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The Kent News.

PLUMMER & USILTON,..Editors.

Chestertown:

Saturday Morning, June 1, 1861.

FOR CONGRESS:

HON. EDWIN H. WEBSTER,

OF HARFORD COUNTY.

Election, Thursday, 13th of June, 1861.

The Union State Convention.

We publish to-day on our first page the Address of the Union State Convention to the people of Maryland. We commend it to our patrons as a document worthy of being carefully and calmly read and considered. Every word is literally true. We understand that it is the production of S. S. Maffit, Esq., of Cecil county, who was a delegate to the Charleston Convention in May, 1860. This is no *ad captandum* paper. It addresses itself to the judgment, the intelligence, and patriotism of the people. It does not deal in denunciation or personalities, but in sound, sober, good sense, and traces the disunion or secession designs from their infancy, and shows their results and consequences in the clearest light. We can with pleasure recommend this paper to all seekers of the truth, who love their country and her institutions better than mere party and partizanship. It is pure, chaste English style, easily understood, and its arguments, illustrations and narrations are true to the letter, and comprehensible by every reader. Mr. M. is a stranger to us, but he now appears before the public in a favorable attitude, which elicits their admiration and regard.

The Resolutions on our second page are a part of the proceedings of the Convention. They are decidedly able, clear and distinct; emphatic, truthful and patriotic. They are corollaries or conclusions which flow from the Address, and are put in the form of resolutions as succinct expressions or extracts of the main features and principles of the Address.

They correctly assume that the revolution now in progress in the South is not caused by any action of the General Government. That the authors of the insurrection designed originally the destruction of the Government. That the people of Maryland are attached to the Government and the Union, and will support them in all legal and constitutional measures, the adoption of which may be necessary to *resist* the revolutionists.

Secession is not a right, nor a remedy: it is a revolutionary proceding, an armed resistance to the Government of the country. It is distinctly treason, and the man found in arms against the Government is guilty of that crime, and punishable with the highest penalty any law can inflict. He who gives aid and comfort to secessionists is alike amenable to the same law to an equal extent. The Government is now attempting to enforce and execute the law against open defiance by the secessionists. The object is to re-establish the Courts, to restore the authority of the marshals, to collect the revenue, and see that the laws are faithfully executed in all the States. They must overcome force by greater force. It is not conquest or subjugation of the South. Those are terms used by secessionists and their friends to create prejudice against the Government, and sympathy for the South. If that were the avowed purpose of the Government, we should also oppose it strenuously, but that is not and cannot be. The President is sworn to execute the laws. The officers of the National and State Governments are sworn to support the Constitution and the laws; while the allegiance due from every citizen binds him to loyalty and obedience to the Government. They can proceed no farther than the enforcement of the laws, and when the Courts are established and the laws submitted to, then hostilities are at an end, and the so-called war exists no longer. The idea of subjugation is preposterous, and is used for the purpose of deception and imposition upon the people, who have heretofore been duped and deluded by party leaders and petty politicians.

When will the people pause and reflect upon the condition of the country, the causes that have brought it to its present deplorable condition, and the *subject matter* of the civil war now in progress, and the means of averting it? Do they intend to be ruled by selfish politicians, and be governed by prejudice and party, while the country is verging to ruin? What is now the real subject of contention? What are the secession States fighting for? The three Territories are organized, and open to all settlers, South as well as North, without any restriction as to carrying slaves there. Slavery is recognized as existing in New Mexico, the only remaining Territory. The Territorial question is thus settled, or withdrawn from the politics of the country. The South contended for the right to take slaves into the Territories. She insisted upon "*equality*." They have now got it, but refuse to enjoy it—and go to war, for what? Can any reasonable man tell for what? Congress has by a two-third vote of both houses submitted to the ratification of the Legislatures of the States a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which will, if adopted, secure the Slave States forever from all possible interference with slavery by the free States. With slavery secured and the Territories open to settlement; with a repeal of the liberty bills in Rhode Island and a modification of Massachusetts, and a prospect of all others being modified, we again ask, why is the South waging a war against the Government and the Union?

