CAPE FEAR.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOV 29, 1876

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM, ADOPTED AT ST. LOUIS, JUNE 28, 1876.

We, the delegates of the Democratic party of the United States, in national convention assembled, do hereby declare the administration of the Federal Government to be in urgent need of immediate reform; do hereby enjoin upon the nominees of this Convention and of the Democratic party in each State, a zealous effort and co-operation to this end, and do hereby appeal to our fellow-citizens of every former political connection to undertake with us this first and most pressing patriotic duty for the Democracy of the whole country.

We do here reaffirm our faith in the permanency of the Federal Union, our devotion to the Constitution of the United States, with its amendments, universally accepted as a final settlement of the controversies that engendered the civil war, and do here record our steadfast confidence in the perpetuity of republican self-government; in an absolute acquiescence in the will of the majority, the vital principle of the Republic; in the supremacy of the civil over the military authority; in the total separation of Church and State, for the sake alike of civil and religious freedom; in the equality of all citizens before just laws of their own enactment; in the liberty of individual conduct unvexed by sumptuary laws; in the faithful education of the rising generation, that they may preserve, enjoy and transmit these best conditions of human happiness and hope. We behold the noblest products of a hundred years of changeful history; but while upholding the bond of our Union and great charter of these our rights, it behooves a free people to practice also that eternal vigilance which is the price of liberty.

DEMOCRACY IS FINANCE DEMANDED.

We demand a judicious system of preparation by public economies, by official retrenchment, and by wise finance, which shall enable the nation to assure the whole world of its perfect ability and perfect readiness to meet any of its promises at the call of the creditor entitled to payment. We believe such a system well devised, and above all, entrusted to competent hands for execution, creating at no time an artificial scarcity of currency, and at no time alarming the public mind into the withdrawal of that vast machinery of credit by which 95 per cent. of all business transactions are performed—a system open, public and in public general confidence, would, from the day of adoption, bring healing on its wings to all our harassed industry, and set in motion the wheels of commerce, manufactures and the mechanical arts; restore employment to labor and renew, in all its natural source, the prosperity of the people.

REFORM IN TAXATION.

Reform is necessary in the sum and mode of Federal taxation so that capital may be set free from distrust and labor lightly burdened. We denounce the present tariff levied upon nearly five thousand articles as a masterpiece of injustice, inequality and false pretence. It yields a dwindling, not a yearly rising revenue. It has impoverished many industries to subsidize a few; it prohibits imports that might purchase the products of American labor; it has degraded American commerce from the first to an inferior rank upon the high seas. It has cut down the sales of American manufactures at home and abroad, and depleted the return of American agriculture or industry, followed by half our people. It costs the people five times more than it produces to the treasury, obstructs the processes of production, and wastes the fruits of labor. It promotes fraud and fosters smuggling, enriches dishonest officials and bankrupts honest merchants. We demand that all customhouse taxation shall be only for revenue.

RETRENCHMENT IN EXPENSES.

Reform is necessary in the scale of public expenses. Federal, State and municipal, out of Federal taxation has swollen from $60,000,000, gold, in 1860, to $450,000,000, currency, in 1870. Our aggregate taxation was from $\$184,000,000$, gold, in 1860 to $\$730,000,000$, currency, in 1870, or in one decade less than 8 per head to more than $18 per head. Since the peace the people have paid to their tax-gatherers more than thrice the sum of the national debt, and more than twice that sum for the Federal Government alone. We demand a vigorous frugality in every department and from every officer of the government.

WASTE OF THE PUBLIC LANDS.

Reform is necessary to put a stop to the profligate waste of the public lands and their diversion from settlers by the party in power which has squandered two hundred millions of acres upon railroads alone, and out of more than thrice that aggregate has disposed of less than a sixth directly to tillers of the soil.

CHRISTIAN CITIZENS AND HEATHEN CHINESE.

