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Given under my hand, at Harrisburg, the 24th day of April, in the year of our Lord, 1863, and in the eighteenth year of the independence of the United States.

J. D. BOAS, Sheriff.

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PROCLAMATION.—Whereas, the Honorable JOHN J. FRANKLIN, President of the Court of Common Pleas in the Twelfth Judicial District, containing the counties of Lebanon and Dauphin, and the Hon. SAMUEL LINDSAY and Hon. MORRIS B. YORK, Associate Judges in Dauphin county, having issued their precept, bearing date the 24th day of February, 1863, to do and direct, for holding a Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Jail Delivery and Quarter Sessions of the Peace at Harrisburg, for the county of Dauphin, and to commence on the fourth Monday of April next, to continue two weeks.

Notice is therefore hereby given to the Coroners, Justices of the Peace, Aldermen, and Constables of the said county of Dauphin, that they be then and there in their proper persons, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, with their records, inquisitions, examinations, and their own remembrances, to do the things which to their own appertains to be done.

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The Patriot & Union.

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 25, 1863.

SPEECH OF WILLIAM A. STOKES, OF WESTMORELAND, Before the Allegheny County Democratic Club, Pittsburg, April 14, 1863.

I salute you, fellow-citizens, with fraternal emotion, for we are bound together as members of the great Democratic family by ties of political affection, and no man, who loves his country, can behold the scene now here presented—this vast assemblage of the indomitable and untrifled, with resolutions of reparation and revenge for the wrongs done to our common mother, the Republic, stamped firmly on your faces—the fire of patriotism gleaming from your eyes—strong arms ready for any emergency which may arise or any duty to which your country may call you, whether to rebuke the Union against the traitors of the South, or the Constitution against the tyrants of the North—no man can behold such a scene as this and not feel re-inspired in devotion, reassured in hope. For myself, let me confess, that while I rejoice in this evidence of coming good, I am appalled by the task before me. He who, in times like these, ventures to address the people on those topics of overwhelming importance which now agitate the nation—should not be, any, unmindful of the responsibility he assumes. Of course I do not allude to the peril of being kidnapped by military power and incarcerated in Federal dungeons, or to the danger of being sought and seized—not imminent, however, because already the tortures wantonly inflicted by the myriads of power have caused them to recoil aghast from their hellish work, and to arouse the patriotism of the people, and to arouse the land from the lethargy of false security. It is the Divine decree that salvation shall be by suffering. It is in the fire of affliction that the soul is purged and purified. The dark hours of disappointment and defeat chasten the mind for the reception of truth. The courage of virtue rises under the pressure of misfortune.—The pure ore is produced from the hottest furnace from the darkest storm. These are the consolations of the martyrs of liberty.

