THE ROANOKE NEWS

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1880.

GENERAL BELKNAP, Secretary of War under the Grant administration, is quoted by the New York Sun as having declared to a Federal official in that city, Tuesday, that "General Garfield is the most corrupt man in America. He would steal Heaven's livery to serve the devil."

GEN. JAMES ABRAM GARFIELD was born November 19, 1831, at Orange, Cayahoga county, Ohio. He was not a Methodist preacher, we ascertain, but a Disciple. He fought in many battles. Chester A. Arthur was born in New York State and is but forty-one years old. They call him General, but it is only a militia title and of no consequence.

THE Democratic National Convention will be composed of 756 delegates. North Carolina will have 20. Up to Friday last 644 had been elected. According to the New York Herald they are as follows:

"Tilden 185 Bayard 117 Hancock 54, Seymour 63 Thurman 67, Field 44 Hendricks 53, Randolph 18 (in New Jersey) Chase 14 (in Maine) Morrison 8."

Of Tilden's 185 only 12 are from the South. How is the old man to name the candidate with only 185 followers?

L. Q. WASHINGTON correspondent of the Richmond Commonwealth, gives the following description of Garfield:

"Garfield I have had ample opportunity to study both in the committee room and on the floor. He is very able and accomplished, a close student, very ambitious, and good parliamentarian and man of business. I regard him as a much more able man than Blaine, who is a ready talker, but yet only a smatterer. Garfield is the more cunning and dangerous demagogue of the two. His speeches are more adroit and effective in inflaming Northern passion and prejudice, while at the same time there is an air of moderation and a cant of impartiality which serve to mask his objects. I have observed that he has, of all his crowd, the greatest art in making the strongest points. He is not a chaser-orator. His voice has a sort of camp-meeting whine, but is full and resonant, and he has an air of earnestness remarkable for one who is not troubled with intense convictions on any subject."

HENDRICKS ON THE SITUATION.

In assuming the chairmanship of the Indiana Democratic State Convention, the day after the adjournment of the Chicago Convention, Thomas A. Hendricks, the gallant standard bearer of the Hoosier Democracy, said:

"Yesterday the Republican party laid away forever the grimvisaged warrior and plumed knight together. Today they lie in the obscurity of defeat. The Republican party has said to the nations of the world, that did Gen. Grant no common honor, that he is no longer worthy of sitting at the head of national affairs, and it was no uncommon thing when that statement was made to mankind that Gen. Grant was no longer worthy of support in the National Republican Convention. I have heard Democrats for the last two or three weeks inquiring who is the weakest man at Chicago. I care not for that. I repeat it—I care not for that. The last election, when Tilden and Hendricks were elected, there was a majority on the Democratic side of the white voters of the United States of 1,000,000 men, and of the whites and blacks together there was a majority of more than 250,000. Now, when we meet in Cincinnati to respond to Chicago, we meet with the assurance upon our side that we have this strength, this power, this sentiment of the American people upon our side."

A LOOK AT SOME FIGURES.

It may now be instructive to take a look at some figures which bear upon the coming election. The whole number of electoral votes is 369, of which 231 are cast by the Northern States, and 138 by the Southern. The number necessary to the choice of the President is 185.

As against Garfield, it is not too much to say that any strong, fair, acceptable Democratic candidate could get the entire 138 votes of the Southern States. Indeed, no Republican believes otherwise, or even pretends to the contrary. With these 138 votes, the Democratic candidate would require 47 in the Northern States to give him the 185 which are requested to an election.

Where could an acceptable Democratic candidate look, with a reasonable degree of certainty, for these 47 Northern votes? Here are four States that went for Tilden and Hendricks in 1876, when both political parties did their very best:

New York	35	New Jersey	9
Connecticut	6	Indiana	15
Total			65

It will be perceived that if the Democratic candidate could carry New York and Indiana, they would give him 50 votes, or three more than the 47 needed. Precisely the same result would follow if he could carry New York, Connecticut and New Jersey, though he lost Indiana. But it will be seen that even if he could obtain the 30 votes of Connecticut, New Jersey, and Indiana, he would be 12 shy of the needed 47. Therefore he must carry New York, or make up for its loss by getting the votes of some other Northern State or States.

Let us examine the Republican situation will deal liberally with the chance of the candidate of that party, and give him the benefit of all doubts.

Of course Garfield will not get a vote in the South, and his reliance must rest wholly upon the 231 votes of the North. We will first deduct from these the 65 votes of New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Indiana, which were cast for Tilden and Hendricks. This leaves 166, which is 19 less than the requisite number, 185. But to reach this result we have conceded to the Republicans all the Northern States except the four which for the Democrats in 1876. Are not the Republicans more likely to lose the States west of the Rocky Mountains than they are to get 19 votes in New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, or Indiana? And are there not States clustering around the upper lakes which the Republicans hold by very slender ties?

However, a candid look at the circumstances of the country, as well as at the figures which we have just considered, convinces us that the contest is likely to be sharp and close.—New York Sun.

REFUSES TO BE A CANDIDATE.

