

By PHILLO WHITE,

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CAUCUS DEBATE,

In the United States Senate, on the proposed amendment to the constitution relative to the election of President and Vice President of the United States—during which debate, the policy of the late caucus at Washington was incidentally drawn into the discussion.

Mr. Taylor, of Virginia, said he was opposed to the district system, because it had a tendency to deprive all the states, great and small, of a portion of their power, and because it interfered with the separate character of the states, as independent sovereignties. He illustrated this view of the subject by several remarks, and then proceeded to state that he concurred in the opinion that had been expressed in debate, that the district system was calculated to bring the election of Representatives into the House of Representatives.

Mr. T. fully concurred in the views of the gentleman from South Carolina, (Mr. Hayne,) that great evils would arise from the constant interference of Congress in the Presidential election, and that any amendment to the constitution would be very objectionable which would have the effect of making that interference more frequent. He said it had been a great object with him for many years to effect some amendment to the constitution, which might secure the election of the President without troubling Congress with it.

As to the question of a congressional caucus for the nomination of candidates for the Presidency, Mr. T. said, he never had any doubt that such a nomination was a clear violation of the spirit of the constitution. On that subject, he believed, his sentiments were in print. It appeared to him preposterous for gentlemen to contend that, in making such a nomination, they acted in their private capacities. Mr. T. here entered into some argument to prove that members of Congress could not meet at the Seat of Government and nominate a candidate for the Presidency, without making it a public business.

His honourable friend and colleague (Mr. Barbour) had stated that he, Mr. Taylor, had been his instructor in respect to caucusing, and that, he had introduced him into the first caucus he ever attended.

His colleague, if he had received any instructions from him on the subject, had certainly profited greatly by them: he had been a very apt scholar in his lessons, and had far outstripped his master. But his colleague was greatly mistaken. He had never attended a caucus, either in Congress or elsewhere, for the purpose of nominating candidates for offices.

The meeting to which the gentleman alluded was held by some of the members of the Virginia Legislature, for the single purpose of preparing resolutions to be proposed in the legislature. Mr. T. said he did not agree with the gentleman on the other side, that informal meetings for preparing bills or resolutions to be proposed to legislative bodies, had any resemblance to a congressional caucus, intended to transfer from the states their constitutional check and influence in the election of a President, to Congress. It had been said, indeed, that a congressional caucus acted only in their private characters. To illustrate this assertion, we have all heard of what is called a bull-dance. Suppose sixty or seventy of the gravest and most respectable private citizens should assemble and entertain the spectators with jigs, rigadoons and horn-pipes? Would not their private characters be estimated in contemplating the exhibition? But, if the same number of members of Congress should assemble and exhibit a similar scene, would not their public characters be also estimated? So, when assembled for nominating a President, it is their public characters, and those only, which are intended to influence the election, and such an influence destroys that of the states, bestowed by the constitution for self-preservation, by transferring to Congress a power conferred on the states. Their characters will follow them into a caucus, either for the purpose of a bull-dance or for nominating a President.

Mr. Taylor said, that he had not previously mentioned the word caucus in this debate, nor should he have now done so, had he not been personally called upon; but the discussion should be amended.

It was necessary to consider that subject, as having a tendency towards that consolidated and concentrated form of government, towards which we were verging with awful rapidity. At this juncture, it is thought an examination would produce an excitement inconsistent with a discreet consideration of the amendments; and therefore he concurred in the proposed postponement.

Mr. Mills stated the views which induced him to move for the indefinite postponement of this subject. He had believed that it was quite impossible to act upon these resolutions at the present session; that the public sentiment was not yet prepared for any amendment on this subject, and that a sufficient number of the Senate, to carry any one of these amendments, could not be induced to vote for any amendment. He thought the present was not the best time for the consideration of the subject, and that there were so many and so various propositions, that no one of them would be adopted at present.

Mr. Kelly, of Ala. next took the floor, and began with observing that he would endeavour, so far as it was practicable, to withdraw the subject under debate from the fog with which it had been enveloped, and to conform to the rule of debate prescribed by the Chair. He remarked, that the whole discussion on this Caucus question, had arisen from a want of forbearance on the part of the gentlemen who had advocated that measure. The gentleman from New York (Mr. King) had been charged with a change of opinion on the subject of the Constitutional amendments, and had risen in his defence, and justified his disposition to delay acting on the subject at this crisis, on account of the Central Power which now presumed to select candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States.

