



"THAT COUNTRY IS THE MOST PROSPEROUS WHERE LABOR DEMANDS THE GREATEST REWARD."—BUCHANAN.

VOL. LVII.

LANCASTER CITY, PA., TUE-DAY MORNING, OCTOBER 7, 1856.

NO. 38

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

Which was adopted by the Cincinnati National Democratic Convention; and which will be adopted by an overwhelming majority of the American people, in November next.

RESOLVED, That the American Democracy place their trust in the intelligence, the patriotism, and the discriminating justice of the American people.

RESOLVED, That we regard this as a distinctive feature of our political creed, which we are proud to maintain before the world, as the great moral element in a form of government springing from and upheld by the popular will; and we contrast it with the creed and practice of Federalism, under whatever name or form, which seeks to place the will of the constituent, and which conceives no imposture more monstrous for the popular credulity.

RESOLVED, That, entertaining these views, the Democratic party of this Union, through their delegates assembled in a general convention, coming together in a spirit of concord, of devotion to the doctrine and faith of a free representative government, and appealing to their fellow-citizens for the reticence of their intentions, renew and reassert before the American people, the declaration of principles avowed by them when on former occasions, in general convention, they have presented their candidates for popular suffrages.

1. That the Federal Government is one of limited power, derived solely from the Constitution; and the grants of power made therein are to be strictly construed; and all the departments and agents of the Government, and that it is inexpedient and dangerous to exercise doubtful constitutional powers.

2. That the Constitution does not confer upon the General Government the power of internal improvements.

3. That the Constitution does not confer authority upon the Federal Government, directly or indirectly, to assume the debts of the several States, contracted for local and internal improvements, or other State purposes, nor would such assumption be just or expedient.

4. That justice and sound policy forbid the Federal Government to foster one branch of industry to the detriment of any other, or to cherish the interests of one portion to the injury of another portion of our common country; that every citizen and every section of the country has a right to demand and insist upon an equality of rights and privileges, and to complete and ample protection of person and property from domestic violence or foreign aggression.

5. That it is the duty of every branch of the Government to enforce and practice the most rigid economy in conducting our public affairs, and that no more revenue ought to be raised than is required to defray the necessary expenses of the Government, and for the gradual, but certain extension of the public debt.

6. That the proceeds of the public lands ought to be sacredly applied to the national object specified in the Constitution, and that we are opposed to any law for the distribution of such proceeds among the States, which would be a policy repugnant to the Constitution.

7. That Congress has no power to charter a national bank; and that we believe such an institution one of deadly hostility to the best interests of the country, dangerous to our republican institutions and the liberties of the people, and calculated to place the business of the country within the control of a few men, and to concentrate power, and above the laws and the will of the people; and that the results of other Legislative in this and all other financial measures upon which issues have been made between the two political parties of the country, have demonstrated to candid and practical men of all parties, their soundness, safety and utility in all business pursuits.

8. That the separation of the moneys of the Government from banking institutions is indispensable for the safety of the funds of the Government and the rights of the people.

9. That we are opposed to taking from the President the qualified veto power, by which he is enabled, under restrictions and responsibilities amply sufficient to protect the public interests, to suspend the passage of a bill whose merits cannot secure the approval of two-thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, until the judgment of the people can be obtained; and that we are in favor of the right of the people from the corrupt and tyrannical dominion of the Bank of the United States, and from a corrupting system of general internal improvements.

10. That the liberal principles embodied by Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence, and sanctioned in the Constitution, which are the basis of Liberty, and the asylum of the oppressed of every State, and thereby the Union of the States; and to sustain and advance upon its constitutional liberty, by continuing to resist all monopolies and exclusive legislation for the benefit of the few at the expense of the many, and by a vigilant and constant adherence to these principles and compromises of the Constitution which are broad enough and strong enough to embrace and uphold the Union as it was, the Union as it is, and the Union as it shall be, in the full expansion of the energies and capacities of this great and progressive people.

NEWED OF PURPOSE, THE WELL-CONSIDERED DECLARATION OF FORMER CONVENTIONS UPON THE SECTIONAL ISSUE OF DOMESTIC SLAVERY, AND CONCERNING THE RESERVED RIGHTS OF THE STATES.

That Congress has no power under the Constitution to interfere with or control the domestic institutions of the several States, and that such States are the sole and proper judges of everything appertaining to their own affairs, not prohibited by the Constitution; that all efforts of the abolitionists or others, made to induce Congress to interfere with questions of slavery, or to take incipient steps in relation thereto, are calculated to lead to the most alarming and dangerous consequences; and that all such efforts have an inevitable tendency to diminish the happiness of the people, and endanger the stability and permanency of the Union, and ought not to be countenanced by any friend of our political institutions.

2. That the foregoing proposition covers and was intended to embrace the whole subject of slavery agitation in Congress, and therefore, the Democratic party, of the Union, standing on this national platform, will abide by, and adhere to, a faithful execution of the acts known as the Compromise Measures, settled by the Congress of 1850, as the act for restraining fugitives from service or labor, included; which act being designed to carry out an express provision of the Constitution, cannot, with fidelity thereto, be repealed, or so changed as to destroy or impair its efficiency.

