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TERMS OF THE BEE.

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Saturday Morning, May 6, 1848.

The Presidency.

So intense and long continued has been the excitement consequent upon the momentous intelligence that is brought by every packet from Europe, that even a topic usually so engrossing as the Presidential election—now only six months distant—appears to create but an occasional and transient interest. And yet the position of both the great parties in our country is sufficiently anomalous, and the result of the pending contest sufficiently uncertain, to justify some solicitude, and divert homewards a part of that public attention which is now directed with continuous and concentrated gaze across the broad Atlantic. Let us turn an instant from the spectacle of tottering thrones and crumbling monarchies, and see what the people are about in the way of President making in this free and happy Republic of ours.

The two Conventions, whose decisions will be implicitly obeyed by a large majority of the partizans on either side, will be held, the one about three weeks, and the other a month hence. One might readily conclude that public opinion had so clearly designated the respective candidates, that the labors of the Convention would be confined to the simple formality of ratifying the party favorite. Than such an inference, nothing could be it wider variance from the fact. The nominations of the Whigs and Democrats are involved in the greatest possible obscurity. Among the Whigs, though the selection seems diminished to a narrower sphere, and though there are but two prominent candidates, it is, thus far, utterly impossible to determine upon whom the choice of the Convention will fall. We know, for instance, that either Gen. TAYLOR or Mr. CLAY will, in all probability, obtain the nomination, but as the single district system of choosing delegates has been adopted in most of the States, it is quite impossible to tell which will have a plurality of votes. We say *plurality*, since if the two candidates in Convention exhibit any thing approaching equality of strength, neither can possibly be nominated on the first ballot, because in a number of Districts in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and the New England States, delegates in favor of WEBSTER, MCLEAN, and CORWIN, as their first choice, have been appointed. It is apparent, therefore, and at least highly probable that the Whigs will be enabled to agree upon a candidate after one or more trials, by a compromise of opinion. It is this conviction, we may add *en passant*, that confirms our belief that the nomination will ultimately be bestowed upon Gen. TAYLOR, inasmuch as he is avowedly the second choice of a large number of delegates.

What, in the meanwhile of our Democratic brethren? Sooth to say, their dilemma is more perplexing than our own. They are pinged with a multiplicity of patriotic aspirants, and, within the last month or so, are seriously menaced with a catastrophe that would prove ruinous to their hopes. We allude to the prospective candidature of JAMES K. POLK himself. His Excellency, if we may credit many of the letter-writers whose sources of information are abundant and authentic, seems to have an idea fitting about the perilous of his pericranium, that he is the only man in the country who can defeat the Whigs; that his claims upon the Democracy, are transcendantly paramount, and that unless he be nominated, the party will be demolished. With these characteristics of a lofty mind that wanders perpetually amid the mazes of a blind self-conceit, Mr. POLK has been at work for some time, assiduously employed in petty intrigues and mousing machinations. He thinks he has annihilated BUCHANAN, and hopes he has extinguished CASS; he fears that DALLAS is a competitor that is scarcely worth powder and shot; and he believes that WOODBURY's inertness and indolence will annul those advantages which the corpulent judge at functionary might derive from the possession of some qualities of intellect and statesmanship. Mr. POLK is undoubtedly working hard to get the *imprimatur* of the Baltimore Convention; but we hardly think he can succeed. His party will be too shrewd deliberately to cut their own throats. True it is, that he beat Mr. CLAY in 1840, but that was because the people did not know JAMES K. POLK. They know him now, and that's enough. Unless Presidential patronage prove stronger than common sense and the combined influence of all the other candidates, Mr. POLK, after his present term, will be sent to rusticate on the verdant banks of Duck River.

VIRGINIA ELECTIONS. The mail of yesterday brought us some scattered returns of the election for members of the Legislature in the Old Dominion. The vote has been light, and the results exhibit an unusual absence of political excitement. In Richmond City, Hays, (W) is elected by a considerable majority. From Hanover the returns are incomplete, but leave no doubt of the success of Darracott (W). In Caroline, one precinct shows a majority of 25 for Moncure (D). Henrico is Whig by a large majority. In Powhattan the contest is close between Finney, (W) and Nash, (L F). In Petersburg, Mr. Syme (W) is re-elected without opposition. In Norfolk City, first day, the vote stood, Robinson, (Ind.) 412, Taylor, (W) 408, the polls to be kept open another day. In the county, partial returns are favorable to the Democratic candidates, Butt and Wheeler. In Princess Anne, Elizabeth City, and Warwick, the returns look Whiggish.

AFRAID TO SPEAK—The following notice to one of its correspondents appears in the Washington *Union*:

"Our Baltimore correspondent, who signs himself "A Voter of '44," must excuse us. We could not publish his nomination of a candidate for the Presidency without publishing his name."

Afraid even to permit a nomination to be made in its columns! And yet the *Union* talks of the harmony of the party, and sneers at Whig dissensions. "They make a *solitude*, and call it peace!"

MR. JOHN VAN BUREN addressed a great Democratic meeting at Hudson on the 22d ult., in his most approved style.

A correspondent of the *Globe* says:

"The most interesting portion of Mr. Van Buren's remarks related to the great Democratic issue, the *preservation of free territory from the curse of slavery*. Upon this point he discoursed for an hour, enchaining the attention of the masses with irresistible facts and reasonings."