Reform is necessary to correct the mistakes of the Republican Congress and the errors of our treaties, and our diplomatic relations which have stripped our adopted citizens of foreign birth and kindred race recrossing the Atlantic of the shield of American citizenship, and have exposed our brethren of the Pacific coast to the incursions of a race not sprung from the same great parent stocks and, in fact, now by law denied citizenship through naturalization, as being neither accustomed to the habits of a progressive civilization, nor exercised in liberty under equal laws. We denounce the policy which thus discards the liberty-loving German and tolerates the revival of the Coolie trade in Mongolian women, imported for immoral purposes, and Mongolian men hired to perform servile labor contracts, and demand such modification by Congress within a constitutional limitation, as shall prevent the further importation or immigration of the Mongolian race.

REFORM IS THE CAMPAIGN ISSUE.

Reform is necessary, and can never be effected but by making it the controlling issue of the election, lifting it above the two false issues with which the office-holding class and the party in power seek to smother it. The false issue with which they would enkindle sectarian strife in respect to the public schools, of which the establishment and support belong exclusively to the several States, and which the Democratic party has cherished from their foundation and resolved to maintain without partizanry or preference for any class, sect or creed, and without contributing from the Treasury to any—the false issue by which they seek to light anew the dying embers of sectional hatred between kindred people, once unnaturally estranged, but now reunited in one indivisible Republic and a common destiny.

REFORM IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Reform is necessary in the civil service. Experience proves that the efficient, economical conduct of the governmental business is not possible if its civil service be subject to change at every election—be a prize fought for at the ballot-box—be a brief reward of party zeal, instead of posts of honor, assigned for proved competency and held for fidelity in the public employment. That the dispensing of patronage should neither be a tax upon the time of all our public men, nor the instrument of their ambition. Here again professions falsified in the performance, attest that the party in power can work out no practical or salutary reform.

REFORM AMONG THE HIGHEST PUBLIC AGENTS.

Reform is necessary even more in the higher grades of public service—President, Vice-President, Judges, Senators, Representatives, Cabinet officers, These officers, and others in authority, are the people's servants. Their offices are not a private perquisite; they are a public trust. When the annals of this Republic show the disgrace and censure of a Vice-President; a late Speaker of the House of Representatives marketing his rulings as a presiding officer; their friends profiting secretly by their votes as law-makers; five chairmen of the leading committees of the late House of Representatives exposed in jobbery; a late Secretary of the Treasury forcing balances in the public accounts; a late Attorney General misappropriating public funds; a Secretary of the Navy enriched or enriching his friends by percentages levied off the profits of contractors with his Department; an ambassador to England censured for a dishonorable speculation; the President's private secretary barely escaping conviction upon trial for guilty complicity in frauds upon the revenue; a Secretary of War impeached for high crimes and confessed misdemeanors—the demonstration is so complete that the first step in reform must be by the people, or honest men from another party. The disease of one political organization infests the body politic and thereby making no change of men or party, we can get no change of measures and no reforms.

RADICALS AND RADICALISM MUST BE DRIVEN FROM POWER.

All these abuses, wrongs and crimes—the product of the sixteen years ascendancy of the Republican party—create a necessity for reform, confessed by Republicans themselves. But their reformers are voted down in convention and displaced from the Cabinet. The mass of honest voters is powerless to resist the eighty thousand office-holders—its leaders and guides.

Reform can only be had by a peaceful, civic revolution. We demand a change of system; a change of administration; a change of parties, that we may have a change of men.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

Names of Officers.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

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Adjutant General—John C. Gorman, of Wake.
Superintendent of Public Instruction—John Pool, of Pasquotank.
Governor's Private Secretary—John B. Neathery, of Wake.

JUDICIARY DEPARTMENT.

Chief Justice Supreme Court—Richmond M. Pearson, of Yadkin.
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Clerk and Treasurer—T. C. Servoss.
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Federal Officials.

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