No, fellow-citizens, the responsibility to which I allude lies in the obligation to condemn the errors of friends and to extend charity to enemies, to speak frankly and fairly, not a partisan advocate, but an independent citizen—nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice—to do impartial justice between contending parties, to reason calmly in order to convince, and even to court mildness for the sake of peace. I know not whether can come to my own rule, for I confess that sometimes my heart is aroused, and I behold our wronged and ravaged country—the ruin impending over her—the numberless cold and bloody corpses of her slaughtered children—an enormous public debt—burdens of taxation too grievous to be borne—the national honor sullied—the assassin of liberty sharpening their daggers for the fatal stab. The country groans under the vilest wrongs which tyranny, in its worst frenzy, can inflict. Deplorable and destruction have become so familiar by perpetual repetition, that they no longer strike the soul with horror. The agonizing accents of despair are often heard above the clash of arms, and the loud denunciations of hostile parties, convulsed, maddened, by intestine strife. Surely Pennsylvania should not suffer herself to be dragged into this vortex of most perilous confusion. Now, as in past times, she should stand constant to her conservative character—firm as her own mountains—removed by the tempest that howls around her—resolved to defend the cause of constitutional freedom and national union, against all assaults, from every quarter. Our State occupies a peculiar position, and we ever consent to dissolution of the Union, or inevitable and extreme peril. The States north and east of us are protected by her geographical interposition between them and the South, while the Ohio river forms a natural boundary for the Western States, easily defended. But the line between Virginia and Pennsylvania is artificial and imaginary. Recognize the Southern Confederacy to-morrow, and the next day will begin a border war, of which you, Pennsylvanians, must bear the brunt. Virginia slaves will seek refuge on our soil—they will be pursued and recaptured—our people will resist this outrage on the rights of a government, foreign to and independent of the Confederacy—conflicts will ensue, daily the numerous and extensive—the militia will be called out on both sides—peace elsewhere will be at the price of perpetual war for Pennsylvania. Look to your tariff too. I waive the disputed question of protection; but for revenue, some sort of duty upon imports is absolutely necessary. Lay direct taxes to pay the interest of the public debt, and they cannot and will not be collected. Acknowledge the Confederacy, and the tariff laws are, in effect, repealed, and the mercantile marine is destroyed. Smuggling cannot be prevented along a line of thousands of miles. Ships will enter the harbors of New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, to pay enormous duties on their cargoes, when they can enter those of Norfolk, Charleston and New Orleans, without any such exaction. So, too, in regard to the Mississippi, in which western Pennsylvania, and all who live between the Alleghenies and the Rocky Mountains, have a peculiar and vital interest. Surrender the Mississippi, and you, in effect, dam up all the streams which find their way to the Gulf of Mexico through the channel of that river. Make what treaties you please, they cannot prevent half a dozen men with one cannon, from arresting, at their pleasure, a steam vessel which may attempt to navigate a stream running more than a hundred miles, through territory inhabited by an uneducated and indolent people. The streams, hundreds in number, and hundreds of thousands of miles in aggregate length, the great natural highways of a vast empire, are the gifts of God for the promotion of human intercourse, of civilization, of unity—man dare not surrender them—human hands have no right to rupture the beneficent bonds by which Providence has bound together all the people of the valley of the Mississippi.

In the face of these serious considerations, I ask you, Pennsylvanians, whether you can ever consent to separation from your sister States; and I beg also to ask you another question, more thought of than talked of, in such an event, where are we to go to? Pennsylvania, in coming into the Federal Union, agreed to a government which included all the States, both North and South. The withdrawal of either, seems to be the destruction of the Union for every State which formed part of it; for the contract of the Constitution embraces the whole. If the Almighty should, for our manifold sins, curse us with this calamity, it will be for the people of Pennsylvania to determine what shall be their new position. They have the right to judge for themselves, and they have

the power to defend themselves. Here nature has lifted, with generous profusion, her riches, concentrating, in high degree, every trace of individual prosperity and national wealth. Here is an Empire, complete in itself, self-sustaining, independent; a country adapted for agriculture, manufactures and commerce, abounding in minerals; a climate neither warm enough to enfeeble, nor so cold as to prevent all cultivation to a temperate region; commanding all the communications of the Atlantic (Mississippi, inhabited by patriotic, just, and virtuous citizens. The great part of such a people spontaneously rejects the surrender of the blood-bought rights of liberty and Union which their forefathers bequeathed to them, and which they hold by the most sacred duty to transmit unimpaired to posterity.

Fellow-citizens, I deny the right of secession. I deny the Constitution of the United States to be severed from each State to withdraw from the Union at any time, on its own motion. On the contrary, I hold that for any Government, though of limited powers, legitimate government for the purposes of freedom, perfect in all its parts, Executive, Legislative and Judicial, self-sustaining, independent—making, constraining and executing its laws, by virtue of its own inherent force, emanate from the idea of political union—of a contract to bind nobody—of a consent for disagreement—of a union for union.

This question was anticipated and determined by the unanimous action of the Convention that framed the Constitution, General Washington, the President of that body, having by their authority declared in his official or to Congress submitting the Constitution: is obviously impracticable in the Federal Government of these States to secure all rights for the interest and safety of all. Individuals entering into society must give up a portion of liberty to preserve the rest. * * * It is at all times difficult to draw with precision a line between those rights that must be surrendered and those which must be reserved. * * * In all our deliberations upon this subject, we kept steadily in our view that which seems to us the greatest good for the greatest number, the consolidation of our Union, which is involved our prosperity, felicity, safety, and perhaps our national existence. * * * But the question now presented by the title of the seceding States is one not subject to the tests of the technical lawyer, or the philosopher of abstract philosophical speculation, or of historical authority.

