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The Kent News.

PLUMMER & USILTON,..Editors.

Chestertown:
Saturday Morning, Feb. 16, 1861.

☞ Anticipating an unusual demand for the "News" this week, we have printed a large number of extra copies, which may be had at the office, enveloped for mailing, or otherwise, as may be desired, at five cents a copy, or 50 cents per dozen.

THE MEETING OF LAST SATURDAY.

If those who doubted public sentiment touching the question of Convention, or no Convention, would but permit their calm judgment to assert itself, they would find abundant reason to be content with the *verdict* of the people, as manifested at the Court House on last Saturday. Just four days previous, an *exclusive* Convention meeting had been held at the same place, in point of numbers small, (about 165,) but presenting great unanimity, for none were invited to it who did not favor "State action in the present crisis." Claiming to represent the "*vox populi*" of the County, the regulators of this meeting found no difficulty in harmonizing their proceedings, and appointed six delegates to represent *them* in the Baltimore "conference" Convention. The *great masses* of the people of the County, not quite satisfied with this summary and one-sided way of disposing of the question for them, and *decidedly* opposed to any Convention, determined to *speak out again* as they had done on the 8th of January. Accordingly, on Saturday last, in pursuance of a call promptly issued, they came into town in crowds, in spite of wretched roads, and packed the Court House to repletion. Not less than 500 men were on hand, the "bone and sinew" of the County.

The meeting was organized by calling to the chair the Hon. James B. Ricaud, and appointing several Vice Presidents and Secretaries. Addressing the people, the chairman fixed their attention for over half an hour, in a forcible and eloquent exposition of our national troubles, and admirably sustained the present policy of resisting a Convention, as not called for by the exigencies of the times, or in the least calculated to render the position of Maryland more secure or satisfactory. He could not but regard the movement for a Convention as a dangerous one, and in no sense justified by circumstances. Maryland's position was now the true one, and her quiet dignity best comported with her rights and interests. The people do not want a Convention, nor do they desire the *question* submitted to them by the "*action*" of assemblages of a revolutionary character. When *they* are satisfied it is time *to act*, they will *demand* what they want without the interference of aspiring political doctors. The chairman's remarks were received with every demonstration of approbation, at the conclusion of which, on motion, a committee of *five* was appointed by the chair to prepare and report to the meeting a preamble and resolutions.

On the retiring of the committee, repeated calls were made for Dr. Valk, whereupon that gentleman arose and addressed the meeting in a speech of half an hour, with his usual elegance and ability. His speech was an eloquent tribute to the Union—our allegiance to the Government, and our duty as patriots to maintain our rights in the Union, and defend it against all infractions. The Doctor did not spare the proposed, illegal Convention, in Baltimore City; and concluded by urging upon all a faithful adherence to the Constitution and the Union.

The committee having returned, the chairman, Mr. Vickers, submitted a series of resolutions, which, at his request, were read by Dr. Valk, and action was deferred on them until the meeting had been ably and convincingly addressed by George Vickers, Esq. The argument of this gentleman was comprehensive and cogent, and fully vindicated his claim to an expert and learned advocate.

At the conclusion of Mr. Vickers' speech a motion was made by Dr. Valk, that if no gentleman desired further to address the people, a vote should be taken on the resolutions. Upon this, Hon. E. F. Chambers arose and desired to be heard: assent was given. The venerable gentleman expressed himself with great earnestness, and was listened to with every demonstration of respect and kindness. As he had presided over the deliberations of the *exclusive* meeting of the 5th, and is one of the delegates thereat appointed to the unauthorized Convention to be held next week in Baltimore, it might have been supposed his remarks would not have been listened to at all. Much of what he said was received with commendatory cheers, for scarce a man doubted either his patriotism or political integrity. The Judge spoke for three-quarters of an hour.

Some very brief remarks were then submitted to the meeting and unanimously adopted.

The meeting being on the point of adjournment, Judge Chambers again arose, and signified his wish to offer a resolution. It was handed to the chairman, and by him read. The vote upon it appearing to be in the negative, Judge C. demanded a division, whereupon some 28 or 30 voted in its favor, and a heavy majority against it.

