Speech of Hon. Jno. L. Dawson,

AT PITTSBURG, SEPTEMBER 17, AT NEW GENEVA, FAYETTE COUNTY, PA., SEPTEMBER 18, 1860.

Fellow-Citizens:—It is a pleasant thing to be invited by the Democratic party, in its Convention, to explain its principles and its policy. The place is appropriate, also. Gallatin—the honor of his name—the lofty, classic lake of Switzerland, a land balancing, almost, the mountain and the classic, within or above which have been standing above all parties, and whose intelligence has been the boasting ammunition of an irrepressible conflict between the institutions of the nations. These, I have said, and value not to be found in the old, ancient duties which was recognized by our fathers. Yet one might be permitted to think that so long as those maintaining these views refuse to terminate that allegiance to the Constitution in which they were born, at any time it be permitted them to do, a true loyalty would consult a faithful discharge of duties to the Union, and for those institutions the States, of which their representatives are citizens, are not responsible; and whatever may be the opinion entertained by any one of the moral character of those institutions, no one is called on by him then what, especially or by any one, to abandon the performance of duties, so long as he remains a citizen of these United States he should feel it his bounden duty to do, as much as if his country, having made treaties with Turkey and Morocco, he acknowledges the obligation to perform them, so far as any act of his is concerned, however utterly abhorrent he may be to the principles of the one, and the polygamy of the other. For years past, unhappily, this same element of slavery has mingled in our national politics. It is scarcely upon this issue that the contest is to be waged. The question is a fundamental one, and cannot be settled to the universal satisfaction of the Government until this be resolved by the people of Congress upon the question, even to a change in a revision of the proceedings and actions of the Territories. This was the very gist of the doctrine of non-intervention.

It will abundantly appear, upon a close inquiry into the history of the Government, that by the very theory of its existence it is a Confederacy of equal States, and that in this theory the Territories acquired from France in 1803; of Mississippi out of the territory formerly of South Carolina, and Alabama out of that which had belonged to Georgia. It was only subsequently that the question arose as to the South as to leave it uncertain whether slavery might not be profitably introduced there; there appeared any serious difficulty in applying the adjustment which should be mutually satisfactory. The struggle, which was wholly of a political character, arose in the discussions of 1820, by which the line of 36 degrees 30 minutes was recognized as the northern limit of slavery. They, the chief of the struggle was an equal division of power between the free and slave States. Abolitionism had not yet come to be an element of party contests. Such it continued to be for a quarter of a century, when, in the year 1845