

TO THE
Representatives of the People of the United States
IN THE
DEMOCRATIC BALTIMORE CONVENTION,
TO BE HELD IN JUNE, 1852.

FELLOW-CITIZENS,

The Democratic State convention of Pennsylvania, assembled in Harrisburg, on the 4th of March last, and nominated James Buchanan as the candidate of Pennsylvania, for the next Presidency of the United States. The Convention also selected the undersigned to represent the Democracy of the State in the National Convention, to be held in Baltimore, on the first day of June next, for the purpose of advocating with earnest sincerity and zeal the delegated power of our sister States, the claims of the old Keystone Commonwealth.

The Convention adopted among others, the following resolutions:

“Resolved, That the Democracy of the old Keystone Commonwealth having deferred their claims to a Presidential candidate to the appeal of her sister States for more than half a century, do now, by an unprecedented majority, earnestly and energetically assert their strong and long-deferred right to their honor of furnishing a President for the Union, in the person of their fellow-citizen, James Buchanan. They have no second choice; and they firmly believe that, should he be nominated by the Democratic National Convention, he will receive a triumphant, old-fashioned Jackson majority in the Keystone State.

“Resolved, That we present James Buchanan as our candidate for the Presidency, with the full confidence that the Democracy of our sister States will concede to the Keystone State the honor to which she has been so long entitled, and which she has so long generously yielded. That the fame of our candidate, as a sound statesman and zealous advocate of republican principles is not surpassed. His is a consistent and uncompromising Democrat, an able defender of the Jeffersonian doctrine of State Rights, a foe to the unconstitutional doctrine of centralization—the advocate of universal suffrage—the early tried and confidential friend and advisor of the immortal Jackson—the leading and successful opponent of dangerous national moneyed monopolies—the supporter of the economical administration of government—the friend and promoter of agriculture and commerce, of domestic manufactures and mechanics. The services of Mr. Buchanan in the cause of the party and of the country, are recorded to the hearts of the people, and we believe that, with the executive branch of the government in his hands, equal justice would be awarded to all the great interests of the country, and our beloved Union be safe against the inroads of foreign aggression, and the dangers of intestine commotion.”

The undersigned would have contented themselves with a faithful and cheerful performance of their duties at Baltimore, without making this or any other appeal to you in behalf of a candidate, whose best recommendation is his life, and well known service in the cause of the party.

But we regret to say, that persevering efforts have been made by a few personal enemies from this State, to deceive the Democrats throughout the Union, by circulating a report, that Mr. Buchanan, if nominated by the National Convention, cannot obtain the vote of Pennsylvania.

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This assertion, in the name of the Democracy of Pennsylvania, we much unqualifiedly and emphatically deny, and declare it to be our opinion, in which we know we are sustained by the best informed politicians in our State, that a larger vote can be given in Pennsylvania to James Buchanan for the Presidency than any other man living. To the Democracy of our own Commonwealth this requires no proof. But to our brethren of other States, it will not be considered out of place to offer a few reasons for entertaining this our confident opinion.

The proceedings of the Convention which nominated Mr. Buchanan, and the resolutions there passed, expressed the belief of the representatives of the Democracy of every district and county of our Commonwealth, that “should Mr. Buchanan be nominated by the National Convention, he would receive a triumphant Jackson majority in this State.” Why should it not be so? Why should not Pennsylvania give to James Buchanan as large a vote as she ever gave to any man? Pennsylvania has claims (with due respect to other States, we say it,) acknowledged, conceded, and unsatisfied claims—such as have few other States in the Union. For more than sixty years she has toiled in the cause of Democracy. She is the second State in population, and her vote has always been necessary to the success of the Democratic candidate. “As goes Pennsylvania, so goes the Union,” had become a political axiom. With all her steadfastness and political importance, she never had an opportunity of supporting at the polls one of her own sons for President—but has repeatedly seen her claims and her wishes overruled or slighted, herself passed by, and the honor conferred upon others; and yet for a love of Democratic principles, rising above the mortification of being thrust aside—in the face of the taunt, that “Pennsylvania was the wheel-horse in the train of Democracy, bound to work and go forward, or be crushed by the vehicles behind”—has she sustained, as she ever will sustain, the nominations of our party, and give a majority for every Democrat, who as occupied the Presidential chair. Has Pennsylvania, then, no claims upon the Democracy of her Sister States? And when these claims shall have been kindly met, and in the true spirit of Democracy, conceded, and our fellow-citizen, the man of our choice placed before the Union, as the candidate of the party, could she then fail to do her duty? Every true Pennsylvania Democrat answers, No—and we cannot believe that any really sincere party-man would answer otherwise.