The speeches of Mr. Ricaud, Dr. Valk, and Mr. Vickers, were of an eminently conservative and patriotic character.—There was not an expression in either but what was consistent with the loftiest patriotism, the purest love of the Union, and of the most ardent attachment to the Constitution, the South, her rights and interests, notwithstanding the misrepresentations of some, who, with professions of Union on their lips, look more to the little advancement of party than to the great and paramount interests of country. The meeting was emphatically one of Union, by Union men, for Union purposes. Our country, whole country, and nothing but our country, was the sentiment of that large assembly. Their hearts beat quick and warm, and patriotism and devotion to our whole country, its Government, and its "Star-Spangled Banner," which has so often waved in triumph over the enemies of the Republic, pervaded that entire assemblage.

Three rousing cheers were given for the Union, and the meeting adjourned.

During the day the "Kennedyville Band" played some excellent music, and thirty-four cannon were fired previous to the meeting's assembly.

The Union Meeting and Judge Chambers.

Lest any misapprehension should prevail in regard to the action of the Union meeting, on last Saturday, on the resolution of Judge Chambers, we deem it proper to give the facts of the case.

Far be it from us, to charge Judge Chambers with any intentional unfairness, or a covert design in offering his resolution, but the manner in which its introduction was managed was, to say the least, very extraordinary. He was in the meeting from the commencement to its close, with the resolution in his pocket, but when the regular committee of five were appointed to report resolutions, &c., instead of handing his resolution to the committee, as is the usual and customary course, he maintained a studied silence, and waited until near the close of the proceedings, when his resolution was suddenly sprung upon the people. He also made a speech breathing Union sentiments here and there—arraying the South against the North—and arguing with force, what some were uncharitable enough to say savored of secession doctrine.

Under these circumstances, the meeting seemed disposed to regard the resolution of the Judge with very little favor. Added to this, although, no doubt, a friend of the Union, he had made himself objectionable to the Union men by presiding at a meeting of the Convention or Secession party, as well as being one of their appointed delegates to the Bogus Convention to be held in Baltimore. The people, therefore, were not in the best humor to adopt his suggestions. Then there were those who thought the time had not arrived to decide where Maryland was to go, and like Mr. Crittenden, would give no vote even looking to the contingency of a dissolution of the Union,—there were others who really had not made up their mind on the subject, whilst some thought the resolution looked like chaining us to the car of South Carolina—and a large number regarded it as a fire-brand thrown before the meeting. With these various views it is not at all singular that the resolution was voted down, and there is no doubt that if he had offered a resolution of an opposite character, it would have been negatived.

We know the Union men of Kent county, and their purposes. Their simple aim and end is to keep in the Union, under the glorious old Star Spangled Banner, and not go into a Northern or Southern Confederacy. They now look with a single eye to that one object, and it is their heartfelt and fervent hope that this Union be preserved to the last "syllable of recorded time."

Union Triumph in Tennessee.—As far as heard from only two secessionists are elected in Tennessee. The majority against the secessionists, it is thought will reach 50,000, and against holding any Convention 20,000!

☞ The Richmond Whig, (Va.,) predicts that by the 4th July next, there will be only two parties in this country, one for Union and the other for Disunion.

☞ E. F. Chambers, Esq., declined voting on the resolutions offered by the committee and adopted by the meeting on the 9th inst.

☞ The chairman of the committee on resolutions, for reasons of a private nature, did not vote on the resolution offered by Judge Chambers at the meeting of the 9th.

INCONSISTENCY.

The *democratic* press and politicians of the State are abusing Governor Hicks for appointing Commissioners to the National Peace Conference, now in session in Washington, because, they say, the delegates do not represent the views of the people of the State; when, at the same time, *they* are holding little meetings in counties all over the State, and *appointing* delegates to the *bogus* Baltimore Convention,—and they are doing this too in counties where they *know* the voice of the people to be decidedly against such a movement. On the other hand, it is well known there was a *general* desire that the State should be represented in the Peace Congress. But, say they, the Governor had no authority to appoint commissioners. Who then had? The counties could not do it, because each county was not entitled to one. Should the Legislature have been called together to elect them, or a State Convention convened for the purpose? The occasion did not warrant a resort to measures so expensive. There are representatives in the Conference from several other States sent in the same manner, and we hear nothing said of the illegality of their appointment. We think the Governor has made able and judicious selections, and that the gentlemen whom he has appointed "represent the views of the people" as fully as any equal number that his traducers could have selected. We reckon that the true cause of complaint lies not so much in the simple fact of appointment, as in the political *status* of the appointees We think we could name half a dozen at least to whom no particular objection would have been made. "O consistency," &c.

