

THE DECATUR EAGLE.

"Our Country's Good shall ever be our Aim—Willing to Praise and not afraid to Blame."

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We are prepared to do all kinds of job-work, in a neat and workmanlike manner, on the most reasonable terms. Our material for the completion of Job-Work, being new and of the latest styles, we feel confident that satisfaction can be given.

"The World Would be Better for it."

If men cared less for wealth and fame,
And less for battle fields and glory;
If men, instead of nursing pride,
Seemed better than in song or story;
If men, instead of nursing pride,
Would learn to hate it and abhor it;
If men, instead of nursing pride,
On love to guide,
The world would be better for it.

If men dealt less in stocks and lands,
And more in bonds and deeds fraternal;
If Love's work had more willing hands,
To link this world with the supernal;
If men stored up Love's oil and wine,
And on bruised human hearts would pour it;
If "yours" and "mine"
Would once combine,
The world would be better for it.

If more would act the play of life,
And fewer spoil it in rehearsal;
If Bigotry would sheathe its knife,
Till Good became more universal;
If Custom, gray with ages grown,
Had fewer blind men to adore it—
If Talents shone
In Truth alone,
The world would be better for it.

If men were wise in little things—
Affecting less in all their dealings;
If hearts had fewer rusted strings,
To isolate their kindred feelings;
If men, when wrong beats down the Right,
Would strike together and restore it—
If Right made Might
In every fight,
The world would be better for it.

A STEELED HEART.—"I am afraid of the lightning," murmured a pretty woman, during a thunderstorm. "Well, you may be," said a despairing lover, "when your heart is steel."

As daylight can be seen through very small holes, so little things will illustrate a person's character. Indeed, character consists in little acts, daily life being the quarry from which to build it up, and rough-hew the habits that form and stamp it.

Do not waste a moment, not a second, in trying to demonstrate to others the merits of your own performance. If your work does not vindicate itself, you cannot vindicate it, but you can labor steadily on to something which needs no advocate but itself.

A GOOD MAN.—"I plows, I sows, I reaps, I mows; I cuts up wood for winter; I digs, I hoes, and taters grows, and for what I knows, am indebted to the printer. I do suppose all knowledge flows right from the printing press; so off I goes in these 'ere clothes an' settles up—I guess."

Ike was reading to Mrs. Partington, the other day, an account of the inspection of a steamship by Government officials, and came to the paragraph: "They found her knees all sound, though her breastworks were a little shaky." "It is too bad," I declare, said the old lady indignantly, "that Government officials will be so immoral. Examining the breastworks wasn't so bad, but feeling of the knees—how bad she must have felt!"—Ike privately wished that he was examiner.

Address of Democratic Members of Congress to the Democracy of the United States.

FELLOW CITIZENS: The perilous condition of our country demands that we should reason together. Party organization restricted within proper limits is a positive good, and indeed essential to the preservation of public liberty. Without it the best government would soon degenerate into the worst of tyrannies. In despotism the chief use of power is in crushing out party opposition. In our own country this experience of the last twelve months proves, more than any lesson in history, the necessity of party organization. The present Administration was chosen by a party, and in all civil acts and appointments has recognized, and still does, its fealty and obligations to that party. There must and will be an opposition. The public safety and good demand it. Shall it be a new organization or an old one? The Democratic party was founded more than sixty years ago. It has never been disbanded. To-day it numbers one million five hundred thousand electors in the States still loyal to the Union. Its recent numerous victories in municipal elections in the Western and Middle States prove its vitality. Within the last ten months it has held State Conventions and nominated full Democratic tickets in every free State in the Union. Of no other party opposed to the Republicans can the same be said.

SHALL THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY BE NOW DISBANDED?

Why should it? Are its ancient principles wrong? What are they? Let its platforms from thirty years speak: "Resolved. That the American Democracy place their trust in the intelligence, the patriotism and the discriminating justice of the American people."

"That we regard this as a distinctive feature in our political creed, which we are proud to maintain before the world, as the great moral element in a form of government springing from and upheld by the popular will; and we contrast it with the creed and practice of Federalism, under whatever name or form, which seeks to palsy the will of the constituent, and which conceives no imposture to monstrous for the popular credulity."

