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AMERICAN BANNER

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HENRY E. COLTON, Editor.

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PLATFORM OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN COUNCIL

1st. An humble acknowledgment to the Supreme Being, who rules the universe, for the protecting care vouchsafed to our fathers in their successful revolutionary struggle, and hitherto manifested to us, their descendants, and to the preservation of the liberties, independence and the union of these States.

2nd. The perpetuation of the Federal Union as the Palladium of our civil and religious liberties, and the only sure bulwark of American independence.

3rd. Americans must rule America, and to this end native born citizens should be selected for all State, federal and municipal offices or government employment, in preference to naturalized citizens—nevertheless.

4th. Persons born of American parents residing temporarily abroad, should be entitled to all the rights of native born citizens; but

5th. No person should be selected for political station (whether of native or foreign birth) who recognises any allegiance or obligation of any description to a foreign prince, potentate or power, or who refuses to recognize the Federal and State constitutions (each within its sphere) as paramount to all other laws, as rules of political action.

6th. The unequalled recognition and maintenance of the reserved rights of the several States, and the cultivation of harmony and fraternal good-will between the citizens of the several States, and to this end, non-interference by Congress with questions appertaining solely to the individual State, and non-intervention by each State, with the affairs of any other State.

7th. The recognition of the rights of the native-born and naturalized citizens of the United States, permanently residing in any Territory thereof, to frame their constitution and laws, and to regulate their domestic and social affairs in their own mode, subject only to the provisions of the Federal Constitution, with the right of admission into the Union whenever they have the requisite population for one Representative in Congress; provided always, that none but those who are citizens of the United States under the Constitution and laws thereof, and who have fixed residence in any such Territory, ought to participate in the formation of the constitution, or enactment of laws for said Territory or State.

8th. An enforcement of the principle that no State or Territory ought to admit others than native-born citizens to right of suffrage, or of holding political office, unless such persons shall have been naturalized according to the laws of the United States.

9th. A change in the laws of naturalization, making a continued residence of twenty-one years, of all not heretofore provided for, an indispensable requisite for citizenship hereafter, and excluding all paupers, and persons convicted of crime, from landing upon our shores; but no interference with the vested rights of foreigners.

10th. Opposition to any Union between Church and State; no interference with religion, faith, or worship, and no test oaths for office.

11th. Free and thorough investigation in to any and all alleged abuses of public functionaries, and a strict economy in public expenditures.

12th. The maintenance and enforcement of all laws until said laws shall be declared null and void by competent judicial authority.

13th. Opposition to the reckless and unwise policy of the present administration in the general management of our national affairs, and more especially as shown in removing "Americans" (by designation) and conservatives in principle, from office, and placing foreigners and ultraists in their places, is shown in a truckling subserviency, to the stronger, and an insolent and cowardly bravado towards the weaker powers; as shown in re-opening sectional agitation, by the repeal of the Missouri Compromise; as shown in granting to unnaturalized foreigners the right of suffrage in Kansas and Nebraska; as shown in its vacillating course on the Kansas and Nebraska question; as shown in the removal of Judge Bronson from the Collectorship of New York, upon false and untenable grounds; as shown in the corruptions which pervade some of the departments of the government; as shown in disgracing meritorious naval officers through prejudice or caprice; as shown in the blundering mismanagement of our foreign relations.

14th. Therefore, to remedy existing evils, and prevent the disastrous consequences otherwise resulting therefrom, we would build up the "American party" upon the principles herein before stated, eschewing all sectional questions, and uniting upon those purely national, and admitting into said party all American citizens, (referred to in the 3rd, 4th and 5th sections) who openly avow the principles and opinions herein before expressed, and who will subscribe their names to this platform. Provided, nevertheless, that a majority of those members present at any meeting of a local council where an applicant applies for membership in the American party may, for any reason by them deemed sufficient, deny admission to such applicant.

15th. A free and open discussion of all political principles embraced in our platform.

"AN OPINION AS AN OPINION."—Rev. Theodore Parker, in course of his sermon last Sunday, called the New England Kansas emigrants, who lately surrendered their arms to the "border ruffians," and added, "six half-breed half-Indian men from Kentucky or Missouri, will put to flight all the long-talking, spread-eagle Free-soilers and Abolitionists of New England."

