

# The Old North State

SALISBURY, N. C., SEPT. 10, 1868.

## National Democratic Platform.

The Democratic party, in National Convention assembled, reposing its trust in the intelligence, patriotism, discrimination and justice of the people, standing upon the constitution as the foundation and limitation of the powers of the government, and the guaranteeing the liberties of the citizen, and recognizing the questions of slavery and secession as having been settled for all time to come by the war, or the voluntary action of the Southern States in Constitutional Conventions assembled, and never to be renewed or reargued, do, with the return of peace, demand:

First. The immediate restoration of all the States to their rights in the Union under the constitution, and of civil government to the American people.

Second. Amnesty for all past political offences and the regulation of the elective franchise in the States by their citizens.

Third. The payment of the public debt of the United States as soon as practicable; and that all moneys drawn from the people by taxation, except so much as is requisite for the necessities of the government economically administered, be 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 in justice, to 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 bondholder.

Sixth.—Economy in the administration of the Government; the reduction of the standing army and navy; the abolition of the Freedmen's Bureau (great cheering) and all political instrumentalities designed to secure negro supremacy; simplification of the system and discontinuance of inquisitorial modes of assessing and collecting internal revenue, so that the burden of taxation may be equalized and lessened, the credit of the Government and the currency made good; the repeal of all enactments for enrolling the State militia into national forces in time of peace; and a tariff for revenue upon foreign imports, and such equal taxation under the internal revenue laws as will afford incidental protection to domestic manufactures, and as will, without impairing the revenue, impose the least burden upon and best promote and encourage the great industrial interests of the country.

Seventh.—Reform of abuses in the Administration, the expulsion of corrupt men from office, the abolition of useless offices, the restoration of rightful authority to and the independence of the executive and judicial departments of the Government, the subordination of the military to the civil power, to the end that the usurpations of Congress and the despotism of the sword cease.

Eighth.—Equal rights and protection for naturalized and native born citizens at home and abroad; the assertion of American nationality which shall command the respect of foreign Powers, and furnish an example and encouragement to people struggling for national integrity, constitutional liberty, and individual rights; and the maintenance of the absolute doctrine of immutable allegiance and the claims of foreign Powers to punish them for alleged crimes committed beyond their jurisdiction.

Ninth.—Demanding these measures and reforms we arraign the Radical party for its disregard of right, and the unparalleled oppression and tyranny which have marked its career. After the most solemn and unanimous pledge of both Houses of Congress to prosecute the war exclusively for the maintenance of the Government and the preservation of the Union under the Constitution, it has repeatedly violated that most sacred pledge, under which alone was realized that noble volunteer army which carried our flag to victory.

Instead of restoring the Union, it has, so far as it is in its power, dissolved it, and subjected ten States, in time of profound peace, to "military" despotism and negro supremacy. It has nullified the right of trial by jury; it has abolished the *habeas corpus*, that most sacred writ of liberty; it has overthrown the freedom of speech and the press; it has substituted arbitrary seizures and arrests, and military trial and secret star chamber inquisitions for the constitutional tribunals; it has disregarded in time of peace the right of the people to be free from searches and seizures; it has entered the post and telegraph offices, and even the private rooms of individuals, and seized their private papers and letters without any specific charge or notice of affidavit, as required by the organic law; it has converted the American Capitol into a bastille; it has established a system of spies and official espionage to which no constitutional monarch of Europe would dare resort; it has abolished the right of appeal on important constitutional questions to the supreme judicial tribunal, and threatens to nullify or destroy its original jurisdiction, which is irrevocably vested by the Constitution, while the learned Chief Justice has been subjected to the most atrocious calumnies, merely because he would not prostitute his high office to the support of the false and partisan charges preferred against the President. Its corruption and extravagance have exceeded anything known in history, and by its frauds and monopolies it has nearly doubled the burden of the debt created by the war. It has stripped the President of his constitutional power of appointment even of his own Cabinet. Under its repeated assaults the pillars of the Government are rocking on their base, and should it succeed in November next, and inaugurate its President, we will meet, as a subjected and conquered people, amid the ruins of liberty and the scattered fragments of the Constitution, and we do declare and resolve that ever since the people of the United States threw off all submission to the British Crown, the privilege and trust of suffrage have belonged to the several States, and have been granted, regulated, and controlled, exclusively by the political power of each State respectively, and that any attempt by Congress, on any pretext whatever, to deprive any State of this right, or to interfere with its exercise, is a flagrant usurpation of power which can find no warrant in the Constitution; and if sanctioned by the people will subvert our form of government, and can only end in a single centralized and consolidated Government, in which