"That the Federal Government is one of limited power, derived solely from the Constitution; and the grants of power made therein ought to be strictly construed by all the departments and agents of the Government; and that it is inexpedient and dangerous to exercise doubtful constitutional powers."

And as explanatory to these the following from Mr. Jefferson's first inaugural:

"The support of the State Governments in all their rights as the most competent administrations of our domestic concerns, and the surest bulwarks against anti-republican tendencies."

"The preservation of the General Government in its whole constitutional vigor as the sheet anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad."

"A jealous care of the right of election by the people."

"The supremacy of the civil over the military authority."

"Economy in the public expense, that labor may be lightly burdened."

"The honest payment of our debts and sacred preservation of the public faith."

"Freedom of religion, freedom of the press and freedom of person under protection of the habeas corpus, and trial by jury impartially selected."

Such, Democrats, are the principles of your party, essential to public liberty and to the stability and wise administration of the Government, alike in peace and war. They are the principles upon which the Constitution and the Union were founded; and under the control of a party which adheres to them, the Constitution would be maintained and the Union could not be dissolved.

Is the policy of the Democratic party wrong that it should be disbanded?

Its policy is consistent with its principles, and may be summed up, from the beginning, as follows: The support of liberty as against power; of the people as against their agents and servants; and of State rights as against consolidation and centralized despotism; a simple Government; no public debts; low taxes; no high protective tariff; no general system of internal improvements by Federal authority; no National Bank; hard money for the Federal public dues; no assumption of State debts; expansion of territory; self-government for the Territories, subject only to the Constitution; the absolute compatibility of a union of the States, "part slave and part free," the admission of new States, with or without slavery, as they may elect; non-interference by the Federal Government with slavery in State or Territory, or in the District of Columbia; and finally, as set forth in the Cincinnati Platform, in 1856, and reaffirmed in 1860, absolute and eternal repudiation of all sectional parties and platforms concerning domestic slavery, which seek to embroil the States and incite to treason and armed resistance to law in the Territories, and whose avowed purposes, if consummated, must end in civil war and disunion.

Such, Democrats, was the ancient and the recent policy of the Democratic party, running through a period of sixty years—a policy consistent with the principles of the Constitution, and absolutely essential to the preservation of the Union.

Does the history of the Democratic party prove that it ought to be abandoned? "By their fruits shall ye know them." Sectional parties do not achieve Union triumphs. For sixty years from the inauguration of Jefferson on the 4th of March, 1801, the Democratic party, with short intervals, controlled the power and the policy of the Federal Government. For forty-eight years out of these sixty, Democratic men ruled the country; for fifty-four years and eight months the Democratic policy prevailed. During this period Louisiana, Florida, Texas, New Mexico and California were successfully annexed to our territory, with an area more than twice as large as the original Thirteen States together. Eight new States were admitted under strictly Democratic Administrations—one under the Administration of Fillmore. From five millions, the population increased to thirty-one millions. The Revolutionary debt was extinguished. Two foreign wars were successfully prosecuted, with a moderate outlay and a small army and navy, and without the suspension of the habeas corpus; without one infraction of the Constitution, without one usurpation of power; without suppressing a single newspaper; without imprisoning a single editor; without limit to the freedom of the press, or of speech in or out of Congress, but in the midst of the grossest abuse of both; and without the arrest of a single "traitor," though the Hartford Convention sat during one of the wars, and in the other Senators invited the enemy to "greet our volunteers with bloody hands, and welcome them to hospitable graves."

During all this time wealth increased, business of all kinds multiplied, prosperity smiled on every side, taxes were low, wages were high, the North and the South furnished a market for each other's products at good prices; public liberty was secure, private rights undisturbed; every man's house was his castle; the courts were open to all; no passports for travel, no secret police, no spies, no informers, no bastilles; the right to assemble peaceably, the right to petition; freedom of religion, freedom of speech, a free ballot and a free press; and all this time the Constitution maintained and the Union of the States preserved.