WAS MR. BUCHANAN AN "OLD DEFENDER?"

The Union and other organs of the Buccaneers, while they dare not deny that Mr. Buchanan was a Federalist, attempt to palliate this objection by asserting that he was in the last war—one of the defenders of Baltimore. This assertion is false in every particular, as will be seen from the following statements:

From the Frederick (Md.) Examiner.

We clip the following from the Chambersburg, Pa., Repository and Transcript, a newspaper published for the last sixty odd years in the same county where Mr. Buchanan was born and which is reasonably presumed to know something of his personal history. It must be borne in mind that the sham democracy claim great credit for their nominee on the score of being an "old defender."

"The Philadelphia Argus rejoices that James Buchanan was not too much of a Federalist to shoulder his musket and march to the defence of Baltimore in 1814. If the Argus can show that James Buchanan ever saw Baltimore that year, we'll deny that Franklin county gave him birth."

Mr. Alexander W. Hood, an early friend and neighbor of Mr. Buchanan, but at present residing a few miles south of this city, relates, that in August, 1814, several volunteer companies, in response to the call for troops, met at a place of rendezvous in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, for the purpose of forming a battalion to proceed in defence of the country to the Canadian frontier, and that James Buchanan, who was a member of the "Mercersburg Volunteer R. B. Company, and about twenty others, backed out and refused to go. Mr. Hood remembers the circumstance perfectly, and heard a number of young men taunt Buchanan for his cowardice. The companies marched off, without Buchanan and his recreant party. Mr. Hood went with them, and was at the famous battles of Chippewa and Lundy's Lane, at the latter of which he received a bayonet wound in the right side, the honorable scar of which he yet bears.

So it appears that Hon. James Buchanan is not entitled to the credit of being one of Baltimore's gallant "defenders," but that when called upon to serve his country in the hour of need, he positively refused, although trained as a citizen soldier, to take up arms in her defence. He has ever been ready to reap the spoils of victory, but never did ought to deserve them.

It appears, therefore, that "the want of moral courage," charged upon Mr. Buchanan by General Jackson, is not his only failing. He is also justly obnoxious to the charge of a want of physical courage, and was taunted with cowardice in 1814, to which taunt he did not dare to reply!

This charge is new to us, but it will surprise no one. The man who could treat Henry Clay as James Buchanan treated him, must be a coward, in every sense of the term, morally as well as physically.

In former years, we have regarded Mr. Buchanan as a worthy member of the Democratic party, but the developments recently made stamp him as a man utterly destitute of principle—cold-blooded, calculating, and selfish to the last degree.

Can the American people confer their suffrages upon such a man to be the successor of Washington, Madison, Jackson, and Harrison? Can they justify themselves by such an act? When they do, it will be high time for them to erect a monument to Benedict Arnold, and a mausoleum over the ashes of Aaron Burr.

An old parson, in one of the back towns of our Eastern State, was a very eccentric divine in the pulpit as well as out of it. Here is an instance of one of his pulpit reproofs:

Among his church members was one who invariably made a practice of leaving the church ere the parson was two thirds through his sermon. This was practiced so long that after a while it became a matter of course, and no one, save the divine seemed to take notice of it. And he at length notified brother P. that such a thing must, he felt assured, be needless; but P. said that that hour his family needed his services at home, and he must do it; nevertheless, on leaving church, he always took a roundabout course, which, by some mysterious means, always brought him in close proximity with the village tavern, which he would enter, "and thereby bang a tale."

Parson B. ascertained from some source that P.'s object in leaving church, was to obtain a "drain," and he determined to stop his leaving and disturbing the congregation in future if such a thing were possible.

The next Sabbath, brother P. left his seat at the usual time, and started for the door, when Parson B. exclaimed:

"Brother P."

P. on being thus addressed, stopped short, and gazed towards the pulpit.

"Brother P.," continued the parson, "there is no need of your leaving church at this time; as I passed the tavern this morning, I made arrangements with the landlord, to keep your today lot till church was out."

