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JAMES A. LONG, Editor.

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No discount on these rates.

At a regular meeting of the National Council of the American Party, begun and held at Philadelphia, on the 5th of June, A. D. 1855, the following was adopted as the Platform and Principles of the Organization:

I.—The acknowledgment of that Almighty Being who rules over the Universe, who presides over the councils 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."

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

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

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

4th. 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.

5th. 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 pretence. A-voiding 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 or Municipal, until they are either repealed or declared unconstitutional by the proper authority.

2. A tender and sacred regard for those acts of statesmanship which are to be contrasted with 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 immigrant who, from love of liberty or hatred of oppression, seeks an asylum in the United States, a friendly reception and protection. But unqualifiedly 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 retroactive operation, of all acts of Congress making grants of land 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 creeds.

Implacable enmity against the prevalent demoralizing system of rewards for political subservency, and of punishments for political independence.

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

These on the one hand. On the other: Imitation of the practice of the purer days of the Republic; and admiration 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 incumbent 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: "AMERICANS 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 of all attempts by any sect, denomination or church, to obtain an ascendancy over any other in the State, by means of any special privileges or exemption, by any political combination of its members, or by a division of their civil allegiance with any foreign power, potentate, or ecclesiastical.

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 unselfish 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 partizan character.

2nd, 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 arisen upon the ruins and in despite of the opposition of the Whig and Democratic parties, cannot be in any manner responsible for the obnoxious acts of 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 institution 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 of 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 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 pretermittting any expression of opinion upon the power in 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; restraining, 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 everywhere 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 Council.

C. D. DESHLER, of New Jersey, Corresponding Secretary.

JAMES M. STEPHENS, of Maryland, Recording Secretary.

In Dr. Franklin's time, when the King of England sent some of his convicts over to this country, Dr. F. sent a box of rattlesnakes to his Majesty's Prime Minister, advising that they should be introduced into his Majesty's gardens at Kew, and expressing the hope that they would propagate and increase, until they should become as beneficial to Great Britain as the British convicts were to this country!

Public Excitement in London.

Nothing like the state of excitement which last night existed in the metropolis, in consequence of the arrival of the news of the decisive success of the allied armies at Sebastopol, has rarely been witnessed. The announcement in the morning of the capture of Malakoff was received with unbounded satisfaction, and created an intense anxiety in the public mind as to what was likely to follow; and this feeling matured into a perfect enthusiasm, when the successive despatches arrived later in the day, announced the destruction of the Russian fleet, and the fall of South Sebastopol itself.

The impression at first created among all classes seemed to be that the news was too good to be true, for the reported capture of the great Russian fortress immediately after the battle of the Alma was not forgotten, and a fever was entertained by many that there was at least exaggeration in the reported success of the allied armies upon the present occasion.

The consequence of this doubtful reception of the glorious news was a tremendous rush to the offices of the evening newspapers, which, up to 11 o'clock last night, could with difficulty meet the demand made upon them; while the news-rooms, coffee-shops, and public-houses were crowded with people anxious to read, or hear read, the despatches announcing the success; and it was impossible to describe the enthusiasm evinced when it became apparent that the southern portion of Sebastopol was indeed in the hands of the Allies.

At 8 o'clock a large crowd had assembled in front of the Mansion House and Royal exchange, in the expectation that the Lord Mayor, in robes of State, and with full civic pomp, would make official proclamation of the victory, as was done—now nearly a twelve month ago—on the occasion of the victory of the Alma. No such proclamation, however, was made, owing to the fact that no official intimation had been made at the Mansion House, by Lord Pamure, upon the subject; and the crowd after waiting patiently for some time, gradually dispersed.

The bells at many of the principal churches rang out their joyous peals, while in most of the main thoroughfares groups of people might be seen standing around one reading the despatches by light of gas from street lamps or shop windows.