Such were the choice fruits of Democratic principles and policy, carried out through the whole period during which the Democratic party held the power and administered the Federal Government. Such has been the history of that party. It is a Union party, for it preserved the Union, by wisdom, peace, and compromise, for more than half a century.

Then, Democrats, neither the ancient principles, the policy, nor the past history of the Democratic party require nor would justify its disbandment.

Is there any thing in the present crisis which demands it? The more immediate issue is, to maintain the Constitution as it is, and to restore the Union as it was.

To maintain the Constitution is to respect the rights of the States and the liberties of the citizen. It is to adhere faithfully to the very principles and policy which the Democratic party has professed for more than half a century. Let its history, and the results, from the beginning, prove whether it has practiced them. We appeal proudly to the record.

The first step toward a restoration of the Union as it is, to maintain the Constitution as it is. So long as it was maintained in fact, and not threatened with infraction in spirit and in letter, actual or imminent, the Union was unbroken.

To restore the Union, it is essential, first, to give assurance to every State and to the people of every section that their rights and liberties and property will be secure within the Union under the Constitution. What assurance so doubly sure as the restoration to power of that ancient organized consolidated Democratic party which for sixty years did secure the property, rights and liberties of the States and of the people, and thus did maintain the Constitution and preserve the Union, and with them the multiplied blessings which distinguished us above all other nations?

To restore the Union is to crush out sectionalism North and South. To begin the great work of restoration through the ballot box is to kill abolition. The bitter waters of secession flowed first and are fed still from the unclean fountains of

abolitionism. That fountain must be dried up. Armies may break down the power of the Confederate Government in the South, but the work of restoration can only be carried on through political organization and the ballot in the North and West. In this great work we cordially invite the co-operation of all men of every party who are opposed to the fell spirit of abolition, and who, in sincerity, desire the Constitution as it is, and the Union as it was. Let the dead past bury its dead. Rally, lovers of the Union, the Constitution and Liberty, to the standard of the Democratic party already in the field and confident of victory. That party is the natural and persistent enemy of abolition. Upon this question its record and national organization, however it may have been at times with particular men or in particular States, is clear and unquestionable. From the beginning of anti-slavery agitation to the period of the last Democratic National Convention, it has held but one language in regard to it. Let the record speak!

Resolved, That Congress has no power under the Constitution to interfere with or control the domestic institutions of the several States, and that such States are the sole and proper judges of every thing appertaining their own affairs, not prohibited by the Constitution; that all efforts of the Abolitionists or others made to induce Congress to interfere with questions of slavery, or to take incipient steps in relation thereto, are calculated to lead to the most alarming and dangerous consequences, and that all such efforts have inevitable tendency to diminish the happiness of the people and endanger the stability and permanency of the Union, and ought not to be countenanced by any friend of our political institutions."

Upon these principles, alone, so far as relates to slavery, can the Union, as it was, be restored; and no other Union, except the Union of Despotism, can be maintained in this country; and this last we will resist, as our fathers did, with our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.

But it is said that you must disband the Democratic party "to support the Government." We answer that the Democratic party has always supported the Government; and while it was in power preserved the Government in all its vigor and integrity, not by force and arms, but by wisdom, sound policy and peace. But it never did admit, and never will, that this administration, or any administration, is "the Government." It holds, and ever has held, that the Federal Government is the agent of the people of the several States composing the Union; that it consists of three distinct departments—the legislative, the executive, and the judicial—each equally a part of the Government, and equally entitled to the confidence and support of the States and the people, and that it is the duty of every patriot to sustain the several departments of the Government in the exercise of all the constitutional powers of each which may be necessary and proper for the preservation of the Government in its principles and in its vigor and integrity, and to stand by and defend to the utmost the flag which represents the Government, the Union and the country.

In this sense the Democratic party has always sustained, and will now sustain, the Government against all foes, at home or abroad, in the North or the South, open or concealed, in office, or out of office in peace or in war.

