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Lexington and Padkin Flag.

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PLATFORM OF THE AMERICAN PARTY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

At a Convention of the American party, held at Raleigh, on the 10th of October, 1855, the following resolutions were adopted.

Resolved, That, as the causes which rendered the secrecy of the American organization necessary in its infancy, no longer exist—all the secret ceremonies of the order whether of initiation, obligations, signs, constitutions, rituals, or passwords be abolished—that we do constitute ourselves into a publicly organized party—that we do challenge our opponents to the public discussion of our principles—and we do hereby invite and invoke the aid and co-operation of all the citizens of the State, without regard to their former political affiliations, in maintaining and carrying out the great aims, principles and objects of the American party.

Resolved, That we do hereby ratify and endorse the principles enunciated in the platform of the American party, by the National Council of the same, begun and held at Philadelphia, on the 5th day of June, 1855, in relation to the political policy of the Government—whilst at the same time, we consider the three great primary principles of the organization, which constitute the basis of our party, as paramount in importance to any issues of mere governmental policy.

Resolved, That these three great primary principles are, first, the confinement of the honors, offices and responsibilities of political station, under our government, to native-born Americans, with a due regard, at the same time, to the protection of the foreign-born in all the civil rights and privileges guaranteed to freemen by the constitution, whether Federal or State.

Secondly, Resistance to religious intolerance, and a rigid maintenance of the great principle of religious freedom—by excluding from office and power, those who would persecute for opinion's sake, who would control the politics of the country through Church influences or priestly interference; and who acknowledge an allegiance to any power on earth, whether civil or ecclesiastical, as paramount to that which they owe to the Constitution.

And, Thirdly, unswerving devotion to the Union of these States, and resistance to all factions and sectional attempts to weaken its bonds.

Resolved, That in all nominations for political station hereafter to be made by the American Party, it is recommended that the same be done in open public meeting—and that all those who agree with us in principle, and who concur in our aims and objects, shall hereafter be recognized as members of the American party.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the American Party in this State to hold a Convention of delegates, to be appointed in public primary meetings in the respective counties, in Greensboro, on Thursday the 10th day of April next, for the purpose of nominating a candidate to be run by the American party for Governor at the next election—that each county appoint as many Delegates as it chooses, and that the mode of voting in said convention be regulated by the convention itself.

Resolved, That we consider the 22d day of February next—the time heretofore selected by the National Council of the American order, for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice-President, as too early a day for that purpose, and we do hereby recommend to our brethren of the American party throughout the Union, the propriety of postponing the holding of said convention, to some time in the month of June or July.

Resolved, However, lest such postponement may not take place, it is deemed advisable to appoint two delegates to represent the State at large in such nominating Convention,—and it is recommended to the American party in each Congressional District to hold primary meetings in the respective counties, and appoint delegates to District Conventions, for the selection of a delegate from each respective District to said nominating Convention.

Resolved, That an Executive Central Committee of five, be appointed by this body whose duty it shall be to attend to the general concerns of the American party in this State, to carry on the necessary correspondence, and take such ineceptive steps

as may be deemed necessary for the more thorough organization of the said executive committee be authorized and requested to appoint a County Executive Committee for each County in the State; and that said County Executive Committee do further appoint a sub-committee for each election precinct in the county, with a view to a more thorough and complete organization of the American party in North Carolina.

HON. L. M. KEITT, of South Carolina, addressed his constituents at Barnwell Court House, the 15th October, on the state of parties and the aspects of politics in the country. For a Democrat, he gave a portrait of the GREAT DEMOCRACY not so flattering as some we have seen sketched by its friends in this State. After speaking of the dismemberment of the Whig party, he asks:

How fares it now with the Democratic party? Its banners still glance in the sun, and its legions still rally at their chieftains' biddings. But what inscriptions are on the banners? And what cries resound over the field! Are not the Softs the Democratic party in New York? and have they not upon their flag the Wilmot Proviso, in the shape of "uncompromising hostility to the extension of slave territory?" Did not Bigler, in his canvass for Governor of Pennsylvania, carry a banner with freesoil on one side, and conservatism on the other? Did not the party in all the New England States skulk from the slavery question? Is the picture any brighter in the North-west? Where, in all that region, save Illinois, have the constitutional rights of the South been boldly upheld? How stands the party even upon the Nebraska bill? In the free States it is maintained upon the ground of squatter sovereignty, and alien suffrage, and Northern facilities for colonization. Can the South uphold it upon these grounds? Who, here, will endorse the monstrous doctrine of squatter sovereignty, born of political cowardice and selfish ambition?—Where, then, is the unity of the Democratic party? It differs in the defence even in its fundamental measures. Here and there, at the North a noble leader and a body guard stand firm, but they fight a hopeless battle. The President is true, but his party has betrayed even him. The plumage of authority, the profits of place, and the greater relative strength of the Southern wing, has kept the Democratic party together, since the dissolution of its Whig rival. But Abolitionism is fast rending the gorgeous trappings of office, and beating down even the strong castles of the spoils. Partisan presses and vernal declaimers may exhaust sophistry and fraud, but the fact still glares out upon us, that the Democratic party is denationalized by Abolitionism.

CHASTITY IN ROMAN CATHOLIC COUNTRIES.—Facts and statistics, says the Philadelphia Sun, speak louder than the best constructed arguments. With them we now have to deal. In Brussels, a Roman Catholic city of Belgium, the number of illegitimate births average twenty-five in every one hundred. In Popish Munich, the capital of Bavaria, they reach forty-eight in every hundred, or nearly one-half. In Vienna, during the year 1849, there were 19,241 births, of which 10,360 were illegitimate, or considerably more than one-half. In Rome itself, the City of the Church, the annual average of births is 4,373, out of which 3,169, or nearly three-fourths, are exposed as foundlings. It appears, therefore, that the nearer we approach the great centre of this religious system, the greater becomes the amount of bastardy. These are statistical facts, whose accuracy cannot be questioned, or which, if doubted, can be proved. On the contrary, in the Protestant city of London, with its population of nearly two and a half millions of souls, the number of illegitimate births annually, averages but four out of every hundred. The inferences from these facts are as plain as the facts themselves. The vow of celibacy taken by the priesthood of the Popish Church, does not practically involve that of chastity, and the example thus set by their superiors is faithfully imitated by their laity. Indulgences and dispensations are freely sold and purchased, under which the seventh commandment is violated with impunity. Under the very eye of the Pope himself, its precepts are the most extensively and unblushingly ignored. Well does a contemporary ask, if Sodom and Gomorrah were wicked, what is Rome? If Babylon the great was the mother of harlots, what is Rome? If the Papal priesthood be continent, what was Praepitus? If they be chaste, what were the Fawns and Satyrs?

American Organ.

ADDRESS
OF
ALFRED G. FOSTER, ESQ.,
DELIVERED BEFORE THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
OF RANDOLPH COUNTY,
October 26, 1855.

Mr. President,
and Gentlemen of the Randolph Agricultural Society:
I enter upon the duty, which by your partiality has devolved upon me with unaffected embarrassment; and notwithstanding my aversion to apologies generally, I must be permitted to say, that I never felt a stronger disposition to bespeak the kind indulgence of an audience in my life, than I do upon the present occasion.

Agriculture is a subject so comprehensive in its character—so important in its details—embracing under one general head, so many subdivisions, either of which is of moment sufficient to command our attention, and the discussion of either of which would exhaust the brief hour allotted me, that the mind is at a loss as to the mode in which it can be best treated in the compass of an address, short as this must necessarily be.

I shall with your consent, avoid going into details, and confine myself to an effort to induce the farmers of Randolph County, to rise up to the dignity of their calling—to render those already engaged in Agriculture more contented, and more deeply impressed with the importance of its improvement—to induce the wavering, the young, the intelligent and educated more especially, to engage in this or some other kindred branch of profitable and honorable industry, and to give to all, if possible, an increased stimulus to exertion, and inspire all with a laudable ambition to excel.