Whether he actually used the cabalistic and portentous word, Caucus, or not, I hold it, said Mr. K. immaterial. He certainly spoke of a central power, that had arisen in this government, not known to the Constitution, and unfriendly to the liberties of the nation; and whether he called it a Caucus or not, he certainly did, said Mr. K. assure the gentleman that he had no unfriendly feelings towards any person who differed from him in opinion. Now, said, Mr. K. this remark was received with the most extraordinary sensitiveness on the part of these gentlemen—they had, with an ultra chivalrous esprit du corps, immediately rushed into a contest on the Caucus question, and had entered into arguments in support of that measure.

Mr. K. repeated, that a very small portion of forbearance, in that stage of debate, would have prevented the discussion altogether; but, as gentlemen had thought proper to assume a different course, it had certainly become necessary that their remarks should be answered and their arguments refuted. This had been done by the gentleman from South Carolina, in respect to the arguments which were urged on the other side, before he addressed the Senate. But other arguments had still been advanced, and to these, Mr. K. said, he would now proceed to reply.

Waiving, for the present, the constitutional question, he would notice the argument of the necessity of a caucus, as a party measure. Now, without arguing how far a caucus could be justified on that ground, he would say that such a measure could certainly not be justified as a party measure, where only a small minority could be got to unite in it.

He had always understood that the very first principle of the republican party, to which he belonged, was, that a majority only could act or speak for the party; and this, indeed, seemed to be a sacred principle, that could, in no case, be disregarded. But the gentlemen of the present day have conquered the difficulty that embarrassed Archimedes, when he stood a solitary Colossus on the vortex of mechanical science, he exclaimed, "Give me a place to stand, and I'll move the world." Gentlemen have stricken from this sentence the "dox pou sto," and the article kai, and retain only the "ton kosmon kineto."—They now propose to raise the world without a fulcrum. Here Mr. K. was called to order by the Chair. The President said, that, in his opinion, the debate had, on the former days, assumed a much wider range than the strict rules of order would authorize; he himself was not then in the chair, and that he conceived it to be his duty, at this point, to confine the discussion to the precise question before the Senate. Mr. Kelly said, it was his intention to have replied to some of the opinions heretofore expressed, in debate, in favour of the meeting alluded to; but,

as the Chair had decided that he was not in order to do so, he should submit to the decision, and take his seat.

Mr. Barbour, who was in the Chair when the discussion alluded to commenced, said, that he was not in order to say a word in reply to Mr. Kelly's remarks.

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After the lapse of a few minutes, and after another gentleman had risen to speak, the Vice President observed, that the gentleman from Alabama was entitled to the floor, if he chose to progress. Mr. K. then rose, and observed, that he understood himself to have been deprived of the floor, by the decision of the Chair. To which the Vice President replied, that the merits of the question before the Senate might be discussed, and that the gentleman might progress. Mr. K. then observed, that he would not attempt to evade the decision of the Chair; and that if he could not be permitted to reply to political doctrines preached here for home consumption, he had no wish to speak.

DESULTORY.

Singular Munificence.—Robert Veaux, Esq. of Philadelphia, the author of the Life of Anthony Benezet, a few days since, received five hundred dollars from some persons unknown, as a mark of gratitude for the benefit derived by the donor from reading the book; which Mr. Veaux, pursuant to direction, on the 19th instant, paid over to the Provident Society for the Employment of the Poor.

A pugilistic contest took place near Coventry, (Eng.) on the 14th February, between two persons of the name of Smith and Ellis. After a short fight, Ellis was taken away so severely bruised that he died the next day.

The British Monitor says, that the Emperor Alexander had determined to transfer the seat of his government from St. Petersburg to Moscow, and his Imperial Majesty had signified his intention never more to reside in the former city! Should this resolution be carried into effect, there can be little doubt that it is connected with some political views upon Turkey, as the distance from Moscow to the Turkish frontier is trifling, in comparison with that from St. Petersburg.