The answer is, they desire not, and have not desired, a redress of grievances, not an amicable settlement, but disunion—a separate Confederacy—a new Government. To effect their object they have brought upon us war, prostration of business, ruin of credit, and absolute want and distress. The innocent are made to suffer, and no one can estimate the misery that now exists, and which must increase.

Let us, fellow-citizens, rally under the banner of our country—under the "stars and stripes," around which our proudest recollections and brightest hopes cluster. The friends of the Union—the true friends of the Government, will step upon the Union platform we this day publish, as a band of brothers. There is room but for two parties in the State: the Unionists on the one hand and Secessionists on the other. A true patriot must love the Union and be willing to defend it against all foes, North or South. Those who are not for us are against us, and those who have a dozen "ifs" and "ands," and qualifications and contingencies, are not the firm, fervent friends of the Constitution and the Government. We are no advocates of the "powers that be." We look to a higher source, and have a nobler aim. We look to the country and her institutions of Government and Union. They claim our adherence and support. We advocate the Constitution and the laws, and call upon all good, law-abiding, Union-loving citizens, to come with us, and stand by the American flag, and defend it to the last extremity.

THE EVILS OF SECESSION.

It is a fixed, but singular fact, that Secession not only demoralizes the manners and temper, but also the honesty of the Southern people, as has been fully exemplified in their seizure of the forts, arsenals, and arms of the United States, and their pillage of the mints and custom houses, as well as their violence, tyranny and oppression towards all who oppose their treacherous schemes. Indeed, wherever you see a secession State, you find it ruled in a spirit of force and cruelty against law, liberty and justice. The State of Virginia is now a prominent example. A Union man in that State is told authoritatively by James M. Mason, U. S. Senator, *that he has no right to vote against secession, and if he does so he must leave the State!!* A man must not utter his free sentiments in Virginia now, under the penalty of leaving the State, and if the favorite plan of a military despotism should succeed, as the secession traitors desire, a man's head will be the penalty ere long for a free expression of his opinions.

The truth is that secession, being founded upon no principle of right, law or order, has to be carried out by force, cruelty and injustice, as well as moral degradation, and the wicked schemes attempted by the traitors are but the necessary consequences of their acts of treason in seceding from their Government. They know there never was a more causeless rebellion. The anti-republicans had a majority in both houses of Congress, and could have defeated any sectional measure that might have been attempted. This was not the plan, however, of the Cotton conspirators, who in their hearts had determined to destroy the best Government in the world, simply and solely to obtain cheap negroes and free trade. Having, therefore, neither right, justice or any well founded plea for their treason, they have to uphold it with force, violence and tyranny.

Now contrast the condition of things in Maryland and Kentucky, who have remained loyal to the Union. In both of these States the Union men have large majorities. In these States law, order and liberty still predominate, and freedom of speech and the liberty of the press are still held sacred, whilst people pursue their daily occupations in the same free and unrestricted manner as they have hitherto done. The contrast between secession and Unionism need not be carried any farther, and we hope our people will reflect deeply upon the matter.

We extract an article from a Southern paper, which fully illustrates our position:

A venerable citizen, former member of Congress and prominent politician, but for many years past a Judge of the United States District Court in one of the Slave States, distinguished both for his vast legal attainments and the spotless excellence of his moral and religious character, writes to a friend in Baltimore under date of May 22:

"The troubles of our country have come upon us against all human calculation. I never could believe that the breaking up of our Union—such an unspeakable political blessing—could find favor out of the circle of the headstrong, reckless, and wicked. I wonder at what has happened, and I have a new and more impressive sense of the truth—"the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked." A strange anomaly—it deceives itself.

"This last election I was for Bell and Everett. I feared the success of the Republican party; the worst party, in my opinion, ever formed in this country. But while I deprecated its success, I had no thought of the issue that has followed. I now have no doubt that the Government must be supported with all the heart and power of the nation. The idea, or absurd slang, 'no coercion,' I utterly repudiate. For what does it mean? The Secessionists have plundered by violence everything belonging to the Union within their reach. The United States have not retaken one single article; they have not used one single act of force; the fire of Sumter was most purely in self-defence. The talk of coercion then only means let the Government of the country submit to every act of aggression and give up everything the Secessionists require; and, upon this principle Washington would this day have been in the hands of Jeff. Davis and his co-laborers in rebellion, and the United States Government would have been without place or name; the entire Government revolutionized and freedom and security abolished."

