

ADDRESS BY ABEL TURRELL.

Delivered before the Tilden Reform Club, of Montrose and Bridgewater, October 21st, 1876, and published in compliance with a Resolution adopted by the Club, requesting its publication in the MONTROSE DEMOCRAT and New York World.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—I do not stand before you, entirely in the attitude of a partisan; and I do not address you as the exclusive members of a single party, but as members of our common country, and as citizens of the United States, having an unselfish and earnest desire for the advancement of the true interests and well being of the people composing this great nation.

For sixteen years the Republican party has shaped the policy and managed the finances of the country, and while it boasts so loudly of its achievements, it must also bear the blame and the odium of its failures and misfortunes.

What then is the record of this party, and how much of the honorable part of that record belongs to the Republican party of to-day, which is now asking another four years' lease of power at the hands of the people? We may divide its history into two periods,—the first, beginning in 1860 with the election of Lincoln and extended down to 1869 and the accession of Grant. In that period of eight years were accomplished and completed all those great undertakings for which the Republican party was organized, and all those changes which the new condition of things succeeding the war and the peace imposed upon it.

What single political principle has bound them together for the last eight years as compared with the former period, except the one of "addition, division and silence," which was not a mere subterfuge and false pretext for a continuance of riotous rule? Is the question of specie payments one? Then why have they not given us specie payments? They have had unlimited and unimpeded power for eight years and have done nothing except to fix a date to come in an administration not their own, and that even without any system of preparation.

abandoned it early in the campaign. Then they put forward civil service reform. But what is their record here? The idea was first put forth by President Grant in a Message to Congress, and they have advocated it in platform and promises ever since. They have never given us any real reform, but by their attempts and failures in a civil service commission some years since, they have shown either their inefficiency or want of sincerity, and did nothing more than make themselves ridiculous.

And where now is that great "bug-bear," the school question? Given place to that greater "bug-bear," the "bloody" shirt. And why? Because they are sincere in neither, and naturally choose that "bug-bear" which they could make most effectual in the canvass.

Whatever, then, may be the preference of individual voters on the questions of local or centralized powers, which will always be the universal dividing lines of parties under our form of government, there is but one paramount and controlling issue in this campaign which the democratic party presents to the country, and that is the question of administrative reform.

We may accept it as a cardinal principle that no party is competent to do this work, which makes a dishonest compromise, and that every compromise with fraud is necessarily dishonest. When Bristow, Cox, and Jewell, undertook the work of administrative reform, they lost their official heads. It was not then the policy of the republican party. Mr. Bristow rallying about him his followers in the republican party and raising the standard of reform at Cincinnati, asked the nomination at the hands of his party.

How then do they meet this issue?—Having confessed to the charge, they seek to avoid the natural and logical result, by appealing to the passions engendered of civil strife. Although eleven years have elapsed since the South acknowledged itself conquered, it seems still to rise up in the visions of our Republican friends in forms ten thousand times more horrid than ever startled the greatest coward of the North in times of war.

they tell us, without even hinting at a possible motive, when their own motive for saying so is manifest in their desperate straits and extravagant assertions.— And finally having six years ago organized a commission for paying claims of Union men whose property was taken during the war, and having themselves paid \$4,000,000 of them out of \$19,000,000, of which bills for the payment of \$500,000 were passed by the late Republican Congress, they now tell us that these are all claims of "rebels," and that the Democratic party will pay them all, although a Democratic House has passed bills for the payment of only \$72,000 and reported fewer than any preceding House.

Then they as the people to look upon the South—"the solid South"—made "solid" by their own misgovernment.— They deprecate sectional parties, forgetting all the while, that the Democratic party is the only national party, and that they never have been anything else themselves than sectional. They point to "Southern outrages," forgetting that the "outrages" have always occurred in states under their own special domination and that the outrages ceased as soon as the states passed from their control, as the quiet and order of Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia to-day bear witness, while the only states in which they even claim outrages now to exist are those of South Carolina and Louisiana.