WISCONSIN.—The Whigs of this embryo State held a Convention at Madison on the 13th, and nominated JOHN H. TWEEDY, of Milwaukie, for Governor. Mr. Tweedy is the present delegate in Congress from the Territory. A full ticket for officers was nominated, as well as four Presidential electors, and four delegates to the National Convention. No preference is announced for President. Alexander C. Colline is the Whig candidate for Congress in the second district he was nominated unanimously on the first ballot.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT.—A most shocking and fatal accident occurred at Lowell on Monday night, 24th ult. A runaway horse, with the fore wheels of a wagon attached, knocked down a young lady who was crossing the street at the time, and her clothes becoming entangled in the wheels, she was dragged some thirty or forty rods to the stable, her head and shoulders upon the ground, and most shockingly mangled. She breathed but a few seconds after.

UNNATURAL AND SHOCKING MURDER.—The Petersburg *Republican*, of the 20th ult., has the following:

A man named GRIEF NORNALLY was shot by his own daughter, a Mrs. Moody, in the public road, in Dinwiddie county, on Saturday, the 15th inst. Nornally was dreadfully wounded, having both thighs much mangled, and the bone of one badly fractured. He survived the injury about three days. Mrs. Moody has been apprehended, and is now in custody.

SUICIDE.—The Irwinton (Ala.) *Shield*, says that Major Andrew Gamble, a highly esteemed citizen of Henry county, Alabama, committed suicide on Tuesday week, by shooting himself.

Correspondence of the Bee.

WASHINGTON, April 26, 1848.

After a week of unprofitable agitation, during which the public business was entirely abandoned, the abolition excitement was effectually quieted yesterday, in the House of Representatives, by laying the whole subject on the table. The debate closed with two speeches, one from Mr. WICK of Indiana, a Locofoco who endeavored to steer between the two extremes, and thus to preserve a position with both divisions, and the other from Mr. Giddings, who on this subject, is demented. It is to be hoped, that we have seen the last of this vexatious subject, the discussion of which, is only calculated to excite prejudices, to stir up bad blood between brothers, and to array the two sections of this union, which are bound together by the links of fraternity and interest, against each other. This agitation has ended in no practical result of any kind, and the debate has only been productive of one effect—to rouse animosities, and to encourage a sentiment of distrust between the North and the South.

Mr. Hale's firebrand in the Senate, was very unceremoniously quenched by taking up the California Claims, and dismissing his Bill, without a moment's consideration.

The able and faithful Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, attempted yesterday, to get the House to make the appropriation Bills for the Civil and Diplomatic Service, for Naval Affairs, for the Post Office and for Pensions, the special order of business, commencing from a given day; but, the Locofocos resisted, and as two thirds were required to carry the motion, they succeeded in defeating it. There can be but one motive for this proceeding and that is to hold back the appropriations until the heel of the session, and then rush them through without discussion, and thereby foreclose any investigation of the vast expenditures and extravagance, which now are concealed under specious items and pretexts. Before this trick can prevail, these gentlemen will be compelled to put themselves on record in opposition to the appropriation Bills, for when Mr. Vinton again tries his motion, it will be attended with a demand for the yeas and nays, which has a powerful effect in producing conversion among disorganizing and refractory members.

While the *Union* is clamoring for the passage of the Ten Regiment Bill, and other party schemes, to augment Executive patronage, and to be employed for political and personal purposes, its party in the House stands up to a man, and opposes the necessary appropriations for carrying on the Government. This factious opposition is worthy to be remembered, that it may be held up in judgment against those concerned in it, at the proper time and season.

The deplorable situation of affairs in Yucatan excites the sympathy and interest of every generous and philanthropic heart. It was understood, yesterday, that the President would send a Message to Congress on the subject, but, none was received at the period of adjournment. The interference of Congress, presents a delicate and embarrassing question. What benefit would accrue from fitting out an expedition which was to roam through the country on a mission of knight errantry, and to return without having rendered any permanent service. To afford effectual relief to Yucatan, it would be necessary to maintain an over-awing force, and how long that force would be necessary, or in what numbers, are very interesting questions to be answered in advance of interposition. If the outrage came from any other than a native and a savage enemy, the case would be materially changed, and the promptings of humanity would crown the efforts of every patriotic citizen, to crush the oppressor. I cannot see how the Government is to fit out an enterprise, for the suppression of this insurrection, though all our feelings encourage the conviction, that relief in some shape, ought to be extended.

It is quite manifest from the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry in Mexico, and from the decisions of that tribunal upon particular interrogatories submitted by Gen. Scott, that the bearing of those who compose it, is altogether with Pillow or with the Administration, which it controls, and against the victorious General, who has arraigned him for stealing and appropriating to himself the laurels, the labors, the privations and patriotism of his brother soldiers. Every body knows the Court was constituted with direct hostility to Scott, and to save the miserable minion of Executive partiality, who is now on trial, from the disgrace and dishonor which is his due. But the officers who compose that board—particularly Towson and Belknap, should remember that the eye of the country is upon them, and that there is a judgement seat before which their acts will be measured, and from which there is no appeal to popular favor. Little is expected from Cushing. He, long ago, sold his birth-right of independence for a mess of pottage, and he would desert his new friends to-morrow, for the prospect of better reward, as readily as he deserted those old ones whose confidence he betrayed in his first flight. Little is expected from Belknap