

SPIRIT OF JEFFERSON.

Spirit of Jefferson.

BY JAMES W. BELLER,
At Two Dollars per annum, payable in advance.

Tuesday Morning, March 12, 1850.

SPEECH OF HON. RICH'D PARKER.

—We present to our readers, on the first page of today's paper, the speech of Mr. PARKER, and are sure that it will be read with interest by all its constituents. There is nothing in it like the oratorical flourish, but it is an embodiment of discretion, firmness, and a sound logic. While it does not yield to any of the right, it is conciliatory and generous in all its parts. In a word, it is just the speech that is calculated to be of service in the present crisis. If all the men in Congress were to make such speeches in point of time and substance, as the speech of Mr. Parker of the South, and Mr. Parker of the House of Representatives, we venture to predict that the difficulty now pending between the North and the South could be adjusted in less than a week, and that, on a basis satisfactory to the South. It is upon such men that the nation must depend for safety in the hour of trial. It is true that Mr. Parker's speech is not as full upon the various topics growing out of the existing controversy as we would like to have it, but this is to be accounted for in the fact that but one hour in the House will not admit of a full investigation in one speech, of all the questions involved. Mr. P. denies the right of Congress to legislate on the subject of slavery in the territories, and supports this position most abundantly by an appeal to the Constitution. He takes issue with Mr. Clay and others who contend for the operation of the Mexican law in California, excluding slavery. Upon these points his views are most clearly and ably given; and throughout his whole speech he confines himself most closely to the subject under consideration, and takes as a basis of his arguments a dignity and statesmanship worthy of emulation by many of his seniors in both houses of Congress. We commend it to the careful perusal of all our readers, and are sure that there is no true patriot but what will give it his hearty support.

CALHOUN'S SPEECH.

The address of Mr. Calhoun is certainly an able and clear exposition of the controversy between the North and the South. It portrays, with great force, the continued encroachments of the former on the rights of the latter. [But we think that some of the views it contains had as well been omitted. It is not calculated by any means to allay the angry feeling now existing between the North and the South.] The honorable Senator demands too much, when he asks an amendment of the Constitution in order to restore an equilibrium between the two portions of the confederacy. We do not mean that such an amendment would not be an advantage to the South, and would not tend to perpetuate the Union; but it is more than we can ask in the settlement of the question. We have been fighting for the Constitution as it is, and we think that its guaranties, if respected, are sufficient to secure our rights, but if not respected, it could hardly be presumed that an amendment such as Mr. Calhoun would have, would be respected. There is another position of the address to which we except. But as our views have been so often expressed upon that point, it is unnecessary to reiterate them. We cannot but admire, however, the frankness of the man. He seeks not to disguise his real apprehensions about the Union, and the ought that he would place upon it without the slightest protection of his rights. But this does not, in our opinion, make him a disunionist, as some of his traducers have been endeavoring to prove him. We do not believe that there is a disunionist south of Mason and Dixon's Line. On the contrary the course of the South alone can save the Union. The chief causes of the decline and fall of all governments, have been a disregard of fundamental laws, and encroachments upon the rights of a portion of the inhabitants. And these will be the causes of the dissolution of our government.

Calhoun and Webster's Speeches.

The speeches of these two eminent and distinguished Statesmen have been the theme of conversation, and the great focus of attraction, during the last week. Public attention has been directed to the great intellectual banquet that was in store, and as intellectual foral-sons, independent of the important positions assumed by each, it has in no degree been disappointed. The health of Mr. Calhoun has been so precarious during the whole session of Congress, that on this account it is fair to presume that his speech was prepared under the most disadvantageous circumstances. On Monday, he was in the Senate Chamber, but fearful to undergo the labor of delivering his remarks, he solicited Senator Mason of Virginia to read to the Senate what had been previously prepared. Mr. Webster spoke on Thursday, and his speech seems to be universally regarded as one among the ablest and most patriotic of his life. We hope it may put a check to that spirit of fanaticism at the North, which seems pre-determined to wrest from the Southern States this Confederacy every principle that is held sacred, or to sever the Union in twain.

