

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC  
CONVENTION, HELD AT  
BALTIMORE, JULY 9, 1872, PP.1-  
77**

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**VARIOUS**

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*Democratic party National Convention, Baltimore, 1872*

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

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OF THE

NATIONAL

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION,

HELD AT

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REPORTED FOR THE CONVENTION.

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## NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

BALTIMORE, MD., Tuesday, July 9, 1872.

THE National Democratic Convention, to nominate candidates for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States, assembled at Ford's Opera House, in the City of Baltimore, at 12 M., July 9, pursuant to the call of the National Democratic Executive Committee.

THE HON. AUGUST BELMONT, Chairman of the National Democratic Committee, appeared upon the platform in the performance of his duty of calling the Convention to order, and was greeted with loud cheers. When quiet was restored he spoke as follows:—

### *Speech of the Hon. August Belmont.*

GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION.—It is again my privilege to welcome the delegates of the National Democracy, who have met in order to present to the American people the candidates for President and Vice President for whom they solicit the suffrage of the Democratic and Conservative voters of this great Republic. (Applause.) At our last National Convention, on the 4th of July, 1869, I predicted that the election of General Grant would result in the gradual usurpation of all the functions of the Government by the Executive and by Congress, to be enforced by the bayonets of a military despotism. The vast majority of the people of the United States have witnessed, with grief and sorrow, the correctness of that prediction, and they look forward with fear and apprehension to the dangers which are threatening us if, by the re-election of Gen. Grant, the policy thus far pursued by the radical party can be continued. The thinking men of both parties have become alive to the fact that we are now living under a military despotism, overriding the civil authority in many States of the Union; that by the enactment of arbitrary and unconstitutional laws, through a depraved majority in Congress, the rights of these States are infringed and trampled upon, and that Caesarism and centralization are undermining the very foundations of our Federal system, and are sweeping away the constitutional bulwarks erected by the wisdom of the fathers of the

Republic. These abuses have become so glaring that the wisest and best men of the Republican party have severed themselves from the Radical wing, which is trying to fasten upon the country another four years' reign of corruption, usurpation, and despotism; and, whatever individual opinion we may entertain as to the choice of the candidate whom they have selected in opposition to Gen. Grant, there cannot be any doubt of the patriotic impulses which dictated their action, nor can any fault be found with the platform of principles upon which they have placed their candidate. (Loud and continued applause.)

The resolutions of the Cincinnati Convention are what the country requires, and they must command the hearty support of every patriot throughout the vast extent of our land. (Applause.) In the struggle which is before us we must look to principles and not men, and I trust that no personal predilections or prejudices will deter us from doing our duty to the American people. (Great cheering.)

Gen. Grant was a good and faithful soldier during our civil war; his stubborn and indomitable courage helped to crown the Union arms with victory; and the American people have rewarded his services with the most unbounded generosity. I am willing to concede that his intentions on taking the Presidential chair were good and patriotic, but he has most signally and sadly failed in the discharge of the high trust imposed upon him by the confidence of a grateful people. He is at this moment the very personification of the misrule which is oppressing us, and his re-election is fraught with the most deplorable consequences for the welfare of the republic, and endangers the liberties of our people. (Applause.)

On the other hand, Mr. Greeley has been heretofore a bitter opponent of the Democratic party, and the violent attacks against myself individually, which have from time to time appeared in his journal, certainly do not entitle him to any sympathy or preference at my hands. But Mr. Greeley represents the National and Constitutional principles of the Cincinnati platform (enthusiastic cheering), and by his admirable and manly letter of acceptance, he has shown that he is fully alive to their spirit, and that, if elected, he means to carry them out honestly and faithfully. (Great cheering.) Should you, therefore, in your wisdom, decide to pronounce in favor of the Cincinnati candidates, I shall for one cheerfully bury all past differences, and vote and labor for their election with the same zeal and energy with which I have supported heretofore, and mean ever to support, the candidates of the Democratic party. (Loud applause.) The American people look with deep solicitude to your deliberations. It is for you to devise means by which to free them from the evils under which they are suffering. But, in order to attain that end, you are called upon to make every sacrifice of personal and party preference. However much you might desire to fight the coming battle for our rights and liberties under one of the trusted leaders of the Democratic party, it will become your duty to discard all considerations of party tradition if the selection of a good and wise man outside of our own ranks offers better chances of success. (Applause.) You must remember that you are not here only as



Democrats, but as citizens of our common country, and that no sacrifice can be too great which she demands at your hands. (Applause.)

And now, before I propose to your acceptance the temporary Chairman of this Convention, permit me to detain you one moment longer by a few words of an entirely personal character. With my present action terminate my official functions as Chairman of the National Democratic Committee, -- an office which, by the confidence of my constituents and the courtesy of my colleagues, I have held for twelve consecutive years. During all that time I have striven with honest zeal, and with all the energy and capacity which God has given me, to do my duty faithfully to the party and to the country, and to render myself worthy of the great trust confided to me. (Applause.) While I was grieved and deeply mortified to see at various times my motives and actions misconstrued by several Democratic papers, and that some even descended to the fabrication of the most absurd falsehoods concerning my social and political conduct, I have had the proud and consoling satisfaction that my colleagues on the National Committee, and all those who know me, did justice to the integrity and purity of my intentions in all the trying situations in which my official position had placed me (applause); and let me tell you, gentlemen, that there is not one among you who bears a warmer and truer affection for our party and our country than I have done and ever shall do. (Applause.) You love this great republic, your native land, as you do the mother who gave you birth; but to me she is the cherished bride and choice of my youth; the faithful and loving companion of my manhood; and now that I enter upon the sere and yellow leaf of life, I cling to her with all the fond recollections of the manifold blessings I have received at her hands. (Applause.) I retire from the position which I have held to take my place in the rank and file of that great party who senatorial, constitutional, and conservative principles have claimed my unwavering allegiance for the past thirty years, and as long as the Almighty will spare my life I shall never falter in my love and devotion to our party and our country.

