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The New-Orleans Daily Bee.

Wednesday morning, Feb. 9, 1848.

General Taylor—A Whig National Convention.

Were the propriety of holding a Whig National Convention a fit subject of friendly discussion, were it a question of expediency to be determined after a free and full interchange of sentiment among the Whigs of the Union, our views would probably be widely different from those we are now inclined to entertain. But such is not the fact. A Convention will be held: the time-honored custom of the party will be observed—a majority of the Whigs, throughout the Union, have expressed their determination to have a Convention, through their national Representatives in Washington. It only remains, therefore, for us, as the advocates of Gen. TAYLOR, to decide whether an adhesion to the settled policy of the party will best become us, and promote his triumph; and it is in this aspect that the question should be considered.

The first objection to a National Convention urged by Taylor Whigs is, that the formal nomination of ROUGH AND READY as the Whig candidate, will detach from his support a large number of Locofocos who would otherwise extend his claims. We think there is little force in this objection. The democrats who are willing to support Gen. TAYLOR will more than probably give him their suffrages in any event. They go for him because they are dissatisfied with the course of the present administration, desire a change, because they know Gen. TAYLOR to be a disinterested patriot, eminently gifted and of inflexible honesty, a good man in the broadest sense of the word, of spotless character, of approved moral worth, untouched and untainted by the corrupting influences that so frequently affect the feelings and conduct of public men. Those who sustain Gen. TAYLOR for these reasons are little likely to be swerved from their resolution, because his claims shall receive the ratification of a Whig Convention. They will no more abandon Gen. TAYLOR on this account, than they abandoned Gen. HARRISON, when he received the Whig nomination.

But admitting that there may be some plausibility in this argument, we meet it by enquiring on our turn, how many Whigs are there who will most cheerfully work and vote for Gen. TAYLOR, if nominated by a Convention, but will not sustain him if he is run as a no-party, independent Candidate? For every Locofoco vote that Gen. TAYLOR may lose by assuming the position of a Whig Candidate, he will forfeit ten times the number of Whig votes, if placed in nomination without reference to party sympathy and party support. This may be termed mere assertion, but there is a body of collateral evidence in its favor difficult to resist: throughout the non-slaveholding States, a vast majority of the Whigs solemnly declare their determination to abide by the verdict of the Country. They will vote for the nominee, whoever he be. TAYLOR, CLAY, McLEAN or Even in States where Gen. TAYLOR is necessarily very strong, as in our own we know many Whigs who go for a Convention and express their determination to vote the party ticket. Again, we have no confidence in the promises of Locofoco support of TAYLOR—there is nothing to prove that the organization of that party will be shaken or impaired by the strength of the Taylor influence. Out of Louisiana and one or two adjacent States—all of which, by the by, are Locofoco in politics—Taylor Democrats are not to be found. We see the Locofoco party preparing for a regular political contest, confident of its numbers and discipline, and scoffing at the idea that its array of forces can be broken up and disorganized by a nominally independent movement. It knows better—it is too well satisfied that its adherents will stand by their principles. It is content to suffer Whigs to entrap themselves in a policy that bids fair to defeat the dearest object we have at heart, and to secure the victory to our antagonists.

When did the Whig party ever succeed in bodes entangling alliances and coalitions? When did they ever reap aught but tribulation and vexation by a compromise of principle? Attempted to fraternize with Nativism in Philadelphia and lost the presidential vote of the Keystone State. They formed an alliance offensive and defensive with the Natives in New York City, and not only forfeited the votes of tens of thousands of adopted citizens who were betrayed by the very men with whom they had affiliated. The attempt to coalesce with Locofocoism will, in our humble opinion, prove equally futile. The votes of that party will assuredly be given to the party candidate. They may promise and pledge, but we trust them not. Too often has it been our lot to witness the utter hopelessness of a reliance upon Locofoco assurances of support, to attach the slightest credence to their empty promises. The few who have solemnly determined to cast their suffrages for Gen. TAYLOR, will do so, whether he run as a Whig, a Democrat, or an Independent candidate. An illustration is fresh in the memory of our readers, of the tenacity with which Taylor Locofocos cling to party. The most prominent and influential Taylor Democrat in Louisiana refused to sustain the Taylor candidate for U. S. Senator, because he was a Whig, declaring emphatically that he would vote for no Whig, and subsequently secured by his vote the election of one of General Taylor's most decided opponents.