Pennsylvania has State pride. She is one of the original States of our Union. She is as well by character and influence, as by position, the Keystone Commonwealth. Her substantial, steady, and patriotic population, and the rich reminiscences which cluster around and crown the pages of her history, eminently fit her for this proud and responsible position. It was here that the free principles in which we all glory, took form in the Declaration of Independence. This is the birth-place, and the home, and the strong bulwark of our National Constitution. The battle-fields of the Revolution, and all our succeeding wars, attest the patriotism and valor of her sons. Occupying this position, and never having furnished a candidate for the Presidency of the United States, her Democracy has become thoroughly aroused. She now placed before her sister States, her citizen James Buchanan, with a firm determination not only to ask, but with zeal and energy to urge his nomination, by the Democracy of the nation. And it is absurd to suppose, that after her democracy shall have succeeded in obtaining this honor, that they will be so untrue to themselves, and their brethren of the Union, as not to sustain at the election, the name of their choice.

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The name and fame of James Buchanan are not confined to Pennsylvania—they are inscribed upon the pages of our country's history, in characters brilliant and enduring. He is a learned and accomplished lawyer, and in his profession, was in early life eminently successful.—In public life his first appearance was in 1814, when we find him addressing a meeting in Lancaster in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war with Great Britain, and evidencing his sincerity by enlisting in a volunteer company and marching to the defence of Baltimore. In the same year he was elected to the Legislature, in which he served two terms. In October 1820, he was elected to Congress and was four times re-elected, serving in this capacity from December 1821, to March 1831.—He was shortly afterwards appointed by General Jackson, Minister to Russia, where he rendered the country important and valuable service by negotiating the first commercial treaty between the United States and Russia, which secured to our commerce the ports of the Baltic and Black Sea, and insured to us a valuable and continually increasing trade. After his return from Russia he was three times successively elected to the Senate of the United States, an evidence of the confidence and partiality of the Democracy of Pennsylvania, which no other man has ever enjoyed. During twenty years service in Congress, a period crowded with important and agitating questions, in all or nearly all of which he took an active part, there can be found no act or vote of his at variance with democratic principles.

In 1845, the Pennsylvania Electoral College requested the President elect, to appoint Mr. Buchanan to the highest place in his cabinet. Mr. Polk, with the concurrence and approbation of General Jackson, appointed him Secretary of State, the most elevated and responsible position in his gift.—In this office, Mr. Buchanan's great intellectual endowments, his enlarged experience, and intimate knowledge of the duties appertaining to the government, in its various branches, with his unquestionable purity of character, greatly contributed to mark the administration as one of the most brilliant and successful in the whole history of our government.

Is Pennsylvania blind to those services which have added so much to the rich inheritance of her fame? Is she ungrateful to her son who has thus honored and enriched her, or will she not rebuke the libelers of her honesty and good name, but greeting the national nomination of Mr. Buchanan with joy—and by giving him and the cause he represents a triumphant majority? We profess to know the feelings of the State on this subject, and assert, that he of all other men can crown the coming contest with abundant success.

Mr. Buchanan is known and his services to the country are highly esteemed throughout the Union.—Ask the wood chopper and the lumber man in the forests of Maine, who defended their rights and the rights of America, to the border territory claimed by Great Britain, and refused, even for peace, to surrender one inch of what was our own, the soil of freedom? He will answer, James Buchanan.

Ask the citizens of Michigan, to whom were they so greatly indebted for their admission as a sister among the States of this Union? Whose manly eloquence so effectually answered and defeated the objections raised against the mode and manner of her coming in, and nobly vindicated the right of popular government in its largest and broadest sense? And they will answer, James Buchanan.



Ask the citizens of New York, who against the protestations and threats of Great Britain, demonstrated the right of each State to try and punish a foreign murderer, who in time of peace comes upon American soil, and kills an American citizen? He will answer, James Buchanan.

Ask the hardy pioneer of the West, who was the early and eloquent advocate of his pre-emption rights, against the cupidity of speculators? He will answer, James Buchanan.

