

The Republican Party Its Rise and Downfall

In 1851 the country was at peace in the slavery question. The result of the compromise of 1850. The Democratic party went to the country with Mr. Pierce as its nominee, on the issue of a faithful adherence to its provisions, while the Whig party with General Scott at its head, more or less courted the anti-slavery element of the North, although in its platform at Baltimore it pretended to stand on equally national principles. Clay and Webster were dead—their party had murdered them and they were in their graves—new men and new minds directed the once powerful lions of the great national Whig party, and in the Presidential contest of '52, notwithstanding all its professions, the people of the North as well as the South distrusted its fidelity. They knew that the Democracy was true to the Union—true to national principles—true to the Constitution. They wanted repose from sectional agitation and strife, and Mr. Pierce was elected by the largest majority ever given to a candidate for President, carrying every Northern State but Vermont and every Southern State but Kentucky.

From that day the old Whig party was dissolved, and its leaders commenced to look about for something upon which to found another party. The prejudice against foreigners was early seized upon, and then commenced the organization of the Know Nothings. With the secret and insidious help of the Democracy, struggling till 1855, when it became evident to its own adherents that such intolerant doctrines could not be maintained as the basis of a party before the people of this country. Again the opposition leaders commenced to look about for some other rallying cry for a party. The Kansas Nebraska Bill had reopened the slavery question in Congress, and the country was in a state of excitement and anxiety. Know Nothingism had played out, and without consideration or care, the loose and drifting elements of opposition seized hold of the slave question as a basis for a great Northern party. In vain did the Democracy warn the people of the danger of sectional parties—in vain were the admonitions of Washington thundered in their ears—in vain were they pointed to the teachings of Clay, Webster, and the hosts of great and national men around whom they were wont to rally. They persisted, for mere political purposes, for there was no practical point either aimed at or accomplished. We say for political purposes and party aims they persisted in plunging the country into the vortex of sectional strife. Madened with an insane zeal and infatuated with the prospect of success, they labored with a zeal worthy of a better cause till, on the eve and trial of strength after the formation of their party, they succeeded in electing Abm Lincoln to the chair of Washington.

No sooner was the election over and the smoke of the contest cleared away than open preparations for secession commenced on the part of several Southern States. The whole organization of the Republican party had been a systematic and irritating war upon what they called the slave power, and that power was now in open revolt against its administration of the government. Good men were alarmed the leaders of the Republican party only laughed at their fears, ridiculed the idea of a rebellion, denounced those who raised a voice for peace as dough-faces, and defied the South through the press and on the floor of Congress. That venerable old man of Kentucky, Mr. Crittenden, who still lingers among us like a monitor of the past to remind us of the days of a pure citizenship, and of a time when patriotism was measured by the love one bore and exhibited for his whole country, threw himself in the breach and endeavored to avert the coming disasters. But neither his gray hairs, nor long service of his country, could protect him against the prosecution and vituperation of a party founded upon a fanaticism and raving with a lust of power. The olive branch of peace was rejected with derision and contempt, when it might have been accepted by the President and his party with no compromise of principle, or at least of any principle that had about it the least practical value. It seemed as though the controllers of that party were mad. They would not reason, nor would they evince the least anxiety for peace and harmony. Their only reply when the danger of civil war was pointed out was "let them undertake to fight it they dare," and from the nations of secessionism came back the ready echo, "we dare and can lick you any day." Between these contending forces the Democracy strove to keep the peace. The President elect was implored to speak out for peace, believing that his power with his party would be potent for compromise and conciliation. But as Josephine silently pointed to the Mozrums when preparatory to her divorce she was questioned as to whether she had been married with the rites of the church, so Mr. Lincoln with sealed lips answered by pointing to the Chicago platform. All hope was lost. Fort Sumter was assaulted and taken, and half a million of armed men on each side rushed to the field. Almost one year has rolled around, ten hundred millions dollars have been spent, and still the rebel army is almost within sight of the Potomac!