The surprise and mortification of the brother can hardly be imagined.

EARLY RISING.

Get up before the sun, my lads, Get up before the sun! This snoozing in a feather bed Is what should not be done. Between sunrise and breakfast, lads, Rise and breathe the morning air, 'Twill make you feel so bright, my lads, 'Twill make you look so fair.

Get up before the sun, my lads, Shake off your sloth—arouse! You loose the greatest luxury That this life has if you drowse. Between sunrise and breakfast, lads, Arise then, do not lose The key to health and happiness, By lying in a snooze.

Get up before the sun, my lads, And in the garden hoe, Or feed the pigs or milk the cow, Or take the scythe and mow: 'Twill give you buoyant spirits, lads, Give vigor to your frame— Then rise before the sun, my lads, And these rich blessings claim.

Here are a few stanzas all about eyes:

Blue eyes are tender, Blue eyes are true; Blue eyes are lovely— Their smiles ever new.

Brown eyes are merry, Brown eyes are mild, Brown eyes are beautiful As a fair child.

Brown eyes are dazzling When their orbs roll, Brown eyes speak volumes Deep from the soul.

But black eyes are witching, Black eyes are bright, Black eyes are the index Of the soul's light.

Black eyes are glancing, Black eyes are sweet, Black eyes keep dancing When others they meet.

And in this connection we append a prose description of the various character, indicated by noses:

Little stumpy noses it is said indicate weakness of mind or imperfect moral development. Short, thick noses indicate a strong sensual disposition.

A turned up nose, with wide, open nostrils, is a certain sign of empty, pompous vanity, and belongs to men most truly called "puffed up," who lack that charity which vaunteth not itself.

Large nostrils generally pass as an indication of strength, pride and courage, as small show of fear and weakness.

A large, strongly marked nose is rare in the fairer sex, and when found is a sure sign of masculine temper, undue development of the less refined sensations.

The famous "Iron Mountain," in Missouri, is situated in St. Francis county. From surface indications, and from all explorations made, the whole Iron Mountain seems to be made of iron ore. Almost the entire surface of the mountain is covered with iron ore, the particles increasing in size as you ascend towards the top, until upon its summit are found disconnected masses many tons in weight and often six or eight feet in diameter. To what depth the iron ore extends below the base of the mountain has never yet been ascertained.

MR. FILLMORE'S ALBANY SPEECH.—We hope no reader will omit (says the Mobile Advertiser) to peruse the eloquent and sterling speech made by Mr. Fillmore at his enthusiastic and imposing reception at Albany, which we publish in another column. It snatches of the lofty patriotism and electric eloquence of the great and honored Clay, and it will thrill the national heart with new hope and vigor in defence of the right. Conservative men everywhere are delighted with it, while the Black Republicans, whose treasonable plots it lays bare and whose sectional temple it prostrates, howl with rage and gnash their teeth at the terrible castigation they have received. A good Buchanan Democrat said in our hearing, after reading the Albany speech, "That is a noble, a patriotic speech;" and a good American added, "Yes, and it ought to make Mr. Fillmore President!" And who can say it will not?

ABANDONING BUCHANAN.—The Ithaca Journal, the only Democratic paper in the county of Tomkins, New York, has struck the Buchanan and slavery flag, and flung out that of Fremont and freedom.

The Angelica Reporter, the Democratic paper of Allegany county, New York, has abandoned the support of Buchanan and Breckenridge, and given its adhesion to Fremont.—Hon. Martin Grover has also taken the stump for Fremont.

A writer in the last Carolinian enumerates several Whigs who supported Gen. Scott, who are now said to be friends of Buchanan. The writer further says:

"I have also heard it said that James Banks, Esq." \* \* \* will not vote for Fillmore."

We are requested by Mr. Banks to say, that whilst he has not sympathized with or adopted the tenets of the Know Nothing party, yet he has no recollection of having uttered ought to warrant any one in asserting that he would not vote for Fillmore.

