

THE BALTIMORE CONVENTION.

We lay before our Readers the final proceedings of the Baltimore Convention; with the following letters from two of the Virginia Delegates, from different quarters of the State—both of them devoted to the cause of State Rights, both of them the friends of P. P. Barbour, and both of them the warm supporters of the present administration. We beg the Public to read them, in order that they may see the state of feelings which prevailed in the Convention.

From the Register of their names it appears, there were 316 Delegates present; and of these, 96 were from Virginia. Every State in the Union was represented, except Missouri.* We understand, that a Convention more eminently distinguished for its

salutes and respectability has scarcely ever assembled in this country—and that none could have displayed a more conciliatory, harmonious, and American feeling. There was no angry or wordy disputation—but in the true spirit of concord and concert which brought them together, they proceeded to devise the best measures for uniting the Republican Party. The result has been the nomination of Martin Van Buren of N. York as a candidate for the Vice Presidency.

The largest constituent body—the one whose movements were most anxiously anticipated; in which we and our readers, and the public at large will take the deepest interest, is the Sub-Convention of the Virginia Delegates. When it was determined to consult the vote of each State by itself, the Delegates from Virginia assembled in the Athenæum, with P. V. Daniel as their Chairman. There were diversities of opinion among them, as to the candidate to be run—some preferring Mr. Barbour, and some Mr. Van Buren—but upon the broad ground of moving in concert with the rest of their brethren, and acquiescing in the nomination of the general meeting, there was, with one or two exceptions only, a decided concurrence. How the votes would have been given between Messrs. Barbour and V. Buren; it is difficult, perhaps impossible, to ascertain. There was no vote taken between them—but for the sake of unanimity, a resolution was adopted, with only two or three dissentients, to run Mr. Barbour first, and in case of his failure, then, to concur in the nomination of Mr. Van Buren or any other candidate who was the favorite of the majority of the Convention—This resolution was adopted without the knowledge of their brethren of the Convention—Their vote was given in, and when it was discovered that Martin Van Buren had 2-3ds of the votes, the Virginia Delegation again organized themselves, and with the exception of one or two Delegates, determined to acquiesce in the nomination of the Convention, agreeably to the terms of the resolution which they had previously adopted.

The result was announced to the meeting—and in the same conciliatory temper, the Delegations of Kentucky, Indiana and Alabama came forward to unite in the common cause.

And now what does the Republican party owe to itself. Will it go on, splitting into fragments, weakening its own strength, and encouraging the hopes of its opponents, by division? Or, waiving all minor differences, shall it rally around the nomination of Baltimore, unite its whole strength upon one ticket, carry the election through by the voice of the People, and take it out of the hands of the Senate of the U. States, where Virginia has no greater vote than the State of Delaware—and where a packed jury is ready to prefer Sergeant to Van Buren? This is the question—and to this complexion we must come at last. The Delegates from Virginia took up Barbour at first—they wished to give him every chance of being elected—but they discovered it to be in vain. The indignation which had been excited by the rejection of Van Buren contributed with other circumstances to throw him ahead of Barbour—and we are assured by some of our Delegates on the spot, who communicated with other gentlemen from all parts of the country, that since February last Mr. Barbour could not have succeeded in obtaining the nomination of Baltimore, and that it is now impossible for him to obtain as many votes as will place him before the Senate of the U. S.—Thus situated, can the friends of the Administration hesitate in the course they will pursue? For our own parts, we do not believe that the People of Virginia will hesitate about the matter. We do not think that they are prepared to transfer the choice of Vice President from the People to the Senate, from a friend to an enemy of the Administration, from Van Buren to Sergeant.—Van Buren never would have been run for the V. Presidency—He did wish it—nor did the great body of his friends—But his enemies have recalled him from London. They have wished to disgrace one of the greatest friends of the Administration. And if he should be elected Vice President, those enemies have the consolation to say, "We have done it—we would not let him remain as Minister abroad, as we wished it—Without our act, he would not have been run or elected the Vice President."

* The N. Y. Standard says, that "An extract of a letter from Gov. Miller of Missouri, to the Hon. T. H. Benton assuring him of the vote of Missouri, for Mr. Van Buren, was read to the Convention."

† The ratio, not the majority, was adopted, because of the Delegates which appeared from several States which were not Jackson States.