

ANTIMASONIC REPUBLICAN NO. 111. ATTORNS.

FOR SENATOR,

ALBERT H. TRACY.

FOR ASSEMBLY,

ISAAC LACEY, TIMOTHY CHILDS, CHAUNCEY PORTER.

COUNTY CONVENTION.

AT an Antimasonic County Convention, held at the Monroe House, in the county of Monroe, on the 14th day of October, 1833.—EZRA SHELDON, Jr. Esq., was appointed Chairman, and EPHRAIM GOSS and FREDERICK WHITTLESEY were appointed Secretaries. The following delegates appeared and took their seats:

Brighton—Samuel G. Andrews, Frederick Whittlesey, Joseph Graham, Isaac Moore, Nathaniel Draper.
Henrietta—Benj. Harris, Joshua Tripp, Abel Post.
Pittsford—Ephraim Goss, John Armstrong, George Hart, Lorenzo Winslow.
Rush—Simeon M. Coe, Nathaniel Green, Nathan Rose, Hopkins P. Hall, Peter Price.
Mendon—Ezra Sheldon, Jr. Jeremiah H. Rogers, David Carpenter, Edwin S. Bell, Zebulon Townsend.

Perinton—Jeremiah D. Thompson, John Peters, Jacob Benedict, Job M. Briggs, Jesse Treadwell.
Penfield—Leonard Adams, James Hodges, Ebenezer L. Gage, Thomas Dougherty, William J. Moody.
Wheatland—Samuel Wood, Levi Lacey, Pludeus Carter, Osborne Filer, Rawson Harmon, Jr.
Chili—William Pixley, Isaac Burnett, Samuel Lacey, Moses Sperry, Isaac Lacey.

Gates—A. M. Schermerhorn, Matthew Brown, Jr. Jacob Thorn, Ephraim Moore, Erasmus D. Smith.
Greece—John Marchant, John G. Crandall, Nathaniel Hall.
Parma—Silas Walker, Isaac Chase, Roswell Atchinson.
Sweden—Nath'l Palmer, Chauncey R. Martin, Humphrey Palmer, Amos McCulloch, Ansel Comstock, Jr.
Ogden—William B. Brown.

The convention was then, upon resolution offered and passed, divided into three committees to present the names of candidates for nomination to this convention, which committees should consist:

1st, of Delegates from the towns of Gates and Brighton.

2d, of Delegates from the remaining towns on the east side of the river.

3d, of Delegates from the remaining towns on the west side of the river.

Resolved, That a committee of organization of four be appointed by this convention, and that Messrs. Goss, Adams, Walker, Whittlesey and Coe be appointed said committee. This convention then took a recess until 2 o'clock, P. M.

At 2 o'clock P. M., the convention met and the committees on nomination reported. The committee from Gates and Brighton reported unanimously in favor of Dr. MATHEW BROWN, Jr. as a candidate for Assembly from the centre.

The other committees reported two or more names.

Dr. MATHEW BROWN, Jr., came before the convention and declined being considered as a candidate; whereupon the committee from the centre had leave to go out again and report, and having gone out they reported several names.

The convention then proceeded to ballot for candidates from the names thus brought before them, taking a vote on the report of each committee.

On such balloting, Chauncey Porter, Isaac Lacey and Timothy Childs were found to have a majority of all the votes; whereupon it was unanimously

Resolved, That CHAUNCEY PORTER, of Pittsford, ISAAC LACEY, of Chili, and TIMOTHY CHILDS, of Rochester, be, and they are hereby nominated as candidates to be supported for the Assembly, at the ensuing election.

Mr. Goss, from the Committee of Organization, reported, that it be recommended to the different towns in this county, to elect Town Committees, and such Town Committees, proceed to appoint School District Committees—and to ensure the holding of meetings in every School District—and that the Electors meet in each town on the 26th inst. to make such appointments.

Resolved, That said Report be accepted.

Mr. Stow, from the Committee appointed at the last Convention, reported the following Resolutions, which were read and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the unparalleled outrages upon the property, liberty and life of the citizen, committed by Freemasons and Freemasons, and the wicked and dangerous principles of the Masonic Institution which those outrages developed, naturally and of necessity arrayed the virtuous and patriotic portion of the community in hostility to that institution and its offending members.

