The Ebensburg Alleghanian.

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I WOULD RATHER BE RIGHT THAN PRESIDENT.—HENRY CLAY.

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August 13, 1868.

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THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN.

DEMOCRATIC PROFESSIONS vs. DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE—THEIR PARTY AND PLATFORM REVIEWED.

The time was when the Democratic party was a party of progress and principles; but even prior to the rebellion, it had long outlived its usefulness. Following the example of Jefferson, Madison, and a host of the earlier statesmen and patriots, the Democratic party contributed largely to the advancement of the principles of republican government and the security of individual rights; but, when it threw aside the armor of liberty, ignored and derided the great truths enunciated in the Declaration of Independence, and embraced the rotten and despotic theories of Calhoun, Rhett, Toombs, Yancey, Slidell, and their co-conspirators, the great party itself became a conspiracy, not only against the Union of the States, but also against the liberty of man. When it declared, thro' its leaders, for the divinity of slavery, it became the foe of liberty and the advocate and slave of despotism. From the time it ceased to honor its great statesmen, and commenced to reward only the truculent tools of a corrupt and despotic leadership, it became the enemy of liberty, the implacable opponent of the Union. It consented, in 1860, to its own disruption at Charleston and Baltimore, that the foundation for the dissolution of the Union might be securely laid.

The power of the Union to protect and preserve liberty was the sole source of its offense to the Democratic leaders. Fearing the exercise of that power by the Republicans, they organized rebellion and sought to establish a Government whose cornerstone should be slavery, and the whole structure of which should consist of States torn from the National Union. Singly and by pairs and squads the Democratic leaders of the South, in the legislative and executive departments of the Government, boldly, defiantly marched out of the high places they had betrayed and dishonored, not only unrebuked, but cheered and encouraged by their Northern armies. Not a man but was a Democrat went into rebellion; not a man but was a Democrat sympathized with or aided rebellion. The rebellion was, in its conception and progress, a Democratic measure, inaugurated, advocated, conducted, defended, and supported by none but Democrats. Its purpose was the establishment of a slave empire. Its advocates held that capital should own labor, that slavery was a divine institution.

Upon such theories and for such purposes was the Democratic party, by the voluntary action of its leaders, dissolved, and the war for the disruption of the Union entered upon with the approval of these leaders in every section of the country.

At the first National Convention of the Democratic party after the inauguration of rebellion—in Chicago, in 1864—the Democratic leaders, though separated from their Southern allies by pending hostilities, did not fail to express their sympathy with their old allies, declare the war for the preservation of the Union a failure, and the restoration of the Union *as it was* the only road to peace.

Strange to say, the same leaders who made, conducted, and consented to the rebellion still control the Democratic party. They were the ruling power in the national nominating Convention recently assembled, and succeeded in forcing upon the party, candidates and a platform pledged to renewal of strife, even to war, if need be, in the interest of the defeated authors of the rebellion, and with the avowed purpose of restoring to its control men fresh from an assault upon the national life.—Can any further evidence be required of the utter unfitness of the Democratic party under its present leadership to rule the country?

True, these wily and unprincipled leaders, in the platform adopted by their 4th of July Convention, made some specious promises. But what are their promises worth? Their whole political career is but a schedule of violated pledges and unmeaning pretensions.

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called to organize a Tanners' Club. The following officers were elected: President, J. T. Hutchinson; Vice Presidents, Wm. D. Davis, R. E. Smith, N. I. Roberts; Secretaries, A. Y. Jones, Alvin Evans; Treasurer, Samuel Henry. A committee of five was appointed, to receive applications for membership, procure the necessary uniforms, &c. It is thought the Club will number 100 members in one week from date, at or about which time its first public parade will be held. A meeting of the Club will be held in the Town Hall this (Thursday) evening, to perfect organization, &c.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.—A correspondent writes us that a Grant and Colfax club was organized at Hemlock on Saturday evening last. Wm. Hale, Esq., was elected President, G. W. Miller Vice President, and John Williams Secretary. A goodly number enrolled themselves as members. The club will meet every Saturday evening during the campaign.

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offences, and the regulation of the elective franchise in the States by their citizens."

