

To Arms!

The Conservative Executive Committee on yesterday adopted the following important resolution. It is the trumpet call to arms! And can it fail to summon to the field the gallant leaders in their country's defense? Never was there a period of such peril in the history of the State—never a time when the heroism of the public welfare, the heroism of the sacrifice of feeling, opinion, and self, for the general safety—the heroism of devoting time and self incessantly and vigorously to the common cause.

The leaders, we are sure, will respond. The committee propose to add to the spirit of the campaign by inducing prominent speakers to canvass the State at large, and have invited that able debater Mr. PATRICK HENRY AVLEY to do so. He has consented and will soon set out on his important mission. Such is the imminence of the danger that the State should be even now in a blaze of excitement with preparation for the day of battle. It needs but to arouse the public mind to save Virginia.

The resolution is as follows: "Resolved, That the county and district canvassers of the Conservative party are earnestly exhorted to renewed and redoubled exertions in the preparation for the approaching contest and the prosecution of it. The paramount importance of the situation and the best means of our defense are clear and cannot be overestimated; neither can we overestimate the necessity of securing a good Legislature and the best man we can for Governor. These considerations clearly should call forth our earnest and devoted attention. We therefore resolve, in behalf of our glorious old Commonwealth:

White and Black.
The great evil of the hour is the alienation of the races in this State by the machinations of those who are represented, soul and body, by Governor WELLS. That man is the life of the proscriptive party, who, trusting to the support of the blacks, seek to fill them with malice towards the whites; and who, fearing the strength of the whites, seek to impose disabilities upon them and, by one trick and another, to put the government under the control of the colored voters. They know that if they can only keep the black man under the delusion that they are his best friends, and that the white natives are his enemies, all the power that may be acquired through the colored vote will be conferred to their hands—that all the little streams of government disbursement and pickings will flow into their pockets.

With this policy they proceed to agitate the colored people and to fill their minds with every vanity and folly—charming them with such flattery as that with which the fox charmed the crow, and induced her, in the attempt to sing, to drop the bit of cheese which he so much coveted. It is no wonder that they should be inflated with their consequence, and with the conceit that, just out of slavery, uneducated and inexperienced as they are, they are altogether ready and competent to fill the highest offices in the State! The logical consequence of this system of hypocritical flattery and seduction is shown upon the WELLS ticket, which offers to this State an Ohio negro for Lieutenant-Governor and for President of the Senate of Virginia!

This is the most unfortunate thing in the world for the colored people. It is monstrous to press them without further protection upon the government of the State. It is monstrous thus to claim such responsible positions for beings so palpably incompetent. The mere proposition is bad enough; but should it meet with success, the consequences upon the State in destroying confidence and bringing disaster upon public credit would be fearful, while it would read upon the blacks with a force that would be calamitous.

Look at the dreadful attitude of the State should the barbarous demagoguery of WELLS succeed—should, indeed, society be turned upside down, experience and intelligence banished from public places, and inexperience and recklessness incompetency fill them. What department of State, what one of the public institutions, would escape confusion and derangement? The incursion of an element so debauched and disorderly would bring a crash upon all the public and private interests, and capital and labor would be involved alike in ruin. The institutions of learning under the rule of such barbarous demagoguery would be utterly ruined, as in the case of Columbia College and Chapel Hill, and the whole system of education in the State would perish.

Will the people of Virginia—by folly, by wilful suicide—permit these horrors to fall upon them while they have the power to prevent them? We shall see. If they do, they will have time to repent; for the destructive, once in power, will manage to hold it until remorse will have thoroughly racked the souls of those who shall be so recreant to their public duty and their solemn obligations to society as to assist in this horrid consummation by apathy and impracticability!

Which of Them?
The strife of races which has come of the heartless and greedy schemes of the plunderers of the State appears in startling contrast in the audiences that assemble to listen to the speeches of the two candidates for Governor of the Commonwealth. WELLS, whose broad and ample platform would embrace, restore peace and good will to society and general prosperity to commerce and industry, is welcomed by the white people, and by them attentively heard. They group around him and applaud his views, which are so liberal—so free from anything to disturb the quiet and order of the community—indeed, so full of all that ensure their complete restoration.

On the other hand the representative of discord—the man who, like the robber, is spreading the flames that he may reap of the valuables amidst the burning ruins—the man who now fills the office of Governor of this State—addresses only blacks. He hovers ever like a white gull over a black, black sea; and like the gull is ever looking down with his keen eyes to see what he can gather up out of that sea to fill his maw and appease his greedy appetite. He has no other sentiment, no other use for the sea.

Which of these two will you choose, people of Virginia? Will you say neither? Then you will not be gratified; one of them you must have. To say there is no choice between them is absurd—to decline to make a choice is worse.

"Notwithstanding."
One of the most high-toned Virginians we ever knew, as well as one of the kindest masters, was writing a letter to one of his slaves, and having written down all that had been recited, inquired, "Do you want to say anything more?" "No," said he. "Mass," "cep'n you put in de word 'notwithstanding'—dat's a good word." And so it is—capital. Let us commend it to all those worthy gentlemen who are prone to summing up the disagreeable things of these times. Nothing could be happier than at the conclusion of the summary to say, "Notwithstanding all these matters—so painful, so repulsive—I will do what I can to save my State from at least a part of the

humiliations prepared for her; and I will make the best of the situation, choosing the least and assisting to avoid the worst of evils; and, in that reconstruction which must take place and can't be postponed, thus save her from horrors not yet imagined." This, indeed, would make "notwithstanding" a good word in a good place. It would be that golden fruit enclosed in silver.