3. That the Democratic party will resist all attempts at renewing, in Congress or out of it, the agitation of the slavery question, under whatever shape or color the attempt may be made.

4. That the Democratic party will faithfully abide by and uphold the principles laid down in the Kentucky and Virginia resolutions of 1798, and in the report of Mr. Madison in the Virginia Legislature, in 1799; that it adopts those principles as constituting one of the main foundations of its political creed, and is resolved to carry them out in their obvious meaning and import.

And that we may more distinctly meet the issue on which a sectional party, subsisting exclusively on slavery agitation, now relies to test the fidelity of the people, North and South, to the Constitution of the Union:

1. RESOLVED, That claiming fellowship with, and desiring the co-operation of all who regard the preservation of the Union as constituting one of the main foundations of its political creed, and repudiating all sectional parties and platforms concerning domestic slavery, which seek to enmesh the States and invite to treason and armed resistance to law in the Territories; and whose avowed purposes, if consummated, must end in civil war and disunion—the American Democracy recognize and adopt the principles contained in the organic instrument establishing the Territory of Kansas and Nebraska, as embodying the only sound and safe solution of the "slavery question," upon which the great national idea of the people of this whole country can repose in its determined conservatism of this Union—

2. That this was the basis of the Compromise of 1850—confirmed by both the Democratic and Whig parties in national conventions—ratified by the people in the election of 1850, and fully applied to the organization of Territories in 1854.

3. That by the uniform application of this Democratic principle to the organization of Territories, and to the admission of new States, with or without domestic slavery, as they may elect—the equal rights of all the States will be preserved intact—the original compact of the Constitution maintained inviolate—and the perpetuity and stability of this Union secured to its utmost capacity of embracing, in peace and harmony, every future American State that may be constituted or annexed, with a republican form of government.

RESOLVED, That we recognize the right of the people of all the Territories, including Kansas and Nebraska, acting through the majority of actual residents, and whenever the number of their inhabitants justifies it, to form a Constitution, with or without domestic slavery, and be admitted into the Union upon terms of perfect equality with the other States.

RESOLVED, FINALLY, That in view of the condition of popular institutions in the Old World, (and the dangerous tendency of sectional agitation, combined with the attempt to enforce civil and religious disabilities against the rights of acquiring and enjoying citizenship in our own land,) a high and sacred duty is devolved with increased responsibility upon the Democratic party of this country, as the party of the Union, to uphold and maintain the rights of every State, and thereby the Union of the States; and to sustain and advance upon its constitutional liberty, by continuing to resist all monopolies and exclusive legislation for the benefit of the few at the expense of the many, and by a vigilant and constant adherence to these principles and compromises of the Constitution which are broad enough and strong enough to embrace and uphold the Union as it was, the Union as it is, and the Union as it shall be, in the full expansion of the energies and capacities of this great and progressive people.

FOREIGN POLICY.

1. RESOLVED, That there are questions connected with the foreign policy of this country which are inferior to no domestic questions whatever. The time has come for the people of the United States to declare themselves in favor of free seas and a progressive free trade throughout the world, and by solemn manifestations, to place their moral influence at the side of the legally and fairly expressed will of the nation.

2. RESOLVED, That our geographical and political position with respect to other States of this continent, no less than the interest of our commerce and the development of our growing power, require that we should hold as sacred the principles involved in the Monroe doctrine; their bearing and import added to no misconception; they should be applied with unflinching fidelity.

3. RESOLVED, That the great highway which nature, as well as the assent of the States most immediately interested in its maintenance, has marked out for a free communication between the Atlantic and the

SHOULD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH.

SHERIFF'S PROCLAMATION

Of the General Election for 1856.

THE FIDELITY OF THE DUTIES imposed by the Election Laws of the State of Pennsylvania, I, GEORGE MARTIN, Sheriff of Lancaster County, do hereby solemnly declare, that I will faithfully execute the same, and will not suffer any person to be elected to any office, who is not qualified by law to hold the same. I will also faithfully execute the same, and will not suffer any person to be elected to any office, who is not qualified by law to hold the same.

One person for Surveyor General of the Commonwealth, to be elected by the voters of the County of Lancaster, (the Congressional District) in the Congress of the United States.

Five persons to represent the County of Lancaster, (the Congressional District) in the Congress of the United States.

One person for District Judge of the County of Lancaster.

One person for County Commissioner of Lancaster County.

Two persons for Prison Inspectors of Lancaster County.

Two persons for Directors of the Poor of Lancaster County.

One person for County Surveyor of Lancaster County.

One person for County Treasurer of Lancaster County.

One person for County Assessor of Lancaster County.

One person for County Clerk of Lancaster County.

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7. That Congress has no power to charter a national bank; and that we believe such an institution one of deadly hostility to the best interests of the country, dangerous to our republican institutions and the liberties of the people, and calculated to place the business of the country within the control of a few men, and to concentrate power, and above the laws and the will of the people; and that the results of other Legislative in this and all other financial measures upon which issues have been made between the two political parties of the country, have demonstrated to candid and practical men of all parties, their soundness, safety and utility in all business pursuits.