Stand in a momentous time, in the presence of appalling facts. Are we equal to the task and its duties—can we comprehend these facts and their consequences? If we are not—if we cannot—the death-knell of the Republic already rung—the great experiment has failed—the demonstration is complete that man is incapable of self-government—despotism has forever triumphed over liberty. Denying the doctrine of secession, I admit the right of revolution. It is a right reserved by every people in every government; without it, tyranny would be eternal. Its exercise is the sole judgment of those who assert it. The Constitution is a contract, not a property. It is a contract, not a property. It is a contract, not a property. It is a contract, not a property.

It is not on this ground, however, that the Confederacy rests its case, though in fact both sides, by appealing to organized military force, seek to defend themselves. Substantially, in this attitude—revolution on the one side and coercion on the other.

Ad now, my friends, we come to the all important question, what is to be done? I pass by the causes which led to the conflict. Neither side is responsible for the extremes of rage and madness into which unreasoning fanaticism both sides often went, except so far as they may have adopted the cruel counsels of their infuriated and furious wretches, of whom the antagonistic types are to be found in Sumner and Yancey. I repeat the question, what is to be done? Just application of the familiar maxim in "Union there is strength," will answer this question. The South is now substantially united, the North divided. It was not so in the beginning of the present contest. Then loyalty prevailed in the hearts of the majority of the people of nearly all the Southern States, and the base leaders of the secession movement were compelled to resort to force and fraud, in violation of the wishes of the people, to take them out of the Union, to whose flag, hallowed by a thousand sacred memories, they were ready to rush with rapine, at the earliest practicable moment; while in the North, party was forgotten in the unanimous eagerness of men to sustain the government against the traitors of the South, and all those acts are null and void. They are not the legitimate acts of the President of the United States, but the usurpations of Abraham Lincoln and his advisers. Even unconstitutional acts, however, which have the form of law, should not be resisted by force, but by appeal to judicial tribunals, or by the exercise, in extreme cases, of the personal right of self-defense.

Besides, this plea of necessity rests wholly on the fact that we are at war. During the war with England, all New England was an organized conspiracy against the government. Their Puritan pulpits were converted into political batteries, from which the Republic was attacked; they held conventions in which they declared the war to be cruel, bloody and unjust; they obstructed naval and military operations; they gave aid and comfort to the enemy. In the face of all this, not a single arbitrary arrest was made. Then no man dreamed that the Constitution was binding only in times of peace. That bold fallacy was invented by the sons of the English sympathizers of 1812. Why, if the Constitution is suspended during the war, so also is the President, Congress, and the Courts, for they all live, move, and have their being, only by and under the Constitution.

During the war with England, James Madison, justly called "the father of the Constitution," was President. I have shown that his conduct was the reverse of that now pursued. Let me call your attention to the language which he used in the resolutions written by him, and adopted by the Legislature of Virginia: "This Assembly doth explicitly and peremptorily declare, that it views the powers of the Federal Government, as resulting from the compact, to which the States are parties, as limited by the plain sense and intention of the instrument constituting that compact, as no farther valid than they are authorized by the grants enumerated in that compact."

"Whereas the general government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force; that to this compact each State acceded as a State, and is an integral party; that this government, created by this compact, was not made the exclusive or final judge of the extent of the powers delegated to itself; since that would have made the measure of its powers; but, that as in all other cases of compact, among parties having no common judge, each party has an equal right to judge for itself, as well of infractions as of the mode and measure of redress."

