

BY A LADY OF VIRGINIA.

To His Excellency, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States. Uplifted, unknown, I come to thee. Who lookest in thy hands the scales of power; Assured thou wilt not spurn the suppliant, Who with frail, helpless hands, and bursting heart, Lays at thine honored feet her simple plea Of "Merry for the Captive"

The Democratic Watchman.

"STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION."

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discuss political questions did it at his per-... True, some spoke and wrote their sen-... The humblest champion of our fallen cause... Oh, honored Chief, Do kindly be just to him who on Jackson loved,

For this one act, would smile on thee in that solemn hour... Head of a mighty nation—lend thine ear... On most honored Chief, Which children weep for him and pause to hear...

JOHN H. ORVIS, ESQ., Delivered in the Court House, at Clearfield, on Tuesday Evening, September 26, 1866.

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOW CITIZENS:— If we contrast the present condition of our country with its condition during the first sixty years of this century, there is much to cause every true American heart to mourn.

The Federal constitution or plan of government so arranged was submitted to the people of the several States for ratification or rejection. Every one of its provisions underwent the closest scrutiny and severest criticism at the hands of the great men of the country.

ment. Each one of these ten amendments more clearly recognized some of the rights of the people or of the States, or more definitely limited the powers of the general government than was done in the Constitution as originally drafted.

The character of these ten amendments adopted so early in our country's history must satisfy every one of the scrupulous care with which our fathers thought it necessary to guard their system of local governments from the encroachments of centralized power.

This doctrine is so clearly consistent with the constitution itself, and appeals so strongly to the sound common sense of every body, that one would think there should never have been a difference of opinion about it.

In opposition to the ideas of the Federal party, and to counteract the centralizing tendencies of the government while under its control, the Democratic party arose under the leadership of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

From 1824 to the organization of the Republican party in 1856, our political opponents organized, at various times under different names, advocating some particular measure or series of measures at war with the principles of our party.

others equally specific and defined, our opponents claimed the right to create a National bank, thus chartering a corporation and flooding the country with a paper currency.

Under the powers granted to establish post offices and post roads and to direct the military operations of the country, this party claimed the right to inaugurate a gigantic system of internal improvements at the expense of the general government.

Under the power given to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, they desired to establish a system of tariffs which had the effect of giving bounties and advantages to those engaged in certain pursuits, at the expense of the great masses of the people who were employed in other kinds of industry.

These several propositions were supported by ingenious and plausible arguments, and, in consequence of the currents of popular feelings and prejudices at different periods, they received the endorsement of a considerable portion of the American people.

During all these contests, the constitution was universally recognized as the supreme law of the land, and all of its provisions binding upon every individual and party. The attacks upon it were neither direct, open nor avowed.

There existed, however, a more numerous class, agreeing with those in sentiment, but more moderate in their conduct and more discreet in their language. They commenced their career as a party by attacking the local institutions of the South, hoping to consolidate the anti-slavery prejudices of the North sufficiently to give them the control of the Federal government.

When in 1861 the party came into power, and permitted the country to drift into a civil war, by refusing to do anything to allay the terrible excitement their own bad conduct had engendered, they reasserted this doctrine of a higher law under a new name.

faithful to the Constitution and the government, true to itself and its history, repudiated both of these vile heresies. We denied the existence of any such thing as a higher law, an impalpable, intangible entity, which possessed the wonderful power of exonerating citizens in their civil conduct from their obligations to the supreme law of the land.

If we trace the history of this party throughout the entire administration of Mr. Lincoln, we will find its measures to have been a series of efforts to break down the limitations of power contained in the Constitution, and to establish instead of our beneficent system of government an absolutism, with no limit to its power but the uncontrolled will of those in administration.

The President claimed and exercised the power of arresting citizens by military warrants, contrary to law, and then, by suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, making the imprisonment of his victims perpetual, or what was equivalent, to depend upon his own arbitrary will.

For thirty years after General Jackson achieved his victory over the old United States Bank, and restored the finances of the country to their proper position, no serious claim was made that the Federal government had any control over a paper currency, or any right to interfere with State banks or banking companies.

Aside from the scheme of the Abolitionists to revolutionize our government, they have a social project which should not be forgotten: the elevation of the negro to the social equality of the white race, or the degradation of our race to the level of the blacks and the ultimate mingling of the two races.

These corporations so created are made banks of issue and deposit and are intended to supersede our State institutions; for all State banks are being taxed out of existence by the general government.

ment is either of these powers conferred upon the Federal government.

It is not, however, the design of this party to stop when they have perfected their national banking system, and destroyed all similar State institutions. This is but one step in their grand scheme. They propose to pursue the same policy towards all other corporations created by the States.

There are many other acts of the same party, concerning other topics, having the same general tendency. By an executive proclamation, dated September 22, 1862, all slaves in the States where the inhabitants were then in insurrection against the government, were declared forever free.

The Administration party, having abolished slavery, and transferred to the Federal government the power of fixing the status of the negro, now proposes to go one step further, and give to him all the social and political rights which the white citizen enjoys. I shall not stop here to adduce proofs that our political opponents are in favor of conferring upon the negro the right of suffrage.

Unlike its political opponents, the Democratic party confides in the intelligence and virtue of the people. And now, when the whirlwind of excitement and storm of passion which have swept over the country are passing away, we confidently appeal to the people to rally in support of those great principles of constitutional liberty adopted by the fathers, in laying the foundation of our government.

