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THE PAST—THE PRESENT—FOR THE FUTURE.

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MARYLAND SENATE. We publish this week communications from Dr. Duvall, of Montgomery, and Mr. Luthicum, of Anne Arundel county, two of the recusant electors, in reply to certain rumors that they intended to enter the college and qualify as electors. The grounds assumed are of grave import, and have caused much discussion—but, as we cannot express our own views upon them without rendering ourselves liable to the imputation of being biased by party, we will not, at present, do more than recommend them to the consideration of our readers, as forming one of the most curious chapters that has yet appeared in the history of the "Revolution." Resolved as those gentlemen are not to enter the college, it is now pretty certain that a senate will not be elected. To meet this emergency, the "reformers or revolutionists" have held meetings in Frederick county and in Baltimore city, and appointed delegates to meet in convention in Annapolis on the 3d Monday of the next month, to devise a temporary government, (by continuing in power the officers of the state), on the presumption that the failure to elect a senate dissolves the present government. The example of Baltimore and Frederick will, doubtless, be imitated by other sections of the state, and a convention will assemble at the time and place designated. On the other hand, it is insisted that the present constitution contains the principles of its own preservation, and that the failure to elect a senate at the time specified does not dissolve it; inasmuch as the result produced by the refusal of the minority of electors to discharge the duty for which they were elected, might have been produced by fortuitous circumstances, and that no government was ever based on such contingencies—consequently, the present senators must remain in office until their successors are chosen according to the forms prescribed by the constitution. The two parties entertaining these views, it is pretty certain that they will come into open collision, and, if a proper spirit is not maintained, will greatly add to the excitement which already exists on the subject.

At the last advices from Annapolis, the majority, increased to *twenty-two* by the accession of Mr. Sellman, remained in session, adjourning from day to day.

propose to do, have continued to circulate the report that I intend to go to Annapolis, and afford an opportunity to the gentlemen there assembled, to form a senate. It appears to me to be a duty that I owe to the people of the whole state, to put to rest at once, and I hope, forever, this idle, mischievous and unfounded rumor. For that purpose, I now publicly declare that I do not intend to change the ground assumed by me, as one of the nineteen electors. It was not taken without full reflection, and subsequent observation, has served to satisfy me that by the course we have pursued, and by it alone, can the people of Maryland be speedily and peaceably restored to their inalienable rights and privileges. The issue of the last election, alone, ought to satisfy every reasonable and unprejudiced man that a convention ought to assemble to revise and amend the constitution of this state. The election was in some degree a trial of strength between two great political parties. By one of them twenty, and by the other sixty members of the house of delegates have been chosen and by an examination of the returns of the election, appears that the twenty delegates elected by one party, represent about 176,000 of the free white inhabitants of the state, and the sixty delegates have been chosen by about 113,000 free white inhabitants.

If there was then, no other defect in the constitution but that which produces such a gross inequality as this, in the power possessed by the people to vote for those who are to levy and disburse taxes—to participate in the passage of all laws, and in the formation of the executive and judicial departments of the government, the constitution of Maryland would be utterly unworthy of the age. But the unjust apportionment of representatives to the house of delegates is not the only objection felt by me, and entertained by those who are my constituents, to the present state constitution. I desire to see all life estates abolished, and a less tyrannical, and more economical judiciary establishment created. I desire to see power given to the people to elect their own governor, senators and county officers, and hope the day is not far distant when Marylanders will enjoy like privileges, in the choice of all those who make and administer the laws, to those that are now enjoyed by the people of nearly every state in the union. I know that great pains are taken by many men to inflame the public mind and intimidate the friends of a convention. These artificers for that purpose have had, and shall have, no influence on my determination. I know the present constitution was formed by a convention of delegates chosen by the people. If the people of Maryland, in the midst of a revolution, could calmly assemble, by their representatives, and form a constitution, in the name of common sense, why cannot we do so now. We are at peace with the whole world, and have no cause to apprehend that we shall not continue at peace with one another. And if so, with the advantages of experience under our own constitution, and with opportunities to observe the action of governments all around us, such as the people of Maryland appear to desire, why may we not peaceably, speedily and harmoniously proceed to do justice to all parts of the state, by forming a constitution well calculated to protect and foster all its various interests.

The population of the state appears to be willing to make an honorable compromise with the counties, by giving to each of them, without regard to the numbers of their inhabitants, the right to elect a senator, and there can be no good reason why the representatives of the counties should not in return give to the population a small increase of the number of its representatives in the house of delegates. All good and permanent governments are formed in compromise, and I have no reason to fear that the people of Montgomery, in the midst of whom I was born and have ever lived, will disapprove the course which I have adopted, since it is calculated to afford an opportunity to the whole people of the state to meet in convention, and there by a spirit of magnanimity worthy of freemen, lay the foundations of a government, republican in its character and impartial in its dispensations of benefits and burdens to the whole people, for whose good and happiness it is to be created. The political panic makers may; for a time, stagger and alarm the timid. But there will be such a reaction as will carry dismay to the hearts of those desperate men, who, for mere party purposes, are now jeopardizing the peace and good order of society, by circulating the most disgraceful and unfounded falsehoods.