Resolved, 6, "That the people justly view with alarm the reckless extravagance which pervades every department of the Federal Government; that a return to rigid economy and accountability is indispensable to arrest the systematic plunder of the public treasury by favored partisans, while the recent startling developments of frauds and corruptions at the Federal Metropolis, show that an entire change of administration is imperatively demanded."

From the World, various other sources, public official documents, and my own recollection, I glean the following summary of a portion of the frauds, stealings, embezzlements, peculations, defalcations, malfeasance, misfeasance, misdemeanors, etc., that have been enacted during the control of the Republican party, that is asking for a continuance of power to do evil to the people, and financial good to corrupt office-holders.

- The New York custom house frauds. Usurpation in Louisiana. The Credit Mobilier inquiry. The Freedman's Savings Bank swindle. The Navy Yard frauds. The Secret Service swindle. The Black Friday operations. The Post Office straw bids. The Emma Mine affair. The Belknap Post-railroadship. The "Boss" Shepherd affair. The Safe Robbery conspiracy. The Indian Ring robberies. The San Domingo jobbery. The Venezuelan conspiracy. The Soldiers' Gravestones' biddings. The Back Pay extortion. The Babcock revelations. The Bristow and Jewell removals. The irregularities in the Navy Department. The removal of Yaryan and Platt, of Washington. The removal of Henderson and Dyer, of Missouri. The Pension frauds. The Sanborn contracts. The bankruptcy of the government financial agents. The various frauds by petty government agents on the Treasury Department.

ment. The 155 Army Paymasters, who were defaulters; and whose aggregate swindlings amount to \$768,000. The extravagant expenditures of government. A larger number of officers than the public business requires, and higher salaries paid than the service is entitled or the ability should command.

The \$5,600,000 stealings under the name of defalcations, and lost to the government since 1869. A general waste of the public monies and other sources of national wealth. The \$65,000,000 cash subsidies in loan of public credit to railroad corporations; a sum sufficient to have paid the expenses of a general resumption of specie payments six years ago.

Is it reasonable to suppose that the enactors of these robberies, would assume the disgrace, without sharing in the gain? Since the close of the war the Republican party administrations have collected in taxes from the people about \$4,500,000,000. With this money they have reduced the national debt only about \$700,000,000 from its original or highest amount. This leaves \$3,800,000,000 that have been expended for other purposes—a vast amount—exceeding by \$800,000,000 the original amount of the national debt.

Of the honest men of the Republican party, I ask, what will you do? Will you endorse these wrongs by voting for Hayes? Or will you free yourselves from this thralldom, and show to your fellow men, that your country is dearer to you, than mere party ties? The times imperatively demand that all good citizens, without distinction of party, unite in this patriotic effort to establish public virtue and good government.

If the Republican party of the present day have any principles, the most prominent appear to be; slander of private character; deceit; and any thing that will fool the people into the error of giving them another lease of power; and re- viving the war issues that were long since settled. By the latter they do all in their power to keep alive the strife and hatred engendered by the war, to continue the array of the North against the South, until they produce another war.

Perhaps the office holders of the Grant administration are beyond enumeration; but I have seen them estimated at from 80,000 to 100,000. Add to these their relatives and friends, which make a large force of men, women and children, to throw their influence in favor of electing a republican president. These men have contributed their money, and the office holders have paid assessments on their salaries, and a vast amount of money has been raised to expend in this campaign.

In a speech at Germantown Forney said: "I found in addressing a meeting in my native city of Lancaster last night, that there was a deep, earnest thought pervading the people themselves." He forgot to say that his native city is pervaded with a deep, earnest wonder why the Republican state central committee allows a man to stump the state for them who is charged with having a \$25,000 bribe in his pocket.—Lancaster Intelligencer.

Vote for Joseph Powell for Congress.

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Susq'a Depot, Pa.—April 14, 1876.