JUDGE CHAMBERS' SPEECH AT EASTON.

It appears that Judge Chambers, *a professed Union man*, was entrapped by the disunionists of Talbot county, a few days since, and made them "the most eloquent speech ever heard," according to their report. As some may be a little curious to know how a Union man could so delight a secession audience, we give our readers the main points of his speech, as we find them recited in the editorial of the "Easton Star."

The only point was a tirade against the United States Government because it was ferretting out treason and the traitors who were giving aid and comfort to the enemy. The Judge was, of course, strong in this particular, as it is his peculiar forte.—But whilst lashing the United States so savagely, not one word of condemnation was uttered against Jeff. Davis and his traitorous band—not a syllable against the fraud, force and tyranny practised at the South—not a whisper against the outrages upon innocent men at the South, who are not only taken up and compelled to leave the State, *but are frequently hung*, without the benefit of law, order, or the clergy!! All these were not noticed by the Judge, but his wrath was spent against his own Government entirely, thus plainly showing the sincerity with which he claims to be a good Union man.

As we presume the Judge is a tolerably fair man, we take it for granted that the unconstitutional attempts of our legislature to pass the Public Safety bill—a measure more fitting the days of the French Revolution than the present enlightened age—the unlawful invasion of Maryland soil by Virginia troops, and the dishonest repudiation of debts by the Cotton States, as well as the tyranny exercised in the South over persons and property, escaped his recollection, and hence his failure to notice these acts of aggression. "Consistency, thou art a jewel!!" Save us, however, from such Union men!!

THE BALTIMORE "SUN."

We have not looked to the Baltimore Sun for anything conservative, until recently, when we have seen some indications of a slight return to loyalty. It has favored secession and its traitorous leaders to an extent that it will require a long time to recover from the disunion stigma attached to it.

We give it credit, however, for its comments on Mr. Jas. M. Mason and his letter. This Mason is one of the United States Senators from Virginia, and in every sense a traitor, and, as his letter shows, a tyrant determined to carry his plans by force and violence. Six months ago this Mason would have been lynched for taking such atrocious and tyrannical positions. But secession justifies it now. We give extracts from the Sun's article:

MR. SENATOR MASON'S IDEAS OF LIBERTY.—How it is possible for a man to grow up in public life, and under the benign influence of public liberty, with such heresies hidden away in his heart as Senator Mason, of Virginia, has just unmasked, we are at a loss to conceive; and if such notions of popular independence as he seems to entertain were to constitute an element of the political creed of the Confederate States, it certainly would not be very attractive to anybody not yet included therein. He says:

"If it be asked, what are those to do who in their consciences cannot vote to separate Virginia from the United States—the answer is simple and plain—honor and duty alike require that they should not vote on the question—and if they retain such opinions, they must leave the State."

"If it be asked," indeed! But who would ask such a man for an opinion twice? Why, the very terms he employs to express himself are preposterous. How on earth was the issue of "secession" or "no secession" to be determined if those opposed to secession were "conscientiously" to abstain from voting? And then having in obedience to Mr. Mason's injunction abstained from voting, they are deliberately told that if they "retain such opinions"—rather indefinite by the way—in plain terms, if they do not turn secessionists out and out, '*they must leave the State.*' And this man *was* a democratic Senator of the United States! We cannot realize such a proposition from a sane man, having, in a mental or political sense, one lingering sentiment of respect for individual liberty and constitutional rights. . . . He will live to blush with shame at the sentiments contained in it, and bitterly to regret that he ever put his name to so monstrous a declaration.

DIRECT TAXATION.

That the people of the Confederate States will, ere long, be compelled to submit to direct taxation is certain. The following *from one of the Secession journals*, tells the truth:

A Montgomery correspondent of the Savannah *Republican* gives the following gloomy exhibit of the financial condition and prospects of the Confederate revolted States:—

FIRST FRUITS OF THE BLOCKADE.

MONTGOMERY, MAY 14, 1861.