For these reasons, we hold that the argument against the nomination of Gen. TAYLOR by a Whig Convention, founded upon the idea that it would lose him a large number of democratic votes, is shallow and untenable. We shall examine other objections to a Convention in their order.

GENERAL SCOTT.—In anticipation of General Scott's speedy arrival in the United States—his friends in the city of New York are making preparations to give him a reception worthy of his splendid achievements—instigated thereto, to some extent doubtless, by the persecutions of the Executive, which seems to have or fear its own victorious General more even than it does Santa Anna! The New York *Express* informs us that a committee has been formed in that city, which has among other proceedings, conferred with the Mayor, desiring his co-operation, as the head of the city government, in tendering to Gen Scott the freedom of the city. "It is designed [says the *Express*,] to make the reception the greatest that has ever yet been given in New York: and for this purpose it is decided that the citizens generally be recommended to close their stores on the day of his celebration, and that a civil and military procession escort the illustrious commander through the city. In the evening it is proposed to have a general Illumination, and close with a Dinner and Ball at the Astor House."

The New York *Journal of Commerce*, (an Administration paper in its general tones) speaks of General Scott's suspension in these terms:

"Public opinion here is nearly or quite unanimous in condemning the act, as harsh and unjustified, for, especially in view of the campaign which is said a thousand difficulties and dangers, and with such inadequate means, he has conducted to so successful a termination. Fortunately the Administration cannot strip him of the laurels he has won, whatever may be the forms of hum, thus to which this subject hum, or the deeper rumination to which the subject themselves. It was right enough to order a Court Martial for the investigation of the case but to assume in advance that the Commander-in-Chief was wrong, and his subordinate right—to suspend Gen. Scott, and restore Gen. Worth—this contempt—that inflicting a double censure upon the former—is, in our opinion, going far beyond the limits of jealousy, and deserves to be severely commented on in turn."

The editor adds, if Gen. Scott committed a fault in regard to the army opinion, endeavor,

"The Administration have committed a greater one; and this which, irrepassable as it was done deliberately."

T. FAIR.—One or two of the papers yesterday reported the death of Typhus Fever, of Dr. James Jones, an eminent practitioner of this city. We are pleased to hear able to correct the information, that the evening that [illegible] better, though still in a [illegible]

Congressional.

In the SENATE, on the 31st ult., Mr. Johnson of Louisiana, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, reported a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase a right to a tract of land, now the property of an individual. Mr. Niles reported a bill to amend the Post Office Law of 1845, relative to compensation to Postmasters.

After some further business of no general importance, the Ten Regiment Bill was taken up, and Senator Downs spoke at length in its favor. The Baltimore *Sun* gives the following synopsis of his remarks:

Mr. Downs addressed the Senate. He expressed his regret at the course which had been pursued by Senators who where opposed to the bill—at their determination to sift everything so rigidly, even to the calculation of a few hundreds of soldiers, and not to give credit to any thing which came from the President or any other quarter.

He went on the principle that when we could not treat we must take; that we wanted the territory of Mexico to spread our population, our commerce and our freedom. He thought that the volunteers had performed extraordinary achievements, and that, after they had accomplished so much, it the drudgery of the war was now to be committed to others, it was not from any diminished confidence in their bravery and efficiency.

He contended that it was a great mistake to represent the bills now before the Senate as increasing the army 30,000 men. They did not increase it a single man. They only placed this force at the disposal of the President, in case any great exigency should make it necessary to employ them.

In case of foreign interposition, during the recess of Congress, the President ought to be authorized to organize a force to meet and defeat the danger. Of the necessity for the employment of this force, the Executive was the most competent to judge—more so than members of Congress. On the subject of expense, he expressed his conviction that we must take into the idea of war the idea of great expenditures and taxes.

We must be prepared to meet these things. No one ever heard of an economical war. War was no child's play; and when we enter into it we must expect to be burdened and taxed—and it was better to bear those evils, and have the work well done than to spoil it by a parsimonious economy.

He defended the course of the Executive in his appointments in the army. He then went on to express his preference for regulars over volunteers in the further prosecution of the war. Immediately might fight gallantly for ten years, yet remain at the end of that period, in the same grade in which they began, while in the regular army, officers are regularly advancing in the paths of promotion.

He believed that more of our men had perished from the diseases of the climate than from the sword. He would send no more ambassadors. We had sent too many already.

