

## Deferred Articles.

**PLATFORM**  
Of the American Party, adopted at Philadelphia,  
June 15, 1855.

I.—The acknowledgment of that Almighty Being who rules over the universe—who presides over the counsels of nations—who conducts the affairs of men, and who, in every step by which we have advanced to the character of an independent nation, has distinguished us by some token of providential agency.

II.—The cultivation and development of a sentiment of profoundly intense American feeling; of passionate attachment to our country, its history and its institutions; of admiration for the purer days of our national existence; of veneration for the heroism that precipitated our revolution; and of emulation of the virtue, wisdom and patriotism that framed our constitution, and first successfully applied its provisions.

III.—The maintenance of the union of these United States as the paramount political good; or, to use the language of Washington, "the primary object of patriotic desire." And hence—

1. Opposition to all attempts to weaken or subvert it.

2. Uncompromising antagonism to every principle of policy that endangers it.

3. The advocacy of an equitable adjustment of all political differences which threaten its integrity or purity.

4. The suppression of all tendencies to political division, founded on "geographical discriminations, or on the belief that there is a real difference of interests and views, between the various sections of the Union."

5. The full recognition of the rights of the several States, as expressed and reserved in the constitution; and a careful avoidance, by the general government, of all interference with their rights by legislative or executive action.

IV.—Obedience to the Constitution of these United States, as the supreme law of the land, sacredly obligatory upon all its parts and members; and steadfast resistance to the spirit of innovation upon its principles, however specious the pretenses. Avowing that in all doubtful or disputed points it may only be legally ascertained and expounded by the judicial power of the United States.

And, as a corollary to the above—

1. A habit of reverential obedience to the laws, whether National, State, or Municipal, until they are either repealed or declared unconstitutional by the proper authority.

2. A tender and sacred regard for those acts of state-manship which are to be distinguished from acts of ordinary legislation, by the fact of their being of the nature of compacts and agreements; and so to be considered a fixed and settled national policy.

V.—A radical revision and modification of the laws regulating immigration, and the settlement of immigrants. Offering to the honest immigrants who, from love of liberty or hatred of oppression, seek an asylum in the United States, a friendly reception and protection; but unequivocally condemning the transmission to our shores of felons and paupers.

VI.—The essential modification of the naturalization laws.

The repeal by the Legislatures of the respective States, of all State laws allowing foreigners not naturalized to vote.

The repeal, without retro-active operation, of all acts of Congress making grants of lands to unnaturalized foreigners, and allowing them to vote in the Territories.

VII.—Hostility to the corrupt means by which the leaders of party have hitherto forced upon us our rulers and our political creed.

Inaplaceable enmity against this prevalent demoralizing system of rewards for political subserviency, and of punishments for political independence.

Disgust for the wild bunt after office which characterizes the age.

These on the one hand. On the other—

Imitation of the practice of the paroxysms of the maxim that "office should seek the man, and not the man the office;" and of the rule, that the just mode of ascertaining fitness for office is the capability, the faithfulness, and the honesty of the incumbant or candidate.

VIII.—Resistance to the aggressive policy and corrupting tendencies of the Roman Catholic Church in our country by the advancement to all political stations—executive, legislative, judicial or diplomatic—of those only who do not hold civil allegiance, directly or indirectly, to any foreign power whether civil or ecclesiastical, and who are Americans by birth, education and training—thus fulfilling the maxim, "AMERICA ONLY SHALL GOVERN AMERICA."

The protection of all citizens in the legal and proper exercise of their civil and religious rights and privileges; the maintenance of the right of every man to the full, unrestrained and peaceful enjoyment of his own religious opinions and worship; and a jealous resistance to all attempts by any sect, denomination or church to obtain an ascendancy over any other in the State, by means of any special privilege or exemption, or by any political combination of its members, or by a division of their civil allegiance with any foreign power, potentate or ecclesiastic.

IX.—The reformation of the character of our National Legislature, by elevating to that dignified and responsible position men of higher qualifications, purer morals, and more unshakable patriotism.

X.—The restriction of executive patronage—especially in the matter of appointments to office—so far as it may be permitted by the constitution, and consistent with the public good.

XI.—The education of the youth of our country in Schools provided by the State, which schools shall be common to all, without distinction of creed or party, and free from any influence or direction of a denominational or partisan character.

And, inasmuch as Christianity by the constitutions of nearly all the States, by the decisions of the most eminent judicial authorities, and by the consent of the people of America, is considered an element of our political system; and as the Holy Bible is at once the source of Christianity, and the depository and fountain of all civil and religious freedom, we oppose every attempt to exclude it from the schools thus established in the States.

XII.—The American party, having risen upon the ruins and despoils 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 contestants; 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 of future peace to abide and maintain the existing laws upon the subject of slavery, as a final and conclusive settlement of that subject in spirit and is substantial.

And regarding it 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 possesses no power, under the constitution, to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the States where it does or may exist, or to exclude any 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 expressly permitting 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 Territories 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 to the United States, and a breach of the national faith.

XIII.—The policy of the government of the United States, in its relations with foreign governments, is to exact justice from the strongest, and do justice to the weakest; by retaining, by all the power of the government, all its citizens from interference with the internal concerns of nations with whom we are at peace.

