PITTSBURGH POST.

THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

Adopted at the Cincinnati National Convention.

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 held up by the popular will; and we contrast it with the creed and practice of Federalism, under whatever name or form, which seeks to palsy the will of the constituent, and which conceives no imposture too monstrous for the popular credulity.

Renewed, Wherefore, That entertaining those views, the Democratic party of this Union, through their delegates assembled in a general Convention, coming together in a spirit of concord, to declare the doctrines and faith of a homogeneous government, and appealing to their fellow citizens for the rectitude of their intentions, renew and reassert before the American people the declarations of principles avowed by them when on former occasions in general Convention, they have presented their candidate for popular suffrage:

1. That the Federal Government is one of limited powers, derived solely from the Constitution; and the grants of power made therein ought to be strictly construed by 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 to commence and carry on a general system 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 interest 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 must upon an equality of rights and privileges, and to complete and ample protection of persons 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 extinction of the public debt.

6. That the proceeds of the public lands ought to be strictly applied to the purposes specified in the Constitution; and that we are opposed to any law for the distribution of such proceeds among the States or any of them, as a violation of, and repugnant to the Constitution.

7. That Congress has no power to charter a national bank; that we deem such an institution one of doubtful legality, and the best interested of the country, dangerous to our republican institutions and the liberties of the people, and calculated, plausible as its advocacy is in times of adversity, to become a concentrated money power, and above the laws and the will of the people; and that the veto of the President of this legislation on this and all other financial measures upon which issues have been made between the two political parties of the country, has demonstrated to candid and practical men of all parties, their soundness, safety and utility in all business pursuits.

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

9. That we are decidedly opposed to taking from the President the qualified veto power, by which he is enabled, on the ground of constitutional responsibility solely, to arrest 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, sufficient for its passage, to be obtained therein, and which has saved the American people from the corrupt and tyrannical domination of the Bank of the United States and from a corrupting system of local internal improvements.

10. That the following propositions of Mr. Jefferson, we declare stand, as fixtures, and are contained in the constitution, which and not years the basis of liberty and the action of the approved of every nation, but every been one of principles in the Democratic faith and every subscription, abridge the revenue of honest citizens or lay the seeds of a future revolution, or, in fact, to be treated with the same as such swept the alien and sedition laws from our statute-books.

And Whereas, Since the foregoing declaration it was intimated in a political profession, by National authority, an adverse political and religious test have been secretly enacted by a party the aim to be exclusively American organization, that the American Democracy should clearly define its relations thereto, and declare its determined opposition to all such political societies, by whatever name they may be called

Resolved, That the boundless soil of this nation of States has ever been held in, and its prosperity, expansion and permanence example in free government built upon entire freedom in all matters of religious concernment, and is regarded as a sacred right of each citizen, and any violation of it should be deemed national, consistent with our ancestors, and American principles, which gave its existence, and which, if once violated, may be followed by the dissolution of the Union, and a political crusade in the nineteenth century, and in the United States of America, against Catholic or Jew, is as much out of place in the past history of the human progress of the country, not in unison with the spirit of education and enlarged freedom which pervades throughout the American system of public government.

Resolved, That we reiterate with renewed energy of purpose, the well-considered declarations of former conventions upon the sectional nature of domestic slavery, and concerning the reserved rights of the States.

1. 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 domestic affairs, subject to the Constitution; that all attempts at legislation upon the subject of slavery by Congress, or any territorial legislature, whether it be in the form of prohibiting the institution of slavery, or to take it upon equal terms to the territories, are calculated to lead to the most alarming and dangerous consequences; and that all persons who engage in such attempts are traitors to the Constitution, and to the peace and harmony of the people; and that the only mode in which Congress or a territorial legislature can exert a legitimate influence in the premises is by the enactment of such laws as will most speedily and effectually transform the property into the ordinary kind, and that we deprecate the agitation of the question in the Congress of the United States or out of it, as a violation of the compromises of the Constitution, and as a breach of the faith of the compact by which the States composing the Union have agreed to live together in peace and fraternal love.

2. That the laws passed by the Territorial Legislatures of Kansas and Nebraska are the fair and legitimate results of the principles established by the Compromise Measures, settled in the adjustment of 1850; that we fully endorse those principles as the true basis on which the peace of the country with the slavery question, under whatever shape or color the attempt may be made.

3. 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 to the Virginia legislature in 1799; that it adopts these principles as constituting one of the main foundations of its political creed, and is resolved to carry them out in their entirety and spirit.

And that we may more distinctly meet the issue on which a sectional party, extending the area of slavery against the wishes of the people, North and South, by the Constitution and the laws, is based.

1. *Resolved*, That claiming fellowship with, and desiring the co-operation of all who regard the preservation of the Union under the Constitution as the paramount issue—and repudiating all sectional platforms and platform concerning domestic slavery, which would be adopted by the States and territories not affected by the Act of the 32d Congress, entitled "An Act to organize the territories of Nebraska and Kansas" and thereby the Democratic party of these States, as the party to which we belong, is the party of the Union, so much of the platform of the Democratic party as relates to the subject of the rights of property in slaves, and which is embodied in the resolutions of the Democratic National Conventions, adopted in the years 1852 and 1856, and which declares that "all attempts to abolish or control slavery in the District of Columbia, or in the territories, or in the States, or in the vessels on the high seas, where it exists, are in violation of the compromises of the Constitution, and are dangerous to the peace and safety of the country," and which pledges the Democratic party to resist all such attempts, when made in any form or by any authority, is the only platform on which we can stand, and that we will support no man who does not unequivocally declare his adherence to it, and who does not, in the event of his election, carry out the principles of said platform according to the plain meaning of the language in which they are expressed, and the well-known intent with which they were adopted.

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2. That the foregoing propositions, taken as a whole, and as embracing the whole subject of slavery and its extension, form, and there fore, the Democratic party of the Union, standing on this national platform, will abide by and uphold the fair and faithful execution of the acts known as the Compromise Measures, settled in the session of 1850, the act for reclaiming fugitives from service or labor, included, which act being declared 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 to the Virginia legislature in 1799;