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 practices 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.

Resolved, therefore, 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 doctrines and faith of a free representative 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 Conventions, they have presented their candidate 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 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 insist upon an equality of rights and privileges, and to complete an 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 exclusively applied to the national objects specified in the Constitution; and that we are opposed to any law for the distribution of such proceeds among the States, as alike inexpedient in policy and repugnant to the Constitution.

7. That Congress has no power to charter a national bank; 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 concentrated money power, and above the laws and the will of the people; and that the results of the Democratic legislation 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 relations.

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 decidedly opposed to taking from the President the qualified veto power, by which he is enabled, under circumstances and responsibilities amply sufficient to guard the public interests, to suspend the passage of a bill whose fate cannot secure the approval of two-thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, until the judgment of the people can be obtained thereon, 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 general internal improvements.

10. That the liberal principles embodied by Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence, and sanctioned in the Constitution, which make equal protection and privilege the birthright of every citizen, of every man, of every creed and color, and which have ever been cardinal principles in the Democratic faith, and every attempt to abridge the privilege of become citizens and the owners of soil among us, ought to be resisted with the same spirit which swept the alien and sedition laws from our statute books.

And WHEREAS, Since the foregoing declaration was uniformly adopted by our predecessors in Nat onal Conventions, an adverse political and religious test has been secretly organized by a party claiming to be exclusively American, it is proper that the American Democracy should clearly define its relations thereto and declare its determined opposition to all secret political societies, by whatever name they may be called.

Resolved, That the foundation of this union of States having been laid in, and its prosperity expansion and pre-eminent example in free government built upon entire freedom of religion, we deem it a duty to declare that every effort to confer, or to deny any man any political power or office on account of his creed or faith in religion, or place any man under the ban of public opinion on account of his creed, cannot but be regarded as a violation of the compact between the States, and a violation of the rights of the people, which, if persisted in, must lead to the severance of the Union.

Resolved, That our geographical and political position with the exception of other States of this continent, no less than the interest of our commerce and the development of our growing power, requires that we should hold as sacred the principle enunciated in the Monroe doctrine: their bearing and support adopted as a rule of conduct in our foreign relations with all nations, and that we will not see the territory of the States, or any portion of it, passed over to any other power on this continent, without the most earnest and decided protest, and if need be, all the power we have or can command.

Resolved, That the great highway which nature, as well as the assent of the States most immediately interested in its establishment, has marked out for a free communication between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans, constitutes one of those great important achievements reflected by the spirit of modern Europe and the unconquerable energy of our people. This great work should be secured by a timely and efficient exertion of the control which we have the right to claim over it; rights, power, or earth should be suffered to impede or clog its progress by any interference with the relations it may sustain to the Confederacy, which is its guarantee and its protector, and the States within whose dominions it lies. We can, under no circumstance, surrender our preponderance in the adjustment of all questions arising out of it.

Resolved, That in view of so commanding an interest the people of the United States cannot but sympathize with the efforts which are being made by the people of Central America to reconstruct that portion of the continent which covers the passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

Resolved, That the Democratic party will regard all attempts at reviving in Congress or out of it, the agitation of the slavery question, under whatever shape or color the attempt may be attempted, as a violation of the compact of 1850, and a violation of 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 obvious meaning and import.

Resolved, That we recognise the principle expressed in the act of 1850, commonly called the Compromise Measures, entitled by the Compromise of 1850, "that the act for reclaiming 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.

Resolved, 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 attempted.

Resolved, 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 obvious meaning and import.

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

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 parties and platforms concerning domestic slavery, which seek to embroil the States and incite to treason and armed resistance to law in the Territories; and whose avowed purpose, if not disguised by fair professions, is to drive the South out of the Union, and then, in the name of Freedom, commence a war of conquest upon her institutions; we hereby declare that the Union is a sacred obligation with us all, and that it is the duty of the Federal Government to exercise promptly, all its constitutional powers for the attainment of that object.

DRED! DRED! DRED! a Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp, by Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom's Cabin. The contents are as follows: Preface; The Mistress of Caverna; Clayton; The Clayton Family; Jed Prouty; Sisters Anna and Ruth; The Gordon Family; Harry and his Aunt; Life Dilemma; Consultation; Old Tuf; The Sayers; Explanations; Tom Morton; Aunt Nehiller's Loss; Mr. Jolly's Opinions; Mitty Sherry; Dude John; Dred; The Conspirators; Summer Night Adventure; Tit's Proprietress; The Worshippers; The Sunday Meetings. The contents of this second volume are as follows: Dred; Nina; Nina's Lovers;