The exhibition before us to-day, the evident interest manifested in the success of our Fair, by the large, respectable, and intelligent audience here assembled, cannot fail to be gratifying to every citizen of Randolph County. We have met to-day for a higher and nobler purpose than the discussion of party politics, or even the celebration of a national festival. We have assembled to do honor to Agriculture, and to acquire improvement in that most important branch of National industry, by a free and full interchange of opinion.

It is said that the Emperor of China, upon the recurrence of every spring season, goes forth in the presence of his subjects; himself holds the handles of the plow, and turns a furrow in order to do honor to Agriculture, and to show to those over whom he rules, the estimate which is placed by his Government upon this branch of industry. I beheld before me to-day, hundreds who, according to the theory of our Republican Government, are politically the equals, and I venture to say, are intellectually the superiors of the Emperor of China, the kings of America, who daily and habitually, thus honor the plow, and are here assembled, to give to the world a demonstration of their pride in their calling, and to evince their interest in its improvement and advancement. And well may they be proud, for Agriculture holds out to her votaries, rewards which are in the gift of no other profession. She promises to them—health, competence, peace, contentment, and happiness, as far at least as these blessings can be found in the prosecution of any earthly avocation. And we are told by one of England's most gifted bards that—

"Reasons whole pleasure, all the joys of sense
Lie in three words—peace, health, and competence."

The greatest error of this age, especially in this country, is a feverish thirst for the sudden and rapid accumulation of wealth by extraordinary means. Our young men scorn the slow, sure, and regular accumulation of property by farming as altogether too old-foggy for them. They prefer by some sudden speculation to quadruple their wealth, and hence, they plunge headlong into the busy marts of the world, lending every energy of their natures, straining every nerve to its utmost tension in the eager, exciting, and alas, too often destructive pursuit of wealth; forgetting in their haste to become suddenly rich, the warning of the wise man, that "an inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning, but the end thereof shall not be blessed." It is in vain that prudent friends remind them that "Rome was not built in a day." In vain do they point them to the Coral Isles of the Ocean, formed as they have been by the labor of insignificant insects piling together all the particles of which they consist, as evidences of what can be achieved by patient and persevering industry. The success of one or two who have preceded them in the struggle, is ever before their eyes, luring them on, while they cannot see the thousand victims by the wayside, who have failed, and are now writhing under the burdens, "greivous to be borne," of poverty, shattered health, premature loss of energy, and too often, that still greater, and more lamentable loss—loss of reputation, and character. They press on, and if they do at last succeed, it is at the sacrifice of every domestic enjoyment, of all mental and moral improvement; and when they stretch forth their now weakened and palsied hands to grasp the much-coveted treasure, they find themselves totally unqualified for its enjoyment, and the mortifying conviction forces itself upon them, that the golden fruit for which they have striven, is like "Dead Sea fruit, beautiful to behold, but which turns to ashes on the lips."

The unnatural and constant excitement attending their speculations and hazardous enterprises, tells rapidly upon their physical systems, and when a premature decline comes upon them and they are forced to forego the accustomed stimulus, they encounter all the horrors which the Opium eater and the Drunkard feels when the means can no longer be had of gratifying his insatiate appetite. Their very existence becomes a burden, and they "repine and groan, and wither from the earth." Again, many of our young men, stimulated by ambition, make fame, political fame particularly, their idol, and fall down and worship it; and the more effectually to succeed, they enter the *learned professions*, as they are termed, and toil assiduously by night and by day, with restless and ceaseless energy, to rise into the notice of their fellow men. Their young hearts are burning with an ardent desire to inscribe their names on the rising column of their country's greatness, and political distinction becomes the goal of all their hopes. They watch for opportunities for distinction, and become ever ready and anxious aspirants for office. To be a farmer, involves in their estimation, the sacrifice of all preferment and distinction, and they turn from such an avocation with disgust. And it is too often the case among farmers themselves, who have accumulated by industry and frugality, a fortune sufficient to justify them in giving to their sons the blessings of a liberal education, that prompted by paternal pride, they place them in professions, and look forward with much self-complacency, and confident expectation to the time, when their fond hearts shall be made happy in seeing them occupy positions of professional or political honor. And in the families of farmers where there happens to be a son less liberally endowed by nature than his brothers, how often do we hear the misguided father declare he designs his other sons for professions, but of this one he will make a farmer.—The plain English of which is, that he will make farmers of the fools, and lawyers, doctors, and politicians of those

who give evidence of possessing a fair share of native intellect.