The administration, discarding the doctrines of our fathers, and disregarding the Constitution, seek to dazzle our eyes and our judgment, by the meretricious glare of a magnificent consolidated Empire, to be raised on the ruins of the Constitution. Far more true honor would be awarded to the President, both now and hereafter, if he kept his oath and did his duty, and are we not to say so? Even during the despotism of Louis XIV, the Chancellor's answer to the monarch, "Respect the empire of the law. Kings, the noblest images of Divinity, are never greater than when they submit all their greatness to justice, and unite to the title of masters of the world, that of slaves of the law." Undoubtedly, despotism is more splendid than Democracy; but the people prefer happiness to glory, freedom to oppression, and the rights of man to the will of tyrants. Therefore, it is that at the polls, in their public meetings, in their newspapers and in social conversation, they defend themselves by denouncing the errors of the administration, and this is falsely called opposing the government. The government—what is the government? It is constitutional, political organization, of which we are the defenders. It is not the administration nor the men who compose it. Nay, to the extent to which the administration violates the Constitution, which creates the government, it is the enemy of the government. Mr. Seward well said in his letter last November to Mr. Adams, our Minister to England: "In this country, especially, it is a habit not only entirely consistent with the Constitution, but even essential to its stability, to regard the administration at any time existing as distinct and separate from the government itself, and to canvass the proceedings of the one without a thought of disloyalty to the other."

The source of all our perils lies in the discord which necessarily results from the dangerous doctrines and the illegal acts of the administration. If they sincerely desire the suppression of the rebellion, let them reunite the bonds which they have ruptured, let them reinsure the reign of concord by withdrawing their unconstitutional laws, by respecting the rights of the States, and ceasing to assail the liberties of the people. Suppose even we are wrong in these views, they are those of millions of voters, they are the declared sentiments of sovereign States, they are those to be considered, not for a moment, entertained of consenting to a separation, for to restore and preserve the Union, is a sacred duty, which we owe not only to ourselves, but to the memory of our fathers, and the rights of our children. Let us continue to refute, by our acts, as we have hitherto done, always and everywhere, the base and baseless slander, that the Democracy is in any way or degree tainted with disloyalty. We have the power—let us use it. Let us all unite, party distinctions forgotten, only to save the country. Fortitude, patience, constancy, the highest and rarest military virtues, ennobled and sustained the prolonged and agonized offering of their mortal and immortal natures, which they laid on the altar of their country. Their sublime self-sacrifice demands that country's gratitude. Notwithstanding all the neglect and incompetency by which they have been weakened and obstructed, they have steadily progressed; and, at this moment, hold the most important strategic positions. Let the government strengthen and assure them, by uniting the North on the basis of the Constitution, and they will be able to save the sacred cause which has called them to the field.

The high and sacred mission of the Democratic party, united with the true men of all parties, is to make peace with the South—to restore the ascendancy of the Constitution, everywhere—to assure the equality of the States, and to vindicate the rights of man. You must never forget that Pennsylvania was first among the States that formed and ratified the Constitution of the Union, and has always been its inflexible defender against all opponents and every attack. You will not sully the name of Pennsylvania by the means of your patriots, and reverence their patriotism, but you will cherish these sacred memories, and emulate these heroes of peace and war—you will vindicate your birthright by proving that you are worthy of it.

Product of patriotic effort, fruit of toils and dangers, reward of wisdom and valor, purchased by suffering and blood, crown of the revolutionary contest, is the Constitution of the United States. Its construction was a labor of love; let it be again and perpetually renovated by the political affection of this great national family. It formed the Union and is its sole security. The Union blessed mother of all her children; the beneficent source of the greatness and glory of the Republic; shield of security; assurance of prosperity; concentrated wisdom of its immortal authors; proof of their patriotism; lesson for all nations and ages; the happy expedient by which freedom of domestic government is connected with power in foreign affairs, each ample, neither impaired; consoling evidence that there is in the human soul a divinely inspired spirit of concord stronger than arms, capable of political combinations for erecting a government more powerful than despotism; commended to our affections by the tenderest recollection of the past; mingled with our dearest hopes for the future; the sacred legacy of our ancestors, which we are bound, in faith and honor, to transmit unimpaired to our posterity; hope of the whole world; light of liberty, committed to our care, that its rays, streaming across oceans and continents, may beam the radiant glory of equality; the sun in the political firmament, warming, vivifying and fructifying the seed of freedom everywhere, so that all people may find final repose under the protecting branches of the tree of liberty.

