

THE WESTERN DEMOCRAT.

R. P. WARING, Editor and Proprietor.

A FAMILY PAPER—DEVOTED TO POLITICS, LITERATURE, AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURES, MINING, AND NEWS.

PRICE \$2 PER YEAR—In Advance.

"The States—Distinct as the Willow, but one as the Sea."

VOL. 3.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 13, 1855.

NO. 51.

An Old-Line Whig's Opinion of the Know Nothing Platform.

Mr. EDITOR: Our Southern Know Nothings are trying to make a great deal of fuss about a certain platform on the slavery question, which their own southern delegates, with the assistance of the delegates from New York, passed at their late convention in Philadelphia. Now, while this know-nothing platform is not as good as the Georgia platform, it is hardly as good, and certainly no better, than the late national whig and national democratic platforms. The know-nothing resolutions certainly lack the boldness of expression of both the whig and democratic resolutions in relation to a sore subject to the North—the fugitive-slave law—for while the former makes no allusion to the fugitive-slave law by name, both of the latter expressly named this law, so much hated by northern fanatics. But let the several platforms speak for themselves. Here they are, viz:

KNOW-NOTHING NATIONAL PLATFORM.

XII. The American party, having arisen upon the ruins and in spite of the opposition of the whig and democratic parties, cannot be held in any manner responsible for the obnoxious acts or violated pledges of either. And the systematic agitation of the slavery question by those parties having elevated sectional hostility into a positive element of political power, and brought our institutions into peril, it has therefore become the imperative duty of the American party to interpose, for the purpose of giving peace to the country and perpetuity to the Union. And as experience has shown it impossible to reconcile opinions so extreme as those which separate the disputants, and as there can be no dishonor in submitting to the laws, the national council has deemed it the best guarantee of common justice and future peace to abide by and maintain the existing laws upon the subject of slavery, as a final and conclusive settlement of that subject in spirit and in substance.

And regarding the highest duty to avow their opinions upon a subject so important in distinct and unequivocal terms, it is hereby declared, as the sense of this national council, that Congress possess some power under the constitution to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the State from admission into the Union because its constitution does or does not recognize the institution of slavery as a part of its social system; and especially pretermittting any expression of opinion upon the power of Congress to establish or prohibit slavery in any Territory, it is the sense of the national council that Congress ought not to legislate upon the subject of slavery within the territory of the United States; and that any interference by Congress with slavery as it exists in the District of Columbia would be a violation of the spirit and intention of the compact by which the State of Maryland ceded the District of the United States, and a breach of national faith.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL PLATFORM.

9. 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 the internal affairs not prohibited by the constitution; that all efforts of the abolitionists or others made to induce Congress to interfere with questions of slavery, or to take incipient steps in relation thereto, are calculated to lead to the most alarming and dangerous consequences; and that all such efforts have an inevitable tendency to diminish the happiness of the people, and endanger the stability and permanency of the Union, and ought not to be countenanced by any friend of our public institutions.

Resolved, That the foregoing proposition covers, and was intended to embrace, the whole subject of slavery agitation in Congress; and therefore the democratic party of the Union, standing upon national platform, will abide by and adhere to the faithful execution of the acts known as the compromise measures, settled by the last Congress—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 what ever shape or color the attempt may be made.

AN OLD-LINE WHIG.

PRESIDENT PIERCE.—Whether the Know Nothings of the North and those of the South are sincere or not in regard to their respective platforms, it is certain that they are thoroughly united in opposition to President Pierce and his administration. But while their hatred is directed to the overthrow of the general administration, it is amusing to see what characteristic and contradictory reasons they give for their animosities to the President. The Know Nothings of the North are exceedingly indignant, because, as they allege, their President is in the hands of the slaveholders, and shapes his policy only to suit the slaveholding States. On the other hand, the Know Nothings of the South are quite as positive that the President is untrustworthy in regard to the slave States, and that he is in the hands of the freeholders.

This is an appropriate work for such political gamblers as Garret Davis and George D. Prentiss, of Kentucky, and their echoes; but how much self degradation it must require is proved by the fact that it is just such injustice as this that drives off the best intellects of the Whig party in the South, and leaves the whole burden of the canvass in the hands of cast-off demagogues and self-fish office-hunters. Nothing more convincingly establishes the innate falsehood and corruption of the leaders of the new party than their violent and contradictory assault upon President Pierce. And if we did not see daily evidence of this rank and shameless practice, we should soon come to believe that any portion of our countrymen could be guilty of such monstrous self-stultification.