At St. George's (and probably at other) Barracks, the troops were made acquainted with the glorious success obtained by their brothers in arms, at the roll call, at 9 o'clock, and the files and drums struck up in their fullest power "God save the Queen" and "Partant pour la Syrie."

At the various theatres and places of amusement the glorious intelligence was publicly read by the respective managers, and the enthusiasm, in every instance was unbounded. "God save the Queen," "Partant pour la Syrie," and "See the Conquering Hero Comes," were played by the orchestras over and over again.

This morning the same enthusiasm prevails throughout the metropolis. The customary salutes of 41 guns were fired from the Tower and Park at an early hour, and directly the clocks struck 8, the river and docks presented a most animated appearance. Vessels of all nations were dressed with flags from the truck to the water's edge. The royal standard floated proudly from the tower, Somerset House, the Admiralty, and the churches of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and the bells of the metropolitan and suburban churches sent forth merry peals. A grand inspection of the household troops took place on the parade in St. James's Park, where the Guards for the duties of the day were trooped in the presence of the Deputy Adjutant-General, the Majors of Brigade and Staff. Similar reviews took place at Woolwich, where salutes of artillery proclaimed the glorious news. At Aldershot Camp a feu de joie was fired by the troops on the heath. In the Artillery-ground, Fisbury, three rounds of musketry were fired by the city of London Militia, and a double royal salute was fired by the Honorable Artillery Company.

You will notice that, although only the Southern part of the town is as yet in the hands of the Allies, the universal expression is that Sebastopol has fallen. Perhaps in the moment of success we are again deluding ourselves as to the obstacles yet remaining to a complete possession of the place. It is, however, represented that the north town cannot hold out long; that the fortresses, though strong, are not large enough to protect a numerous garrison; and that the Allies will be able effectively to attack them from the south town. The Russian army is also in a very precarious condition, and all the advantages of position, numbers, supplies, and morals are now with the Allies.

The other side of all victories must succeed the bright side. As yet we only know in general that the casualties were very heavy. The English lost in killed and wounded two thousand men in the attack on the Redan; and five or six hundred of those are said to have been killed. The Sardinians took no part in the assault, but they had a few men killed in the trenches. Of the French loss we know nothing definite. In Gortschakoff's account of the evacuation, he says: "We have not lost more than one hundred men on this occasion. We have left only five hundred wounded on the south side." But of course this refers only to the retreat of the garrison to the north side, which he says "has been effected with extraordinary success."

The proprietors of the restaurants and eating-houses in Washington gave the receipts of one day's business for the relief Norfolk and Portsmouth. The hackmen did the same.

Visit to the Battle Field of Tchernaya.