☞ The "*Conservator*" pronounces the meeting of the 5th inst. "a *great* success." "*It is not* enough *to say*," says the same authority, that it "*was a* great success" In what the excess—the *over* and *above*—however consisted, we are not informed, and cannot conjecture, unless indeed it be that the whole affair may be regarded as a work of supererogation. This is the most easy and natural result at which we can arrive. Well, we admit that it may have been a "success," according to the views of the *Conservator* and "he who writes for it;" but then it not unfrequently happens that what is considered by some "a great success," is regarded by others as a "great"—*something else!* And viewed in this light, judging from all that we have been able to learn concerning the meeting of the 5th, the question as to its success is easily susceptible of division.—It is sometimes the case with even men of acknowledged skill and ability, that after laboring *for some time* to perfect a piece of intricate *machinery*, when they come to apply (as they suppose) the finishing touch, to discover that they have accomplished—*just nothing at all!*

But, as if not satisfied with the extraordinary description of the meeting already given, the *Conservator* proceeds to say: "It was a *grand* and *lucid* demonstration of the *principles* and *doctrines* of our Republican form *of Government*."—Well, it may have been, according to his idea of *republicanism*—but not the old, acknowledged republicanism of our country. He certainly must have meant the *republicanism* of the *Black* Republicans! If it is according to "the principles and doctrines of our republican form of Government" for a small minority of the people of a county to inaugurate a meeting and transact business, the whole *tendency* of which is to a result of the most fearful character; when, at the same time, *they* know *the voice of the people to be decidedly against such a movement*, then we admit a correct exposition has been given. But, if on examination it should appear that such is not exactly the true theory of "our republican form of government," what becomes of the boasted pretensions of the *Conservator*, and what designation rightfully attaches to the character of the meeting in question? It must have been "a *grand* and *lucid* demonstration" of "principles and doctrines" of some other character. The reader may make his own application.

☞ We refer our readers to the first page of our paper for the speech delivered by Geo. Vickers, Esq., at the Union Mass meeting, held at the Court House, on Saturday last. We think that any one with a dispassionate and unprejudiced mind, and a heart in the right place, cannot fail to be pleased at the perusal. We are not lawyers, but think the arguments against the right of secession, and against the right and expediency of calling a Convention in the mode proposed, are conclusive. We do not suppose that any one who favors secession, or who looks more to the promotion of party interests than to the salvation of the country, be he of what party he may, will concur in the Union sentiments of the speech, but we think even such cannot but admire the lofty and disinterested patriotism that pervades the entire speech, and the resolutions adopted.

Addenda.—In Mr. Vickers' speech, after the word "sections," read "South and North."

☞ The Easton *Star*, (Conventionist,) speaking of the result of the late election in that county, which resulted in the defeat of the Convention candidates by a large majority, says:

"We believe the great heart of Old Talbot is yet true to her cherished institutions."

We are sure it is, unless the minds of the people have undergone a great change during the last week!

For the Kent News.

Let us Hope for the Best.

Messrs. Editors:—It is difficult for an American citizen, a man in a state of mental sanity, to realize the facts which, like so many hideous spectres, rise before us in political vision. In the South we see men who have enjoyed all the blessings peculiar to our incomparable Republic, defying the government from which they have derived their existence and unparalleled prosperity, dissolving the confederacy of States, and rejecting all terms of compromise, persistently, with the infatuated zeal of demented devils, endeavoring to make the dissolution perfect, utterly reckless of consequences. And in the North we see their counterpart—men who, in the first flush of party victory, by all means in their inventive power, goading and imitating their Southern brethren in treason, as if anxious to consummate the ruin of a nation upon whose existence depend the highest interest, the most endearing hopes, the highest destiny of universal humanity.—Aye, they are doing more than this; seeming to observe a strict rule of reciprocity, Southern madmen having outraged the feelings of all conservative men, Northern fanatics repeat the coward blow upon the same unoffending and defenceless head.—Assuming that the border Southern States are equally culpable with those which have seceded, they doggedly reject all overtures from them, they trample the proffered olive-branch under their unhallowed feet, and like so many loathsome abortions in human guise, as they are, chuckle, in fiendish glee over the terrible gloom with which they have invested their victims.

