality of all citizens before just laws, of their own enactment; in the liberty of individual conduct, vexed by sumptuary laws; in the faithful education of the rising generation, that they may preserve, enjoy and transmit these best conditions of human happiness and hope. We behold the noblest products of a hundred years of changeable history, but while upholding the fold of our glorious union and great charter of these our rights, it behooves a free people to practise also that eternal vigilance which is the price of liberty. Reform is necessary to rebuild and establish in the hearts of the whole people the union of eleven years, happily rescued from the danger of a corrupt centralism which, after inflicting upon ten states the rapacity of carpet bag tyrannies, has honey-combed the offices of the federal Government itself with incapacity worse than fraud, infected States and municipalities with the contagion of misrule, and locked fast the prosperity of an industrious people in the paralysis of hard times. Reform is necessary to establish a sound currency, restore the public credit, and maintain the national honor. We denounce the failure for all these eleven years to make good the promise of the legal tender notes, which are a changing standard of value in the hands of the people, and the non-payment of which is a disregard of the plighted faith of the nation. We denounce the improvidence which in eleven years of peace has taken from the people in federal taxes thirteen times the whole amount of the legal tender notes, and squandered four times this sum in useless expense, without accumulating any reserve for their redemption. We denounce the financial imbecility and immorality of that party which, during eleven years of peace, has made no advance towards resumption, no preparation for resumption, but instead, has obstructed resumption by wasting our resources and exhausting all our public income; and while annually professing to intend a speedy return to specie payments, has annually enacted fresh hindrances thereto, as such a hindrance we denounce the resumption clause of the act of 1875, and we here demand its re-

peal. We demand a judicious system of preparation by public economies, by official retrenchments, and by wise finance, which shall enable the nation soon to assure the whole world of its perfect readiness to meet any of its promises at the call of the creditor entitled to payment.

We believe such a system well devised, and above all entrusted to competent hands for execution, creating at no time an artificial scarcity of currency, and at no time alarming the public mind into a withdrawal of that vaster machinery of credit by which 95 per cent. of all business transactions are performed. A system open to the public and inspiring general confidence would, from the day of its adoption, bring healing on its wings to all our harassed industries, set in motion the wheels of commerce, manufactures and the mechanical arts; restore employment to labor and prosperity to the people. Reform is necessary in the sum and mode of federal taxation to the end that capital may be set free from distrust and labor lightly burdened.

We denounce the present tariff levied upon nearly 4,000 articles as a masterpiece of injustice, inequality and false pretense. It yields a dwindling not a yearly rising revenue; it has impoverished many industries to subsidize a few; it prohibits imports that might purchase our products and reduce American commerce from the first to an inferior rank upon the high seas; it has cut down the sale of American manufactures at home and abroad, and depleted the returns of American agriculture and industry followed by half of our people; it costs the people five times more than it produces to the treasury, obstructs the processes of production and wastes the fruits of labor, it promotes fraud, fosters smuggling, enriches dishonest officials and bankrupts honest merchants. We demand that custom house taxation shall be only for revenue.

Reform is necessary in the scale of public expense, federal, State and municipal. Our federal taxation has swollen from \$60,000,000 gold in 1860 to \$450,000,000 in currency in 1870. Our aggregate taxation from \$154,000,000 gold in 1860, to \$730,000,000 currency in 1870, or in one decade from less than five dollars per head to more than eighteen per head. Since the peace the people have paid to their tax gatherers more than thrice the sum of the national debt, and more than twice that sum for federal taxes alone. We demand a rigorous frugality in every department and from every officer of the government.

Reform is necessary to put a stop to the profligate waste of public lands and their diversion from actual settlers by the party in power, which has squandered 200,000,000 of acres upon railroads alone, and out of more than thrice that aggregate has disposed of less than one-sixth directly to the tillers of the soil.

Reform is necessary to correct the omissions of a republican congress and the errors of our treaties and our diplomacy which have stripped our fellow citizens of foreign birth and kindred race, re-crossing the Atlantic, of the shield of American citizenship, and have exposed our brethren of the Pacific Coast to the incursions of a race not springing from the same great parent stock, and in fact now, by law, denied citizenship through naturalization as being neither accustomed to the traditions of a progressive civilization, nor exercised in liberty under equal laws. We denounce the policy which thus discards the liberty-loving German and tolerates revival of the coolie trade in Mongolian women, imported for immoral purposes, and Mongolian men held to perform servile labor contracts, and demand such modification of the treaty with the Chinese empire, or such legislation by Congress within constitutional limitation, as shall prevent the further importation or immigration of the Mongolian race.

Reform is necessary, and can never be effected but by making it the controlling issue of the elections, and lifting it above the two false issues with which the office-holding class and the party in power seek to smother it.

First—The false issue with which they would enkindle sectarian strife in respect to the public schools, of which the establishment and support belong exclusively to the States, and which the

democratic party has cherished from their foundation, and is resolved to maintain without partiality or preference for any class, sect or creed, and without contributing from the Treasury.

Second—The false issue by which they seek to light anew the dying embers of sectional hate between kindred people once unnaturally estranged, but now united in one indivisible republic and a common destiny.

Reform is necessary in the civil service. Experience proves that efficient economical conduct of the Government business is not possible if its civil service be subject to change at every election, become a prize fought for at the ballot-box and be a brief reward of party zeal instead of posts of honor assigned for proved competency, and held for fidelity to the public employ; that the dispensing of patronage should neither be a tax on the time of all our public men nor the instrument of their ambition. Here again the professions are falsified, and the performance attest that the party in power now can work out no practical or satisfactory reform.