Mr. Belmont closed amid loud and enthusiastic cheering. When the applause had subsided, Mr. Belmont resumed: --

GENTLEMEN, -- I have the honor to propose to you, as your temporary Chairman, a distinguished and venerable citizen of Virginia, a grandson of the patriot and statesman Thomas Jefferson. It is an auspicious omen that a scion of the author of the Declaration of Independence is to inaugurate the struggle of the Democracy for freedom and equality for every American citizen, and against oppression and tyranny in our fair land. I propose to you, as your temporary Chairman, Mr. Thomas Jefferson Randolph, of Virginia.

The nomination was received with loud cheers. Mr. Randolph, on coming forward, was greeted with a round of applause, and spoke as follows: --

I am aware that the very great honor conferred on me by this body is due to no personal merit of my own, but is a token of respect to the State from which I come; and a recognition of other circumstances possibly adventitious. I am perhaps the oldest member of this body, and a life of eighty years spent in the Democratic-Republican party constitutes me a senior member. (Applause.) I remember freshly every Presidential contest from the first election of Jefferson to the present time, and I can say with truth that I remember none which involved higher questions of personal liberty, local self-government, honest administration, and constitutional freedom, than the present, or one which demanded of our party and our people a calmer or more earnest recourse to prudential principles. (Applause.) It strikes me as the duty of this hour and of this body to wrest the Government from the hands of its present despotic and corrupt holders, and to place it in honest hands; to restore to the citizen everywhere the proud consciousness of personal right, and to all the States perfect integrity of local self-government. (Applause.) This, with the recognition of the supremacy of the civil constitution and the law, will, in my judgment, discharge all our present duty. (Applause.)

The Rev. PENNY STICKS, D. D., of the Methodist Episcopal church, was then introduced, and opened the proceedings with prayer, as follows:—

#### *Prayer.*

Almighty God, Maker of all things, Redeemer, Preserver, and Judge of all men, we come before Thee with hearts full of gratitude for the mercies which have been lavished on us in the past and at present, and with hope and confidence in Thee for the future. We thank Thee for all Thy mercies shown to our revolutionary fathers. In the darkest days of their colonial history Thou didst guide them, as with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, and didst enable them, under Thy guidance, to achieve success in the first war for independence; and when peace had come Thou didst favor them with wisdom and patriotism to lay broad and deep the foundations of the great government which has been preserved by Thy providence to be a blessing to them and their posterity. We look to Thee to-day for the guidance of this body, called together from the mountains of Vermont and from the savannas of the South, from the West and from the East—called together in council to devise ways and means to meet the emergency that is now upon the country; and we pray God to give to this Convention that wisdom which is profitable to direct. Oh that Thy blessing may come down upon our whole country, united through East and West, North and South, as a common brotherhood; that the time may speedily come when there shall be no North, no South, no East, no West known in this broad land; but when the American people shall become free, prosperous and happy. We pray for Thy blessing upon all who are in the General and in the State Governments, and we pray God that the civil and religious liber-

ties of this nation, and that the Constitution, the organic law of this nation, may endure as long as the sun and moon shall endure. Hear us in a heavenly and merciful acceptance, give us, in Thine own good time, a quiet hour to meet death in, and, through infinite riches and mercy and grace in the Mediator, give us a home sanctified in Christ. Amen.

#### *Temporary Organization.*

Mr. FREDERICK O. PRINCE, of Massachusetts, was unanimously chosen temporary Secretary.

On motion of Mr. MADIGAN, of Maine, E. O. Perrin, of New York, was elected temporary Reading Secretary.

Mr. H. D. McHENRY, of Kentucky, offered the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That this Convention, in receiving the announcement of the retirement of the Hon. August Belmont from the Democratic National Executive Committee, of which he has been Chairman for the past twelve years, desire to express their sense of his long, able and efficient services in that most responsible and difficult position, and confidently rely upon his wise counsel and cordial aid for the future as in the past.

The Chair ruled the resolution out of order, pending proceedings for perfecting the temporary organization.

Mr. C. L. LAMBERTON, of Pennsylvania, offered the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That the States be now called, in order that the chairman of each delegation may report the names of the members from each State on each of the several committees, and that the names of any contesting delegates be also reported to the Convention.

Mr. S. S. COX, of New York.—Mr. Chairman, before the question is put, I desire to offer a motion which should take precedence, and I hope that will be withdrawn until I offer the customary resolution, to wit: "That the rules adopted by the last Democratic Convention be the rules for the government of this body until otherwise ordered;" for as yet we are without rules.

Mr. LAMBERTON, of Pennsylvania.—The resolution I have offered is almost identical with the one adopted by the last Democratic Convention. How can we adopt rules until we see whether the States are all represented here? The first thing is the call of the States.

Mr. S. S. COX, of New York.—Mr. Chairman, I offer the customary resolution.

The PRESIDENT.—The question must be put upon the resolution already offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Lamberton).