Resolved, That every measure in the contest of the people against Masonry, and every year since it began, have added new proofs of the propriety and necessity of this contest, and demonstrated the purity and patriotism of the Antimasonic cause.

Resolved, That we cordially adhere to and renew the sentiment originally promulgated and often since repeated, that the sole object of Antimasonry is the destruction of Freemasonry; that we have never designed to deviate from this object; and that we regard all other political measures and questions as secondary to this vital one.

Resolved, That, while Antimasonry has effected, particularly in this region of country, much of its object, still much yet remains to be done; and were its efforts now to be relaxed, its past labors and sacrifices will have been in vain: that Freemasonry, though at times affecting to be humbled,

is still alive among us, and active in all her work of mischief; that though she has thrown away the open dagger, she still administers the secret poison; that the only safety for the community is in her complete annihilation; and that we pledge ourselves never to cease our efforts for this object, as long as Freemasonry has tangible existence.

Resolved, That the act of the Legislature of this state associating a set of irresponsible Judges with the Board of Supervisors for the purpose of imposing upon the inhabitants of these western counties certain officers that the people would not elect, was a daring infringement on popular rights, and altogether uncalled for and unwarranted; but that, bad as is the statute itself, it ceases to be odious when contrasted with the act of the Judges of this county assuming to make these appointments independent of the Supervisors—an act, which we believe is without its like in the history of New-York politics, and which cannot but be regarded by all honest men as a base prostitution of the judiciary of party purposes.

Mr. Childs, from the like Committee, reported an Address to the Electors of Monroe County, which was read and unanimously adopted.

TO THE ANTIMASONIC ELECTORS OF MONROE COUNTY.

Fellow-Citizens—In 1826 the community of Western New York were called upon to investigate a murder committed under circumstances the most extraordinary and mysterious. We all well remember the silent astonishment with which the first rumors of the fate of William Morgan were heard by this community. We all know, and every man in this region of country who is not the slave of Masonic prejudice, full well knows, the entire simplicity and sincerity of purpose, and the perfect unanimity, too, with which the whole population, all ages, and both sexes, entered upon the inquiry, wherefore and by whom has William Morgan been murdered. During the process of this investigation, the consternation of the public mind was regularly augmented, until the amazing and alarming fact was fully developed, that this murder was not only planned and perpetrated by a great number of men, who were known under the denomination of Freemasons, but that it was in truth the offspring, the carrying out into practice the well established principles of that society. The taking of the life of William Morgan was found to be the sworn duty of every Freemason in the land. It is well known and can be abundantly witnessed, that this power was claimed and proclaimed by responsible and leading Masons, as the rightful and immemorial prerogative of the order. This monstrous doctrine was heard by the public with such unmixed and universal execration, that the fierce spirit of the craft quailed before its expression, and attempted to qualify and modify the obvious meaning of their oaths and obligations, into something not so utterly shocking to humanity and justice. The scrutiny which great and good men felt called upon to make into the character of Freemasonry, resulted in establishing beyond doubt the fact, that Morgan was murdered by the agency, direct or indirect, of some hundreds of Freemasons, and that his death and the manner of it were not only justified but enjoined by the oaths of this society; and that we had, in

the bosom of this community, a confederacy of men, who claimed and exercised, upon principles unknown to the laws of the land, the great and paramount power of taking human life—that in this instance this enormous and frightful usurpation was not committed by a few misguided and fanatic Masons, but by men of standing and intelligence in all our social and political relations, and high in the honors and confidence of Masonry.