While the illustrious Riego was lying in a dungeon, just before his murder, a soldier placed as a sentinel over him, one day said, "were you not in prison, I would murder you." "Were I not a prisoner," replied Riego, "you would not dare to look me in the face."

M. Clement, a French chemist, has lately invented an apparatus for the distillation of sea water, which produces six pounds of good fresh water by the burning of one pound of common coal. A single still will supply five hundred pints of it daily, and distillation may be performed during the roughest weather.

It is stated in Silliman's Journal of Science, that a Monsieur Le Roi has contrived a new and very simple method for teaching the art of writing. A thin and perfectly transparent plate of horn, of the usual size of a leaf of paper, has the polish removed from one of its sides. When laid upon a copy, the hand of a child easily traces the letters upon the unpolished side, which neither absorbs the ink, nor allows it to spread—when the whole plate is written over, the ink is washed off with water, and is ready for a new exercise. Thus, the same horn, which is not liable to break, may serve indefinitely, and by this means produce a great economy of paper.

In Onondago county, a short time since, a Miss Cooley, in consequence of the coolness of a betrothed swain, and his subsequent breach of marriage promise, recovered damages to the amount of 250 dollars—a cool sum this, for baulking warm expectations.

Vinegar.—The vinegar manufactured by all the great establishments in London, is made from malt. Most of the Vinegar consumed in Paris, and indeed throughout France, is extracted either from wood or potatoes.

"This is the age of new inventions," says Lord Byron—who must undoubtedly have had his eye on our western world when he committed this veritable remark to paper.

Dr. Buchanan, of Lexington, inventor of a machine with small circular tubes for boilers, which is now in operation in that city, is at present engaged in adapting his engine to a vehicle for flying through the air; and relative to its progress, we find the following in a late Lexington Public Advertiser: "To prevent daily disappointment and interposition, it is necessary to state, that the Flying Machine is not yet so far completed, that the public curiosity can be gratified, by seeing the mode of its operation. As soon as this can be done, notice will be given in the public prints." Well might the year in which this invention is perfected, be designated as the "annus mirabilis."

Galvanic Experiments.—By the sentence of the Court, the body of Johnson, the murderer lately executed at New York, was to be handed over to the Surgeons for dissection. The curious results obtained in Europe by the aid of Galvanism, led to similar experiments in this case. When brought into the room, the face was livid and the body still warm. A powerful Galvanic battery, under the direction of Professor McNevin, assisted by Professor Griscom and Dr. Greenhow, was made to act on different parts of the body. The effect was startling to the spectators. The arms and legs were rapidly contracted and extended, the hands clenched with violence, and a general shivering pervaded the body. The eyebrows were drawn up, and the features distorted in a most horrible manner.—The heart was laid open and seen to beat, and nothing but actual breathing was necessary to induce a belief that the man was restored to life. Many of the spectators were compelled to quit the room. We are gratified to learn that a distinguished physician proposes giving a detailed account of these interesting experiments in the next number of the Medical Journal.—Nat. Adv.

Extraordinary case.—The Indiana papers have contained statements, from time to time, since November 1823, of the facts relative to the oozing of blood from the cheek and eye of Judge Prince's girl, aged 13 years, and of the conversion of that blood, after it had passed the pores of the skin, into cilia, (which the observers term flesh,) cartilage and bone. The testimony of such gentlemen as Doctors Shuler, Thomson, and Decker, and Generals Evans and Neely, would seem to put the matter out of doubt. But there is further evidence. About a dozen of these extraordinary productions, comprehending the three several substances, have been received in this city with the following letter to Dr. Mitchell from Dr. Shuler of Vincennes.—New-York paper.

"Enclosed are specimens of bone and cartilage, with a clot, that were taken from the girl's face. I regret I have no more to send you. I think you will have received some before this time, from Gen. Evans. The specimens I found are smaller than most that made their appearance. The largest of them owes its whiteness, externally, to having been brushed, and is smoother than most of those which I saw. All the bones had some part of their surface smooth; but this smoothness was generally on one side. The cartilaginous substances appear when dry to be of two kinds; the one pale and transparent, and the other yellowish, and more opaque, as you will find by examination. It is probable, I think, if the cartilage and bone were properly analyzed, they would be found to contain a larger portion of gelatine than the regular bone of the human body; and the yellow pieces especially to be composed principally of gelatine. The clot enclosed is not a fair specimen, it being smaller and of a darker colour than most of the others. Many were of a dusky white and of a fibrous structure. The shades of hue were various, &c. Accept the assurance of my high esteem, &c."