He complained that while Senators on the other side kept on complaining, but never proposed any thing, on his side they did not pretend to be infallible; they said what they had done, what they were doing, and what they proposed to do. He wished Senators on the other side to act in the same way.

Judge McLean's letter he regarded as manly and to the point. He did not expect there would be peace until the Presidential election shall be terminated. He desired to know now, before the Presidency changed hands, whether all the money expended in the war was to be expended for nought?

As to the commencement of the war, he regarded it as arising out of the nature of things. It was unavoidable, growing out of the perversity of Mexico, and of her stubbornness and obstinacy. If it had been brought about by any action of public opinion at home, he would not charge it upon the President or any one else—but would refer it to a much higher source.

He expressed his regret that Mexico had ever been admitted into the family of Republics.—He did not think the annexation of Texas should have produced the war had it not been for the interference of foreign diplomatists, and particularly to the strong probability that a war would break out between the United States and England on the Oregon question.

He said that on the subject of our foreign relations, he was ready to pay reverence and respect to the distinguished Americans who differed from his views, but he could not, with the same feelings, receive the opinions of a foreigner—he referred to Mr. Gallatin.

He would have no sentiment connected with the honor of our country mixed up with foreign prejudices and sympathies and feelings; he would have it altogether American, whether old Whig—whether Whig or Democrat—exclusively American.

He went on to defend the course of the President on the subject of the Slidell mission—the advance of Gen. Taylor to the Rio Grande, and all the operations of the war.

On motion of Mr. Douglas, the Senate adjourned.

In the HOUSE, a resolution was adopted to close the debate on the President's message the next day at 2 o'clock.

Mr. Vinton, from the Ways and Means Committee, reported bills—making appropriations for certain fortifications for the year ending 30th June, 1849; for the support of the army and volunteers for the same period. Read twice and referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

A joint resolution, authorizing the Sergeant-at-Arms to employ a Clerk, was laid on the table, but the vote was subsequently reconsidered, and the resolution laid over.

A large number of resolutions were offered, which lie over under the rules. Among them, we notice the following:

Mr. Turner, introduced a joint resolution, declaring that it is expedient to annex New Mexico, Upper and Lower California to the United States. It lies over.

A resolution was introduced and lies over, calling on the President to communicate the correspondence of Generals Scott, Taylor and Worth, since December 1846, in not incompatible with the public interests.

Mr. Giddings, offered a resolution, for a select committee of five, to inquire whether the slave trade is carried on in the District of Columbia, and if so, by what particular authority, and whether any modification of the laws on the subject is necessary.

Mr Holmes, of S. C. moved to lay the resolution on the table. Lost 87 to 91, and resolution then laid over. Mr. Stephens expressing a desire to debate the same.

A resolution was adopted, requesting the President to communicate the letter of Gen. Taylor, of 27th January, 1847, in answer to the letter of the Secretary of War, of which a copy was communicated to the House on the 18th of March last.

Mr Holmes, of S. C., introduced a bill to create the office of Assistant Secretary of State, and for other purposes. Read twice and referred.

Also, a resolution of inquiry, which was adopted, to raise the rank of officers in the navy—creating the rank of admiral.

Mr. Clingman, introduced a resolution calling on the President for the plan of the campaign by Gen. Scott; the charges upon which a Court of Inquiry has been ordered, and all communications from Scott to the Secretary of War, since the capture of Vera Cruz. Lies over.

Mr. Botts, introduced a resolution, which was adopted, inquiring as to the practical operation of the sub-treasury law, and whether its provisions have been violated.

Also, a resolution, which lies over, calling on the President to state by what authority the Secretary of the Treasury has established a tariff of duties in Mexico, and appropriated the revenue thus collected to the support of the army.

Mr. Meade offered a resolution, which lies over, declaring that it is inexpedient to annex the whole of Mexico, but that the line offered by Mr. Trist will be a sufficient indemnity. Adjourned.

Later from Mexico.

By the arrival yesterday of the ships *Napier* and *Danaers*, from Vera Cruz, which they left on the 29th ult., we have received a few days later advices. The train from the capital reached Vera Cruz on the morning of the 29th, in safety, not having suffered the slightest molestation in its route towards Vera Cruz. The *Danaers* brought over the following passengers: G. J. Van Brunt, commander of the Blue, and late Governor of Tobasco; Lieut. S. W. Godon, U. S. Navy late Governor of Laguna; Lieuts. J. M. Berrien and L. C. Larton, U. S. Navy. Naval vessels at Vera Cruz—U. S. flag ship *Cumberland*, steam frigate *Mississippi*, sloop-of-war *Albany*, store ship *Electra*, schooner *Flirt*, and steamers *Petrita* and *Waterwitch*. The *Albany* was to sail on the 29th for the island of Lobos, and Commodore Perry was to leave in a few days on a cruise to the windward.