Ask the Southern brethren from Maryland to Texas, who has at all times defended the doctrine of State rights; and with clear perception, steady judgment and enlightened patriotism withstood and firmly rebuked fanaticism, calmed excitement, and held the balance between the opposing extremes. And they will answer, James Buchanan.—And finally, ask California, that star of freedom set in gold on the distant Pacific, whose far seeing eye, had from the very commencement of Mr. Polk's administration, been steadily fixed on the acquisition of that land of grandeur, and whose purpose was not relinquished until the great object was accomplished, and she will answer, James Buchanan.

Fellow-citizens, you will agree with the undersigned, that the next Presidential election will be an important link in the chain of our country's destiny, giving a direction to its policy for weal or for woe, affording an example of good or evil to the oppressed nations of the earth. Our republic now occupies a commanding position among the great brotherhood of nations. The spirit of freedom finds no spot, except our United States, upon which his eye can rest. Europe, though no apparently quiet, is in reality trembling over a smothered volcano, which must ere long, and may very soon upheave and crumble to atoms her decaying thrones, now kept from falling by their mutual support of each other. From all parts of the world, the anxious eyes of down trodden millions are turned towards our land, as a bright example for nations, as the star of hope; the rest which remains for the oppressed—the only home of liberty. To these, as well as to ourselves and our children, are we bound for the unsullied preservation of our free institutions. We must hand them over to those who follow us, unimpaired; and to accomplish this glorious purpose, we must sacrifice every sectional prejudice, which is calculated to disturb our peace, and jeopard our priceless inheritance.

The triumph of The Whig party at the next election, should it be achieved upon sectional issues, and create geographical parties, so much dreaded by the Father of his Country, between the slaveholding and the non-slaveholding States, would be a national calamity. It would, we fear, greatly tend to weaken if not to sever many of the ties which bind together the states of our Union. Although our political enemies were signally defeated in the State in October last, they are not disheartened, but are preparing to renew the contest. They intend again to make Pennsylvania the battle-ground, and without any declaration of principles, they hope to enlist a motly host, and gain a victory. Shall they be permitted to succeed? Who can say that, after another term of Whig ascendance and misrule, obtained by the renewed agitation of the slavery question, thus exasperating the South against the North, and the North against the South, he will have an Union to live in, a country to love, or a free suffrage to give.

The Democracy of the Keystone State, are awake as well to the importance as to the danger of the coming campaign. They feel that upon them rests a great responsibility, that they must take the forefront of the battle and turn the enemy, or we fail in the contest.

Without a disparaging word on any of the other candidates, they believe the claims of Pennsylvania ought at this time to be conceded by their Democratic brethren. They have waited long and patiently. They love and practice justice—believing that no party can long succeed which does otherwise. They have again and again done to their sister States, what they now ask and confidently expect will be done to them. Reposing upon the justice and the propriety of their demand, and offering a candidate entirely unexceptional to the National Democracy—without looking for disappointment, they calmly await the result, and pledge with entire confidence the vote of Pennsylvania for Mr. Buchanan, without regard to the candidate who shall be his opponent. With him as a standard bearer, the victory is ours—Democracy triumphant, and the country safe.

Senatorial Delegates

James Campbell
Sam W. Black

David R. Porter
J. Porter Brawley

Delegates at Large

A H Reeder

Luther Kidder

Congressional Delegates

Robt Tyler
James C Van Dyke
Samuel D Patterson
Peter Rambo
Jno.. B. Stergen
J. W. Wilson

Robert. T. Carter
Chambers M Kibbin
John G. Brenner
Henry Leech
J. S. Yost
P. F. Lord
P Frazer Smith
Wm Mathiot

John A Morrison
James A Reynolds
J S Ringwalt
Hendrick B Wright
John Blading
Adols D Wilson
John Weidman

S. P. Winchester
C L Ward
W. L Dewart
Isaac G. McKinley
James Gerry

Henry Welsh

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George W. Brewer
Samuel E. Hench
R. P. Flenniken
Jos Mann
Tho. Cunningham
David Lynch
A Plumer
James L. Gillis
Alfred Gilmore

John Stuart
A. J. Wilson
Isaac Hiegers
J. M. Burrell
Wm Hopkins
M. J. Stewart.
Jas. E. McFarland
Joseph Y. James
G. Forney M. D.

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