If there be any young man now in my hearing, who has marked out the course for himself I have indicated, or any father who is looking to political distinction as the end for which he is educating his sons, let me entreat him to study well the Parable which Jotham delivered to the men of Shechem, which they will find in the 9th Chapter of Judges, and which has been often quoted for the benefit of office-seekers and office-holders: "And when they told it to Jotham, he went and stood in the top of mount Gerizim, and lifted up his voice and cried and said unto them, Harken unto me, ye men of Shechem that God may hearken unto you.

The trees went forth on a time to anoint a King over them: and they said unto the olive tree, reign thou over us.

But the olive tree said unto them: should I leave my fatness wherewith by me they honor God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?

And the trees said to the fig tree, come thou and reign over us. But the fig tree said unto them: should I forsake my sweetness and good fruit and go to be promoted over the trees?

Then said the trees unto the vine, come thou and reign over us.

And the vine said unto them: should I leave my wine which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?

Then said all the trees to the bramble, come thou and reign over us.

And the bramble said unto the trees. If in truth ye anoint me King over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow, and if not, let fire come out of the bramble and devour the Cedars of Lebanon."

So that even in the days of Jotham, the best men and most useful citizens were not generally to be found filling the offices of a country, and the bramble, the most useless and worthless, of all the trees of the forest could alone be induced to accept of office. Office itself can never alone confer honor, for we are told that—

"Great Cincinnatus at the plow, with greater glory shone
Than guilty Caesar e'er could do, though seated on a throne."

There is much false pride among us and many false estimates made by our people as to the degree of respectability to be attached to particular pursuits. We may however, lay it down as a safe rule, that any pursuit is honorable in which, by industry an honest livelihood is obtained.—The celebrated Dr. Channing, in speaking of the great mission of this country, said: "The prejudice that labor is a degradation, (one of the worst prejudices handed down from the barbarous ages) is to receive here a practical refutation. The power of liberty to raise up the whole people—this is the great idea on which our institutions rest, and which is to be wrought out in our history." And as Hiram in a spirit of dissatisfaction with the twenty cities given him by Solomon, characterized them as *dirty*; and they are, therefore, we are told, called *Cabal* until this day, so, we because, our forefathers, in the barbarous ages spoken of by Dr. Channing, looked upon labor as degradation, are too much disposed to perpetuate the prejudice, and even at this day to write *Cabal* upon many useful and honorable vocations. We are too prone to yield to the promptings of our pride, which either like an Iguana Fatuus, lures us into a fruitless race after fancied and unattainable blessings, or else makes us satisfied to lead a profitless and aimless existence, instead of endeavoring to earn for ourselves in some useful calling, an honest independence.

The Poet Burns shows us the estimate which he placed upon a competence, honestly earned for one's self in the very appropriate advice which he gives to a young friend. He tells him—

"To catch dame fortune's golden smile
Assiduous wait upon her;
And gather gear by every wile
That's justified by honour;
Not for to hide it in a hedge,
Not for a train attendant;
But for the glorious privilege
Of being independent."

Let us now turn to the farmer's life and see if it is not one in which a man may be useful, honorable and happy. If authority be asked for, we can proudly point not only to the writings but to the example of the sages and patriots of our land,—to those, whose names have come down to us from a former generation, and whose memories will be cherished as long as virtue and exalted patriotism can find admirers on the earth.