But a few days since, men in Congress, professing to represent the sentiments of the North, declared that their section would be better without the Southern States, saying "let them go"—and that they would rather see the government torn into ten thousand atoms than make any concession! Do such men represent the North? I am a Southerner, and answer the question, No! There are noble men in the North—honest, high-toned, conservative men, who turn with disgust and execration upon such representatives, and disclaim them as exponents of popular Northern feeling—And I regret to see the workings of personal prejudice and party influence with others occupying high offices. Why is it that such men as Everett, Fillmore, and Reed were not sent from their respective States to the Peace Conference? Not because the people preferred others, but because the patriotism of those who govern has died out under the baleful influence of sectional partyism. Such as those distinguished gentlemen would have been chosen by the people, but they were too honest, too wise and too patriotic for the purpose of those who dictated the appointments. Alas, what a tyrant party rule must be, when it forces its myrmidons to drink, as a delicious beverage, from the poisoned chalice of malicious pride, and die, branded with eternal infamy, rather than dash the accursed thing from their lips and live.

I would not, however, be understood to pronounce the peace delegation from the States above referred to, as a whole, a bad selection; there are among them, probably good men, and I sincerely hope that those whose antecedents are not such as could be desired, may in the important position assigned them, prove to the anxious millions awaiting their action that when their country's best interests are imperiled they can raise themselves above party influence, shake off the degrading trammels of demagogism, and with patriotic devotion to the sacred memory of honored sires, proclaim themselves the champions of fraternal compromise!

We have hope—hope in the integrity of the Peace Conference—in the Union movement of good old Virginia—in the steadfast conservatism of our own Maryland—and in the intelligence of the people, who deprecate war, invoke peace, and whose interests, present, prospective and eternal, forbid them to engage in a civil conflict such as some would contemplate. May the God of all mercies stay the storm-cloud of political phrensy, even if it be by the immolation of the few in whose demoniac hearts of seething discontent and malice it had its origin, and hath its prosperity.—How forcibly these madmen remind me of Milton's Satan—who would rather "reign in Hell than serve in Heaven."

Let the people stand firm, and let us hope for the best. We are already seriously damaged, 'tis true, by the secession of a few disaffected States, but we have much yet to hope for. If those States will separate from us, we see them depart as we would the cherished members of a once happy household, but because they have left the paternal roof and become voluntary aliens, we need not do the same. Let deliberative wisdom govern us and by a happy adjustment of our difficulties peace and prosperity shall soon again smile upon our highly favored land, illume every home and irradiate every heart. Then and forever shall the peace-makers be called blessed!

West Point.

Millington, Md., Feb. 11, 1861.

The Feeling in Missouri.—The St. Louis Evening News learns by private letters, that the Stars and Stripes are flying above nearly every country store and hotel in the interior of that State. Thus indicating the devotion of the Missourians to their country's glorious banner.

Good Advice.—Trust no man in this crisis, says the Raleigh (N. C.,) Standard, who says "there is no hope for the Union." He who does not hope for the Union will not work to preserve it.

GREAT UNION DEMONSTRATION IN KENT.

Large Gathering of the People!

ALL FOR THE UNION!!

Pursuant to notice to all lovers of the Constitution and the Union, a meeting of 500 persons assembled at the Court House in Chestertown on Saturday last, the 9th of February, to take into consideration the alarming condition of our country, and the attempt of a minority fraction of the voters of the County to inaugurate a Convention of the State, independent of legislative and Executive action.

The meeting was called to order by George Vickers, Esq., who nominated James B. Ricaud, Esq., as Chairman of the meeting. The following persons were elected Vice Presidents: Geo. B. Westcott, C. W. Spry, James Spear, Daniel Haines, and S. A. J. Wickes. The following Secretaries were also chosen: R. B. M. Massey, John Wilson, Lewin Usilton, Simon Wickes, and Dr. S. G. Fisher.