Here we have, 1st. The stereotyped declaration of devotion to the Constitution by a body of men, one-third of whom are fresh from a four years' war against the Constitution, and the other two-thirds of whom fully sympathized with efforts to overthrow the Government.

What faith can be placed in the pretended veneration of such men as Hampton, Forrest, Vallandigham, Seymour, and Clymer, and the other leaders of that Convention, all of whom either fought against the Constitution, or remaining in safe places, exerted all their power and influence to defeat the efforts of the Government for its preservation?

2d. A simple recognition that with the downfall of the rebellion, slavery actually perished, but there is no acceptance of the logical consequences which follow the extinction of slavery. The freed people are wholly ignored.

Slavery abolished and the right of secession still maintained. These are all the results of the war as understood by the Democracy. In all other respects the States are, as they were, to be held in the iron grasp of a governing class, a privileged aristocracy, who are to lord it over 5,000,000 of the subject race, and retain in ignorance and degradation all of their own race not members of the favored class. That is, the 300,000 old slave masters, who made and conducted the rebellion, are to take possession of the conquered States and people and run the Government machine in the old groove.

LET THEIR WITNESSES TESTIFY.

That the purpose of the Democracy is to destroy the reconstructed State governments, and restore the rebel leaders to power and control, let their candidates, and the men who controlled their convention, witness.

Extracts from letter of Frank P. Blair, June 30, 1868:

"The Reconstruction policy of the radicals will be complete before the next election; the States, so long back excluded, will have been admitted; negro suffrage established, and the carpet-baggers installed in their seats in both branches of Congress. There is no possibility of changing the political character of the Senate, even if the Democrats should elect their President and a majority of the popular branch of Congress. We cannot, therefore, undo the radical plan of reconstruction by Congressional action; the Senate will continue a bar to its repeal.—Must we submit to it? How can it be overthrown? It can only be overthrown by the authority of the Executive, who is sworn to maintain the Constitution, and who will fail to do his duty if he allows the Constitution to perish under a series of Congressional enactments which are in palpable violation of its fundamental principles.

"If the President elected by the Democracy enforces or permits others to enforce these reconstruction acts, the radicals, by the accession of twenty spurious Senators and fifty Representatives, will control both branches of Congress, and his administration will be as powerless as the present one of Mr. Johnson.

"There is but one way to restore the Government and the Constitution, and that is for the President elect to declare these acts null and void, compel the army to undo its usurpations at the South, disperse the carpet-bag State governments, allow the white people to reorganize their own governments and elect Senators and Representatives. The House of Representatives will contain a majority of Democrats from the North, and they will admit the Representatives elected by the white people of the South, and, with the co-operation of the President, it will not be difficult to compel the Senate to submit once more to the obligations of the Constitution. It will not be able to withstand the public judgment, if distinctly invoked and clearly expressed on this fundamental issue, and it is the sure way to avoid all future strife to put the issue plainly to the country.

"I repeat that this is the real and only question which we should allow to control us."

It was upon this letter that Frank P. Blair obtained the nomination. It was the sentiment of this letter which brought Wade Hampton and Gen. Forrest to his support.

Senator Bayard understands the platform and the Blair letter to be substantially the same. He says: "It (the platform) is in accord, in some measure, with the sentiments of the able statesman and gallant soldier who received the nomination for Vice President, General Frank Blair, of Missouri."

Speaking of the Blair letter, the Charlottesville (Va.) *Chronicle* says:

"There cannot be two opinions among those who desire to see the Constitution re-established as to the doctrine of the letter, and we believe that the chances are in its favor as a matter of politics at this time. The Democratic party is nothing unless it is bold and aggressive, and the Blair letter, as well as the previous record of the General, furnish very good guarantees that he is the man to give it that character."

The Lynchburg *Virginian* of the same date is equally explicit in its endorsement of Blair's revolutionary programme. After denouncing the fourteenth amendment and the reconstruction acts as a farce, it says:

"Frank Blair proposes to dramatize the reconstruction acts in a way that would plague the inventors 'smartly.' We hope that the reins of Government will be placed in the hands of men who will have the nerve to undo, at any hazard, the wrong that has been done."