Neither is he conscious of having said any thing to justify even a supposition that he will support Buchanan, except on a contingency not likely to happen, to wit: A contest solely between Buchanan and Fremont. On the contrary, he lately attended a meeting of the Old Line Whigs of Cumberland, is chairman of a Committee to appoint a delegate to the National Whig Convention, and feels that he would be bound to support its nominee, who cannot by any possibility be James Buchanan,—the man who so wronged Mr. Banks' first political leader, Mr. Clay. At that same Whig meeting, if we remember aright, Mr. Banks said his old political friends who supported him so warmly two years ago, would never have the blush of shame to mantle their cheeks, by being told that a man to whom they had given so generous a support, had abandoned his principles and become a democrat, on a purely personal question, having reference to his place of birth. That he felt profound sorrow that the Whig party had been abandoned by so many good and true patriots, but as for himself he experienced an honest pride and pleasure in the fact that he remained with the few who gloried in the belief that they were "right," a position which their gallant leader preferred to that of President.

From old political association, from a repugnance to have the Constitution amended by Legislative enactment, and from a belief that the true interests of Cumberland and Fayetteville will be best subserved on the score of internal improvements, by having Mr. Gilmer in the gubernatorial chair, Mr. Banks will vote for him not as a Know Nothing, but because he conceives these considerations to be paramount to that.

In conclusion we may dispute the propriety of thus luging into the papers the names of private gentlemen without their knowledge or consent. Even if they had changed their party associations, there would be no justification for such a publication. And it is an outrage when they have not so changed.

In addition to the above we are authorized to say, that "the writer in the last Carolinian, over the signature of Cumberland, is in error in placing the name of Gen. A. D. McLean in the list of changes in favor of the Democratic party." True, he has not joined nor will he identify himself with the American party; but with his convictions, the path of duty leads him to the support of that tried statesman and patriot, Millard Fillmore, in whose antecedents there is not only a pledge, but a practical demonstration of the fact, that neither the influence of section, party or faction, will be able to swerve his administration, if elected, from the grand purpose of preserving the Union and securing to all their just rights under the Constitution."—Fayetteville Observer.

The new Mayor of the city of Norfolk is making a considerable upsetting among the free negroes—generally a troublesome part of their population, and only to be kept in order by a rigid surveillance. It is well to ferret out and expel those that are obnoxious, and thus will be seen what must be an evil in the community as long as it exists, even in its most mitigated form.

A NEW GOVERNOR FOR KANSAS.—The President on Monday, nominated to the Senate Col. John W. Geary, of Pennsylvania to be Governor of Kansas, in place of William Shannon, removed. Col. G. is under 40 years and has held many important appointments under his own States and the U. States—in California and elsewhere. He is represented as admirably fitted for the wise discharge of the duties of the office to which the President has just appointed him.

WON'T SUPPORT THE SQUATTER SOVEREIGN.—The New Orleans Delta, the leading organ of the Louisiana Democracy, openly repudiates Mr. Buchanan, because of his declaration in favor of squatter sovereignty, in his letter of acceptance; and declares its determination not to support him. This is an example of independence and patriotism that should not pass unheeded by Southern men.

AN OLD WHIG ON THE STUMP.—Mr. F. H. Peirpont, of Fairmount, Virginia, recently made a powerful speech against Buchanan. Mr. Peirpont is one of the most eloquent speakers in Western Virginia, and has always been connected with the Whig party.

CONNECTICUT.

Mr. Bartlett, President of the American National Council, has revoked the charter of the State Council of Connecticut, and granted a new one to Henry Sherman and Oliver Ellsworth, descendants of the Revolutionary statesmen, Roger Sherman and Oliver Ellsworth.

The Hon. Edward Stanly is in Raleigh, the guest of his kinsman the Hon. George E. Badger. We regret to hear that he does not intend to remain in North Carolina, but proposes to return to California in October.

REMARKS OF MR. ASKEW, OF BALTIMORE CITY.

