The Press.

PHILADELPHIA: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1860.

[illegible] The Mississippi Contested Election—Arrival of the Baltimore Delegates—Speech of Hon. Reverdy Johnson—Speech of Hon. Pierre Soulé—Speech of Hon. Benjamin Ferry, Member of the Baltimore Convention and Judge Douglas.

As the Democratic party in nearly all the States have now chosen its delegates to the approaching convention, we have supposed its purposes would be known on the first ballot; we know all we must know on the subject until the meeting of the Convention takes place. But what is will do is a question asked by everybody. We will not venture to answer that question, but will state some things which we think it will not do, and some it ought to do if it deserves success.

It will not change the position the party occupied in 1856 in regard to the slavery question in the Territories; *but leave it to the bona-fide residents of the Territories to settle it for their own selves.* They will not drag it again into the Congress of the United States, from which it has been properly expelled. The *Democratic party, in every non-slaveholding State, through its Conventions, has asserted this principle, and any other can never be adopted by a National Convention. If any other doctrine should shake the party still he utterly and deserve Republicanism.*

Intervention by Congress, for or against slavery, adverse to the clearly expressed will of the people of a legally organized Territory, is *a obnoxious idea,* and no party, with common sense, will ever revive it—certainly not the *Democratic party.*

It has not been the practice of the Democratic party heretofore to take its creed from the opinions, acts, or dictates of any branch of the Government—executive, legislative or judicial—but, on the contrary, it has required all the members of the Government elected directly or indirectly through its instrumentality, to be controlled by its opinions or decisions, when fully expressed. It has always been the master of its servants—not their servant—and when it does become the slave of any executive or judicial influence and the tool of official decrees, the curse of Heaven will rightly rest upon it, and it will perish by its own hand. Conventions and Judge Douglas.

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