Nothing now remained but to visit the field of battle, on which the Zoadyos had already descended like vultures, and were removing everything portable. The scene which presented itself on the banks of the river, below the canal, was something fearful beyond description, much more fearful than the ordinary horrors of a battle field. The canal itself was choked with the dead, most of whom had doubtless fallen into it living after rolling down the hill side, and found repose in its muddy waters; broken muskets, bags of bread, cartridges, one dark red satin on the white chalky gravel, often alone marked the spot where the men first fell; in a moment afterwards tumbled back to perdition. Many had fallen after scrambling up the brink of the aqueduct, and ere they had time to cross it, and if not caught in the bushes, rolled into the plain, breaking their descent, and lay there as we passed, shrieking in agony, and imploring us to kill them and thus put an end to their suffering. Never did eye rest upon humanity in forms so mutilated, defaced, and disfigured as these unhappy wretches, writhing in there bloody rags, their faces so plastered over with gore and dust that would never have recognized son or husband in those hideous masses of mortality. Some, but they were a small minority, sought to drag themselves to the shade of a few bushes that skirted the river; some sought to hide their heads from the fiery heat of the midday sun under the tattered garments, and others lay with their faces upturned and ghastly, their limbs still trembling in the last quiver and the flies already burrowing in their wounds. Men shot down by any missile and lying where they fell, gory and mutilated though they may be, is a sight to which one soon gets habituated, but wounded men who have been rolled over a rough soil, and their bones broken in their progress, is one of those sights that one rarely witness and which he who has once seen it never wishes to see more. On towards the bridge the dead lay thicker and thicker. On the banks of the river about it, and in the river itself, they were "heaped and piled," mostly fine men, in the prime of life—many with a *vieux grognard* air, which bespoke long years of service. Nearly every one had a brandy bottle, either actually in his hand, or lying near him, or broken under him in his fall. I was riding with a Polish officer, who conversed with a great many of the wounded, who informed us that large quantities of brandy had been served out to the soldiers before the action, except the artillerymen. There were a great many small platforms lying about, some resembling ladders with rungs very close, and carried by rope-strings attached to each end, as bridges to be thrown across the aqueduct. The great majority, however, passed without them. The Zoadyos had made a general collection of crosses, relics, and medals, and retailed them to the visitors, in addition to which pickings from the dead bodies, they made small collections of money from the persons of the wounded, managing dexterously to extract it from the inside of the trousers close to the knee, where the Russian soldiers generally carry their money, while pretending to examine into the nature of their wounds, thus avoiding giving any mental pain to the sufferers. Some very fine rifles, quite new, and now seen for the first time, were found on the field, but were instantly taken possession of by the military authorities, and the sale prohibited. Judging from what I saw myself and comparing notes with others, and without being able to say how many may be in the aqueduct, I should say the number left on the field was 1500; the usual calculation is twice as many are wounded as are killed, and this, with between 5 and 600 prisoners, not wounded, taken by the French and Piedmontese, would make the total loss of the Russians little short of 5000 men *hors du combat*. The divisions engaged were the 5th, 7th, 12th and 17th, most of them belonging to different *corps d'armee*. One had never been under fire before, and had made a rapid march from Baktschi Serai, and rested eight hours before the attack. One man, who fell high upon the hill side, assured us that he was in the last battalion of the reserve, and that every single soldier had been sent down from the height; so that had we pursued them we might have gained the Mackenzie plateau along with them, and held it. Prince Gortchakoff commanded in chief, and General Martinaloff the assaulting columns. The whole force, including cavalry and artillery, is calculated at 60,000 men. There were 60 guns in the field.

There were only ten or twelve officers left on the ground, which proves that a great many must have been carried off in the retreat. The Piedmontese have lost 300 men, killed and wounded; amongst others, General Monto Yecchio, commanding one of the brigades, who was shot through the body, and was not expected to survive thro' yesterday. The French have about 1,100 men *hors du combat*.

I was standing at the bridge while the French were collecting the wounded from the other side, and placing them in the ambulances. The Russians could see perfectly well what they were about, from the Mackenzie heights, and nevertheless had the barbarity to fire from one of their batteries right into the crowd on the road. A scene of great confusion ensued; the ambulance mules galloped off, causing the wounded they were carrying to shriek with pain. It was little short of a miracle that no one was hurt by the shot, which I am told, after my departure, continued to be fired at intervals during the whole day.

LARGE OAK.—There is a large oak tree in Cumberland county measuring thirty-four feet around its base. It is supposed to be one thousand years old.

Novel Proceeding—wholesome Advice.