It is feared that the blockade of Lincoln will seriously diminish the revenue, unless speedily raised, and if not, the government will have to resort to direct taxation, in order to provide for its support. The plan will prove acceptable to the people, and will be more effective than a mere dependence upon an uncertain income.—Some one has suggested, though not officially, the project of levying a tax of four per cent upon slaves; but considering the average value of the slaves at present to be four hundred dollars, the income will not exceed thirty-six millions. The Secretary of War alone estimates for thirty-five millions, and it is probable that at least one hundred will be needed for disbursement this year. We may, therefore, confidently expect a system of direct taxation in case any inconvenience is experienced in collections of the customs revenue. The tariff will be reduced to an exceedingly low figure, and will expose, by its action, the monstrosities of its colleague, the Morrill tariff.

The blockade of the United States is beginning to be felt by the Confederates. "It will seriously diminish their revenue unless speedily raised." This they confess; but it will do more—it will completely cut off this import source of their revenues, which they have been boasting as yielding them at the rate of twenty millions a year. And they begin to talk of direct taxation, and of a tax of four per cent upon slaves, and they must come to it, or abandon their desperate cause. Direct taxes, forced contributions and shinplasters redeemable in other shinplasters, are now the financial resources of the revolted States.

THE NEXT BATTLE.

The latest movements of United States troops point unmistakably to Harper's Ferry as the scene of the next conflict. It seems to be the purpose of General Scott to march upon that place from three or four directions, surround it, cut off a retreat, and take the entire garrison prisoners. The engagement will likely take place not later than the 4th inst., perhaps sooner.

General Butler, in command at Fortress Monroe, says that he will retake Norfolk and the Navy Yard so soon as a sufficient force shall arrive to render the success of the movement certain.

Movements of Troops at the South.

The reports of the movement of troops in the South indicate that all the force which can be safely spared from remote sections is concentrating at points in Virginia. Gen. Lee is at Richmond with an army of ten to twelve thousand men. Gen. Beauregard commands at Norfolk, with about an equal number. Gen. Bragg has about 10,000 men at Pensacola, and it is said only awaits the completion of his defences before attacking Fort Pickens.—The number of troops at Harper's Ferry is estimated at 10,000; they are under the command of Gen. Johnson.

FROM ANNAPOLIS.—Gov. Hicks arrived there on Tuesday, and rejoined his family for the first time since the occupancy of Annapolis by the federal troops.

The American flag floats over the city from the State House. All is quiet here.

The Sixth Regiment (New York) Col. Pinckney, still occupy the fortifications on the north bank of the Severn river, while the Thirteenth regiment command the Naval Academy grounds.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE UNITED STATES MAILS IN THE SECEDING STATES.—Postmaster General Blair has issued an order discontinuing the transmission of the U. S. mails in Virginia and other seceding States, and annulling all contracts for the same. Tennessee is excepted from the operation of the order for the reason that that State has not yet formally seceded. This course of the Postmaster General is under the act in relation to the subject passed last session of Congress.

THE GOVERNMENT LOAN.—The bids for the nine million loan asked for by the Government were opened on Saturday, 25th May. Seven millions seven hundred thousand dollars were bid for in bonds at rates ranging from 83 to 90. Six millions seven hundred and fifty-three thousand dollars were accepted at 85 and upwards, and the remainder of the loan will be awarded in Treasury notes at or above par. The whole loan will thus be placed at an average of seven per cent. interest.

ILLNESS OF JUDGE DOUGLAS.—A dispatch dated Chicago, May 30, says: "Senator Douglas has been gradually sinking, and fears are entertained by his friends and physicians that he will not live through the night.

For the Kent News.

IS IT TREASON OR NOT?

Messrs. Editors:—The recent military organization here, under the name of the "*State Guard*," has not failed to call forth some enquiry and speculation as to the purposes for which the Company was formed. Avowedly, as published in the call for the first meeting, the object to be secured was "*State defence*," but no information was further given upon the subject. As throwing some light into the surrounding obscurity, the following short conversation between a member of the "Guard" and a citizen may serve the purpose. Both are intelligent gentlemen.

Citizen. For what especial purpose was your Company formed?

Guard. For the defence of the State.

Citizen. Defence against what?

Guard. Against the Federal Government.

