

THE ASHLAND TIDINGS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1880.

CAMPAIGN ARGUMENTS.

Ex-Senator Mitchell was greeted by a large audience in Houck's hall last Friday evening. His address was logical and his arguments well sustained by quotations from records and statistics. Following are some of the chief points in the arguments presented: Addressing the young men, of whom nearly 2,000,000 will this year cast their first votes for President, he said: We often hear it asserted that as the war is over there are no living issues now between the Republican and Democratic parties, that there is no real difference between them. Never was so great a mistake uttered in so few words. The two parties are totally and diametrically different in their principles, professions and practices respecting not only questions of mere political economy, but cardinal, vital questions of government, as well. The leaders and the controlling numbers of the two parties have always been wide apart, and have differed supremely upon the greatest issue that has been presented to the people since the Republic has existed. When Treason drew its crimson sword to spill the life blood of the nation their difference was distinct and apparent, and though it may be obscured to the casual glance now by the trickery of politicians, it exists in full potentiality to-day, and the question of this campaign is "Shall the control of the administration of the Government be taken from the hands of loyal men, and yielded up to those who plotted and fought to destroy the nation's life?" Hancock was loyal and a gallant general during the war, but since the dream of the Presidency has crossed his vision and obscured his patriotism he has plainly shown a willingness to serve the will of the Southern politicians, and if elected he would be as easily controlled by the South as was James Buchanan. It is true that there were Democrats who fought gallantly for their nation, but as an organization the Democratic party all through the war was a faithful ally of the Rebellion.

The Democratic party is virtually the same as before the war. Its head, brains, body and vitals are in the South, and a miserable, tadpole appendage is all the northern portion amounts to. Through the rule of the caucus the southern members control absolutely all legislation when the Democrats have a majority in Congress. They now have control of all the important committees in the Senate. The nomination of Hancock may be intended to convey the impression that the ex-confederates have buried all resentment, all their hopes, aspirations and theories of the war times, but the actions of their leaders in Congress during the last three sessions demonstrate that such professions are all a sham. The state rights theories of Calhoun, and Hayne and Jeff Davis were reiterated as living issues in the halls of Congress last winter. The methods of the party in the south since reconstruction have been subversive of not only the civil but the natural rights of man. In Mississippi five years ago there were 80,000 Republican votes, and 40,000 Democratic. At the last election there were but 5,000 Republican votes counted, while the Democratic vote had not increased to the extent of anything like the difference in the Republican vote. What had become of the large Republican majority? Its vote was suppressed by fraud, terrorism and oppression. It is the same all through the Southern states. If by fraud, terrorism, the shot-gun and the whipping post, the free respiration of our nation is to be ever stifled, surely no greater issue could be presented than the triumph or defeat of the principles of liberty and equality upon which the Republican party is founded.

The financial records of the two parties was compared. Just before the Democratic party lost control of the government, an issue of bonds was put upon the market, and sold at 89 cts. on the dollar. To-day, in consequence of the policy pursued by the Republican party for the past fifteen years, our 4 per cent. bonds are in demand at a premium of from 8 to 10 cents on the dollar.

We hear much about the advisability of a change in the administration of the government, but what reasons for it? Our country is entering upon an era of unexampled prosperity. Its manufactures, commerce—all its industries—healthy and flourishing. They have arisen thus under Republican rule from the depths of depression into which they were plunged by the war. Can we afford to risk the public weal by placing the government in the hands of the men who less than twenty years ago were fighting to destroy it? The ex-confederates will rule absolutely if the Democratic ticket

be successful. There are twice as many Democratic voters in the North as in the South, but the South has two-thirds of the Democratic members of Congress—twice as many as the Northern wing of the party.

COL. LARRABEE'S SPEECH.

Col. Larrabee was also greeted by a large audience on Saturday evening. He is an easy, pleasant speaker, and has the happy gift of ability to keep an audience in a good humor. After introducing himself as one who has kept aloof from political discussion for fifteen years and in whom party passion and feeling has almost died out, he said that when he first heard of the nomination of Gen. Hancock, he was not pleased, having him in mind as only a soldier, under whom he (Larrabee) had fought during the war. But soon the newspapers brought the history of the career of Hancock since the war, and the speaker was surprised to find that the military talents and ability of the nominee, conspicuous and brilliant as they were, could not overshadow or conceal the genius of statesmanship in his character. His administration of the 5th military district in Louisiana during the reconstruction period showed him a statesman of great ability. The famous Order No. 49 could not have been written by any other American living to-day. It was worthy of the genius of Daniel Webster, and had thrown new light upon the mind of the scholarly statesman, Thos. F. Bayard, of Delaware, as regards the Constitution of the United States. Then he was satisfied with the nomination.

On the other hand, when he first heard of the nomination of Gen. Garfield he thought it a good one. Had seen the General in Congress, and regarded him as a good man—knew him to be able. But again the newspapers came, this time with Garfield's record, and revived his memory of the Credit Mobilier and DeGolyer affairs, and he felt that it would not do to place in the Presidential chair a man whose record was tainted with the suspicion even of corruption in office. Could not the great Republican party nominate a man against whose record not a breath of suspicion had been blown? He (Col. Larrabee) did not wish to believe—did not believe—that Garfield had perjured himself, or that he in reality accepted a bribe. Like the great acknowledged leader of Democracy, Judge Jere Black, of Pennsylvania, he could not bring his mind to believe it, but he would read the opinions of others better qualified than he to judge. [Here he read extracts from the report of the Poland committee, etc.] So much for the two nominees. Hancock was a clean man, and should receive the support of all good citizens. It matters not what party places a man in nomination. Anyone who is fit to be the President of the United States can make his own party while in office, and it will be composed of all the honest men in the land.

Secession is dead forever, but the issue this year is as momentous as in 1861. It is that of the growth or restriction of centralization. In that lies whatever danger threatens this government. Gigantic monopolies are growing in power. Their growth is fostered by centralization, and it can be checked only by the application of the principle of a strict construction of the Federal Constitution, which has always obtained in the practices of the Democratic party. As examples of the power of great monopolies, the history of the national bank system, the Central Pacific Railroad Company. These monopolies are growing in power, reaching out with their thousand tentacles into the pocket of every laboring man in the country and stealing his hard-earned savings. The danger of centralization was illustrated by the career of Grant, who if he should have been nominated and elected again to the Presidency would have held the office for life and bequeathed it to his son, and our republic would be an empire. Beneath the calm surface of the current history of our nation a keen observer may detect an under-current of deep portent, a tendency toward a radical change in the form of the government—towards imperialism. The power is slowly being concentrated in the hands of a few men at Washington. The power of wealth, exerted through the great corporations, is aiding the leaders of the Republican party in this attempt to transform the government which was intended by the framers of the Constitution to protect the interests of the poor, as well as those of the millionaire. Let the oligarchy once obtain the mastery in the government, and we may bid farewell to liberty and equality.

Referring to the election of 1876 the speaker said the action of the Democracy of the country in ac-

quiescing in the decision of the electoral commission, when all the world knew Tilden had been elected, was the grandest sacrifice upon the altar of patriotism ever made by any people. Although Hayes was not elected, his administration has been a clean one, with one exception—the rewarding with Federal offices of the thieves who stole the Presidency for him. But we have no assurance that Garfield would continue the clean administration of Hayes. His record is not an encouraging one. It is upon the pages of the history of corruptions in Congress. It cannot be blotted out. There can be no explanation of it. How different it is with Hancock! Not a dirt of calumny or suspicion can pierce his armor of virtue and honor.

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