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TERMS:
DEMOCRAT & SENTINEL IS PUBLISHED every Wednesday Morning at FIVE DOLLARS and FIFTY CENTS per annum, in advance; ONE DOLLAR and SEVENTY CENTS if not paid within six months, and TWO DOLLARS if not paid until the termination of the year.

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How Lost. How Restored.

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THE PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL.

Fellow Citizens of the United States.—In compliance with a custom as old as the government itself, I appear before you, to address you briefly, and to take in your presence the oath prescribed by the Constitution of the United States, to be taken by the President before he enters on the execution of his office.

I do not consider it necessary, at the present, for me to discuss those matters of administration, about which there is no special anxiety or excitement. Apprehension seems to exist among the people of the Southern States that, by the accession of a Republican Administration, their property and their peace and personal security are to be endangered.

I now reiterate these sentiments, and in doing so, I only press upon the public attention the most conclusive evidence of which the case is susceptible, that the property, peace and security of no section are to be in anywise endangered by the incoming administration.

There is much controversy about the delivery of fugitives from service or labor. The clause I read is as plainly written in the Constitution as any other of its provisions: "No person held to service or labor in one State, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such labor or service; but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due."

It is scarcely questioned that this provision was intended by those who made it for the reclaiming of what we call fugitive slaves, and the intention of the law giver is the law. All members of Congress swear their support to the whole Constitution—to this provision as much as to any other.

There is some difference of opinion as to whether this clause shall be enforced by national or State authority, but surely that difference is not a very material one. If the slave is to be surrendered, it can be of but little consequence to him or to others by which authority it is done; and should any one, in any case, be content that his oath shall be unkept on a merely unsubstantial controversy as to how it shall be kept?

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AGAIN, IF THE UNITED STATES BE NOT A GOVERNMENT PROPER...

Again, if the United States be not a government proper, but an association of States in the nature of a contract merely, can it, as a contract, be peaceably revoked by less than all the parties who made it? One party to a contract may violate it, or break it, so to speak, but does it not require all to lawfully rescind it?

Descending from these general principles, we find the proposition that in a legal contemplation of the case, the Union is perpetually confirmed by the history of the Union itself. The Union is much older than the Constitution. It was formed in fact, by the articles of Association in 1774. It was matured and continued by the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

It follows from these views that no State upon its own mere motion, can lawfully get out of the Union; that resolves and ordinances that affect the Union are legally void, and that acts of violence within any State or States against the authority of the United States, are insurrectionary or revolutionary according to circumstances.

I therefore consider that in view of the Constitution and laws, the Union is unbroken, and to the extent of my ability, I shall take care, as the Constitution itself expressly enjoins upon me, that the laws of the Union be faithfully executed in all the States.

One section of our country believes slavery is right, and ought to be extended, while the other believes it is wrong, and ought not to be extended. This is the only substantial dispute; for the fugitive slave clause of the Constitution, and the law for the suppression of the foreign slave trade, are each as well enforced, perhaps, as any law can ever be in a community where the moral sense of the people imperfectly supports the law itself.

Physically speaking, we cannot separate; we cannot remove our respective sections from each other, nor build an impassable wall between them. A husband and wife may be divorced, and go out of the presence and beyond the reach of each other. But the different parts of our country cannot do this.

All the vital rights of minorities and of individuals are so plainly assured to them by affirmations and negotiations, guarantees and prohibitions in the Constitution, that controversies never arise concerning them.

OTHER.

If a minority in such case will concede rather than acquiesce, they make a precedent which in turn will divide and ruin them, for a minority of their own will succeed from them whenever a majority refuses to be controlled by such a minority.

Is there such perfect identity of interests among the States to compose a new Union as to produce harmony only, and prevent renewed secession? Plainly, the central idea of secession is the essence of anarchy.

A majority held in restraint by constitutional checks and limitations, and always changing easily with the deliberate changes of popular opinions and sentiments, is the only true sovereign of a free people.

Unanimity is impossible. The rule of a minority, as a permanent arrangement, is wholly inadmissible; so that, rejecting the majority principle, anarchy and despotism in some form is all that is left.

I do not forget the position assumed by some, that Constitutional questions are to be decided by the Supreme Court; nor do I deny that such decisions must be binding in any case upon the parties to a suit, as to the object of that suit, while they are also entitled to very high respect and consideration in all parallel cases.

I cannot be ignorant of the fact that many worthy and patriotic citizens are desirous of having the National Constitution amended. While I make no recommendation of amendment, I fully recognize the rightful authority of the people over the whole subject, to be exercised in either of the modes prescribed by the instrument itself, and I should, under existing circumstances, favor, rather than oppose, a fair opportunity being offered the people to act upon it.

The Chief Magistrate derives all his authority from the people, and they have conferred none upon him to fix terms for the separation of the States.

INDIAN ANECDOTE.

Years ago, when the copper fanged natives had mingled with the whites just long enough to confuse their ideas of propriety, when Judge Johnston held court on banks of the Mowhawk, Big John, a prince of the royal family of Kinickinick, was arraigned, tried and convicted of the larceny of a jug of fire-water.

According to the laws in operation at this romantic period, Big John was sentenced to pay a fine of five dollars, which was duly forked over. Whereupon the aboriginal culprit was informed that he was at liberty to go.

John gathered his blanket around him and approached the Judge, and demanded a receipt for his five dollars.

"There's no occasion for a receipt, John," said the Judge, "you'll never be called on to pay it again."

"Ugh! big Indian steal whiskey—pay five dollars want no receipt!"

"But the son of the forest was not to be cheated. He bored the clerk, sheriff, and every one connected with the court, until the Judge concluded to give him a receipt to get rid of him. He called him up to the bench, and said:

"John if you tell me what you want with a receipt I'll give you one."