[Washington Union.]

Here are three platforms—the first adopted by the southern delegates, with the assistance of New York, at the late know-nothing national convention at Philadelphia; the second adopted unanimously at the last Democratic National Convention; and the third adopted by the late National Whig Convention—66 delegates voting for it. And I would ask the unprincipled reader if the know-nothing resolutions are any better than either of the old parties? Nay, more; are they even as bold and emphatic as the other two, even though but one northern State in committee voted for them at the late know-nothing national convention?

But our southern know-nothing friends say—"Oh, but our platform was so good for the South, that the abolition delegates from the 12 northern and western States seceded from us after we passed it." They did, they did! Then, so much the worse for your association with them: for, if their withdrawal from your convention proves anything, (even without any other evidence,) it proves conclusively what we anti-know-nothings

have all along said about your northern know-nothing brethren, viz: that they are worse abolitionists than have ever before had position or power in any of the northern and western States. And how does it prove it? Because, heretofore, while there have no doubt been free-soilers in both the whig and democratic National Conventions, still they were not so rabid as to withdraw from their party associates and from their convention merely because a majority passed the above resolutions; but these northern know-nothings, it seems, are such rampant abolitionists, and hate the South and its institutions so intensely, that they will not even remain in a party convention that pleases them in every other particular, whose majority dare agree to abide by and maintain certain laws, passed in accordance with the constitution for the protection of the rights of the South. Upon what ground, then, can our southern know-nothing friends congratulate themselves or the South upon the passage of their platform, when they had to pass it by themselves, except with the assistance of New York?

The resolutions are no better by being passed in Philadelphia than they would have been had they been passed in Georgia, or any other southern State. Surely the southern know-nothings did not expect their delegates to become free-soilers and abolitionists, and to abandon the rights of the South at Philadelphia, and now congratulate the South that they did not do it! If there be any other cause for congratulation connected with the late Philadelphia convention, really I cannot see it.

But is there no other evidence that this know-nothing platform is all a cheat or a humbug; or, at best, that it amounts to nothing? Let us see.

I presume that surely none of the southern know-nothings will now have the hardihood to say that the South can expect any favor or justice from the know-nothing party in the twelve northern and western States that seceded from the Philadelphia convention. But they may say "New York is sound, and that she will stand by the platform." But is this true? The election a few months since in New York denies the truth of this assertion. In the late election in that State four members of the next Congress there were about thirty know-nothings and Whigs elected to Congress; and so far from New York being sound, and her know-nothings found standing by this platform, out of the large number of know-nothing members of Congress, the New York papers tell us there is not even one know-nothing member who will vote against the repeal of the fugitive-slave law, or against the repeal of the Kansas and Nebraska act. And this is, indeed, a pretty national organization for the South to look to for justice or a protection of its rights! For my own part, I pray that the South may ever be delivered from any such a "national organization," be it called ultra-democratic, whig, know-nothing, or any other name.

Then, what is the use of southern men keeping up such an organization longer? Have they got nothing better to do than by trying to run down and persecute a few foreigners and Catholics in southern States? There are but five or six thousand Catholics and foreigners in Georgia, with a population of about one million; and there are but about three hundred thousand foreigners and Catholics together in the whole South, with a population of \$0,000,000 or \$0,000,000. They are all true and loyal to the South and her institutions. Then, why make war upon them? Is it because they are feeble and harmless? If so, this perverse notion of this weak class among us is surely not magnanimous, or characteristic of southern character. And since it has now been proven in the late Philadelphia convention that the native-American or know-nothing party, in at least twelve of the northern and western States, is now composed of, and is controlled by, the most violent abolitionists and free soilers, so far from we of the South joining them in their crusade against the Catholics and foreigners there, sound policy would seem to dictate that we of the South should extend our sympathy and "aid and comfort" in the highest degree to the Catholics and foreigners in the North who are against them; and we should use them, if we can, to put down these native-born traitors to the North, who are now plotting day and night to destroy the constitution and the Union, and who are now plotting day and night against our property and our lives.