These are but samples of the manner in which the Democratic candidates and platform are received at the South. The Blair letter is the key-note to the campaign. It furnishes the rule for the construction of the platform. Every other issue is merged in the one fact that the reorganized State governments must be destroyed. This done, and the rebel leaders placed in control, all else becomes easy. The national debt may be repudiated or the rebel debt assumed at pleasure.

As claimed by the rebel orators, the election of Seymour and Blair is to be the triumph of the "lost cause;" it is to gain by the ballot all they lost by the bullet.

Governor Wise, of Virginia, in a recent speech, declared that he admitted the loss of slavery, but adhered to the right of secession, which would yet triumph.

FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC DEBT.

On this subject the Democratic platform presents the following:

"*Third*. Payment of the public debt of the United States as rapidly as practicable; all moneys drawn from the people by taxation, except so much as is requisite for the necessities of the Government, economically administered, being honestly applied to such payment, and where the obligations of the Government do not expressly state, upon their face, or the law under which they were issued does not provide that they shall be paid in coin, they ought in right and justice be paid in the lawful money of the United States.

"*Fourth*. Equal taxation of every species of property according to its real value, including Government bonds and other public securities.

"*Fifth*. One currency for the Government and the people, the laborer and the office-holder, the pensioner and the soldier, the producer and the bondholder."

This is understood by the followers of the party to mean gold, greenbacks, or repudiation, to suit the locality.

The Nashville *Union and Dispatch*, a Democratic sheet, says:

"The Democratic platform provides that 'where the obligations of the Government do not expressly state upon their face, or the law under which they were issued does not provide that they shall be paid in coin, they ought in right and justice to be paid in the lawful money of the United States.' When this was reported to the convention, it was greeted with 'thunders of applause.' The Democratic party is, therefore, pledged to pay the five-twenty bonds of the United States in greenbacks. The party is also pledged by the platform to 'one currency for the Government and the people, the laborer and the office-holder, the pensioner and the soldier, the producer and the bondholder.' There is no equivocation or doubt about the position of the Democratic party on the greenback question. The convention has come fully up to the requirements of the Democrats and Conservatives of Tennessee and the West on this issue. And Governor Seymour has planted himself fairly and squarely on this plank of the platform.—Whatever position he may have previously assumed, he is now pledged to the payment of the United States bonds, known as five-twenties, in greenbacks, and he will honestly and faithfully adhere to that position. He has never been known to falsify his pledges."

A Democratic orator in a neighboring city recently declared that the platform meant and was intended to mean absolute repudiation. That the debt having been contracted in the prosecution of an unconstitutional war, was itself unconstitutional and void, and could not be legally paid.

Any practical man will see that the greenback and repudiation schemes are substantially the same. To force the payment of the bonds by flooding the country with irredeemable paper is, so far as the people are concerned, equivalent to unqualified repudiation.

It would postpone the resumption of coin payments indefinitely, disturb values, destroy confidence, and end in final repudiation; whereas the whole difficulty may be avoided by bringing greenbacks to the gold standard, when it will not matter whether the bonds are paid in gold or greenbacks. To keep the public faith is to restore the industries and business of the country to prosperity, give stability to values, employment to labor, and to promote economy in public and private affairs.

The sixth plank of the Democratic platform calls for the reduction of the army, the discontinuance of the Freedmen's Bureau, and reform in the tax laws. These demands have already been anticipated by Republican legislation, but not without opposition from the Democrats in Congress. It further demands that the *currency be made good*, but does not suggest how this is to be done. It is therefore inferred that it is to be done by an issue of greenbacks to pay the five-twenty bonds.

The demand of the Democracy for the protection of American citizens abroad has also been anticipated by act of Congress, by which it is made the duty of the President to afford such protection.

The platform further adopts the Republican policy in regard to the public lands.

The administration of Andrew Johnson is fully endorsed.

It enters up a long list of charges against the Republican party, which have been in the mouth of every rebel and Copperhead from the beginning of the rebellion to the present time.

It will be seen by a careful perusal of the Democratic platform that it practically confesses judgement upon every issue, except that of the public faith and the restoration of the Union, and on these subjects it declares substantially that the currency shall be made good by violating the national obligations, and then issuing the nation's promises to pay, just what it refuses to pay. First, discredit the Government paper, and then force it upon the people. And on the question of restoring the Union it declares that, to the extent that restoration has been effected, it shall be destroyed, and the States be remitted to the condition they were in at the close of the rebellion, subject to the control of the rebel leaders. As they declared the war a failure in 1864, they declare restoration a failure in 1868.