FROM TEXAS.—The steamship *Palmetto*, Captain Smith, arrived yesterday from Galveston, bringing files of papers to the 5th inst. They are nearly destitute of interest. The Galveston *News* is of opinion that wool growing will eventually become an important and successful pursuit in Western Texas. Immense numbers of sheep are found on the *haciendas* on the upper San Antonio and Rio Grande.

LOCOFOCO PRIDE.—Those great statesmen who raise their voices against the scheme of annihilating, of blotting from the book of nations, the Republic of Mexico—such men as Albert Gallatin, Henry Clay, John Quincy Adams, John C. Calhoun, John McLean, and John M. Clayton—are called by the Philadelphia Ledger "*the premiers of the day.*"

EXPIRATION OF SENSON COUCITT.—We learn, from an [illegible] the 22d ult. the resignation of Hon. Walter C. Dunlap, has received at the Executive Department. The letter of resignation was written [illegible] January, while on his way to [illegible] on that day at [illegible] Creek, [illegible] opposite. By some accident, it did not reach [illegible]

LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA.

In Senate.

TUESDAY, February 3-h, 1848.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment. Hon. Trasimon Landry, the Lieutenant Governor, in the chair—20 senators present.

Mr. May, according to previous notice, introduced a bill to prevent free white persons from playing cards with slaves, mulattoes and free negroes. Said bill underwent its first reading.

The bill, introduced some time ago by the Senator from Jefferson, Mr. Manuel Garcia, to extend the Port of Orleans, so as to embrace the City of Lafayette, was taken up, and after discussion, it underwent its third reading, and was finally adopted.

The Senate, after disposing of sundry local bills, went into Executive business, after which, it adjourned.

House of Representatives.

The House met pursuant to adjournment.—Hon. Preston W. Farrar in the Chair. 87 members present.

Sundry petitions, memorials, resolutions of enquiry, notices of bills, and other matters of special interest were presented by several members.

The special Committee, to whom was referred the bill introduced by Mr. Wilder, to compel the Commercial Bank of this city to comply with the terms of its charter, reported the same with a slight amendment. Said report was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Pike, from a special Committee, to whom was referred the resolution relative to the extension of the Port of Orleans so as to embrace the city of Lafayette, reported against said resolution, and recommended its rejection. Said report was ordered to be printed.

The House next resolved itself into Committee of the Whole—Mr. Moise in the Chair—for the purpose of taking into consideration the resolutions relative to the Mexican War. The Senate resolutions are as follows:

"*Be it resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened*, That the existing war between the United States and Mexico was the result of the aggressions of that Republic, and that the President of the United States, in occupying the Rio Grande, and ordering the armies upon that frontier, acted within the scope of his constitutional powers, with due moderation and discretion, and according to the existing law of the country.

Be it further resolved, That the firmness, the sagacity, and the marked ability manifested by Major Generals Zachary Taylor, Scott, Worth, Pillow and Quitman, and Brigadier Generals Shields, Smith, Twiggs and Pierce, and their brave companions in arms during the progress of the war, and the patriotic and distinguished services rendered by them to the country, have endeared them to the people of Louisiana, and entitle them to the lasting gratitude of the American people.

Be it further resolved, That, in the opinion of this Legislature, it is the solemn and imperative duty of the Representatives of this State, in both Houses of Congress, to give all constitutional aid and support to the administration, in the vigorous and efficient prosecution of the war, until a satisfactory and honorable peace can be obtained from Mexico.

Be it further resolved, That the doctrine of no territory to the donation of no indemnity, and if mentioned, would be a public acknowledgement that our country was wrong, and the war declared by Congress, with extraordinary unanimity, was unjust, and should be abandoned—an admission unfounded in fact, and degrading to the national character."

The various resolutions introduced by Messrs. Bullitt, Duncan, of Orleans, and Lorac, we have already published. A warm discussion ensued upon this important question. Pending which, the Committee of the Whole rose and reported progress to the House.

At half past two o'clock, the House adjourned. The discussion on the war resolutions will be resumed to-day, at noon.