The Chairman made an eloquent and patriotic address, after which a motion was made and carried, authorizing the Chair to appoint a committee of five to report a preamble and resolutions for the consideration of the meeting; whereupon the Chair appointed George Vickers, William F. Smyth, James W. Skirven, Daniel Jones, and James H. Edes, who retired for about half an hour, and returned, when the chairman presented for the consideration of the meeting the following as the unanimous report of the committee:

Whereas, Seven of our sister Southern States have declared a separation from and withdrawn all allegiance to the Union, which banded us together and made us one people under the same Constitution, and governed by the same laws, and now seek to embrace the Southern States in that Confederacy which, in Convention already assembled, they now propose to establish; and being convinced that our only safety, as a Border State, consists in our adherence to and support of that Union, which rests upon the faithful administration of the Constitution bequeathed to us by the wisdom and patriotism of our revolutionary ancestors; therefore,

Resolved, That we, the people of Kent county, hereby renew our cordial and unalterable attachment to the Constitution and the Union of the States handed down to us by our fathers as a priceless legacy.

Resolved, That in our opinion the rights of every State, and more especially the rights of the people of Maryland, are more fully guaranteed and protected in the Union than in any future Confederacy which could or may be formed out of the disrupted members which now compose the same; and that if any of the rights and privileges which are solemnly secured to us under the Constitution be violated or invaded, we can more fully secure and protect the same in the Union than out of it; but that when the Government becomes too oppressive to be borne, we will defend ourselves and our rights by all the means with which nature and nature's God has invested us.

Resolved, That as Union-loving and Constitution-supporting citizens, we deprecate and are utterly opposed to secession, disunion, or revolution, and are therefore at this time wholly averse to the proposed Convention in our State, as a proceeding not warranted by the Constitution and against all law—a revolutionary movement uncalled for by any oppressive act, much less measures of the General Government—well calculated to increase rather than allay excitement, and that might result in precipitating the unconstitutional secession of our State, against the wishes of a large majority of her people, and in the end bring upon us all the horrors and atrocities of a civil and internecine war; and that the true voice of Kent County in the recent appointment of delegates to the proposed Convention in Baltimore on the 14th inst., was not consulted, the call having been to those only who favored a Convention, and in direct opposition to the large majority against a Convention expressed in the meeting of the 8th of January last.

Resolved, That secession is disunion, and disunion is revolution, triple taxation, standing armies, pillage and civil war, as exemplified in the seizure of the forts and arsenals, and in pillaging the custom houses and mints of the United States.

Resolved, That whilst we utterly condemn the aggressions of the Northern States, by the passage of their "Personal Liberty bills," and whilst we deeply deplore the election of Mr. Lincoln as a sectional candidate, yet as he has been selected agreeably to the Constitution and laws, it is our duty, as true and loyal citizens, to submit to such election, whilst we shall watch with vigilant eye for the first symptoms of Executive encroachment, or the slightest attempt to prejudice our Constitutional rights, and hold him to a full and rigid responsibility.

Resolved, That in expressing our devotion to the Union and the Constitution, we mean to declare that it is essential to the preservation of both, that the powers of our National Government be sustained in perpetuating our integrity against any revolutionary expedient that may be designed to destroy our position before the world as the "Republic of the United States of America."

Resolved, In the language of Andrew Jackson, "That the right of the people of a single State to absolve themselves at will, *and without the consent of the other States*, from their most solemn obligations, and hazard the liberties and happiness of the millions composing the Union, cannot be acknowledged; and that such authority is utterly repugnant both to the principles upon which the General Government is constituted, and the objects which it was expressly formed to secure."

Resolved, That we regard the Capitol of the nation as confided to Maryland by the immortal Washington; she is, therefore, consecrated to the great duty of its safe keeping by an authority little less than divine. Like the sons of Aaron and the tribe of Levi, she has charge of the tabernacle and the holy things of the temple, and let the storm come, or the earthquake, they will find her true and faithful to her charge.

Resolved, That Maryland being the stakeholder, she has the post of honor and responsibility, and will neither hand over the stakes to the South nor the North, but keep them for the Union, to which they have been solemnly dedicated.

Resolved, That we congratulate our fellow-citizens of Talbot county for their late manly and successful effort in the maintenance of the honor, peace and future prosperity and happiness of our State.