If the "*State Guard*" have this duty to perform, it may not be amiss to conceal the fact from the knowledge of the "authorities" of the State and Government at Washington, lest it might lead to unpleasant results.

By what *authority* was the "State Guard" armed with old "Virginia Muskets?" They came here under suspicious circumstances certainly. Will somebody explain?

The Captain of this Company, Judge Chambers, has recently obtained a commission from Gov. Hicks, on the oral representation, it is said, of being a *good* Union man. It is a question of speculation with many whether he informed the Governor of the fact that the Company were already armed, and from where and under what circumstances the guns were received. It is supposed that he did not.

ENQUIRER.

Advance of Troops into Virginia.

Assassination of Col. Ellsworth.

On the night of Thursday of last week a sudden movement was made upon Virginia by a portion of the Government troops at Washington. They took possession of Alexandria, Arlington Heights and and other prominent places in the vicinity, without serious opposition. During the advance a company of Virginia cavalry and a few infantry were captured and taken to Washington. Col. Ellsworth's regiment of Zouaves formed a part of the force which marched on Alexandria. On entering the town the Colonel saw a secession flag waving over the Marshall House, kept by James W. Jackson. Instantly entering the house with four or five of his men, Colonel Ellsworth proceeded to the house-top, tore down the flag and trampled it under foot.

In descending the stairs the party were encountered by the keeper of the house, double-barrel gun in hand. He raised the gun to shoot the foremost Zouave, who knocked aside his aim, when Jackson instantly turned it upon Col. Ellsworth, and firing, discharged the load of one barrel into the heart of that gallant officer, who fell dead upon the stairs. Jackson as quickly snapped the other barrel at a Zouave standing next to Col. Ellsworth, when private Brownell, another of the Zouaves, accompanying Ellsworth to take down the flag, discharged the contents of his musket into Jackson's brain, bayoneting his body as he fell, pinning it to the steps.

The body of Col. Ellsworth was conveyed to the Washington Navy Yard the same day, and embalmed. On Saturday morning it was removed to the East Room of the President's House, where for several hours it lay in state. The coffin was draped with the American flag and adorned with choice flowers. The remains were taken to Mechanicsville, N. Y., the residence of his parents, where they arrived and were interred on Monday.

CINCINNATI, May 29.—The first Virginia and three Ohio Regiments advanced on Monday towards Grafton. The secessionists have evacuated the place, and it is now in possession of the Federal troops.

All the troops at Camp Carlisle, and a thousand Ohio troops, under Col. Bailey, have moved from Winchester to Grafton.

The troops that have now reached Grafton will, it is thought, remain some days to await reinforcements, as it is the point at which the advancing column is directed to rendezvous, and from that place a movement will doubtless be made on Richmond by such a route as will offer the greatest advantage for the rapid march of troops.

It is said that this movement will be under the immediate direction of Gen. McClellan, and the importance of the step demands a leader of no less ability. It is not probable that he will have less than 30,000 men. Such a force as this, threatening the forces at Harper's Ferry in the rear and on the flank, will cause them to evacuate that position and betake themselves southward, this being the only way by which they can avoid total rout. Nothing will then prevent the Federal troops from pushing on to Richmond, the city whither all the movements of the last few days have clearly tended.

We learn, also, that a co-operative movement is to be made from Philadelphia on Harper's Ferry, by way of Harrisburg and Chambersburg, by five regiments under command of Gen. Patterson, and that this expedition was to start yesterday. Thus this western movement, considered by military men to be the most important of the campaign, and one for the commencement of which they have been impatiently looking, seems to be undertaken after judicious deliberation, and with a force which, skillfully led, cannot know defeat.

FROM HARPER'S FERRY—TROOPS CONCENTRATING AT CHAMBERSBURG.

Chambersburg, May 29.—The latest advices say that there were ten thousand troops at Harper's Ferry and at Bolivar. There are about 400 troops on the Maryland heights; but the latter had no field pieces. The Hagerstown secessionists are terror stricken by the late reinforcements at Chambersburg. They held a conclave last night which lasted till this morning.

Additional reinforcements are expected here early to-morrow.

Resolutions of the Union Convention.