At a recent session of the Circuit Court at Madisonville, in East Tennessee, judge, lawyers, and spectators were somewhat startled by a Mr. Dickey, who asked permission to propound some interrogatories to the Court in relation to the bearing of "the law upon secret societies of men conspiring together for political purposes, with an intention to control the State, Congressional and Municipal elections." Mr. Dickey wanted to know if it was not the duty of the grand jury to present the officers and members of the secret societies. Mr. Dickey wanted to know if it was legal for a judge or magistrate to administer an oath for any purpose other than as evidence before some court. Mr. Dickey wanted to know if one citizen could administer to another "a solemn oath" with an "uplifted hand;" and finally, the now immortal Mr. Dickey wanted to know if the violation of an extra-judicial oath was perjury. Judge Alexander very curtly answered Mr. Dickey, by respectfully suggesting that, as a grand juror, he would be more profitably employed in discharging the ordinary and legitimate duties appertaining to his position. The grand jurors are the conservators of the public peace—the guardian of the public morals—and the duties growing out of these considerations will give them abundant employment, without their running off after doubtful or imaginary offences. Judge Alexander further intimated that it would be cause for deep regret, if grand jurors or courts should so far forget their obligations and their duties as to be influenced in their official action by partizan or political considerations. It is to be hoped that all good, all patriotic men will set their faces firmly, determinately, against a precedent fraught with so much unwholesome. It is a matter of public history, and certainly that there are now and ever have been in this country political societies and associations, but we have no evidence to believe that they or any of them, are obnoxious to the public laws of the country. I know of no statute or principle of common law (says Judge Alexander) forbids such organizations any more than Lodges of Free Masons, Old Fellows, or Sons of Temperance. In conclusion, I say to you that, in my opinion, the inquiry of the grand jury embraces no case calling for or justifying any examination or action on the part of the jury. If you and I will attend to our own business, and let politics alone, we shall find enough to do.

Let Judge Saunders learn a lesson of wisdom and judicial propriety from Judge Alexander.—Register.

Read! Read! Read!

"OLD DOCUMENTS ARE DANGEROUS THINGS." Now that the bulk of the bogus Democracy are enlisted in behalf of the foreigners, and are slandering the American party, it may not be inappropriate to give some "old documents," of high Democratic authority, to show what estimate was placed upon the mongrel hordes coming to this country from the Old World, by the Democratic party, a few years since. We copy from the *United States Magazine and Democratic Review*, of July 1850. We ask the candid Democrat to read and see what a wonderful change has taken place with the present leaders of the "progressive" party in regard to the immigration of foreigners to this country.—Memphis Eagle.

"These European reformers are flocking hither by thousands, bringing with them the pestilent products of the worn out soil of the old world—which, it would seem, whenever it falls into labor, produces nothing but monsters. They bring with them a host of extravagant notions of freedom, or a plenty of crude, undigested theories, which are utterly irreconcilable with obedience to laws of our own making, and from a constitution of our own adopting. They come with their heads full of a division of property, to a country where it is already divided in a manner most salutary to the general welfare, by existing laws and institutions, allowing every man an equal chance, and placing no artificial obstructions in the way of any. It is not here that idleness, profligacy and extravagance are shielded from their otherwise inevitable consequences—poverty and contempt—by laws and institutions expressly devised for that purpose. It is not here that property is perpetuated for ages in one family, and that the laboring classes are forever excluded from their share. But it is here that industry, economy, prudence and enterprise receive their due reward; and by being left to themselves, produce that general diffusion of comfort, as well as that salutary distribution of property which can never be brought about, or at least perpetuated by any other means.

"The socialists, however, who are come and coming among us, either from not comprehending that they have got into a new world altogether different from the old, or from a wild and reckless spirit of innovation, are silently making an impression on the people of our great cities, where all the sweepings of the country are gathered into great mass of ignorance and corruption.—They are instilling into them principles at war with society, and have attracted the attention of the federal leaders, who begin to nibble at them, and discover evident symptoms of a design to enlist them in their great army of rag-tail and bob tail, clothed in the many colored patches of anti-masonry, anti-millennialism, abolitionism, socialism, Fourierism, St. Simonianism, and heaven only knows what besides.

"In conjunction with these, the Abolitionists will be able to poll votes at a great rate. They will be worth purchasing, at the sacrifice of the Church, the State, the laws and constitution. There is no country under heaven where fanaticism can find such fuel for its fires as in the United States, or become so dangerous. We say it with the deepest regret; but it is our firm belief that

if a sect of avowed worshippers of the evil spirit were to spring out—as is not unlikely—from the red-hot lava of Abolitionism in sufficient numbers to decide the election of a President, there are politicians and political leaders who would court their support by worshipping at their shrine."