Don't you think I am right, Mr. Editor? I completely sense tell me that I am. But I will conclude now, and let you hear from me again.

AN OLD-LINE WHIG.

PRESIDENT PIERCE.—Whether the Know Nothings of the North and those of the South are sincere or not in regard to their respective platforms, it is certain that they are thoroughly united in opposition to President Pierce and his administration. But while their hatred is directed to the overthrow of the general administration, it is amusing to see what characteristic and contradictory reasons they give for their animosities to the President. The Know Nothings of the North are exceedingly indignant, because, as they allege, their President is in the hands of the slaveholders, and shapes his policy only to suit the slaveholding States. On the other hand, the Know Nothings of the South are quite as positive that the President is untrustworthy in regard to the slave States, and that he is in the hands of the freeholders.

This is an appropriate work for such political gamblers as Garret Davis and George D. Prentiss, of Kentucky, and their echoes; but how

much self degradation it must require is proved by the fact that it is just such injustice as this that drives off the best intellects of the Whig party in the South, and leaves the whole burden of the canvass in the hands of cast-off demagogues and self-fish office-hunters. Nothing more convincingly establishes the innate falsehood and corruption of the leaders of the new party than their violent and contradictory assault upon President Pierce. And if we did not see daily evidence of this rank and shameless practice, we should soon come to believe that any portion of our countrymen could be guilty of such monstrous self-stultification.

[Washington Union.]

Sam seems to be furnishing the country with any number of candidates for office. In Philadelphia the Know Nothing organ announces a list of only seventeen candidates for the office of Sheriff, and sixteen for the office of Register of Wills. If Americans do not govern America, it will not be anything, (even without any other evidence,) it proves conclusively what we anti-know-nothings

Mohammed—His Personal Appearance and Habits.

From a life of this great Prophet and Reformer recently published in London, we extract the following description of his personal appearance and habits:

Mohammed was middling size, had broad shoulders, a wide chest, and large bones; and he was fleshy, but not stout. The immoderate size of his head was partly disguised by the long locks of hair, which in slight curls came nearly down to the lobe of his ears. His oval face, though tawny was rather fair for an Arab, but neither pale nor high colored. The forehead was broad, and his fine and long but narrow eyebrows were separated by a vein which you could see throbbing if he was angry. Under long eyelashes sparkled blood-shot black eyes through wide slightly spreading eyelids. His nose was large, prominent, slightly hooked, and the tip of it seemed to be turned up, but was not so in reality. The mouth was wide, he had a good set of teeth, and the foreteeth were asunder. His beard rose from the cheek bones, and came down to the collar bone; he clipp'd his moustachios, but did not shave them. He stooped, and was slightly hump-backed. His gait was careless, and he walked fast heavily, as if he were ascending a hill; and if he looked back, he turned round his whole body. The mildness of his countenance gained him the confidence of every one; but he could not look straight into a man's face; he turned his eyes usually outwards. On his back he had a round fleshy tumor of the size of a pigeons egg; its furrowed surface was covered with hairs, and its base was surrounded by black moles.

This was considered as the seal of his prophetic mission, at least during the latter part of his career, by his followers, who were so devout that they found a cure for their ailments in drinking the water in which he had bathed; and it must have been very refreshing, for he perspired profusely, and his skin exhaled a strong smell. He bestowed considerable care upon his person, and more particularly on his teeth, which he rubbed so frequently with a piece of wood, that a Shihui author was induced to consider it as one of the signs of his prophetic mission. He bathed frequently, washed several times a day, and oiled his head profusely after washing it. At times he dyed his hair and beard red with henna, in imitation of his grandfather, who imported this habit from Yaman. Though he did comb himself regularly, he did it now and then. At first he wore his hair like the Jews and Christians; for he said, "In all instances in which God has not given me an order, to the contrary, I like to follow their example;" but subsequently he divided it, like most of his countrymen. Every evening he applied antimony to his eyes and though he had not many grey hairs even when he died, he concealed them by dyeing or oiling them, in order to please his wives many of whom were young and inclined to be giddy; and whose numbers he increased in proportion as he became more decrepit. The prophet was usually dressed in a white cotton shirt, or blouse (qamys), with pockets, and sleeves which reached to his wrists. He had a skull cap and a turban on his head, the extremities hanging down the back; and sandals, with two leather straps over the instep, on his feet. In the house he wore merely a piece of cloth (caibah) tied round his temples, leaving the crown of the head uncovered,—Sometimes he wore instead of the shirt a "suit of clothes" (hollow), which consisted of an apron (izar), that is to say, a piece of cloth tied round the waist and hanging in folds down to the legs, like a woman's petticoat; and a sheet (riva) or square shawl, which was thrown over the left shoulder, and wrapped round the body under the right arm. Sometimes he wrapped himself in a blanket (matt).