In the judicial investigations which followed, it was made most clearly to appear that the obligations of Freemasons bind them, under penalties of shocking barbarity, to prefer each other's interests, and thus utterly destroy the equality of terms on which all men unite in society, and to protect and defend each other under all circumstances and in every extremity; and thus to paralyze the laws to which all looked for safety to the innocent, and for punishment to the guilty. In the further history of this most alarming subject, it was made manifest beyond doubt or question that the same principles (if a succession of blasphemous oaths can be called principles) which gave preference and protection to Masonic interests in all the relations of social life, and which had committed the murder, were able to defeat all the efforts of judicial tribunals to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Was not all this, with a detail of facts too numerous and too well known to be now and here repeated, made clear to the conviction of every honest and intelligent man in this wide district? And when the courts and juries and all the ordinary provisions of law for the detection and punishment of crime were found to be nothing less than a mockery, and when we then turned our eyes to the legislature, the immediate agents of the people, and there preferred our petition that something might be done, if not to avenge the past, to provide for the future, and there found ourselves effectually counterwrought and overpowered by Masonry; what remained, but to sit down in submissive despair, or appeal directly to the people, the real sovereigns and final judges in all questions involving great interests.

The latter course was adopted by a vast majority, not of this county merely, but of this whole extended and populous district; and the people were called upon to say, in the only way in which their will can be effectual, whether men holding and upholding an institution of such power and principles as had been proved upon the brotherhood of Masons, were entitled to their political confidence. And in this manner, and for this purpose, it was that Antimasonry became political. It was to maintain the supremacy of the laws.—The people sanctioned the appeal by a unanimity that has no parallel in New-York politics. They said, in language which could not be misunderstood and which in decency ought not to have been disregarded by men feeling any responsibility to public opinion, that Freemasonry was an evil, a great political and moral evil; that it accomplished no one good, but was mighty in all the projects of wickedness; that it had taken the life of

one man, and justified the act, as the exercise of a rightful attribute of the society; that it corrupted our courts and our juries and all the depositories of political power.

No question ever submitted to the people received a more unequivocal and emphatic declaration of their sentiments. If this expression had been heeded and respected, as it ought to have been, Antimasonry would have expired in its cradle, and all the bitterness of this protracted controversy, for bitter it has been, would have been avoided, and the people would have returned to their ordinary political action.

But what has been the course pursued by Masons. With the strongly pronounced judgment of every good man out of their society, and every candid man in it against them, they have persisted to the present hour, to be heard and defy public sentiment and feeling. Utterly unable in the fair field of discussion to begin even the defence of Masonry, with the blood of murder and the guilt of perjury lying at the door of the lodge room, they have loudly raised the cry of persecution, and impudently appealed to public sympathy for protection. This appeal, with weak men and men distant from the scene and ignorant of the proved facts, has been in some measure successful; and a population occupying a wide district of territory, in all the moral and intellectual qualities of high character inferior to no other community, has been stigmatized as a faction of fanatics, and relentless persecutors, while the just, innocent, virtuous, and peace-loving Masons, have been represented as their victims. So far as this attempt has succeeded, it is a more monstrous perversion of justice and right feeling, than the history of society can parallel. A felon convict, of the highest crime, by the clearest proof, who by some mischance had escaped the execution of the sentence which justice with the approbation of all community, had pronounced, and with equal decency present himself before the public, insolently arraigning the court that had pronounced to inquire into his offence.

If this controversy between Masonry and Antimasonry could be referred to the people of the state of New-York, with all the light that has shown upon the subject, at a season of political repose, and tranquility, the Masonic Institution, and all its abettors and upholders, would have been utterly and forever put down, by the loud, unanimous, and indignant expression of public opinion. But it so happened—a great misfortune to justice and truth—that at the period of the murder of William Morgan and the perversion of the cause of public justice by Masonic influence, that New-York was divided into two great political parties, nearly equal in numbers, striving for mastery with a zeal, and even violence which banished the consideration of all matter not directly connected with the issue then before the people. Under such circumstances it is plain and natural that a party in politics, in the selection and support of its candidates for office, avowing principles unacknowledged by either of the other parties, would be regarded as the enemy of both. More especially would it be so regarded

by the party then and now dominant in the state, inasmuch as it put at hazard their supremacy, by withdrawing from the immediate support of their candidates a large district of country, till then their surest and firmest friends.

In such a crisis it was equally natural that the masons, feeling their danger and knowing their weakness, should seek the protection and in return proffer their support to one or the other of the great political parties of the state. In thus allying and attempting to identify themselves for the time with organized and powerful parties already in existence, they saved themselves from that entire overthrow which, under any other state of things, must have been their inevitable fate. This management secured also another great object, of the last importance to Masonry, but most embarrassing to the cause of truth,—that of presenting the Antimasonic party in apparent opposition to the prevailing political party in the state, and by far the largest part of the brotherhood in apparent possession of political power.