Now where is the Republican party?—From the moment that the pillars of the government began to tremble about them—no sooner as their eyes were opened by the occurrences to the awful position of national affairs—true to the instincts of a revolutionary party built upon popular passions, and placed in power by pandering to the worst prejudices of our nature, they became the most intolerant of parties. Mob violence was substituted for law—the freedom of the press suppressed—the habeas corpus was suspended and hundreds dragged off to government fortresses, locked up and chained like felons, without even being informed of the crime imputed or of the name or character of their accusers. These things and many more, of the same general character, familiar to our readers have broken the back of the party, and they are now dwindling down to a mere party of negro abolition, the conservative and national element of their party having deserted to the ranks of the Democracy. Thus it stands amidst the crumbling fragment of a once great, prosperous and happy government, a living monument of its own wretched and fatal policy as of its ruin and decay. But what would not the people give now, when it is too late, if they had only heeded the admonitions and listened to the entreaties of the Democracy two years ago, when it was not too late to save the country from its present condition?—Luzerne Union.

IMPORTANT ARRIVAL.—One day last week Gen. Cameron was arrested in Philadelphia, on a warrant issued at the instance of Pierre Butler, Esq., whom Cameron caused to be imprisoned in Fort Lafayette last fall, on suspicion of disloyalty. The charge is for false imprisonment. The appearance day is in May next, Cameron plead exemption as he was Minister to Russia.

DROWNED.—Henry Gleason, employed in floating logs on the Mahanogan, was drowned at the mouth of the Creek on Friday last—leaving a wife and one child in Kylertown.

Shaving and Hair Dressing.

FRANKLIN SORRIS respectfully announces to his friends in Clearfield and vicinity that he has returned to his old stand, and is well prepared to render his best personal services in every branch of his professional services. Clearfield, April 9, '62.

Blind Supply of Oil.

Fresh supply of OIL—various kinds—plaster—of select very low prices, by D. F. ETZWEILER, March 26, 1862.

PROPOSAL for building a New Ferry at the mouth house in the borough of Clearfield, will be received at the Commissioners' Office, on the 27th day of May next. Plans and specifications may be seen at any time at the Commissioners' office. Proposals must be sealed, by order of the Board. WM. S. BRADLEY, CLK.

HARDWARE, such as STOVES, Cook and Wood Stoves of various patterns, BAR IRON, SHEET IRON, STEEL, &c., can be purchased of the subscribers on the most reasonable terms. MERRELL & SIGLER, Jan. 15, '62.

Bridge Stock for Sale. THE Commissioners of Clearfield County will offer at PUBLIC SALE, at the court house, on Tuesday the 27th day of May next, at 2 o'clock, p. m., 430 Shares of Stock in the Bridge across the Susquehanna at Clearfield. By order of the Board, WM. S. BRADLEY, CLK.

Treasurer's Sale of Unseated Lands in Clearfield county for Taxes for the years 1860 and 1861. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That, in pursuance of an Act of Assembly passed the 12th day of June, A. D., 1845, entitled "An Act to amend an act directing the mode of selling Unseated Lands for taxes," there will be exposed to Public Sale, on Saturday, the 27th day of May next, at the court house, in the borough of Clearfield, on the second Monday of June, A. D., 1862, the following tracts of Unseated Lands in Clearfield county, for the taxes due thereon for the years 1860 and 1861, and previous years. Decatur township.

Table with columns: Acres, per cent, Warrantee's name, Tax. Lists various land parcels and owners such as Gen. D. Morgan & Co., Peter Miller, John Miller, etc.

James C. Thompson, Henry Back, John P. Hoyt, etc.

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Table with columns: Name, Amount, etc. Lists names like James Brown, Joseph Brown, David Whitson, etc.

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Treasurer's Sale of Seated Lands FOR TAXES.

IN PURSUANCE of the provisions of an Act of Assembly, passed the 29th day of April, A. D., 1845, to provide for the collection of taxes on lands whereon no personal property can be found and where the owner neglects or refuses to pay the taxes assessed, I will expose to sale at the Commissioners' office, in Clearfield, on the second Monday in June next, (being the 25th day) the following pieces of land in Clearfield county, for the taxes due and unpaid thereon, as respectively stated:

Treasurer's Office, Clearfield, April 7, 1862. ROBERT J. WALLACE, ATTORNEY AT LAW Clearfield, Pa. Office in Shaw's Row, opposite the Journal office. Dec. 1, 1862.