They besought her not to relax her hold, as safety depended upon it, until some one could be found with courage enough to seize and remove the terrible animal. There were none of the ladies, however, to perform the act, and the situation of Miss M. was becoming more and more critical every moment. It was evident that her strength was failing fast, and that she could not maintain her hold many minutes longer.

A hasty consultation among the calmest of the ladies was held, when it was determined that Mr. Tison, who was present, should be called to their assistance. He was quickly on the spot, and bearing a man of uncommon courage, he was not many minutes within the circle of weeping and half fainting females, until he caught the tail of the snake and wound it round his hand to make sure of his hold.

As then told Miss M. that she must let go at the moment he jerked it away; and to make the act as instantaneous as possible, he would pronounce the words one, two, three, and at the moment he pronounced the last word, she must let go her hold, and he doubted not he could withdraw the snake before it would have time to strike. All stood in breathless horror, awaiting the act of life or death; and at the moment the word three was pronounced, the doctor jerked out the largest and most diabolical looking bustle that was ever seen in Mississippi. The whole affair was then explained. The fastenings of the machine had become loose during dancing, and it had shifted its position in such a way that it dangled about the lady's limbs, and induced the belief that it was a snake with an enormous head.

The doctor fell right down in his tracks, and fainted—he did.

From the Mississippi Journal.

A Frightful Snake Story.

The following incident was related to us the other day by one whose veracity is unquestioned, and who was an eye witness of the fact. It is more appalling than any we recollect to have ever read.

Some time last summer the inhabitants of Manchester, Mississippi, gave a barbecue, which was attended by most of the fashion and beauty of the town and surrounding country. It happened that among the guests there was a young lady, Miss M., recently from one of the eastern cities, who was on a visit to her relations in the neighborhood of the town.

Miss M. was a gay and extremely fashionable young lady, and whilst possessed an uncommon share of spirit and courage, except in a matter of snakes, and of those she had so great a dread that she scarcely dared to walk anywhere, except in the most frequented places, for fear of encountering them. Every effort was used, but without avail, to rid her of her childish fears. They haunted her continually, until at last it became the settled conviction of her mind that she was destined to fall a victim to the fangs of a rattle-snake.

Miss M. was a gay and extremely fashionable young lady, and whilst possessed an uncommon share of spirit and courage, except in a matter of snakes, and of those she had so great a dread that she scarcely dared to walk anywhere, except in the most frequented places, for fear of encountering them. Every effort was used, but without avail, to rid her of her childish fears. They haunted her continually, until at last it became the settled conviction of her mind that she was destined to fall a victim to the fangs of a rattle-snake.

We can write this without justifying Napoleon's usurpation, his despotism, or his mad passion for aggrandizement; or without being in love with some of the traits of his character. The oligarchy and crowned heads of Europe hated him with an undying hatred, and have done all they could to blacken his fame, and erase his memory from the hearts of the masses. It has been, and will forever, all in vain. This mighty man won their confidence and their gratitude by carrying out many of the sound principles of the early French revolution; that grand democratic movement which every aristocrat and unfledged theological gladiator loves heartily to kick. He abrogated the laws of primogeniture and entail; he abridged priestly influence; he overthrew that thing of infamy, the inquisition; and by his code Napoleon produced reforms as admirable as they will be lasting. For such things, all France, which he loved so well, idolized him when living, and now pays homage to his shade.