The Utica Observer, published at the home of Gov. Seymour, puts at rest, we think, his probable acceptance of the Democratic nomination for President, even if it be tendered to him. This will undoubtedly be unpleasant news to that class of Democrats who are determined to force Gov. S., into the political arena; but fortunately for the party and country we have numbers of true and tried Democrats, who can, and will carry our standard forward to assured and certain victory as if it were placed in the hands of the venerable and much respected statesman of the Empire State. The Observer says:

With reference to Gov. Seymour's position, there is no truth in the report that he has in any way changed or modified his position. He says now, as he has said all the time, that he is not, and cannot be, a candidate, and that he could not accept a nomination, even if one were tendered him. He deems it immoral for any one to enter upon any public office when his health is unequal to the performance of its labors. He alone can judge of this, and cannot yield his decision to the opinions of others. He has never anticipated the possibility of his nomination, and has only regarded the mention of his name as one of the coincidents which always mark political speculations before the meeting of a convention. In reply to any complimentary allusions to himself he has always distinctly and clearly stated his purpose to withdraw from an active part in public affairs, although he felt a deep interest in the success of the party to which he was attached. In stating what he says upon this point we only repeat his own words and we do so to meet his views and not our own.

WHAT NORTH CAROLINA RADICALS THINK.

[Special to the New York Times, 6th.]

RALEIGH, N. C., June 8.—Garfield's nomination meets with no favor among the Republicans of the city. The disappointment over Grant's defeat is intensely mortifying. All hope of carrying North Carolina is utterly gone, and the party is dismayed, disorganized, and confounded. Republicans consider the sectional conflict renewed, that the South will be solidly Democratic, and that the Republicans of the Southern States are handed over to the Democrats for a indefinite period. It is not believed that the party can be rallied for State officers or members of Congress. The election will probably go by default. The resentment against the false position of the Republicans of the State, as set forth by the votes of the delegation at Chicago, is at white heat and cannot be allayed. The attitude of the Republicans when the news of the nomination came, was as if news had been received of some great and appalling public calamity. Not a cheer was heard. The crowd which surrounded the telegraph office for two days dispersed as from a plague stricken spot. Denunciations were loud, and declarations that they will not support him were freely indulged in by the Republicans present. Any other man mentioned would have been more acceptable than Garfield. He is regarded as the lineal descendant of Hayes and John Sherman, and North Carolina Republicans have had enough of both.

AN IMPARTIAL OPINION.

From the Philadelphia Times, 1nd.

McClure, who said on Friday "Watch Garfield" now says: Of the whole 756 delegates there was not a score of them who would have deliberately chosen Garfield as the Republican nominee; but two great obstacles stood before each other in irreconcilable conflict, and the weaker rushed in hopeless despair to the only refuge from annihilation. The Grant men had the opportunity to select Edmunds, but they would have only victory or death to both Grant and Blaine, and the always wavering and finally broken Blaine lines rushes to Garfield to cover their defeat. It was not even the often potent consideration of expediency that dictated Garfield's nomination. It was a necessity to beat Grant, and Garfield happened to be the first to be thrown to the front by the conflicting and fluctuating ties which bewildered the opposition leaders. Had Wisconsin fallen upon Harrison he would have been nominated a ballot earlier than Garfield was made as could, and had California, New Jersey and Massachusetts known out the Washington flag at any time after the forty-second ballot he would have swept through the convention like a whirlwind and his election in November would have been in no sense regarded as doubtful.

I share the general conviction of most of the delegates who made the nomination of Garfield, that he is not likely to prove a strong candidate. He has been a gallant soldier. He has filled a high measure of civil trust. He has risen to the leadership of the house. He is able in disputation and is justly esteemed as patriotic; but few would single him out as a great administrator, and he follows too closely in the footsteps of Hayes to awaken either popular enthusiasm or command intelligent trust. He would not be the type of executive that the humiliating experience of the last nearly four years has impressed upon the positive Republican leaders as imperative necessity. It was the pliable weakness of Hays that made it possible to anchor over three hundred votes in the convention in favor of Grant, with all the blemish of his administration, and while the party will accept Garfield with mechanical unity and perhaps courage and unscrupulousness which made Hayes president will not be expected for Garfield by the only men who could secure it. The nomination makes every Southern State Democratic, makes Ohio doubtful, makes New York and New Jersey hardly debatable for the Republicans, and makes Indiana California, Oregon and even Pennsylvania depend upon the verdict in Ohio in October. If Garfield's own State shall be lost in the preliminary October, the ensuing contest will be ended and his defeat overwhelming; while if he shall carry it by a reduced majority, as is inevitable against a strong Democratic ticket, the election will be no more than possible. He will be assailed in his own State and by his political friends with uncommon bitterness, and his integrity will be as positively questioned as the defamers of Blaine have questioned the purity of his public record. His own constituents and party associates have made this public by standing out as his accusers. That he does not deserve thus to be assailed any more than does Blaine I do not doubt, and the independent press of the country will be faithful in his defense against all defamatory assaults. But they have weakened him in the popular vote.

He will be compelled to wade through a violent flood of partisan bitterness from now until the melancholy days of November, of which he spoke in nominating Sherman, shall come to deliver him from the angry waves of the political strife, and as if it was predetermined that he should be overwhelmed in the race, the nomination of Arthur for Vice-President was tacked upon him to weigh him down in the battle for the controlling State of New York's hopeless one. It is possible for Democrats to defeat the Garfield ticket. Its election will be impossible if statesmanship and patriotism shall be among the conspicuous attributes of the Democratic candidates.

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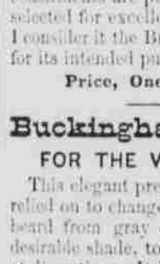

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