Reform is necessary even more in the higher grades of public service in President, Vice-President, judges, senators, representatives, and cabinet officers. These and all others in authority are the people's servants. Their offices are not a private perquisite; they are a public trust. When the annals of this republic show the disgrace and censure of a vice-president, a late speaker of the House of Representatives marketing his rulings as a presiding officer, three senators profiting secretly by their votes as law-makers, five chairmen of the leading committees of the late House of Representatives exposed in robbery, a late Secretary of the Treasury forcing balances in the public accounts, a late Attorney-General misappropriating public funds, a secretary of the navy enriched or enriching friends by percentages levied off the profits of contractors with his department, an ambassador to England censured in a dishonorable speculation, the President's private secretary barely escaping conviction upon trial for guilty complicity in frauds upon the revenue, a secretary of war impeached for high crimes and confessed misdemeanors, the demonstration is complete that the first step in reform must be the people's choice of honest men from another party, lest the disease of one political organization infect the body politic, and lest by making no change of men or party we get no measures and no reform. All these abuses, wrongs and crimes are the product of sixteen years' ascendancy of the republican party, and they create a necessity for reform confessed by republicans themselves. Reform can only be had by a peaceful, civic revolution. We demand a change of system, a change of parties, that we may have a change of members, of men.

The reading was frequently interrupted by applause. The denunciation of the resumption act and demand for its repeal, was received with special favor. At the conclusion, Dorsheimer said the committee had adopted and endorsed, though not as part of the platform, the resolution which he read endorsing the action of the House of Representatives in cutting down appropriations and also the resolution as to the just claims of soldiers, sailors, and widows and orphans.

After a lengthy debate the report of the platform committee was adopted.

McLane moved to proceed to nominate candidates for President (Applause.) Adopted.

The roll of States was called to prevent their nominees. When Delaware was called, Whitely took the platform and nominated Thos. Frances Bayard (cheers), whom he eulogized in glowing terms as a democratic statesman and gentleman. (Applause.)

Williams, of Indiana, presented the name of Governor Thos. A. Hendricks, of Indiana. (Great Applause.)

Abbott, of New Jersey, presented Joel Parker's name in a ringing speech.

When New York was called there was great excitement, cheers and waving of fans. Senator Kernan expressed his sympathy with all that had been said of the gentlemen already presented here, and he proceeded to urge the nomination of Tilden as the surest guarantee of success in the coming contest. Tilden's name was received with great cheers.

Mr. Kelly next took the platform, and an attempt was made to hiss him down.

A delegate—"There seems to be some geese in the hall."

Cries of "Clear the galleries," but with Kelly's first sentence, complete order was restored, until some one made the point that he was out of order, unless he intended to second Tilden's nomination.

Then ensued a long scene of confusion, hissing and calls for "Kelly!" "Kelly!"

Hutchins, of Missouri, insisted upon order. He expected to vote for Tilden, but Kelly was entitled to be heard.

A delegate from Kansas demanded the scotching of the vipers who hiss. (Applause.)

Kernan and others from New York urged a respectful hearing of Kelly, and finally cries for Kelly were overwhelming. Kelly then proceeded, urging that the nomination of a western candidate for President will secure Indiana and Ohio in October, but if lost in these states, then it would be impossible to save New York in November.

Mr. Williams, of Indiana.—Mr. President and gentlemen of the Convention:—In the name and in behalf of the united democracy of the State of Indiana, I put in nomination Gov. Thos. A. Hendricks, of Indiana, (Loud and prolonged cheers,) as your candidate for President of the United States. He is a man that is known to the whole nation. There is no spot or blemish on his public or private character. He is presented as the unanimous choice of the democracy of a democratic State. He comes here backed up by his delegation and by every democrat in Indiana. There is no fire in his rear here. We believe that if he is our nominee we can carry the State of Indiana by from twelve to twenty thousand. (Cheers.) You delegates in this Convention must determine for yourselves by your votes whether you want Indiana to remain democratic or not. We propose to support the nominee of this Convention whoever he may be. There is no diversity among us on that subject, but we would like to have a man for our candidate that we know we can carry the State for. In conclusion, Mr. President, I desire to read the resolution that was adopted by the democracy of the State at its last convention, and with that, Sir, I will close:

"Resolved, That the people of Indiana recognize with pride and pleasure the eminent public services of the Hon. Thomas A. Hendricks in all public trusts. He has been faithful to duty, and in his public and private life pure and without blemish. We, therefore, declare that he is our unanimous choice for the presidency of the United States."

Flourney, of Va., seconded Tilden's nomination.

Ewing, of Ohio, presented the name of the statesman, William Allen.

Clymer, of Penn., presented Gen. Winfield S. Hancock in glowing terms.

General Brent, of Louisiana, seconded Hancock.

Doolittle earnestly urged prudence. He said he did not believe they could carry even New York in November unless they carried Indiana in October. For this reason he favored Hendricks, who could carry Indiana, as he feared Tilden could not.

The ballot being called for, the clerk suddenly commenced calling the roll.

#### First Ballot.

Tilden 4194; Hendricks 1224; Hancock 75; Bayard 33; Parker 18; Allen 56; Broadhead 19.

Pennsylvania moved to make it unanimous.

#### Second Ballot.

Tilden 535; Hendricks 60; Hancock 59; Parker 18; Bayard 11; Allen 51; Thurman 22.

Finally, the vote was announced as follows: Whole vote on second ballot, 738; necessary to a choice, 492. Tilden, 535; Hendricks, 60; Allen, 54; Parker, 18; Hancock, 59; Bayard, 11; Thurman, 2.

In a Mississippi town the other day there was general holiday. Those who couldn't get a free ticket to see the negro hanged paid twenty-five cents and went to the circus.

When a certain woman in town speaks of her "late husband" you must not conclude that she is a widow. Her husband is living, but he never comes home until midnight.—St. Louis Republican.