

The Old North State

SALISBURY, N. C., OCT. 29, 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 offenses 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 ineffectual 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 abrogation 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 Executive be forever banished.

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 rights of naturalized citizens against the absolute doctrine of immutable allegiance and the claims of foreign Powers to punish them for alleged crime committed beyond their jurisdiction.

In 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 Union under the Constitution, it has repeatedly violated that most sacred pledge, under which alone was rallied that noble volunteer army which carried our flag to victory.

Instead of restoring the Union, it has so far as 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 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 arrests 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 battle; 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 oust or destroy its original jurisdiction, which is jealously 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 leaders and monopolies it has nearly doubled the burden of the debt created by the war. It has assigned the President of the United States the 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 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 subjection 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 grant usurpation of power which is, and is warranted in the Constitution, and is forbidden by the people will sever on its own 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 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; and 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, (appliance), in exercising the power of his high office in restoring the aggregate 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. Its nomination was unsought and unexpected. It was my ambition to take an active part in the struggle going on 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 on 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 qualify 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. It is now 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 allowed 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 week or two. It did not, therefore, adjourn, but took a recess to meet again, if its partisan interests should demand its reassembling. Never before in the history of our country has Congress taken such 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 some 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 for the South. These men, a few days since, were seeking as supplicants that Congress would give them power within their respective States to "tidy up" 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 forces shall be kept up at the cost of the people of the North, and that there shall be no peace and order at the South, save that which is made by arbitrary power.

Every intelligent man knows that these men own their seats in Congress to the absence of the South. Every man knows that they do not only own their present positions to us, 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 to the same manner from the remaining Southern States, although they will have interests to consider, they will have more power in the Senate than a majority of the people of this Union living in any one of the great 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 full exertion, have been thrown by the agitation 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, the 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 checked 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 laid by an able man who helped to build up the Republican organization, who has within the past three years warned it against the excesses, who 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 persuade or force Congress to bring forward 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 the country. 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 national relations which the country justly desires. I am sure that the best men of the Republican party deplore as deeply as I do the present state of affairs in Congress from the South. 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