



Solicitors of the Treasury to the Secretary of the Treasury and Attorney General, and of the United States," has been found to be \$19,808,460.62. "This makes an average defalcation during the fifteen years preceding June 30, 1887, of \$1,321,564." And it has been further ascertained that everywhere published and never denied, that the "widespread frauds" which spread Republican official fraud does not include the money stolen under the whisky ring, the Star Route frauds, and other defraudments in the Postoffice Department, how many others of like nature? By official investigation and report (see Miscellaneous Document, Part I, Forty-eighth Congress, first session) it was proved, and almost entirely by Republican witnesses, that the appointments made prior to that time by the Executive Republican administrations were, in the expressive and exact language of the testimony, "defaulters," "thieves," "drunkards," "blackmailers," "liars," "assaults," ex-convicts, "fugitives from justice," "assessors," "robbers," "forgers," "persons under indictment for violation of internal laws," "horse thieves," "forgers," and in one instance a murderer of an internal revenue officer. I am sure that all who have been in our country, but in the words of the proof are sworn to by Republican sources. It was further proven by sworn testimony of the officers of the Department of Justice that many of these disreputable persons had been arrested citizens, and on frivolous charges, for the purpose of obtaining money; that in one district alone, where seventy United States officials were employed, a large majority of them passed on the Government false, fraudulent, and fictitious accounts, and that in some cases the character of the officials was so bad that the Judges of the courts refused to permit them to exercise the duties of their offices; that the Government was robbed of hundreds of thousands of dollars by these men; that many of them were appointed to office when their crimes were a matter of public and general notoriety; that in some instances men who, according to the official and sworn testimony of examiners of the department, had perjured themselves before grand juries, and whose accounts on the Government, were promoted to higher, more lucrative, and more honorable offices. Is it any wonder, with such Federal officials as these, that every department of the Government has become imbued with fraudulent practices? There is no doubt that the matter of undisputed history, established by the investigations of Congress, that in the brief space of six years, from 1865 to 1871, Republican administration has increased the indebtedness of the South, fastened an increase of \$172,411,568 on the already impoverished people of the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia, and no such high carnival of corruption, even before stained the history of nations. Yet no protest against such stupendous villainy, no protest against the lips of a Republican convention in Indiana, once praising profligate politicians. I submit that a sermon now by Republican leaders on improper, unfit, and corrupt Federal appointments must be in the same tone with which Satan rebukes sin, and that it will prove a mockery to the ears of honest men. Wolves are said to put on lambs' skins, and even the liveliest of heaven is sometimes stolen to serve the devil in; but when the devil himself appears in his naked deformity, and without mask or disguise, he is seen into the pulpit and goes to preaching on the exceeding sinfulness of sin, it occurs to me that the congregation should summarily dispense with his services, and send him back to his own dominions.

The platform contains a larger number of shameless falsehoods pretenses in the Republican platform, which challenge attention and exposure on an occasion like this. It is alleged that that remarkable doctrine "the wisdom of sound money" by Republican party secured the truth is that Republican legislation created a system of finance wherein the Government dishonored its own currency by not receiving it for government debts; enabled the capitalist to purchase Government bonds at a price worth fifty cents on the dollar in the currency market at a large premium above par in gold paid the 2,000,000 of soldiers who preserved their honor, while bondholders received double the amount of their original investments. A system by which the contract for the pay of the soldier was broken, the pensioner for many years compelled to suffer a discount of one-third of his pension, and the capital of the country to a speculation in which more than a thousand millions of dollars have been realized as clear, naked gain, is a subject for repentance and prayer, rather than for laudation and self-praise. No will the Republic be able to either wisdom or honesty in a financial system responsible for the widespread and indescribable scenes of business ruin which blighted the homes and happiness of this country from 1873 to 1879, and which still continues to operate, or rather seem to say in vague terms, that silver ought to be a part of our coin circulation. Thirteen years ago the leaders of the Republican party in a surreptitious and fraudulent manner, changed the standard of value by law by which it now exists and circulates. The money was passed in February, 1878, over the heads inspired, advised and written by John Sherman, a Republican Secretary of the Treasury, and signed by Rutherford B. Hayes, an admitted Greenback foe. Since that time there has been a Republican administration in power since the beginning of Grant's first term, March 4, 1869, that has been friendly to silver. The honor and the existence of the greenback have been maintained, and the Greenbacks of Indiana have not forgotten the peculiar benevolence of Senator Harrison, who within the past ten years, proposed to erect an idol asylum for their accommodation. That act is to both silver and greenbacks exist as a part of our national credit, and the American people irrespective to a great extent, of political affiliations, and directly in spite of the determined and persistent hostility of Republican leaders and Republican administration.

On the subject of public lands we are also treated to another false and impudent claim to public confidence in the platform assertions of Sept. 2. Could anything be more audacious, in face of well-known facts, than this resolution:

"We favor reservation of public lands for small holdings by actual settlers, and are opposed to the acquisition of large tracts of the public domain by corporations and non-residents. All public lands should be preserved for American settlers."

In order properly to estimate the value of this loud profession in favor of "small holdings by actual settlers," it is only necessary to state that the people have obtained and misquipped the fact that "from July 1st to March 3rd, 1887, less than nine years, public lands were voted away to corporations to the amount of 14,538,134 acres" by Republican Congresses, and that every enactment was signed by a Republican President. In the case of the land sold to two-thirds of the lands included within the boundaries of the original thirteen States which formed the government. Nearly a hundred millions of these acres have been liable to robbing of our people, and the Government compensation by the corporations with the condition of the grants, but until the Forty-eighth Congress, within the last three years, nothing was done to reclaim for actual settlement any of this vast domain. This movement, however, part of our Democratic Party, in the Forty-eighth Congress, the public sentiment of the laboring home-seeking masses became aroused, and laws have been enacted declaring forfeited to the Government, and to be thrown open for settlement to the people, all lands held by corporations, agents, the House, with its Democratic majority, has passed bills of forfeiture, amounting to 28,493,911 acres, in which the Republican Senate has not as yet concurred. The Public Lands have been given up through the efforts of an able and distinguished Chairman Mr. Coburn of this State, has still further reported bills, which are now on the calendar, declaring additional forfeitures to the amount of 10,067,444 acres. There will be seen that a part of our population of about twenty-five half two Democratic Houses have, by direct votes and through their committee on the subject, declared that 101,390,295 acres of land equal to five times the State of Indiana, claimed by the Government, shall be thrown open to the people for farms and homes. It will also be seen that while the Senate was compelled through an awakened public opinion, to agree to a portion of these forfeitures, yet no such action was ever originated among Republican supporters, nor while the Republican maintained its ascendancy in both branches of Congress. And such is the party which now declares itself opposed to the acquisition of large tracts of the public domain by corporations and non-residents, and that American people should be reserved for American settlers.