To Dr. S. L. Mitchell. L. S. SHULER.

Choosing Sides.—A young minister received a call from two different societies at once, to become their pastor. One was rich, and able to give him a large salary, and well united. The other was poor, and so divided that they had driven away their minister. In this condition, he applied to his father for advice. An aged negro servant, who overheard what was said, made this reply: "Mussa, go where there is 'jest money, and the most devil." He took the advice, and was made the instrument of uniting a distracted church, and converting many souls to Christ.

Something valuable.—"We have seen within these two or three days, a machine, invented by Mr. Joseph Harmer, the great value of which consists in the facility by which all different articles of food requiring culinary preparations, may be rapidly, almost instantaneously, prepared in the course of a minute or two. The mechanism is simple, yet philosophical; a few drops of spirits or of alcohol, scarcely a cent of expense, is sufficient to put the whole in operation, and beef steaks, mutton chops, veal cutlets, eggs, ham and venison, may be got up adapted to the most epicurean appetites."

Richmond Phoenix.

A HAPPY WINDING UP.

We understand, that the Marine Insurance Society of this city, whose stocks were sold at auction on Monday, will divide at least 1000 more than its capital. It is not every institution in these days, which is able to divide par. An example of this sort is, therefore, worthy of notice.—Richmond Compiler.

No person of a good heart understands Christianity without wishing it to be true; and no person of a good judgment ever studied its evidence, impartially, and with a sincere wish that it might be true, who did not really find it so.

In clearing a tomb lately in Boston, the remains of a British Officer were found. It is supposed he was buried with his clothes on, but they had all perished, except his silk sash, which was in perfect order, and the colors bright.

Mr. JOHN RANDOLPH.—The Norfolk Herald likens this gentleman's mouth to a hornets nest: he cannot open it, but out pops a sting. His remark on a motion to appoint a day for the adjournment of Congress, was at once original, sarcastic and apt. "He thought it was time that every member who did not intend to rely on the public crib, but feed out of his own corn-house, should go home and plant his corn."

Disinterested Love.—A young lady told an old gentleman, that she was in love with his estate: "Take it, madam," said he, "and then you will possess two-thirds of me, for mind you have already, and my whole being consisted but of mind, body and estate." "O! then," rejoined the juvenile fair, "it would be very unreasonable, sir, to rob you of all three. Pray keep your body for yourself."

FRANKFORT, KY. MARCH 11.

A man and woman were sentenced to be hanged, at the late Montgomery circuit court. We understand that the woman had been kept as the mistress of the man, and that their crime was the murder of his wife.

Trotting Match.—A trotting match took place a few days since on Long Island, between a celebrated horse called Poppet, belonging to a gentleman in Philadelphia, but formerly owned in New York, and a mare named Betsey Baker, the property of a young gentleman in New York. The distance was three miles, for a purse of \$1000. The mare won the match by about 60 yards, having performed the distance in about 9 minutes 46 seconds. We understand that the knowing ones came out at the little end of the horn.

Alexander of Russia, with magnanimity uncommon to despots, has permitted the erection, near Cracow, of a monument to the memory of Kosciusko, the fellow soldier of Washington, and the brave but unsuccessful vindicator of the liberties of Poland. The monument has become as much an object of veneration to the Poles, as was the person of the hero of respect and admiration to all the world.

WITHERFORD, the prophet.—This celebrated Indian warrior, who led the hostile Indians to the attack on Fort Mims in 1813, which resulted in the massacre of near 400 men, women and children; and who afterwards voluntarily and dauntlessly flung himself into the hands of Gen. Jackson, and demanded his protection, died near Montpelier in the State of Alabama, on the 9th of March last.

The rumor, published by us a few days ago, that Mr. Wirt was about to resign the office of attorney general of the U. S. and that it had been tendered to Mr. Clay, has been contradicted, as far as it regards Mr. Clay. Petersburg paper.