Resolved, That we approve of the conduct of the Governer in refusing to call together the Legislature of the State, and also fully endorse the appointment of Commissioners to meet the Peace Congress now in session in Washington, embracing gentlemen of the highest intellect and most conservative patriotism, and to whose judgment and action the honor and future prospects of our State can be safely entrusted.

Resolved, That we heartily approve the Crittenden resolutions, and look to their adoption, or of some such conservative measures, as a satisfactory settlement of existing difficulties.

Addresses were made in favor of the resolutions by the President, by Dr. W. W. Valk, and by the chairman, George Vickers, Esq The report of the committee was adopted by acclamation. The enthusiasm for the Constitution and the Union was intense, and Old Kent may well be proud of the day.

The meeting, after having passed a resolution to publish the proceedings, adjourned with three cheers, given with a hearty good will, for the Constitution and the Union.

The Southern Confederacy.

Election of President and Vice-President.

The Convention of the seceding States at Montgomery on Saturday, elected a President and a Vice-President for the proposed Southern Confederacy, as follows:

For President—Jefferson Davis, of Miss. *For Vice-President*—Alex. H. Stephens, of Georgia.

The vote for these gentlemen was unanimous. Previous to this action, the presiding officer was instructed to appoint Committees on Foreign Affairs, on Finance, on military and Naval Affairs, on Postal Affairs, on Commerce, and Patents. All laws of the United States in force on the 1st of November last were continued by special ordinance, and will remain in force until repealed or altered. The committee on Finance was instructed to report, with promptness, a tariff for raising revenue for the support of the new Government, and under this law it is considered probable that duties will be levied on all goods introduced from the States not joining in the secession movement. In the Constitution as adopted there are special provisions for the prohibition of the Slave-trade, for the rendition of fugitives, and for the settlement of all matters of territory and public debt with the non-seceding States. In all other particulars the Constitution is almost identical with that under which the United States have increased from thirteen to thirty four

The elections in the Border States lead us to believe that the danger of a permanent dissolution of the Union is well-nigh averted. With a wise and conciliatory statesmanship on the part of the incoming Republican Administration, we believe the Gulf States may safely be left to try their experiment of a separate Confederacy, without any other coercion than that which results from a retention of the forts which command the great channels of foreign commerce, and the enforcement of the revenue laws of the Federal Government. The newly formed Confederation has been wisely made *provisional* in its character,—and is limited to one year as the term of its existence. If judicious steps be taken to secure the continued support of the Border States to the Federal Government we think this Provisional Government will be all the Government the new Confederacy will ever require.

The Indian Trust Bond Robbery!

The Government Involved in a Loss of $6,000,000 by the Malfeasance in Office of Ex-Secretary of War John B. Floyd.

The Report of the Special Committee of Five raised by the House of Representatives to investigate the facts connected with the fraudulent abstraction of the securities held in trust for the Indians, in the Department of the Interior, discloses a story of mortifying disgrace to the country. "The Great Fraud" there grows up into astonishing proportions, colored somewhat perhaps by the political feelingr of the Investigating Committee, but still pregnant with disgraceful facts, which are alike beyond palliation or denial. The Government has not only been robbed of nearly a million of dollars of trust funds, but private individuals have been defrauded to an extent that sinks this robbery into comparative insignificance.

This report exhibits to the world a minister of the highest grade in the Government of the United States prostituting his high office for the benefit of a reckless speculator, and, there is too much reason to fear, for his own advantage also. It shows that this same minister, in the course of his nefarious business, falsely and unlawfully issued acceptances in the name of the Government, until they reached the enormous aggregate of nearly *seven millions of dollars!*

If it were not for the momentous ordeal through which the country is passing, this enormous fraud would shock society to its centre, and the aroused indignation of the public could not be appeased without signal vengeance on such of the conspirators as are within the reach of justice; but as it is, it will probably sink out of sight before the greater evils which absorb the thoughts of the public.

QUALITY. For sale [illegible] the Chairman, and are invited to call and examine my stock before purchasing elsewhere. [nov10y.]

☞ Farmers and Planters visiting the city [illegible] time. Please call and see for yourselves.

oc26y. E. W. BRIDING.