the separate existence of the States will be entirely absorbed, and an unqualified despotism be established in place of a federal union of co-equal States; and that we regard the reconstruction acts (so called) of Congress, as usurpations; and unconstitutional, revolutionary, and void; that our soldiers and sailors, who carried the flag of our country to victory against a most gallant and determined foe, must ever be gratefully remembered, and all the guarantees given in their favor must be faithfully carried into execution.

That the public lands should be distributed as widely as possible among the people, and should be disposed of either under the pre-emption of homestead lands, and sold in reasonable quantities, and to none but actual occupants, at the minimum price established by the Government. When grants of the public lands may be allowed, necessary for the encouragement of important public improvements, the proceeds of the sale of such lands, and not the lands themselves, should be so applied.

That the President of the United States, Andrew Johnson, (applause), in exercising the power of his high office in resisting the aggressions of Congress upon the constitutional rights of the States and the people, is entitled to the gratitude of the whole American people, and in behalf of the Democratic party we tender him our thanks for his patriotic efforts in that regard.

## GOVERNOR SEYMOUR.

### His Letter of Acceptance—Cordial Endorsement of the Democratic Platform—The Radical Policy Reviewed and Denounced.

UTICA, N. Y., August 4, 1868.

General G. W. Morgan and others, Committee, &c.

GENTLEMEN:—When in the city of New York, on the 11th of July, in the presence of a vast multitude, on behalf of the National Democratic Convention, you tendered to me its unanimous nomination as your candidate for the office of President of the United States, I stated I had no words adequate to express my gratitude for the good will and kindness which that body had shown to me. I am now excluded—in the great struggle which is being waged for the restoration of good Government, of peace and prosperity to our country. But I have been caught up by the overwhelming tide which is bearing the country to a great political change, and I find myself unable to resist its pressure.

You have also given me a copy of the resolutions put forth by the Convention showing its position upon all the great questions which now agitate the country. As the presiding officer of that Convention, I am familiar with their scope and import. As one of its members, I am a party to their terms. They are in accord with my views, and I stand upon them in the canvass upon which we are now entering, and I shall strive to carry them out in future, wherever I may be placed, in political or private life.

I then stated that I would send you these words of acceptance in a letter, as is the customary form. I see no reason, upon reflection, to change or modify the terms of my approval of the resolutions of the Convention. I have delayed the mere formal act of committing to you in writing what I thus publicly said, for purpose of seeing what light the action Congress would throw upon the interests of the country. Its acts since the adjournment of the Convention show an alarm lest a change of political power will give to the people what they ought to have—a clear statement of what has been done with the money drawn from them during the past eight years. Thoughtful men will see that there have been wrongs in the financial management which have been kept from the public knowledge. The Congressional party has not only allied itself with military power, which is to be brought to bear directly upon the elections in many States, but it also holds itself in perpetual session, with the avowed purpose of making such laws as it shall see fit, in view of the elections which will take place within a few weeks.

It did not, therefore, surprise, but took a reason to meet again, if its partisan interests should demand its re-assembly. Never before in the history of our country has Congress thus taken a menacing attitude towards its electors. Under its influence, some of the States organized by its agents are proposing to deprive the people of the right to vote for Presidential electors, and the first bold steps are taken to destroy the right of suffrage.

It is not strange, therefore, that thoughtful men see in such action the proof that there are, with those who shape the policy of the Republican party, motives stronger and deeper than the mere wish to hold political power—that there is a dread of some exposure, which drives them on to acts desperate and impolitic. Many of the ablest leaders and journals of the Republican party have openly deprecated the violence of Congressional action, and its endeavor to keep up discord in our country. The great interests of our Union demand peace and a return to those industrial pursuits without which we cannot maintain the honor of our Government, "the minds of business men are perplexed by uncertainties. The hours of toil of our laborers are lengthened by the cost of living; made excessive by the direct and indirect exactions of Government.—Our people are harassed by the heavy and frequent demands of the tax-gatherers.