If this is what the party mean by supporting the Government, it is an idle thing to abandon the old and tried Democratic party, which for so many trials supported, preserved and maintained the Government of the Union. But if their real purpose be to aid the subverting of the present Constitution and form of government, and, under pretense of saving the Union, to erect a strong centralized despotism on its ruins, the Democratic party will resist them as the worst enemy to the Constitution and the Union, and to free government every-where.

We do not propose to consider now the causes which led to the present unhappy civil war. A fitter time will come hereafter for such discussion. But we remind you now that compromise made your Union, and compromise fifteen months ago would have saved it. Repeated efforts were made at the last session of the Thirty-sixth Congress to this end. At every stage the great mass of the South, with the whole Democratic Union party offered certain amendments to the Constitution—and chief among them the well-known "Crittenden Propositions," which would have averted civil war and maintained the Union. At every stage, all proposed amendment inconsistent with the sectional doctrines of the Chicago Platform were strenuously and unanimously resisted and defeated by the Republican party. The "Crittenden Propositions" never received a single Republican vote in either House. For the proof we appeal to the journals of Congress and to the Congressional Globe.

We scorn to reply to the charge that the Democratic party is opposed to granting aid and support to the Federal Government in maintaining its safety, integrity and constitutional supremacy, and in favor of disbanding our armies and succumbing to the South. The charge is libelous and false. No man has advocated any such propositions. Democrats recognize it as their duty as patriots to support the Government in all constitutional necessary and proper efforts to maintain its safety, integrity and constitutional authority; but at the same time they are indubitably opposed to waging war against any of the States or people of this Union in any spirit of oppression or for any purpose of conquest or subjugation, or of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of any State. Above all, the Democratic party will not support the Administration in any thing which looks or tends to the loss of our political or personal rights and liberties, or a change of our present democratical form of government.

But no, Democrats, it is not the support of the Government in restoring the Union which the party in power require of you. You are asked to give up your principles, your policy and your party, and to stand by the Administration of the party in power, in all its acts. Above all it is demanded of you that you yield at least a silent support to their whole policy, and to withhold all scrutiny into their public conduct of every kind, lest you should "embarrass the Administration."

You are thus asked to renounce one of the first principles and the chief security of a Democratic Government—the right to hold public servants responsible to their master the people; to render the representative accountable to the constituent the ancient and undoubted prerogative of Americans to canvass public measures and public men. It is this "high constitutional privilege" which Daniel Webster declared he would "defend and exercise within the House and out of the House, and in all places in time of war, in time of peace and in all times!" It is a right secured by the Constitution—a right inestimable to the people, and formidable to tyrants only.

If ever there was a time when the existence and consolidation of the Democratic party upon its principles and policy was a vital necessity to public and private liberty, it is now.

Unquestionably the Constitution gives ample power to the several Departments of the Government to carry on war, strictly subject to its provisions, and in case of civil war, with perfect security to citizens of the loyal States. Every act necessary for the safety and efficiency of the Government, and for a complete and most vigorous trial of its strength, is yet wholly consistent with the observance of every provision of that instrument, and of the laws in pursuance of it, if the sole motives of those in power were the suppression of the "rebellion," and no more.

And yet the history of the Administration for the twelve months past has been, and continues to be, a history of repeated usurpations of power and of violations of the Constitution, and of the public and private rights of the citizen. For the proof we appeal to facts too recent to need recital here, and too flagrant and heinous for the calm narrative which we propose. Similar acts were done, and a like policy pursued in the threaten of war with France in the time of John Adams, and with the same ultimate purpose.

But in two or three years the people forced them to an honorable peace with France rebuked the excesses and abuses of power vindicated the Constitution, and turned over the Federal Government to the principles and policy of the Democratic party. To the "sober second thought" of the people, therefore, and to the ballot box, we now appeal when again in like peril with our fathers.

But if every Democrat concurred in the policy of prosecuting the war for the subjugation of the South and for the subversion of her State Governments with her institutions, without a convention of the States, and without any overture for peace, we should just as resolutely resist the disbanding of the Democratic party. It is the only party capable of carrying on a war; it is the only party which has ever conducted a war to a successful issue, and the only party which has done it without abuse of power, without molestation to the rights of any class of citizens, and with due regard to economy. All this it has done; all this, if need be, it is able to do again. If success, then, in a military point of view be required, the Democratic party alone can command it.

