

### UNION DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

ADOPTED IN STATE CONVENTION JANUARY 8, 1862.

The Democratic party, having, from the date of its formation, been in favor of the maintenance of the Union, and the preservation of the Constitution, and seeing in the present condition of the country the deplorable effects of a departure from its time-honored and conservative principles, and the triumph of sectionalism; and firmly believing that the Union and the Constitution can be preserved alone by the restoration of that party to power, we invite all true Union men throughout the land to unite with us in sustaining its organization and carrying out its principles: Therefore.

**Resolved.**, 1. That we reaffirm and endorse the principles that have from time to time have been put forth by the National Conventions of the Democratic party.

2. That we are unalterably attached to the Constitution, by which the Union of these States was formed and established; and that a faithful observance of its principles can alone continue the existence of the Union, and the permanent happiness of the people.

3. That the present war has mainly resulted from the sectionalism, disunion, and national agitation in the North, of the question of domestic slavery, the consequent organization of a geographical party, guided by the sectional platforms adopted at Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Chicago, and the development thereby of sectional hate and jealousy, producing (as had long been foreseen and predicted by us) its counterpart in the South of secession, disunion, and armed resistance to the General Government, and that the Southern States, who should have been who should have been forever bound together by fraternal bonds, thus bringing upon the whole country a calamity which we are now to meet as loyal citizens, striving for the adoption of that mode of settlement best calculated to again restore union and harmony.

4. That in rejecting all propositions likely to result in a satisfactory adjustment of the masters in dispute between the North and the South, and especially those measures which would have cured the disease of the Union, and a honest course in cooperation on their part, in all constitutional and legal measures to procure a return of the more Southern States to their allegiance, the Republican party assumed a fearful responsibility, and acted in total disregard of the best interests of the whole country.

5. That if the party in power had shown the same desire to settle, by amicable adjustment, our internal dissensions before hostilities had occurred, the Union would have been easily exhibited to avoid war with our ancient enemy, Great Britain, we confidently believe that peace and harmony would now reign throughout all our borders.

6. That the maintenance of the Union upon the principles of the Federal Constitution should be the controlling object of all who profess loyalty to the Government—and in our judgment this purpose can only be accomplished, by the ascendance of a Union party in the Southern States, which shall be a combination of those who are attached to the Government and those who are attached to the Union.

7. That the Republican party has fully demonstrated its inability to conduct the Government through its present difficulties.

8. That we are utterly opposed to the twin heresies, Northern sectionalism and Southern secession, as inimical to the Constitution; and that freemen, as they value the boon of civil liberty and the peace of the country, should shun indignantly upon them.

9. That in this national emergency the Democracy of the Union, in its true spirit of union and government, will resolve only their duty to the whole country; that this war should not be waged in the spirit of conquest or subjugation, for the purpose of overthrowing or intercepting the rights of the people; in the security which it gives to life, liberty and property in every quarter of the country; and in the fraternal attachments which the citizens of the several States have to one another as members of the political family, mutually subsisting to promote the welfare of each other. Hence, the citizens of each State should studiously avoid everything calculated to wound the sensibility or offend the just pride of the people of other States; and they should shun upon any proceedings within their own borders likely to disturb the tranquility of their political brethren in other portions of the Union.

10. That we will sustain, with all our energies, a war for the maintenance of the Constitution, and of the integrity of the Union under the Constitution; but we are opposed to a war for the emancipation of the negroes, or the subjugation of the Southern States.

11. That the purposes avowed and advocated by the Northern disunionists, to liberate and arm the negro slaves, is unconstitutional, insulting to loyal men, a disgrace to the age, is calculated to retard the progress of the rebellion and to exasperate those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection.

12. That the total disregard of the writ of habeas corpus by the authorities over us, and the seizure and imprisonment of the citizens of loyal States where the judiciary is in full operation, without warrant of law and without assigning any cause or giving to the party arrested any opportunity of defense, are flagrant violations of the Constitution and most alarming acts of usurpation of power, which should receive the stern rebuke of every lover of his country and of every man who prizes the security and blessings of life, liberty and property without converting freemen into slaves.

13. That the seizure of Sibley and Mason, on board a neutral vessel, on the high seas, was either in accordance with international law, and so legal; or else in violation of such law, and so illegal. If the former, we lament that our nation has been humiliated by their surrender; under a threat; if the latter, it was the duty of the Administration to demand their release, and to insist on their officer, and instead of increasing the captives in Fort Warren, to have immediately repaired the wrong by placing them, as far as practicable, in the same condition in which that officer had found them. In either event, the action of the Administration was facilitating land cowardly, and degrading to the dignity of a great nation.

14. That the action of the Republican party, as manifested in the partisan character of all its appointments of the Administration to civil offices, and in holding party caucuses by the Republican members of Congress for the purpose of impressing upon the legislative action of that body the peculiar dogmas of that party, have demonstrated that their professions of "sacrificing party plattforms, and party organizations, upon the altar of their country," are but so many hypocritical and false pretences by which they seek to cover their real aims—support, and we warn all loyal persons, as they love their country, not to be deceived thereby.

15. That the disclosures made by the investigating committee in Congress of the enormous frauds that have stalked into the army and navy departments, implicating the heads of those departments in a connivance at, if not an actual participation in a system of corruption, and in which our brave soldiers have been defrauded of their pay and supplies, and our sailors of their wages, with unexampled demands a theme of consternation throughout the country, and the heartfelt greetings of every Democrat for their further brilliant achievement in the coming contests for the maintenance of the Constitution and the Union.

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