In the Maryland Legislature, on the motion of Mr. Harris, of St. Mary's county, that the Petition of Andrew B. Cross, praying for Legislative interference in relation to Nunnaries, be not received.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure, sir, there is no member of this honorable body who deprecates the introduction of this subject into discussions of this House more than myself. Could my own feelings have been gratified, I would much have preferred that this exciting and unfortunate discussion should not have taken place, as I fear that it is only calculated to widen the breach that already exists in the public mind upon this subject. I was not in my seat, sir, when the petition was presented, and was surprised when I entered the House to find such matter before them. But still, unwilling as I was that it should be brought in here, and deeply as I regret this agitation, I cannot, nay, will not—quietly keep my seat and hear that great and inestimable right of American freemen, the right of petition, called in question. Sir, I had expected, from my knowledge of the character of the members of this House, that there would have been found no man here who would attempt to discriminate as to what kind of petitions we should or should not receive. I did expect that every citizen of this State would be allowed to present his grievances here, and I also expected that a respectful hearing would be granted him. But I have been most painfully disappointed.

Sir, the honorable gentleman from Charles county (Mr. Merrick) has seen fit to call this right in question. And, still further, he has used language towards this petitioner that, for one, will never sit quietly and let go unanswered. Every fibre of my nature was roused into action when that gentleman branded Andrew B. Cross as an infamous scoundrel—an unmitigated liar. Sir, I tell him he knows not the man he is speaking of. Nay, I fling back the foul slander in his teeth, and answer, as the representative of a free and enlightened constituency, that Mr. Cross is not only a moral, respectable citizen of Baltimore, but that he is an honored minister of the gospel, whose reputation is far above the weak, puerile slanders of his maddened foes—known and loved by thousands who can testify to his irreproachable character. Such spleen and venom will fall harmless at his feet, and recoil upon their author, erring with them that contempt and scorn they so richly deserve.

Sir, I would be recreant to my duty, I would be false to the solemn and binding obligation that I made in your presence, to support the Constitution and laws of our State, did I shrink from defending the right of this citizen to be heard upon the subject he petitions upon. I stand not here to endorse the sentiments of this memorialist; I know not whether he utters truth or not; but, sir, one thing I do know, that he has a perfect and unquestionable right to be heard, and then you can, with propriety, sit in judgment upon his petition.

The bill of rights of our commonwealth declares that every man hath a right to petition the Legislature for the redress of grievances, in a peaceable and orderly manner; and, sir, who dare call that right in question? Never, while my voice can be heard, will I suffer the humblest of my constituents to be choked off from presenting what he may believe to be an evil, and asking, in respectful language, that an investigation be made. The people of this State have sent us here to watch and guard their rights and privileges, and if we fail so to do, rest assured, judgement will be meted out to us with no sparing hand. I feel that responsibility resting upon me that an enlightened, virtuous, and generous people have confided in part to my keeping, and I do assure the gentleman upon the opposite side of the House, that I am not the man that will flinch from discharging that duty.

Now sir, permit me to inquire, what does this memorial ask at our hands—simply, an investigation. It sets forth, that there are certain places in this State, where young, beautiful, and intelligent females are confined against their will. That they are shut up in dark unhealthy prisons, where the genial light of heaven which God has given us, never reaches them. That they are deprived of the sweet enjoyment of social life that renders our existence cheerful and happy. That the sweet music of God's creation that is sung in every spire of grass, and reverberates from the hills and valleys of our happy country, falls not upon their saddened soul. Are these things so? As I before remarked I vouch not for their authenticity. Nor do I know Mr. Speaker, that they do not exist. Then, I ask, what becomes of our duty in the premises, as the grand inquest of the State? I contend, sir, that it is our duty, that we are called on by every consideration that is dear to us as freemen, to investigate this subject. To carefully inquire into and sift this alleged violation of our people's rights; and if it does exist, then in the name of humanity, visit the wretches who have deprived these innocent creatures of their liberties with that punishment their crimes so richly deserve. Sir, let us follow in the footsteps of the great Chieftain of France, when he passed through Portugal and Spain, who burst open the doors of these prisons and set the captives free—bid them go forth again and enjoy the free air of heaven that designing priests and hypocritical Jesuits had robbed them of. Let them again join in that society that high heaven had intended them to be useful members of, not only for their own enjoyment, but to dispense the charities of christian kindness that are so strongly inculcated in the word of God.