Without distinction of party, there is a strong feeling in favor of that line of action which shall restore order and confidence, and shall lift up the burdens which now hinder and vex the industry of the country. Yet at this moment those in power have thrown into the Senate Chamber and Congressional hall new elements of discord and violence. Men have been admitted as representatives of some of the Southern States, with the declaration upon their lips that they cannot, without military protection, live in the States they claim to represent. These men are to make laws for the North, as well as the South. These men, a few days since, were seeking as supplicants that Congress would give them power within their respective States are to-day the masters and controllers of the actions of those bodies. Entering there with minds filled with prejudice, and hearts with passion, their first demands have been that Congress shall look upon the States from which they come as in a condition of civil war; that the majority of their populations, embracing their intelligence, shall be treated as public enemies; that military force shall be kept up at the cost of the peace and order of the South, save that which is made by arbitrary power.

Every intelligent man knows that these men owe their seats in Congress to the disorder in the South. Every man knows that they not only owe their present positions to disorder, but that every motive springing from the love of power, of gain, or of a desire for vengeance, prompts them to keep the South in anarchy. While that exists they are independent of the will or wishes of their fellow-citizens. While confusion reigns they are the dispensers of the profits and honors which grow out of a government of mere force. These men are now placed in position where they can not only urge their views of policy, but where they can enforce them. When others shall be admitted in this manner from the remaining Southern States, although they will have interests to conciliate, they will have more power in the Senate than a majority of the people of this Union living in nine of the States. In vain the other members of the Republican party protested against the policy that led to this result. While the chiefs of the late rebellion have submitted to the results of the war, and are now quietly engaged in useful pursuits for the support of themselves and families, and are trying by the force of their example to lead back the people of the South to the order and industry not only essential to their well being, but to the greatness and prosperity of our common country, we see that those who, without ability or influence, have been thrown by the agitations of civil confusion into positions of honor and profit, are striving to keep alive the passions to which they owe their elevation, and they clamorously insist that they are the only friends of our Union—a Union that can only have a sure foundation in fraternal regard and a common desire to promote the peace, order, and the happiness of all sections of our land.

Events in Congress, since the adjournment of the convention, have vastly increased the importance of a political victory by those who are seeking to bring back happiness, simplicity and justice in the administration of our national affairs. Many Republicans who have heretofore clung to their party have regretted the extremes of violence to which it has run. They have cherished a faith, that while the actions of their political party friends have been mistaken, their motives have been good. These must now see that the Republican party is in that condition that it cannot carry out a wise and peaceful policy, whatever its motive may be. It is a misfortune, not only to a country, but to a governing party itself, when its action is unchecked by any form of opposition. It has been the misfortune of the Republican party that the events of the past few years have given it so much power, that it has been able to shake the Executive, to trammel the judiciary, and to carry out the views of the most unwise and violent of its members. When this state of things exists in any party, it has ever been found that the sober judgment of its ablest leaders does not control. There is hardly an able man who helped to build up the Republican organization, who has within the past three years warned it against the excesses, which has not been borne down and forced to give up his convictions of what the interests of the country called for; or, if too patriotic to do this, who has not been driven from its ranks. If this has been the case heretofore, what will be its action now, with this new infusion of men who, without a decent respect for the views of those who have just given them their positions, begin their legislative course with calls for arms—with demands that their States be regarded as in a condition of civil war, and with the declaration that they are ready and anxious to degrade the President of the United States whenever they can do so, or to force Congress to bring forward new articles of impeachment. The Republican party, as well as we, are interested in putting some check upon this violence. It must be clear to every thinking man that a division of political power tends to check the violence of party action, and to assure the peace and good order of society. The election of a Democratic Executive and a majority of Democratic members to the House of Representatives would not give to that party organization the power to make sudden or violent changes; but it would serve to check those extreme measures which have been deplored by the best men of both political organizations. The result would most certainly lead to that peaceful restoration of the Union and re-establishment of fraternal relations which the country desires. I am sure that the best men of the Republican party deplore as deeply as I do the spirit of violence shown by those recently admitted to seats in Congress from the South. The condition of civil war which they contemplate must be abortive to every right thinking man.