To conclude: Inviting all men without distinction of State, section or party, who are for the Constitution as it is and the Union as it was, to unite with us in this great work upon terms of perfect equality, we insist that—

The restoration of the Union, whether through peace or by war, demands the continued organization and success of the Democratic party.

The preservation of the Constitution demands it;

The maintenance of liberty and free democratical government demands it;

The restoration of a sound system of internal policy demands it;

Economy and honesty in public expenditures, now at the rate of four million of dollars a day, demands it.

The rapid accumulation of an enormous and permanent public debt demands it—a public debt already one thousand millions of dollars, and equal at the present rate to England's debt of a century and a half in growth;

The heavy taxation, direct and indirect. State and Federal, already more than two hundred millions of dollars a year, eating out the substance of the people, augmenting every year, demands it;

Reduced wages, low prices, depression of trade, decay of business, scarcity of work, impending ruin on every side, demands it.

And, finally, the restoration of the concord, good feeling, and prosperity of former years, demands that the Democratic party shall be maintained and made victorious.

Seven Thousand Federals and Rebels Killed, and Sixteen Thousand Wounded.

The Pittsburg correspondent of the Chicago Times writes as follows, under date of the 20, in regard to the killed and wounded at the battle of Shiloh:

The work of burial is complete, and the returns show over six thousand killed, of whom four thousand and four hundred were rebels. It is difficult to account for this, but the rebel dead are undoubtedly double our own number. In estimating the mortality, the fatally wounded must be added to this number, swelling it to over seven thousand killed in the battle. In addition, there are eight thousand of our men in the hospitals, who were wounded in the battle. We have no means of knowing how many of the enemy are wounded, but undoubtedly the number is as great as ours. Seven thousand killed and sixteen thousand wounded, gives a total of twenty-three thousand men disabled in the great battle of Shiloh.

The Slaves of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida Declared Forever Free.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH, HILTON HEAD, MAY 9.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 14.—The three States of Georgia, Florida and South Carolina, comprising the Military Department of the South, having deliberately declared themselves no longer under the protection of the United States of America, and having taken up arms against the United States, it became a military necessity to declare martial law. This was accordingly done on the 25th day of April, 1862. Slavery and martial law in a free country are altogether incompatible. The persons in these three States, Georgia, Florida and South Carolina, heretofore held as slaves, are, therefore, declared forever free.

Everybody will rejoice that there is now a prospect of an exchange being effected between the gallant Col. CORCORAN, of the New York 69th, who has been a prisoner since the battle of Bull Run, and a rebel officer of the same rank.

The leading rebels are running away from Richmond. JEFF DAVIS is reported to have gone to Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Gov. JOHNSON, enforcing his proclamation in Tennessee, as will be seen by our Nashville correspondence. A Union soldier had been fired on by a concealed foe in Murfreesboro. For this twelve secessionists were arrested, including a brother of Mrs. Ex-President POTOMAC. Two hundred loaded guns had been found at Murfreesboro. Gov. JOHNSON will put a stop to bushwhacking.

The Tax Bill in the Senate.

WASHINGTON, MAY 15.—The impression is gaining ground that Mr. Simmons' schedule of a tax bill will be substituted by the Senate for the House Bill. It is stated that although the Finance Committee agreed to report the House Tax Bill, a majority of the Committee are opposed to it.

Mr. Simmons' bill preserves the machinery of the House Bill, but proposes to raise \$266,000,000 of revenue; \$100,000,000 from a tax of one half of one per cent, on all sales, and the balance from a tax on spirits, malt liquors, playing cards tobacco, oils and licenses. These are the only articles specifically taxed. It is generally believed that this programme for a revenue will prevail.

It must be happy thought to a lover that his blood and that of his sweetheart mingle perhaps in the same musquito.

A man with a long head is not very apt to be headlong.