But they further declare that, if entrusted with power, they will *make* restoration a failure, by force of arms if needs be, and by Executive power will compel the admission of rebel leaders into Congress and the other departments of the Government.

Thus it is, the Democrats contend for the issue of an irredeemable currency and the restoration of the rebellion; and the Republicans contend for the maintenance of the public faith and the restoration of the Union. These are the issues, and the only issues, presented by the Democracy.

THE TESTIMONY.

When the rebellion was at its zenith, in the very height of its power, Fernando Wood, then as now, a Democratic leader, said:

"The war should cease, because it should never have been commenced, inasmuch as there is no coercive military power in the Federal Government as against the States, are sovereign, and in possession of all which power not delegated. If power of coercion exists at all, it is legal and not military."

Mr. Wood desired to have the Union armies withdrawn, and the rebellion put down by a suit in court. He denied the power of coercion, but insisted that if it existed at all it was *legal* and not *military*.

HOW IS IT NOW?

Mr. Wood and his associates do not like the reconstructed governments.—What is the remedy they propose? Is it *legal*, or *military*? General Blair has already answered that it is military, and not legal; that the Democratic President to be elected must, in defiance of law and the law-making power, destroy those States, undo what has been done, force the representatives of the rebel oligarchy into the Cabinet and the National Councils, and "*compel* the Senate to submit." And it was because of this declaration that F. P. Blair, Jr., was chosen as the representative of a proposed rebellion which the Democratic leaders, North and South, are advocating and organizing.

[*Conclusion next week.*]

Is Grant a Drunkard?

Some of the lower grade of Democratic papers never fail to insinuate that General Grant is an intemperate man, when they believe they can do him political injury by the charge. To show how false this accusation is, we quote from Democratic authority. Hon. George W. Woodward, Democratic Congressman from the XIIth Pennsylvenia district, re-nominated for re-election, in a speech at Great Bend, Susquehanna county, a couple of weeks ago, said:

"It is said that General Grant is intemperate. I know the charge to be false. My intimate social and military association with General Grant through nearly all of his campaigns leads me, as an honest man, to declare that the worthy chieftain is not only innocent of this unjust charge, but that he is in every respect temperate, and in all the walks of life a gentleman."

We hope this will satisfy the vituperative portion of the Democratic press.—Bishop Simpson some time since made a similar defense of Grant; so that we now have prominent and good men in both parties who declare, on the testimony of their own observation, that Grant is no drunkard.

THE result in Vermont has completely upset the Democrats, and given the Republicans renewed zeal. The majority has been largely increased. In November it will be fully 40,000. The Green Mountain Boys have pitched the tune that will be caught up everywhere by the legions who fought rebellion down once, and stand ready, if necessary, to do it again.

LEARNING made popular is no longer learning; it has the appearance of something which we have bestowed upon ourselves, as a dew appears to rise from the field which it refreshes.

HORATIO'S last words to the Democracy: "Your President I cannot be."

Democracy and Another War.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial* has been traveling through Kentucky. The following is a part of his conversation with a prominent Democrat of that State. Union Democrats, returned Union soldiers, and all men who are opposed to more war, more bloodshed, and more taxes will do well to ponder the words of this Kentucky rebel. They express the real sentiments of every Southern supporter of Seymour and Blair:—

"I suppose the prospect of a quiet condition of affairs is not very favorable," I remarked, in the course of the conversation.

"No," replied Mr. W——, of P——, "and we don't want any such a condition. The Northern Democrats are talking about restoring peace and settling the troubles of the country at once. They are fools, and know well enough that the people of the South cannot afford to have peace with matters now stand. Peace, here, means Radical nigger governments in the Southern States, with a d—d nigger bureau fastened upon the country to be retained there by the nigger senate—no, sir, we don't want any such peace, and we don't intend to have it.

"But," I asked, "what remedy have you to offer? It seems to me that the people are getting tired of agitation, and then the Democratic party, look out!"

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Ebensburg, Aug. 13, 1868.

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