The great Washington, whose writings should be treasured as our richest national legacy, and whose opinions and advice upon every subject should be well pondered in these days of degeneracy, writes in a letter to Sir Jno. Sinclair "I know of no pursuit in which more real and important services can be rendered to any country than by improving its agriculture." Chancellor Kent, as far back as 1796, spoke of agriculture, as "the absolute means of our subsistence, the source of nutriment to the arts, of freedom, energy, commerce, and civilization to mankind; and in short, as the firmest basis of national prosperity." Chancellor Livingston, whose reputation as a farmer, was only equalled by his reputation as a Jurist, says: "If happiness is to be found upon earth, it must certainly be sought in the indulgence of those benign emotions which are the reward of rural cares and rural labors. As Cicero sums up all human knowledge in the character of a perfect Orator, so we might with much more propriety, claim every virtue, and embrace every science, when we draw that of an accomplished farmer. He is the legislator of an extensive family, and not only men, but the brute creation are subject to his laws. He is the Magistrate who expounds, and carries these laws into execution. He is the physician who heals the wounds, and cures the diseases of his various patients. He is the Divine who studies and enforces the precepts of reason; and he is the great almoner of the Creator, who is continually dispensing his bounties, not only to his fellow-mortals, but to the fowls of the air, and the beasts of the field." And it is a fact, worthy to be noticed, at least, by farmers, that every President of these United States, after the expiration of his term of office, has sought quiet and happiness in the peaceful pursuits of agriculture.

Ex-President Van Buren declared in a public address, in New York, that the years immediately succeeding his administration, which he spent in farming, were the happiest years of his whole existence.

And that immortal, and world renowned trio of cotemporary statesmen—Clay, Calhoun, and Webster, whose equals have never been produced in any country, at any epoch of the world's history, were enthusiastic, and accomplished farmers. When the great expounder of Constitutions, then the only survivor of the illustrious trio, found himself disappointed in the last and only remaining aspiration of his life, and felt keenly that in his case was another illustration of the truth, that Republics are ungrateful, he sought consolation for his wounded feelings amid his flocks and herds at Marshfield. One of the last acts of his life was to have his splendid Oxen driven before his door that he might feast his eyes yet once more and for the last time upon their noble forms.

Did time permit, we might cite the words and examples of many others, who have borne their testimony to the importance of agriculture; in our Government, based as it

is, on the will of the people, the old rule that the governed are the subjects of the governing power, is reversed, and the rulers here are themselves but the agents of the ruled. Our wise and patriotic forefathers foresaw that the perpetuity of our institutions depended upon the elevation and intelligence of the industrial classes, and that the agricultural class being much the largest, would necessarily, become the controlling power in the government, and if ignorant and illiterate, instead of wisely controlling and directing its affairs, it might become the engine in the hands of unscrupulous demagogues, of the ruin and overthrow of our system of government. Hence, much of the advice which they left behind them for our instruction and guidance was given with a view of keeping this fact prominently before the minds of our people. But let the authorities already adduced answer for the present.

The farmer's vocation is one which can bring into exercise the noblest faculties of mind and heart. And while the loftiest intellect may find ample scope for investigation it is eminently fitted for the development of those domestic and private virtues which most adorn life, and is favorable to the growth of those christian graces so essential to happiness here and hereafter. He who makes Agriculture his study cannot fail to have foreed upon his mind—however unwilling to receive it—the conviction of the existence of a great First Cause, who not only created this beautiful world of ours, but continues, by his Providence, to control, uphold and govern it—proofs of which truth will meet him at every step in his investigations. And no man can be so truly said to "look through Nature up to Nature's God," as the intelligent, reflecting, Christian Farmer.

And as it begets a contented spirit, it is comparatively free from temptation, to extravagance, profligacy and crime. It was the restless and discontented spirit of Benedict Arnold which prompted him to commit treason and thus purchase for himself an immortality of infamy. The history of the world proves that discontent is a fruitful source of crime, and hence the victims of vice are not to be sought amongst those who breathe the pure air of our rural districts, but among the crowded denizens of the great cities of the earth.