The County Organizations.
We state again that we have no doubt that President GRANT to the last moment urged that the county organizations should be submitted separately to the popular vote. While we are entirely satisfied that Governor WELLS was at the bottom of the opposition which led to its retention in the constitution, we think it altogether probable that one of the arguments against its retention from the constitution was suggested or seconded by a gentleman of high standing and reputation, and who has much to do with the subject of education.

We make no imputation upon the intention of this gentleman. We have regarded him as a man incapable of malice and mere partisanship, and do not doubt that he considered that the striking out of the county organizations clause would endanger the system of primary education. He is enthusiastic on this subject.

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The Ethics of Finance.

There is a great falling-out in the trading morality of large cities in this country. It would be a happy thing if there could be a recurrence to the healthy ethics of the earlier days of this nation, especially with regard to men's honor as custodians of other people's property. It should be considered a breach of honor in any man acting as an agent, entrusted with large amounts of the property of his customers, to embark in speculation in gold, or, indeed, any of those numerous kinds of hazard of the day by which fortunes are suddenly made, and, of course, as suddenly lost. There is nothing more demoralizing, and as sure as a man enters upon it, misfortune will drive him to a misappropriation of the money entrusted to him.

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There is a view of the subject that is but just to the liberal candidate for Governor. As any other citizen might have done, he used in the most active manner (as we know) his influence and argument in behalf of taking out the much mooted clause from the constitution—both with Congress and the President. He believed from what he saw and heard that this would be done. He so expressed himself, and no man in Virginia is more surprised than he is that it is not. Now, as he has no power in the premises, he cannot be considered as having violated any promise, and therefore cannot be held to any accountability. He stands exactly where he did as the advocate of the most liberal policy, and, if elected, to continue to advocate that policy until it is completely triumphant.

A great failure has just happened in New York in which a banking-house is slated to be short in its gold contracts \$8,000,000! The "short" business is steadily rising in magnitude! This is smartly above any of the late failures which had thrown in the shade all preceding failures. This great house which had this great fall—SCHENKER & Co.—is said to have been large shippers of petroleum and provisions, and "heavy" dealers in gold, stocks, and bonds, for "Europe." We infer that these people were entrusted with other people's funds for special purposes, and that their reckless speculations exhausted their own means and what they had of other people's. Whether this be correct or not, the supposition points to a great source of the pecuniary troubles of this country. Money intended for other purposes is used in speculation in violation of prudence and honor. This ends in great injury to hundreds whose confidence is abused, while by the introduction of means not properly devoted to speculation the standard of value is swayed from its true point, and made again to vacillate injuriously when the natural reaction from this immoral dealing follows.

While the business rectitude and probity are declining under the ravages of the rage for speculation, the magnitude of the frauds and the recklessness of the gambling in gold and stocks are increasing. See the immense amounts of the deficits of falling houses in these times. Could any one have dreamed of such thirty years since? They are the result of an utter departure from honorable trade, and a resort to every dishonest artifice which greed and cunning may suggest. Speculation has no solid basis. Men buy on margins, the article bought is not delivered; but the difference in value when bought from that prevailing when it is delivered is made up by one or the other as the case may be. Men of straw—mere gulls—thus enter the market, and their transactions affect prices as though they were solid capitalists. These, again, are employed as rascally agents by millionaires in the business of producing a fictitious rise or fall in values not warranted by any fact or cause. And by such means is the country continually troubled with vibrations in even so solid a thing as gold, and those engaged in honest trade are made to suffer.

If there were some means of breaking up this secondarily system of gold and stock speculation, and all transactions were reduced to cash and instant conclusion, it would be a happy thing for the country, its morals, and its finances.

If to this grand revolution we could enforce a more strict integrity in the matter of the security of deposits with agents and bankers, it would be a great blessing indeed. But these reforms depend upon each other. Put an end to the present system of stock gambling and the wild man of speculation and the maintenance of the integrity of custodians of other people's money would be comparatively an easy matter.

No man should entrust a dollar to the care of one whom he knew to be a speculator in gold, or even to have made a single transaction of that kind. It is not easy to stop with one. If it brings a loss there must be one more to regain what's lost. If it results in profit, why one more will double the profit, and so on.

But is not all this depravity inseparable from our system of finance—with two kinds of money—gold and greenbacks? The Government demanding gold and paying greenbacks? Deriving profit from its gold and redeeming its own obligations in the

green paper? While this is so there can be no steadiness in order—a well-guarded system of finance—no protection from speculation, pressure, and convulsions, with their swarm of frauds and depravities.

The WELLS party in Philadelphia have nominated four negroes and two whites for the Legislature. This is the madness of despair. They risk the whole struggle upon the colored cohorts.

"Five per cent. increase of taxes! Only think! Do you own a house worth \$2,000? If so, under this tax you would pay an annual rental of \$100 (one hundred), and so in proportion on your entire estate." *—Richmond Dispatch.*

Five mills on a dollar is hardly five per cent., neighbor; nor is "five per cent. increase of taxes" \$100 on a house valued at \$2,000, but on a house the taxes upon which amount to \$2,000. But we confess we haven't any idea as to what the Virginia is talking about, nor what there is in the constitution that justifies such extravagance of language. We shall certainly vote against the constitution if the Virginia can make good even this one change. Now, give us the provision.

THE LA PIERRE HOUSE, PHILADELPHIA.—Some of the most delightful of our remembrances of hotel-life relate to this admirable house. Under the glorious administration of the WELLS it was systematic, elegant, and luxurious. Such a table as they kept we have seen nowhere. The hotel has passed finally under the direction of Messrs. BITTERTON & Co., capital landlords, and has been restored to its pristine excellence. Its location, at the corner of Broad and Chestnut streets, makes it quiet and salubrious, while the most business portions of the city are to it immediately accessible. Of all the hotels of the city of PHILADELPHIA, it is the most agreeable, and its company the least objectionable. We sincerely commend it.

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