To the people of Montgomery, by whom I was elected, I beg leave to tender now publicly my heartfelt gratitude for their generous and prompt approbation of my course, and to invite them to

unite with the republicans of other portions of Maryland, in that spirit which did honor to, and immortalized the patriots of seventy-six, in the good and just work of establishing peaceably and soberly a form of government worthy of the descendants of Chase, Carroll and Paca. I am, very respectfully, your fellow citizen,

WASHINGTON DUVALL.

From the Baltimore Republican of Wednesday last.

TO THE PUBLIC.

I perceive, that some of the newspapers continue to insist that I am about to go to Annapolis, and unite with the twenty-one electors in the election of a state senate. Nothing that I have said justifies such statements. After I returned from Annapolis, having signed the address to the people of Maryland, with eighteen other electors, I said publicly that I would not go again to Annapolis to elect a senate, unless instructed to do so, by a majority of those who had elected me; and that I would not, even if such instructions were given, assist to make a senate, until I was first fully satisfied that the other eighteen gentlemen, who have signed the address with me, could justly say that I had fulfilled all the engagements into which I have entered with them. Several weeks have passed since I made these public declarations, and no such instructions have been given to me; neither do I believe that any considerable portion of my political friends wish me to go again to Annapolis as an elector of senate. This being the case, I desire to say distinctly, that I have neither heard nor seen any thing to make me change the opinions expressed in the address to the people of Maryland; nor have I any intention whatever, to change the position taken by me in that address. This statement is given in the hope that it will assist to quiet the excitement, which unfortunately, and without good cause, prevails. The people of Maryland, when once well satisfied that they have the power to amend the old constitution of the state, or form a new one, by choosing delegates to a convention, will proceed, I have no doubt, to elect their delegates to a convention for that purpose. And I am equally confident that my friends and neighbors of Anne Arundel county, of all political parties, have too much good sense and love of country, to refuse to meet the people of other counties of the state, to arrange all our public affairs, so as to produce general content and prosperity. It is proposed that each county shall send an equal number of delegates to the convention; and in such a body, no man ought to doubt, that all parts of the state, will find complete protection for all kinds of property, and all possible public and private interests. I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

WESLEY LINTHICUM.

Baltimore, Oct. 11th, 1836.

MASSACHUSETTS MECHANICS.

From the Boston Courier.

The Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic association celebrated, on Thursday, the 16th inst. its tenth triennial festival. The association walked in procession from Concert Hall to the Odeon, where prayers were offered by the Rev. Mr. ROGERS, select passages of scripture were read by the Rev. Mr. PIERPONT, and an address was delivered by JAMES L. HOMER, esq. The address was plain, practical, sensible and judicious, without affectation of style or delivery. The orator took a rapid view of some of the improvements of late years, and urged the propriety of vigorous measures to promote their progress.

After the services at the Odeon, the procession was again formed, and proceeded to Faneuil Hall, where a dinner was provided. STEPHEN FAIRBANKS, esq. president of the association, presided at the table. Among the guests were the mayor and aldermen, the president of the common council, judge Thacher, hon. Abbot Lawrence, the president of the senate, Rev. Messrs. Homer; of Newton, Rogers, Pierpont and Sharp, of Boston; Messrs. W. Sturgis, J. Phillips, G. Bond, and T. B. Wales, merchants; several distinguished members of the bar, the president and past presidents of the Salem Mechanic association, &c. &c. The Rev. Dr. HOMER made a prayer at the table.

After thanks had been returned by the Rev. Dr. SHARP, the president gave the following sentiment: "*Agriculture, commerce and the mechanic arts—The base, the shaft and the capital of the column which supports the colossal figure of our republic. May each branch be like the tree of life, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations.*"

Among other toasts were the following:

Practical mechanics—May their workshops be schools of science, where industry can produce wealth from the cheapest material—may their houses be the abode of peace, the home of content, the sanctuary of virtue.

REFORM OR REVOLUTION IN MARYLAND.

The following address from Dr. Washington Duvall, the recusant elector of senate from Montgomery county, appeared in the "Baltimore Republican" of Tuesday last.

TO THE PUBLIC.

I had hoped that nothing would occur to make it necessary for me to appear again before the public. In the address of the nineteen electors which I signed, it is announced to the people of Maryland, that no one of them would participate in the formation of a senate. The reasons for that determination are succinctly given in that paper. They were understood by me when I signed it—they were sanctioned by me then—they are adhered to now, and at no time since that publication was first made, have I by act or word justified a belief that I would change the position then assumed; on the contrary, I have uniformly declared before and since the last election, that I had deliberately formed the opinion expressed in the address, and had solemnly determined to act in accordance with it. Notwithstanding this unequivocal and undisguised course on my part, some busy bodies who appear to think they know better than I do myself what I