When the English officer waited upon General Marion and found he and his staff contentedly dining upon roasted sweet potatoes, with a fallen log for a table, he left deeply impressed with the conviction that the whole power of Great Britain would be inadequate to the subjugation of a country whose officers and soldiery could live not only contented but happy on such fare.

The farmer's business, too, is comparatively free from those fluctuations and changes incident to so many other callings, while its profits, if not so large, are, at least, more certain.

We have the promise that, "he who tilleth his land, shall have plenty of bread,"—a promise vouchsafed to no other calling. Members of the *learned professions* will search the pages of the inspired volume in vain for any such consolatory promise.

With a calling, then, of such importance to us as a nation, so congenial to our tastes, so elevating to our natures, so calculated to ensure our prosperity and happiness as individuals, are we not called upon by every feeling of patriotism, by every consideration of interest, to endeavor, by all the means in our power, to further its advancement and attempt its improvement?

Hesitate not to affirm, that there is no other interest in our Government of anything like proportionate magnitude, no business which has invested in it one tenth part of the capital invested in Agriculture, which has not more numerous and jealous guardians in every branch of the Government. The manufacturing interest sends to our National Legislature its very best talent—men well versed in their interests, accurately posted as to every thing likely to affect them, and intimately acquainted with their wants. But the Farmers seem to say by their conduct, as did the French merchants, who, when asked, what Government could do for them, replied, "*laissez nous faire.*"—(Let us alone.) This boon, however, is not always granted them, for legislation can, and doubtless does often take place directly affecting the interests of the farmer, while he plows on, totally unconscious of the fact.

Now because we are regularly stuffed with flattery, complimented with the idea that we are the bone and sinew of the land, and though all unconscious of our own charms, yet yield our confiding hearts to the soft wavings of aspirants for office, let us not, therefore, take it for granted that our interests will be well attended to, without ever taking the trouble to ascertain whether it is done or not. In fact your representatives, however willing to oblige you, yet need instruction from you. You must know your wants, understand what is for your interest, and call upon them as your agents to secure them for you.

The recent Reciprocity treaty with Great Britain is an instance directly in point of a most unjust discrimination against the interests of the Agriculturist. By this treaty the productions of Canada are admitted into our ports free of duty, so that the Southern farmer is brought into competition not only with his Western and Northern brethren, but also with his Canada neighbor. Now the British possessions on this continent are as large as, or larger than our own—containing, it is said, more than four millions of square miles. The two Canadas contain 242,482 square miles and 155,188,425 acres, between seven and eight millions of which are cultivated. Of the population of the Canadas, eighty per cent or four-fifths are engaged in Agriculture. Of the productiveness of the soil, it is said that the averages of wheat and barley, as proved by their census of 1852, exceed our own productions per acre of the same staples in any State in the Union. It was calculated that of the wheat crop of 1854, they would export twelve millions of bushels, which is above the average of our exports of wheat and flour prior to last year, except in the year of the Irish famine, (1847.)

This is the character and strength of the rival which the Wheat grower of North Carolina is to meet on equal footing in our Northern markets. But this is not all. You are taxed 30 per cent by the tariff to build up for yourself a home market and to sustain Northern manufactures; and in addition to all this, you are not allowed to ship your flour or wheat from Wilmington to New York, unless you do so in an American vessel. British flour and wheat is allowed to come in competition with yours and mine, but British carrying vessels are not allowed to compete with American vessels in the coast-wise trade. The farmer has always cheerfully acquiesced in paying American vessels more for transporting his produce, than foreign vessels would have asked him, were they not excluded from a participation in the coast-wise trade from a patriotic desire to build up American commerce. This treaty benefits New York Rail Roads and New York millers and consumers to the manifest injury of the wheat-growers in fifteen States of this Union. It is true that while we are realizing war prices for our wheat and flour we may not feel it, but the war cannot last always.

Now had a treaty thus seriously affecting the manufacturing, or any other than the farming interest been barely mentioned as likely to be entered into by our Government, Mass Meetings would have been held, protests made and committees sent to Washington to try to influence the Senate to reject it. The whole commercial press of the