The only object of political Antimasonry, was, Masonry and its defenders; and they had mixed up in the ranks and claimed the protection of the great political parties of the state. Thus situated, the Masons claimed the result of every election as an expression of the people in favor of Masonry and against Antimasonry; and, thus situated, it was impossible for Antimasons to meet, single handed and alone, the persons and the principles against which they had taken up the weapons of political warfare; and it was impossible to meet them at all without apparently opposing old friends, and personal friends, and men against whom they had nothing to allege except the support which their alliance and political action gave to masonry.

No attempt has ever been made to produce a unity of opinion among Antimasons, upon all the great questions of policy which have been and now are agitated in this country. But regarding the spread and influence of Masonic principles more deeply and lastingly important than any or all those questions, we have refused, and we shall continue to refuse, our support to men who uphold and defend those principles. If in this course there is either the political fanaticism or personal persecution, we must consent to bear the reproach. We have shown the world the power and the corruption of this institution, and who will raise his voice and say, that it is not to be put down? Who, that knows any thing of this subject, will say that its overthrow, will not be a great moral reformation, worthy of the times in which we live?

The great and sole object of our political action is the destruction of Freemasonry. We resorted to this mode of attack, in the full conviction that it was the only one in which we could accomplish our purpose. We yet believe so, and that our country in all its great relations and interests can furnish no stronger motive for political action and organization than is to be found in the just consideration of this question. We shall rejoice in the coming of that day, which we verily believe is at hand, when the general disso-

lution of Masonic Lodges will justify our withdrawal from this contest. This measure is due from all responsible and respectable Masons, to themselves and to the public, and in this they ought not to be over ruled by men who are neither respectable nor responsible.

In reviewing the past, or surveying the present condition of our cause, the friends of Antimasonry have abundant source of congratulation. If we have not yet prostrated the institution, and set free the blind and bound victims of its incantations, we have closed the doors to the admission of new members, and have held back from her foul and filthy association thousands of young men who were rushing to her embrace. We have opened the dark chambers of the Lodge room to the light of day; and all who will, can look in and behold the filthy rags of which Masonic righteousness is composed. Aided by the light of our investigations, Ohio, Pennsylvania and all the States of New England, led on by the first and ablest men of the country, are now making a zealous, and it is believed, a successful attack upon Freemasonry. They have resolved that it shall, with them, no longer exist. All have deemed a political organization the most effective instrument of warfare. The great tribunal of the public has taken jurisdiction of this subject; and in large districts of our country, where Antimasonry is not politically predominant, the candidates for public favor, already find their interest in disavowing and denouncing the principles of Freemasonry; and thus the object of our political organization is, in those districts, essentially accomplished. We have thus briefly referred to the origin of Antimasonry, and some of the incidents that have appeared in its history. We have done so at the hazard of being tedious, for we know it is familiar to you all. It is your own cause; you made it political, and it is in your power to make it politically triumphant. The crisis is full of interest, involving not alone the cause of Antimasonry in the county of Monroe, or the State of New-York; but we have awakened a spirit of inquiry in most of the states of the Union; and, following our example, the people are every where carrying the question to the polls of election. The van of this great movement has been led, and must continue to be led, by Western New-York. It was here that the blood was shed and the principles avowed which first compelled us to embody a political opposition to the society of Freemasons.—Other questions may for a time, in other sections of the country, suppress the expression of the people's opinion on this question, but so certainly as truth and justice must finally prevail upon every subject which has a fair field for discussion, so sure is it that Antimasonry, will, at no distant day, triumph in the downfall of Freemasonry.

Resolved, That this Convention cordially occur in the nomination of the Hon. ALBERT H. TRACY, for the Senate of this state—and that they recommend him to the support of the electors of this county.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this convention be published. Convention adjourned.

EPHRAIM GOSS, FREDERICK WHITTLESEY, Secretaries.

EZRA SHELDON, Jun. Chairman.