POPULATION OF VIRGINIA.—Among the documents laid before the Legislature is a "Statement of the white population of each county of the State, arranged according to their districts, in 1846, calculated from the titheables in 1846"—for a copy of which we are indebted to the polite attention of our City Delegate, C. W. Newton, Esq. From this it appears, that the white population of Virginia which in 1840 was 740,968, is, according to the tables in 1846, 830,985,—an increase of 80,017.

THE SAILING OF THE CAMBRIA.—This fine steamer sailed on Saturday, the 29th ult., at about half-past 12 o'clock. A large number of persons assembled to witness her departure, which took place under the most favorable auspices. She carried out a large mail, a quantity of specie, forty-two passengers for Liverpool, and two for Halifax.

GEN CASS.—The Columbia (S. C.) *Telegraph*—a neutral paper—commenting upon the electioneering letter of this infirm Senator says: "It is an insidious effort to cheat the South of her vote, with (it may be fair to conclude) the connivance of his constituents. His evasion of the principles of the Wilmot Proviso, by the mode he suggests, is an insulting attempt to humbug us into his ranks for the nonce.

The "fat Knight" is *suspected* in both sections of the Union—the just fate of every man who makes chattles of his opinions and writes upon his forehead, "*for sale to the highest bidder.*"

THE BRITISH STEAMER ACADIA.—The Charleston *Courier* of the 3d inst., says: The announcement of the arrival of this vessel has been looked for with anxiety for a day or two, and expectation will continue until we receive accounts that she has reached Boston. There were flying reports abroad yesterday, that she had arrived, but we believe they were unfounded.

A telegraphic despatch, from Petersburg, dated Monday, 7 P. M., gives information from New York, just received, but makes no mention of the steamer, which satisfies us that no intelligence of her arrival had been communicated at New York up to that hour.

HEAVY LOSSES BY THE LATE FLOOD.—The Albany *Express* estimates that the loss by the late flood between the Mississippi river and the Allegheny ranges, amount to ten millions of dollars. At half cost says a writer in one of the papers, four millions of dollars would not replace fences alone. At least 15,000,000 bushels of corn and other grain are wholly lost, and 30,000 bales of cotton mostly unpicked in the field, is wholly destroyed; besides some 6300,000 worth of wood prepared for steamboat fuel. The Cumberland river rose 61 feet above low-water mark.

☞ The city of Annapolis was visited by three fires on the night of the 30th ult. The first occasioned the destruction of a bed in the City Hotel, but was extinguished without damage to the building. The second broke out in the stables belonging to the estate of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, which was entirely destroyed, though the exertions of the firemen of Annapolis prevented the flames from extending to the barns and out-houses in the vicinity.—The estate is at present in the charge of Mr. Thompson, of Annapolis, as agent of the owners. The third fire was in the mill at the Severn Ferry, now owned by the United States, but formerly belonging to Messrs. Shelby & Davis. The flames were arrested before much damage was done to the building. The fire at Col. Walton's Hotel was supposed to have resulted from accident, but the two last mentioned, are believed to have been the work of incendiaries.

MORE INCENDIARISM IN PHILADELPHIA.—The large three story brick building, No. 161 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, adjoining the Franklin House and new Bank of North America, was fired on Sunday evening, 30th ult., by some daring incendiary, and partially destroyed. The building was occupied by Benjamin Franklin Rymer, Thomas B. Smith, and John R. Shankland. It was insured. The adjoining buildings sustained no material injury.

DESTRUCTIVE GALE.—The wind at Philadelphia blew a violent hurricane from the west during the whole of Saturday evening, doing considerable damage. Mr. Daniel Moore, painter, had his leg so severely injured by the blowing over of a large sign that it had to be amputated, and a Mr. Mathook was severely injured by being thrown twenty feet from a ladder.—Numbers of other persons made narrow escapes by the fall of windows, chimneys, signs, &c.

ILLNESS OF GOV. GAYLE.—We regret to learn from Washington, that the Hon. John Gayle, member of Congress from Alabama, is detained from his seat in the House by indisposition.—This announcement is made by the *Union* of Saturday night, 29th ult.

FIRE IN MOBILE.—The Cotton Factory establishment, situated on the corner of Joachim and Lipscomb streets, belonging to Messrs. John B. Holland & Co., was entirely destroyed by fire on Sunday morning, [illegible] Thursday [illegible] Holland, it is supposed, [illegible] [illegible] insured [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]