

THE LABOR CONVENTION.

The sickliest fraud attempted in the way of politics, in this country, is that now going through the forms of a Convention at Columbus, Ohio. It is a Convention to nominate candidates for President and Vice President of the United States, to be supported by the so-called Workingmen. The Convention is founded upon the assumption that it represents all those who live by the earnings of their labor,—as if that were not the condition of 99 per cent of the people of this country! The largest constituency which these men can even theoretically claim is a few organizations of skilled laborers; but the men claiming to represent these have not the confidence, nor can they hardly claim the respect, of their assumed constituency. That there are several very respectable gentlemen who have given their names to this movement may be true, but the scalawag and professional “dead-beat” element is more or less conspicuous.

This labor organization, so far as it has attempted to mingle in politics, has been, as a general thing, a mere pretence to levy blackmail or otherwise extort money from candidates. We do not mean that labor unions or organizations have been enriched by such proceedings, but it is notorious that self-constituted committees and managers have sold for money the supposed vote of their imaginary constituencies. The Columbus Convention looks very much like an attempt to make this business a National one. This Columbus Convention proposes to put up candidates for President and Vice President, and then commit to a National Committee the power during the campaign to barter with that one of the other parties which will make it most profitable to the Committee.

The severest blow that could be given to this party, thus organized at Columbus, would be to let it run its candidates. Except in the States of Massachusetts and New Hampshire it could not get votes enough for an electoral ticket to justify the candidates in assuming that they were ever heard of by the people. Even in those States, though they have made the most determined efforts, and under the most favorable circumstances, they have utterly failed in producing any effect upon the politics of the State. They are immeasurably weaker than the Temperance party, and can hardly rival the woman-suffragists as a political organization. We trust that they will nominate their candidates, and that they will stick to them to the end. Whether they be few or many, they have the right to nominate and support whom they please. The voters of the country are as free to vote that ticket as they are to vote any other. But the managers of this Labor party do not intend anything of that kind. They know they have no party, but they propose to put their candidates in nomination in advance, and then sell short, for future delivery, the imaginary millions of votes they will boast of controlling.