Hon. John Kerr.

This distinguished gentleman, at a barbecue given by the Democrats of Granville, as a compliment to Mr. Branch and himself, declared himself now a member of the Democratic party.

From rumors which have frequently come to us, we confess that this act on the part of Mr. Kerr has not altogether taken us by surprise. Though of late differing with us with regard to the American party, we had hoped that those principles which he held in common—principles which he had so ably advocated, would never be deserted by him, any especially for the purpose of affiliating with a party between which and himself so little good feeling has heretofore existed. When, during the late canvass, he declared in his letter, published in the Fayetteville Observer, that "he was now as ever a Whig," that he "still cherished Whig principles," we did not expect so soon to hear of his saying that "the only hope of the Union now rested upon the National Democrats, and that he did not hesitate to declare himself now a member of that party." As personal, and heretofore political friends of Mr. Kerr, we regret deeply that he has adopted a course which must be very disastrous to his fame. We cannot perceive any change that has taken place in the relations of the two parties since the first of August, that can justify his course, and the inference forces itself upon the mind that his dissatisfaction with the Whig party is the consequence of his defeat in the election.

Some of our cotemporaries are placing in juxtaposition the violent abuse which the Standard heaped upon Mr. Kerr, a few years ago, and the fulsome eulogies with which it now extols him. But it gives us no pleasure to add to the humiliation of Mr. Kerr, and we only hope that his future intercourse with his new friends will be more pleasant than his past.—Hillsboro Recorder.

A HARD CASE.

We little supposed that in this christian and enlightened community, it would ever become our duty to record so flagrant a case of intolerance as occurred in this place a few days ago; but the facts are before us, and we have no choice. It is our duty, as faithful journalists, to record these things. It appears that a German Catholic died on Thursday last week. His bereaved friends were taking the steps necessary for his interment, and were about preparing his last resting place in the Catholic grave-yard; it being in accordance with the wishes of his family that he should be buried there. But they were interrupted in their labor by the priest—the last rights of decency and respect were denied—a burial place was refused. And why? Simply because the demands upon his slender hard earned income made by this priest to sustain the Church had so reduced him, that it required the whole of his meagre wages to support his wife and six children; and in consequence of this, he had not, for some time past, attended mass. During his illness the Sacrament of Extreme Unction had not been administered, his soul was not recommended to God in his last passage, and when it took its flight, the body was refused a burial place.

The body, after laying from Thursday until Saturday, was decently interred in Green Hill Cemetery. We are told that the friends of this man are highly incensed, but as flagrant a case of intolerance as this is we have no doubt there are some who will undertake to justify it. Now, in view of these facts, does it not become us to ask ourselves what this Church would do with us if they had the power? If the poor Catholic, who is not able to pay the exorbitant demands made upon him, is refused a burial place when he died, what would they do with the live heretic?

Berkeley American.

THE SEVENTH TRIAL.—There has always been a mystic reputation for the number seven, and although the number of believers in such things may be less in these latter days than formerly, yet they will all notice that the French attack on the Malakoff was only successful on the seventh assault. The amiable Pelissier must believe in number seven, for his first start in life was when he was thrown, by request, into an Arab fort, from which the French troops had been six times repulsed. In the Crimea he probably remembered this, and the story of Bruce, who, when a prisoner, watches a spider building his web; six times the spider attempted to fasten one of his supporting cables—six times the spider failed, but the seventh he was successful. The Scottish King took heart of grace from the perseverance of the insect. He had been six times defeated, but the seventh was the battle of Bannockburn, quite as important in that day as the Malakoff. These coincidences are interesting, and convey a good lesson. There are Malakoffs in every man's path, and if he will but persevere till the seventh time, he will sure to have them at last.—N. Y. Herald.