Our Subscribers.

We shall endeavor in our next paper to lay the whole, or substance of both these speeches before our readers, and regret that the area of the country press is not wide enough to keep pace with the interesting discussions that are now, and here for some time been taking place in our National Councils, on a question so deeply affecting the rights of the South, and the harmony of our institutions.

SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.

On Saturday next, 16th inst., an election will be held in the various School Districts of Jefferson County, for School Commissioners to superintend said Districts the ensuing year. Those who feel interested in the prosperity and success of our School system, should give proper attention to the selection of those who are to have this trust. In every District, let the best man that can be selected, freely perform all the duties necessary to be imposed on them, in order to give to the system a fair and proper start.

VIRGINIA CONVENTION BILL.

The bill to take the sense of the people on the call of a State Convention to amend the Constitution, and to provide for organizing the same, passed the Senate on Saturday week without amendment, and it is now the law of the State. The following was the vote:
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Nays—Messrs. Thompson, Kinney, Carline, Tate, Brown, Randolph, Cowan, Harwood, McCallum, Farris, and Tappan—11.
Messrs. Trible, Barber, and Crump were absent.

COUNTY CANDIDATES.

The period of the year having again arrived, when the two great political parties of Virginia begin to marshal their forces for the grand encounter, it is time that the Democracy of Jefferson were deciding whether or not, like valiant soldiers, they would fight for the rights and the maintenance of their principles, or ignominiously surrender at the first blast of the bugle, from the camp of the enemy. For once, and we believe we express the wish of a large majority of our party, we say "fight on, fight on!" It is true that we are almost hopelessly run down by the influence of numbers, and who enters the contest has a reasonable prospect of defeat. Yet this is no reason for yielding the day, without at least breaking a lance. Our country, more decidedly than any other, has been recently re-energized by a judicious, persevering and never-ending opposition. Look at the cheering result in old Berkeley, that like Ephraim of old, was believed to be joined to her idols. Even in old Federal Land, (we fear far all red-emption) her once-remembered Democracy uniformly press her champions whether willing to abide the face of the war. In Berkeley county, as decidedly Democratic as Jefferson is Whig, yet the battle is not always to the strong, as by far too many "Whig triumphs" have abundantly demonstrated. In this county we have lately presented candidates, who, though defeated, have not had more cause for congratulation for as personal pride, but this is to be accounted for in the fact that but one hour in the House will not admit of a full investigation in one speech, of all the questions involved. Mr. P. denies the right of Congress to legislate on the subject of slavery in the territories, and supports this position most abundantly by an appeal to the Constitution. He takes issue with Mr. Clay and others who contend for the operation of the Mexican law in California, excluding slavery. Upon these points his views are most clearly and ably given; and throughout his whole speech he confines himself most closely to the subject under consideration, and takes as a basis of his arguments a dignity and statesmanship worthy of emulation by many of his seniors in both houses of Congress. We commend it to the careful perusal of all our readers, and are sure that there is no true patriot but what will give it his hearty support.

AGRICULTURAL CONVENTION.

An Agricultural Convention met in Richmond on the 20th ult. On the 21st a State Agricultural Society was formed. ANDREW STEVENSON was chosen President, and 32 Vice Presidents were appointed—amongst the number, Col. Josiah W. Warr, of Clarke county, and Charles J. Paulkner, Esq., of Berkeley. The Society is styled "The Virginia State Agricultural Society."

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The fate of Mrs. Miller. We received last evening, from Washington, (says the Baltimore Sun, of Saturday), a communication from parties interested in the fate of the unfortunate Mrs. Miller, wife of Maj. J. H. Miller, of the U. S. Army, which we would be pleased to publish, in compliance with the request made, in our issue of the 27th ult. The communication will, himself, we are convinced, on reflection, be satisfied that no responsible paper could publish his statement, in the form it is written. We will, however, recapitulate such portion of the contents of the communication as may tend to partially accomplish the object in view, and perhaps lead to the unraveling of this terrible mystery.