We can write this without justifying Napoleon's usurpation, his despotism, or his mad passion for aggrandizement; or without being in love with some of the traits of his character. The oligarchy and crowned heads of Europe hated him with an undying hatred, and have done all they could to blacken his fame, and erase his memory from the hearts of the masses. It has been, and will forever, all in vain. This mighty man won their confidence and their gratitude by carrying out many of the sound principles of the early French revolution; that grand democratic movement which every aristocrat and unfledged theological gladiator loves heartily to kick. He abrogated the laws of primogeniture and entail; he abridged priestly influence; he overthrew that thing of infamy, the inquisition; and by his code Napoleon produced reforms as admirable as they will be lasting. For such things, all France, which he loved so well, idolized him when living, and now pays homage to his shade.

We can write this without justifying Napoleon's usurpation, his despotism, or his mad passion for aggrandizement; or without being in love with some of the traits of his character. The oligarchy and crowned heads of Europe hated him with an undying hatred, and have done all they could to blacken his fame, and erase his memory from the hearts of the masses. It has been, and will forever, all in vain. This mighty man won their confidence and their gratitude by carrying out many of the sound principles of the early French revolution; that grand democratic movement which every aristocrat and unfledged theological gladiator loves heartily to kick. He abrogated the laws of primogeniture and entail; he abridged priestly influence; he overthrew that thing of infamy, the inquisition; and by his code Napoleon produced reforms as admirable as they will be lasting. For such things, all France, which he loved so well, idolized him when living, and now pays homage to his shade.

We can write this without justifying Napoleon's usurpation, his despotism, or his mad passion for aggrandizement; or without being in love with some of the traits of his character. The oligarchy and crowned heads of Europe hated him with an undying hatred, and have done all they could to blacken his fame, and erase his memory from the hearts of the masses. It has been, and will forever, all in vain. This mighty man won their confidence and their gratitude by carrying out many of the sound principles of the early French revolution; that grand democratic movement which every aristocrat and unfledged theological gladiator loves heartily to kick. He abrogated the laws of primogeniture and entail; he abridged priestly influence; he overthrew that thing of infamy, the inquisition; and by his code Napoleon produced reforms as admirable as they will be lasting. For such things, all France, which he loved so well, idolized him when living, and now pays homage to his shade.

We can write this without justifying Napoleon's usurpation, his despotism, or his mad passion for aggrandizement; or without being in love with some of the traits of his character. The oligarchy and crowned heads of Europe hated him with an undying hatred, and have done all they could to blacken his fame, and erase his memory from the hearts of the masses. It has been, and will forever, all in vain. This mighty man won their confidence and their gratitude by carrying out many of the sound principles of the early French revolution; that grand democratic movement which every aristocrat and unfledged theological gladiator loves heartily to kick. He abrogated the laws of primogeniture and entail; he abridged priestly influence; he overthrew that thing of infamy, the inquisition; and by his code Napoleon produced reforms as admirable as they will be lasting. For such things, all France, which he loved so well, idolized him when living, and now pays homage to his shade.

We can write this without justifying Napoleon's usurpation, his despotism, or his mad passion for aggrandizement; or without being in love with some of the traits of his character. The oligarchy and crowned heads of Europe hated him with an undying hatred, and have done all they could to blacken his fame, and erase his memory from the hearts of the masses. It has been, and will forever, all in vain. This mighty man won their confidence and their gratitude by carrying out many of the sound principles of the early French revolution; that grand democratic movement which every aristocrat and unfledged theological gladiator loves heartily to kick. He abrogated the laws of primogeniture and entail; he abridged priestly influence; he overthrew that thing of infamy, the inquisition; and by his code Napoleon produced reforms as admirable as they will be lasting. For such things, all France, which he loved so well, idolized him when living, and now pays homage to his shade.

We can write this without justifying Napoleon's usurpation, his despotism, or his mad passion for aggrandizement; or without being in love with some of the traits of his character. The oligarchy and crowned heads of Europe hated him with an undying hatred, and have done all they could to blacken his fame, and erase his memory from the hearts of the masses. It has been, and will forever, all in vain. This mighty man won their confidence and their gratitude by carrying out many of the sound principles of the early French revolution; that grand democratic movement which every aristocrat and unfledged theological gladiator loves heartily to kick. He abrogated the laws of primogeniture and entail; he abridged priestly influence; he overthrew that thing of infamy, the inquisition; and by his code Napoleon produced reforms as admirable as they will be lasting. For such things, all France, which he loved so well, idolized him when living, and now pays homage to his shade.