XIV.—This National Council declares that all the principles of the Order shall be henceforward every where openly avowed; and that each member shall be at liberty to make known the existence of the Order, and the fact that he himself is a member, and it recommends that there be no concealment of the places of meeting of subordinate Councils.

E. B. BARTLETT, of Kentucky, President of National Convention. C. D. DESLER, of New Jersey, Corresponding Secretary. JAMES M. STEPHENS, of Maryland, Recording Secretary.

MASON AND DIXON'S LINE.

The National Intelligencer has an interesting editorial in relation to this celebrated but invisible line. After referring to the fact that there are thousands in whose mouths it has been familiar for years, who have but little conception of how it originated, or of its true meaning, it proceeds to remark:

For our attention being brought at this time to the geographical significances of this famous line, we are induced to the researches of Mr. John H. B. Latrobe, of Baltimore, a gentleman whose profound acquirements and literary taste has contributed much to enrich the common stock of knowledge. The subject was chosen by him for an address before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania; and we presume but very limited number of copies were printed for distribution, we shall not subject ourselves to the charge of carrying off to Athens, if we quote a few passes from it for the benefit of our readers. Speak of the purely geographical question, he says:

"A consequence of this state of things has been to perpetuate the memory of the old surveyors who established it—a rare good fortune as regards their fame; for, while the engineers who located the road across the Sierras have been forgotten in the all-absorbing renown of the master whom they served; while, of the thousands who sail past the Eddystone, not one perhaps knows who it was that erected, on a crag in the miles of the sea, the wondrous lighthouse that has now defied the tempests of a century; while oblivion has been the lot of other benefactors of mankind whose works, of every day utility, should have their enduring monuments, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, who, sixty-six years ago, ran a line through the forest until the Indians forbade the farther progress of chain and compass, and whose greatest merit seems to have been that of accurate surveys, have obtained a notoriety for their names as lasting as the history of our country."

It was in 1753 that the proprietors of Pennsylvania and Maryland agreed with Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon to survey the boundary between their respective colonies, and these two mathematicians or surveyors landed in Philadelphia in November of the same year, and entered at once upon the work agreed upon. According to their own account their new line did not vary an inch eastward or westward of that which had been established by previous surveyors; "so that, after all," says Mr. Latrobe, "the sighting along poles and the rude chain measurements of 1761 and 1762 would have answered every purpose, had the proprietors only thought so."

He gives a minute account of the progress of this work from time to time and thus continues:

"The lines whose history has thus been given were directed to be marked in a particular manner, both by the agreements of the parties and the decree of Lord Hardwick; and the surveyors accordingly planted, at the end of every fifth mile, a stone graven with the arms of the Penns on the one side and of the Baltimore family on the other, marking the intermediate miles with smaller stones having a P on one side and an M on the other. The stones with the arms were all sent from England. This was done on the parallel of latitude as far as Siding Hill; but here all wheel transportation ceasing in 1750, the further marking of the line was the vista of eight yards wide, with piles of stones on the crests of all the mountain ranges, built some eight feet high, as far as the summit of the Alleghany, between which the line was marked by posts, around which stones and earth were thrown the better to preserve them."

All the efforts of Mr. Latrobe to discover some information in regard to the characters and personal appearance of these two remarkable individuals, proved fruitless—"Their letters," he says, "are the most interesting records;" and he therefore amused himself by divining their characters by their respective autographs. From these he very ingeniously deduces that "Mason was a cool, deliberate, pains-taking man; never in a hurry; a man, never in a hurry; a man of quiet courage, who crossed the Monongahela with fifteen men, because it was his duty to do so, though he would have

much preferred thrice the number at his heels." From Dixon's signature he infers that "he was a younger man; a man of impudent spirit and nervous temperament; just such a one as worked best with a sober-sided colleague."

In a note he tells us that Lalande, in his Bibliographic Astronomie, says that Dixon was born in a coal mine—He died at Durham, England, in 1777, but Mason survived him ten years, and according to the Encyclopaedia Americana, died in 1787. One of the stones which marked the northeast corner of Maryland—being undermined by a brook, in the course of time fell, and was removed to form part of a chimney to a neighboring farm house. Upon the stone being missed, Mr. Latrobe says "the Legislatures of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware, took the matter in hand, and a joint commission was appointed, which, obtaining the services of Lieut. Colonel James D. Graham, a distinguished officer of the Topographical Engineers, of the United States, caused the work of Mason and Dixon to be reviewed as far as necessary. Colonel Graham's work corroborated all its important particulars the works of his predecessors. Some errors were discovered, however."

By the correction of one of those errors the State of Maryland gained an addition to her territory of "one acre and eighty-seven hundredths of an acre," but whether the loss fell upon Pennsylvania or Delaware does not appear. Another of the errors corrected was of a rather singular nature. Col. Graham says in his report: "Mr. W. Smith, a gentleman who has once served as a member of the Legislature of Delaware, resided a full half mile within the State of Pennsylvania."

These are all curious facts, well worthy to be made the subject of an address to any historical society; and the manner in which Mr. Latrobe executed his task shows the discriminating judgment of the Pennsylvania society in selecting an individual so very competent to its satisfactory performance.

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