Know nothing GERRY.—In 1851 and 1856 G. W. Geary was recognized as an active Know Nothing, so called "American." Had he, and Cameron who nominated him, and his principal supporters now, had their way then (and but for the almost superhuman efforts of the Democratic party they would have had their way) not a single foreign born person or a Catholic in religion would to day possess the right to vote! Not one of these would have any thing to say as to whether Hester Clymer or John W. Geary should be Governor. Should Geary and his party, who advocate negro suffrage, be subjected to a vote, what guarantee is there that they would not carry out their old doctrines and disfranchise the Catholics and citizens of foreign birth, while enfranchising the negro? Think of it, fellow citizens, before it is too late.—Clinton Democrat.

"THE GOVERNMENT"—It would go hard with the abolition journals to-day if "loyalty" were to be measured by their own definition, and enforced by the appliances which they have advocated as necessary, salutary and lawful during the past five years. Fort Lafayette would be crowded to overflowing, and there would be a head in the old Capitol for every pane of glass in its windows. The newspapers which have made merry over the suppression of their neighbors, would themselves go into eclipse, and their editors, instead of penning lively laudations of the latest arbitrary arrest, would be meditating on the power of the hands on a moral and political agency, under the easy cover of a casemate.—E.

to become the medium through which the transmission is to take place. It is because the loss are irrevocably welded to their black idols, let them together be transported to some lone isle of the Ocean, where unseen they may enjoy and suffer the inevitable consequences of amalgamation, until, secured of heaven and despised of earth, they and their loathsome progeny shall cease to exist; but let not the fair land of America be scourged by a pestiferous race of hybrids.

I have thus, fellow citizens, in the briefest manner possible, attempted to trace the outline of our political history, in order to bring into one view, the many heresies, which at different times have been presented to the American people; to add thereby to show that in all these issues the same great fundamental principle has been involved, and that it is still the real subject of content between the parties now existing. From the nature and extent of the subject I have necessarily omitted many things which might have assisted in elucidating my position, and have not referred to the conduct of the Republican party before it obtained control of the Federal government, in attempting to nullify the Constitution and laws by interfering with the pretended but unequal power of the States, holding thereby to completely block the wheels of government I have sought to exhibit to you, what is clear to my own mind, that the real purpose of this party, as well as the direct tendency of its measures, is to augment the power of the Federal government by the destruction of the States; and this too, from no excess of love for the Union, or the system of government upon which it rests, but as a means by which both may be destroyed. I do not charge the masses of this party with enmity toward the government; for I believe they are deluded and betrayed into the support of measures, the ultimate consequences of which, they in common with all good citizens must abhor. They men, however, who direct the policy of this party, are now as they have ever been, the enemies of the government. They favor consolidation now, from the same motives which induced them, but a few years since, to teach a doctrine of "State Rights" incompatible with the constitution. They then claimed for the State Legislatures the right to annul an act of Congress, and even abrogate the citizen from his constitutional obligations, as is shown by "personal liberty bills" still unrepealed on the statute books of the States they controlled. They asserted a right in the State Judiciary to determine the validity of the laws of Congress, and in such cases denied to the Supreme Court of the Union an appellate jurisdiction. This they attempted to practice in Wisconsin and other States in cases arising under the "fugitive slave law."

The Democratic party repudiated this doctrine as unwarranted by the constitution. We conceded to the general government the powers conferred upon it, and claimed for the States the rights reserved to them.— This, and this only, has ever been the Democratic doctrine of "State Rights." The evil results of consolidation, and of an attempt to force a uniformity in local institutions and laws; where a diversity exists in the very nature of things, may be seen, if attempted upon a smaller scale. Our State is divided into counties, and these counties, subdivided into townships and boroughs for local purposes. Destroy these subdivisions, and permit county officers to levy all taxes, superintend the construction and repair of your highways, the support of your poor, and the maintenance of your public schools, instead of promoting the harmony of your people you-but now the seeds of discord.— Some individuals and localities might be benefited by the change while others would suffer by it; which would cause heart burnings and jealousies. Consolidate the counties, and let state officers administer these local affairs by one uniform rule and you but increase the causes of complaint. Consolidate the States and you intensify local prejudices and animosities. The idea that there is an "irrepressible conflict" between local institutions because of their diversity, is an emanation from the devil, seized upon by the enemies of the government to justify their revolutionary policy. Our only safety is in maintaining the government as originally established. Unlike its political opponents, the Democratic party confides in the intelligence and virtue of the people. And now, when the whirlwind of excitement and storm of passion which have swept over the country are passing away, we confidently appeal to the people to rally in support of those great principles of constitutional liberty adopted by the fathers, in laying the foundation of our government. Know nothing GERRY.—In 1851 and 1856 G. W. Geary was recognized as an active Know Nothing, so called "American." Had he, and Cameron who nominated him, and his principal supporters now, had their way then (and but for the almost superhuman efforts of the Democratic party they would have had their way) not a single foreign born person or a Catholic in religion would to day possess the right to vote! Not one of these would have any thing to say as to whether Hester Clymer or John W. Geary should be Governor. Should Geary and his party, who advocate negro suffrage, be subjected to a vote, what guarantee is there that they would not carry out their old doctrines and disfranchise the Catholics and citizens of foreign birth, while enfranchising the negro? Think of it, fellow citizens, before it is too late.—Clinton Democrat. "THE GOVERNMENT"—It would go hard with the abolition journals to-day if "loyalty" were to be measured by their own definition, and enforced by the appliances which they have advocated as necessary, salutary and lawful during the past five years. Fort Lafayette would be crowded to overflowing, and there would be a head in the old Capitol for every pane of glass in its windows. The newspapers which have made merry over the suppression of their neighbors, would themselves go into eclipse, and their editors, instead of penning lively laudations of the latest arbitrary arrest, would be meditating on the power of the hands on a moral and political agency, under the easy cover of a casemate.—E.