Not for ourselves alone, but for our race—not for the present only, but for all time, the great question is, how are we to solve the possibility of sustaining government by moral means, of preserving the Union, and Democratic liberty is dead—discord rules until despotism succeeds. God preserve our beloved country from either evil—from the cruel arms of conflicting powers, strong in hatred, but too feeble for effective defence, or from the cold silence of subject-

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The source of all our perils lies in the discord which necessarily results from the dangerous doctrines and the illegal acts of the administration. If they sincerely desire the suppression of the rebellion, let them reunite the bonds which they have ruptured, let them reinsure the reign of concord by withdrawing their unconstitutional laws, by respecting the rights of the States, and ceasing to assail the liberties of the people. Suppose even we are wrong in these views, they are those of millions of voters, they are the declared sentiments of sovereign States, they are those to be considered, not for a moment, entertained of consenting to a separation, for to restore and preserve the Union, is a sacred duty, which we owe not only to ourselves, but to the memory of our fathers, and the rights of our children. Let us continue to refute, by our acts, as we have hitherto done, always and everywhere, the base and baseless slander, that the Democracy is in any way or degree tainted with disloyalty. We have the power—let us use it. Let us all unite, party distinctions forgotten, only to save the country. Fortitude, patience, constancy, the highest and rarest military virtues, ennobled and sustained the prolonged and agonized offering of their mortal and immortal natures, which they laid on the altar of their country. Their sublime self-sacrifice demands that country's gratitude. Notwithstanding all the neglect and incompetency by which they have been weakened and obstructed, they have steadily progressed; and, at this moment, hold the most important strategic positions. Let the government strengthen and assure them, by uniting the North on the basis of the Constitution, and they will be able to save the sacred cause which has called them to the field.

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Product of patriotic effort, fruit of toils and dangers, reward of wisdom and valor, purchased by suffering and blood, crown of the revolutionary contest, is the Constitution of the United States. Its construction was a labor of love; let it be again and perpetually renovated by the political affection of this great national family. It formed the Union and is its sole security. The Union blessed mother of all her children; the beneficent source of the greatness and glory of the Republic; shield of security; assurance of prosperity; concentrated wisdom of its immortal authors; proof of their patriotism; lesson for all nations and ages; the happy expedient by which freedom of domestic government is connected with power in foreign affairs, each ample, neither impaired; consoling evidence that there is in the human soul a divinely inspired spirit of concord stronger than arms, capable of political combinations for erecting a government more powerful than despotism; commended to our affections by the tenderest recollection of the past; mingled with our dearest hopes for the future; the sacred legacy of our ancestors, which we are bound, in faith and honor, to transmit unimpaired to our posterity; hope of the whole world; light of liberty, committed to our care, that its rays, streaming across oceans and continents, may beam the radiant glory of equality; the sun in the political firmament, warming, vivifying and fructifying the seed of freedom everywhere, so that all people may find final repose under the protecting branches of the tree of liberty.

Not for ourselves alone, but for our race—not for the present only, but for all time, the great question is, how are we to solve the possibility of sustaining government by moral means, of preserving the Union, and Democratic liberty is dead—discord rules until despotism succeeds. God preserve our beloved country from either evil—from the cruel arms of conflicting powers, strong in hatred, but too feeble for effective defence, or from the cold silence of subject-

ments, by the meretricious glare of a magnificent consolidated Empire, to be raised on the ruins of the Constitution. Far more true honor would be awarded to the President, both now and hereafter, if he kept his oath and did his duty, and are we not to say so? Even during the despotism of Louis XIV, the Chancellor's answer to the monarch, "Respect the empire of the law. Kings, the noblest images of Divinity, are never greater than when they submit all their greatness to justice, and unite to the title of masters of the world, that of slaves of the law." Undoubtedly, despotism is more splendid than Democracy; but the people prefer happiness to glory, freedom to oppression, and the rights of man to the will of tyrants. Therefore, it is that at the polls, in their public meetings, in their newspapers and in social conversation, they defend themselves by denouncing the errors of the administration, and this is falsely called opposing the government. The government—what is the government? It is constitutional, political organization, of which we are the defenders. It is not the administration nor the men who compose it. Nay, to the extent to which the administration violates the Constitution, which creates the government, it is the enemy of the government. Mr. Seward well said in his letter last November to Mr. Adams, our Minister to England: "In this country, especially, it is a habit not only entirely consistent with the Constitution, but even essential to its stability, to regard the administration at any time existing as distinct and separate from the government itself, and to canvass the proceedings of the one without a thought of disloyalty to the other."

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