I have no mere personal wishes which mislead my judgment in regard to the pending election. No man who has weighed and measured the duties of the office of President of the United States can fail to be impressed with the cares and toils of him who is to meet its demand. It is not merely to float with the popular current, without a policy or a purpose; on the contrary, while our Constitution gives just weight to the popular will, its distinguishing feature is that it seeks to protect the rights of minorities; its greatest glory is that it puts restraints upon power; it gives force and form to those maxims and principles of civil liberty for which the martyrs of freedom have struggled through ages; it declares the right of the people "to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures;" that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." It secures "the right of a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury."

No man can rightly enter upon the duties of the presidential office unless he is not only willing to carry out the wishes of the people, expressed in a constitutional way, but is also prepared to stand up for the rights of minorities. He must be ready to uphold the free exercise of religion. He must discontinue measures which would wrong personal or home rights or the religious conscience of the humblest citizen of the land. He must maintain, without distinction of creed or nationality, all the privileges of American citizenship.

The experience of every public man who has been faithful to his trust teaches him that no one can do the duties of the office of President unless he is ready not only to undergo the falsehoods and abuse of the bad, but to suffer from the censure of the good, who are misled by prejudices and misrepresentations. There are no attractions in such positions which deceive my judgment when I say that a great change is going on in the public mind.

The mass of the Republican party are more thoughtful, temperate and just than they were during the excitement which attended the progress and close of the civil war. As the energy of the Democratic party springs from their devotion to their cause, and not to their candidates, I may with propriety note the fact, that never in the political history of our country has the action of a like body been hailed with such universal and wide-spread enthusiasm as that which has been shown in relation to the position of the National Democratic convention. With this the candidates had nothing to do. Had any others of those named been selected,

this spirit would have been perhaps more marked. The zeal and energy of Conservative masses spring from a desire to make a change in the political policy, and from confidence that they can carry out their purpose. In this faith they are strengthened by the co-operation of the great body of those who served in the Union army and navy during the war.

Having given nearly 10,000 commissions to officers in that army, I know their views and wishes. They demand Union, for which they fought. The largest meeting of those gallant soldiers which ever assembled was held in New York, and endorsed the action of the National Convention in words instinct with meaning. They called on the government to stay in its policy of hate, discord and disunion, and in terms of fervid eloquence demanded a restoration of rights and liberties of the American people.

When there is such accord between those who proved themselves brave and self-sacrificing in war, and those who are thoughtful and patriotic in council, I cannot doubt we shall gain a political triumph which will restore our Union, bring back peace and prosperity to our land, and will give us once more the blessings of a wise, economical and honest government.

I am, gentlemen, truly yours, &c.,  
HOBART SEYMOUR.

To General G. W. Morgan and others, committee, &c.

## Sparkling Catawba Springs.

CATAWBA COUNTY, N. C.

THIS CELEBRATED WATERING PLACE will be open for visitors from June 1st to December 1st.

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A good band of music will be at the Springs the entire season.—Board \$50 per month; \$18 per week or \$3 per day. Children under ten years of age, and servants, half price. Bath houses complete for pool, plunge, shower or tub baths, and sulphur baths, cold or hot.

J. GOLDEN WYATT, Proprietor.

Sparkling Catawba Springs, Catawba county, N. C. June 1. waw:3m

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THE GREAT TOWN AND COUNTRY WEEKLY!

THE RURAL is the Leading and Largest-Circulating Newspaper of the Globe on the Continent, unsurpassed in Value and Variety of Contents and Beauty of Appearance. It embraces more Agricultural, Horticultural, Scientific, Educational, Literary and New Matter, interspersed with Engravings, than any other Journal.—It comprises Departments devoted to including Agriculture, Horticulture, Choice Literature, Science and Art, Sheep Husbandry, Education, Grazing, Dairying, Youth's Reading, Rural Architecture, General News, Domestic Economy, Commerce, Markets, With Illustrations, Tales, Essays, Music, Poetry, Recreations, Enigmas, &c., &c.

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AND THE WEEKLY WATCHMAN & Old North State, FOR 1868.

THE WATCHMAN & OLD NORTH STATE having been consolidated in the hands of the undersigned, and the BANNER being suspended publication, hereafter there will be but one paper published in Salisbury, which will be issued

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JOHN H. BUIS, July 17, 1868.

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