FREDERICK COUNTY.

The signs are auspicious for a complete triumph in Frederick county this Spring. "Salt-tri-um," much less the casting vote of the "Salt-tri-um," will save Mr. WALKER from a most signal defeat. A small portion of the Democratic party of the county have on two occasions been hoodwinked, but we are proud to believe that the right spirit is now abroad, and giving the power, they intend to reap the fruits of victory.

MARCH COURT.

Monday next being the commencement of our March Court, we hope our friends who know themselves indebted in any way, for more or less, will avail themselves of the opportunity to square balances. If you can't come, send by your neighbor the small postage due the Printer, which to him in the aggregate, is his only reliance to meet a heavy accumulation of expenditures.

WITHDRAWAL.

We are requested by Mr. Jacob GOOD, whose name was announced in our last paper as a candidate for the Legislature from this county, to withdraw his name from the list of those to be voted for at the ensuing election. The gentleman who tendered him his support from all sections of the county, Mr. G. desires to return his most grateful acknowledgments and assurances, that but for considerations entirely private, a court should have continued a candidate under all circumstances and at all hazards.

BURGULARY.

Our exchanges far and near give us details of various burglaries being committed by the breaking open of stores, and the theft of money and merchandise. Burglary seems peculiarly cherished with these depredations, and the manner in which some of our citizens operate, is according to most approved principles.

On Sunday evening last, a man calling himself WASHINGTON, was committed to our jail, charged with having broken open and attempted to rob the Store of Major J. G. Packett at Cameron's Depot. We presume he was not able to secure money, but he had but effected an entrance and barred the door against intruders, when he was discovered.

The Republic of Maryland has rejected the bill passed by the House, providing for taking the sense of the people on the call of a State Convention to amend the Constitution, and to provide for organizing the same. The following was the vote:
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METHODIST CONFERENCE.

The session of the Baltimore Annual Conference is progressing at Alexandria, Va. Bishops Waugh and Morris presiding. The number of Ministers in attendance is unusually large, and more than of any former year. The reports of the churches are generally encouraging, and the prospects of the year are bright. The conference will adjourn, it is supposed, about tomorrow week.

THE BALTIMORE SUN HAS THE FOLLOWING:

ALEXANDRIA, Va., March 8. This morning, Conference was opened by the Rev. Mr. Monroe, who read the first chapter of Hebrews, which was followed with singing and prayer. A large concourse of spectators was present, amongst whom I was glad to notice preachers and members of the "Southern branch" of the church.

Confession proceeded with the examination of supernumerary preachers, when the following honorable passed the ordeal—Joshua Wells, Henry Smith, J. Thomas, J. L. Brownell, James Ward, Isaac B. Cook, James Reid, Jacob McCall, J. H. Young, Stephen Smith, Wm. Houston, John Davis, Joseph White, Wm. Monroe, Thomas G. Harding, Levi N. Moore, David Steele, Thomas Sewal, David Wolf and N. Fish. The examination of local preachers for the year was then taken up—some three or four passed, but before much action was had the hour for adjournment arrived. I shall probably announce the successful candidates in my next letter.

UNION MEETING IN BALTIMORE.

The Union Meeting in Baltimore came off in Monument Square, last Monday evening week, and was composed of members of the two great political parties, who were in favor of the perpetuation of the Union. The meeting was held in the evening, and was attended by a large concourse of people. The meeting was held in the evening, and was attended by a large concourse of people. The meeting was held in the evening, and was attended by a large concourse of people.

When they concluded, a series of resolutions offered by Mr. Giles, expressing an abiding confidence in the patriotism and intelligence of Congress, and professing a profound veneration for the confederacy of the States, were adopted unanimously, after which, with nine hearty cheers, the meeting adjourned.

