

Baltimore convention opening address - Daily National Intelligencer, 1835-05-22 (excerpt)

Text PDF - selected reading excerpt

Opening section of The Baltimore Convention, issue image 3, column 1: heading and dateline, convention organization, Andrew Stevenson's reported opening address, and the sentence ending "immense cheering." Committee proceedings and later reporting are not transcribed; issue image 1 is context only.

AI-assisted transcription visually checked by Codex against the selected passage; no independent human proofread. Paragraph/verse wrapping, capitalization of headings, quotation marks and punctuation regularized for reading. This is a reading transcription, not a diplomatic facsimile. The scan remains authoritative. The newspaper's report of the speech is retained as reported prose; the archive does not convert it into a direct quotation by Stevenson.

THE BALTIMORE CONVENTION.

[REPORTED FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.]

BALTIMORE, MAY 20.

The delegates from several States of the Union, favorable to the election of the Hon. MARTIN VAN BUREN as the successor to Gen. JACKSON, in the Presidential chair, met and organized this morning in the Fourth Presbyterian church in Baltimore. Mr. GEORGE KREMER, of Pennsylvania, called the Convention to order at 10 o'clock, and nominated ANDREW STEVENSON, of Virginia, as the President of the Convention. He was elected as such by acclamation. Having taken the Chair, Mr. S. addressed the meeting to the following purport:

Mr. STEVENSON expressed his pleasure at having been called upon, and elected, to preside over so numerous and respectable an assembly of American citizens. He was no less surprised than gratified by such an honor. He should cherish the distinction thus shown him, throughout his life. He trusted that the principle of mutual conciliation and concession would prevail. They had to perform there, duties, as the Representatives of a portion of the American people, and also, it should be remembered, of the whole United States. It was only by preserving this principle of mutual concession, that harmony and universal benefit could be preserved. They had, however, to perform there an imperative duty. The present occupant of the Presidential chair, following the example of many of his illustrious predecessors, had determined to retire to the shades of private life, and the question now was, as to the appointment of his successor. The great object was to preserve for the people their primary right of election, in their electoral colleges. To do this, it was necessary that their Representatives, when assembled, should be unanimous. They had assembled there in accordance with the true democratic practice, acted upon in former times, under the title of a National Convention. The great—the one great object ought to be, to avoid creating discord. Whatever might be a man's predilection as to the successor of the present incumbent of the Presidential chair, as coming from a section, east, west, north, or south, it ought to be laid aside, for no one could expect to succeed under the influence and operation of such personal considerations. Who was true to his country—who best calculated to promote its interests? That was the only question which ought to be entertained; and that could only be ascertained in a republican government from an election, by the greatest number of its citizens. Let those who would carry out the principles which had

placed this country on its proud eminence above the nations of the world, support that candidate. But, above all, let them show the world that they were unanimous. There must be concession. To enforce the evils, the folly, of a contrary course, he would adduce one illustration. Let them suppose a gallant vessel in a storm, and a proposition to be made by its crew to cut up the ship, and each man to take a plank and steer for himself! (Cheers.) He trusted that all their proceedings would be conducted with order, and that the only consideration which would govern the decisions would be, what is most conducive to the honor and glory, and the happiness of our beloved country.

The President then sat down amidst immense cheering.

[Opening-address excerpt ends here. Committee proceedings and further reporting continue in the preserved newspaper page.]