The following are the Resolutions adopted by the Union State Convention which met in Baltimore last week:

Resolved, That the revolution now in progress in eleven of the States of the United States against the constitutional authority of the Federal Government is not in resistance of any aggression of that Government, and is therefore without excuse or palliation.

Resolved, That the history of our country for the past thirty-five years furnishes evidence too clear for doubt or cavil that the authors and promoters of that revolution have in view one only object—the destruction of the Government and the division of our country into two or more fragments—and that the redress of actual or supposed wrongs in connection with the slavery question forms no part of their views or purposes.

Resolved, That we do not believe that the masses of the people of any of the so called Seceded States are justly chargeable with the crime of that revolution; and that we do believe that the people of those States, by force of most extraordinary and complicated combinations of circumstances, have become victims of the arts and cunningly contrived devices of the authors and promoters of the revolution.

Resolved, That the people of Maryland are unalterably determined to maintain and defend the Government of the United States of America, their right to the enjoyment of which was obtained for them by the sacrifices and toils of their fathers of the Revolutionary era, shared in common by the glorious men of the thirteen United Colonies, and framed and adjusted in all its transcendently beautiful parts, as that Government was, by the almost superhuman wisdom of those who had in their own persons experienced the wrongs and oppressions of monarchial Government. The results of that wisdom embodied in the Constitution and form of government of the United States of America, the people of Maryland will hold fast to, whilst they will continue to, as they do now, scorn the efforts of Secessionists, disorganizers and revolutionists to betray them into a forfeiture of their noblest heritage.

Resolved, That the people of this State will support the Government of the United States in all legal and Constitutional measures, the adoption of which may be necessary to resist the revolutionists in the States aforementioned.

Resolved, That whilst acknowledging unreservedly the duty and determination to sustain the Government in the just exercise of its authority, it would be nevertheless peculiarly painful to the people of Maryland to bear arms in a conflict with any portion of their brethren of the Southern States, unless in the last extremity of necessity; and that the delicacy in this regard manifested towards them by the Executive authorities of the Government merits the acknowledgment which is hereby made.

Resolved, That the intimations made by the majority of the Legislature of this State at its late session that the people of Maryland were "humiliated" or "subjugated" by the action of the Government were gratuitous insults to that people.

Resolved, That the dignity of the State of Maryland, involved in a precise, persistent and effective recognition of all her rights, privileges and immunities under the Constitution of the United States, will be vindicated, at all times and under all circumstances, by those of her sons who are sincere in their fealty to her and to the Government of the Union, of which she is part, and to Constitutional popular liberty.

Resolved, That whilst the people of this State will sustain the Government in the most efficient, active and thorough measures necessary for the suppression of rebellion and revolution, they will insist that no spirit of animosity or vindictiveness towards the Seceded States shall enter into those measures. They will insist on the people of those States being recognized and treated as brethren and fellow-citizens of a common country, whose errors must be restrained, but in a spirit of fraternal kindness, whenever, and as soon as, that spirit shall be enabled to find an opportunity for its ministrations. And they will demand that the first and smallest indications of a desire on the part of the people of any of the revolutionary States to return to their allegiance shall be responded to by the Federal Government with all the liberality and generous forgetfulness of past errors which the circumstances of the case will permit.

Resolved, That it is due to a clear and unequivocal statement of the position of the Union men of Maryland, comprising an overwhelming majority of her population, to declare that while they concur with the present Executive of the United States that the unity and integrity of the National Union must be preserved, their view of the nature and true principles of the Constitution, of the powers which it confers, and of the duties which it enjoins, and the rights which it secures, as it relates to and affects the question of slavery in many of its essential bearings, is directly opposite to the view of that Executive. They are fixed in their convictions amongst other that a just comprehension of the true principles of the Constitution forbids utterly the formation of political parties on the foundation of the slavery question. The Union men of Maryland will oppose to the utmost of their ability all attempts of the Federal Government to commingle in any manner its peculiar views on the slavery question with that of maintaining and defending the just powers of the Government. It is at the same time just to declare that these avowals are induced by a jealous anxiety to avoid future difficulties and complications rather than by a conviction that any thing to which they relate has occurred in the history of the Government since the assumption of power by the present Executive.

THE Legislature of Maryland will reassemble at Frederick on Tuesday, the 4th of June.