THE CONVENTION BILL.

We have not as yet received the Bill recently passed both branches of our Legislature, for taking the sense of the people as to the call of a State Convention. It will be published, we presume, in a few days, as it is important that the people should be at once informed as to its provisions. It is proposed to be introduced in the Senate in October, should the people approve the call at the vote to be taken this Spring.

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PATRIOTIC APPEALS.

The Democratic Union Meeting at Tammany Hall, New York, on Saturday night last, was a memorable event. The noble Hinkley delivered a most stirring and patriotic address, breathing the true spirit of devotion to the Union, justice to the South, and uncompromising hostility to the "Wilmot Proviso" and its insidious adherents.

The following patriotic letters, one from Senator DICKINSON of New York, and the other from Gen. LEWIS CASS, were read at this meeting, and called forth, as they so justly deserve, the most cordial and enthusiastic greeting. We hope the same will be read and ponder these eloquent defenses in behalf of the South, the Union as it is, and the Constitution in its purity.

From the Hon. H. S. Dickinson.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14, 1850. GENTLEMEN: I am honored with yours of the 11th inst., inviting me to attend and address a meeting of the Democratic Union, to be held at Tammany Hall, on Saturday evening next, for the purpose of taking counsel upon the present crisis. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and to thank you for the invitation. I will not withhold from you my gratification I have experienced since learning that the acting Democracy of this great city were about to take measures so eminently worthy of the proudest State in the confederacy, and so appreciatively demanded by the Union as it is, and the Constitution in its purity.

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The sovereign States of this confederacy are now appropriately contributing blocks of their able and grand talents to strengthen and adorn a monument erected to the memory of the greatest and best of men. Would to Heaven they would each send his gifts of peace and good will, to strengthen and adorn a monument erected to the memory of the greatest and best of men. Would to Heaven they would each send his gifts of peace and good will, to strengthen and adorn a monument erected to the memory of the greatest and best of men.

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Whig party, too, will unite in similar efforts, and attempt also to avert the calamities suspended over our common country. They have let us do, and have the same interest in her prosperity and in the stability of her institutions. Let every citizen put his hand to the good work, and it will be done. I cannot attend your meeting Saturday evening. My public duties will detain me here, but my heart and my hopes will be with you. Your fellow citizen,
LEWIS CASS.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

On Monday, in the House, a communication from the Senate was read, informing the House of the passage of the "Convention Bill," with amendment applying the omitted tenet of the various counties of Wyoming and Raleigh. The amendments to the bill omitted an act to take the sense of the People upon the call of a Convention, and providing for organizing the same, being read, a motion was made by Mr. [Name] that the bill be indefinitely postponed, and it was determined in the affirmative—yeas 37, nays 70.

The occasion, in my judgment, demands, the best efforts which patriotism can put forth, and I shall look anxiously for the excited tone and pacific spirit which I am sure will distinguish your proceedings. The motives of all who attempt to arrest the career of madness will be perverted and assailed; their action condemned, and they denounced as "dough-faces" and propagandists, in course of time, and before long, they will be engaged ever waver, even amid dungeons and death. Let us, then, amid "impartial and peace," emulate their noble example.

The sunshine patriot and the summer soldier will shrink from his country's cause in a day, and from his country's side in an hour. Let us, then, amid "impartial and peace," emulate their noble example.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen, your friend and fellow citizen,
ROBERT J. DILLON, James T. Brady, Daniel E. Sickles, Augustus Steiell and Edward C. West, Committee.

From the Hon. Lewis Cass.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13, 1850. GENTLEMEN: I have just received your invitation to attend the meeting proposed to be held at Tammany Hall, on Saturday evening next, for the purpose of taking counsel upon the present crisis. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and to thank you for the invitation. I will not withhold from you my gratification I have experienced since learning that the acting Democracy of this great city were about to take measures so eminently worthy of the proudest State in the confederacy, and so appreciatively demanded by the Union as it is, and the Constitution in its purity.

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