

Marshall Democrat

T. McDONALD, Editor.

PLYMOUTH, IND.
Thursday Morning, March 20, 1856.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS.

For Governor,
ASHBEL P. WILLARD, of White.
For Lieut. Governor,
JOHN C. WALKER, of Laporte.
For Secretary of State,
DANIEL McCLELLAN, of Morgan.
For Auditor of State,
JOHN W. DODD, of Grant.
For Treasurer of State,
AQUILLA JONES, of Bartholomew.
For Attorney General,
JOS. E. McDONALD, of Montgomery.
For Superintendent of Public Instruction,
WILLIAM C. LARKINER, of Putnam.
For Clerk of Supreme Court,
WILLIAM B. BEACH, of Boone.
Reporter of Decisions of Supreme Court,
GORDON TANNER, of Jackson.

There is but little doing in Congress that would be interesting to our readers. The Kansas question is the all absorbing theme at present.

The Republicans would have nothing to rally their forces with, if this question was settled. They would like to have Reader admitted as the Delegate, but they do not exactly understand which would be the better course for them to pursue. Let Kansas be admitted as a free State, as she will sooner or later, and the last plank of their platform will be gone. We think this will be an open question for some time to come. In the mean time, there will be difficulties springing up between individuals or parties in the Territory, and a few knock down and possibly a man may occasionally be killed there, as well as in the States. If such should be the case, by the time the news would reach Indiana, a quarrel or the murder of an individual would be magnified into a great battle between freedom and slavery; and as the news would pass on eastward, the struggle would be represented as most sanguinary. Meetings would be called, inflammatory speeches made, money subscribed to buy "Sharpe's rifles," and companies formed for the ostensible purpose of going west to fight the great battle for freedom.

The Hon. A. P. WILLARD made a powerful speech at Peru on the 11th inst. He is probably not second to any man in the State as an extemporaneous speaker. His voice is clear and strong; he reasons logically, and his tongue is as the pen of a ready writer. He shows no mercy to the Know-Nothing and Republicans, and is thoroughly posted on the questions at issue in the present canvass. Should the Republicans succeed in persuading some one of their number to consent to go through with Mr. WILLARD, (which appears rather doubtful at present,) we may expect to see one Republican badly skinned.

From an editorial and letter, signed by sundry citizens, which appeared in the Banner of last week, strangers might think that for a small town, we were well supplied with drum shops. We feel bound to state that we have but three places where the "critter" is retailed, and that the several names published do not represent so many proprietors. One ought to be enough for a town of 1500 inhabitants—three is abundantly sufficient—but nine would be awful.

It will be observed by the foreign news brought by the Arabia, that the Peace conference at Paris has been in session several days. The prospects of an amicable adjustment of the difficulties between England and the United States, are favorable.

The Democrats of Center township will remember that the Convention meets next Saturday, for the purpose of nominating candidates for township offices, to-wit: One township Trustee, one Clerk, one Treasurer, two Justices of the Peace, and three Constables.

It is generally believed that we are to have no Peaches this year, and that the young Peach trees are generally killed.

Porter Democrat is the title of a new paper just started at Valparaiso, by LEONARD H. MILLER. It is got up in a neat style, and displays decided ability in its editorial columns. We wish you great success, politically and pecuniarily.

GODEY'S LADY'S Book for April is received; it is a welcome Magazine, always promptly on hand; and contains choice miscellany and instructions for Ladies, not to be had in any other Magazine. Published by L. A. Godey, Philadelphia, at \$3 per annum.

The Commercial Bank, of Chicago, has gone under.

Flour is down to three dollars per cent. in this market.

The Temperance folks and citizens, are about making a decided move to get our Grocery-men to stop selling liquors. Forty dollars were raised the first evening to defray expenses of prosecution.

Pershing & Thomson, advertise to-day. They are just starting in the drug business; patronize them... B. V. Barcus wants some boarders—consult advertisement.

More Disclosures.

From an article which we copy from the State Sentinel it will be seen there is another secret political organization in our midst, (or the old one in a different form) which has for its object, as is usual with similar organizations, the "good of all mankind." The Know-Nothing-Abolition-Republican-Fusionists have tried about every way their imagination can conceive of to deceive and humbug the people, but this "League" organization is the most cowardly move we have yet heard of. In order to get the Know Nothings, it excludes all Catholics from membership, and adopts the Know Nothing creed, in relation to foreigners, generally. In order to get the so-called "Republicans," it denounces the Nebraska act, as being an outrage. It adopts the Abolition creed in relation to slavery generally, thereby securing the remnants of that party. It makes temperance a requisite qualification for membership, in order to include the friends of prohibition. It takes the Bible for its guide in order to include all religious denominations, thus compounding all sects and parties into one incomprehensible conglomeration.

It is well known to many of our citizens, that W. G. GEORGE, the President of the "League" in this State, was uncomfortably drunk at this place, some time ago. But we suppose he being President, it is all right.

ANOTHER SECRET SOCIETY!

ABOLITION OATH-BOUND LEAGUE!!

The liberties of the People in danger!

We this day lay before the readers of the State Sentinel the platform, ceremonies, constitution, ritual, oaths, &c., of a secret political society which exists in Indiana, and which has been organized for the purpose of controlling the political power and destinies of the State.

We have been put in possession of the authentic records of this organization from such a source, and under such circumstances, as to leave no doubt of the correctness and truth of the exposure, which we here-with place before the public. Every fact and every statement is copied from their own printed book of forms and ritual, that has been printed by their confidential publishers, and secretly delivered to none but those who were sworn to fidelity, and to keep their secrets.

The "League" is a most abominable conspiracy, entered into by a faction of restless and corrupt men, to control and direct the people in such a manner as will conduce to the advancement and propagation of Abolition, disunion, and in clerical doctrines and interests. We look upon this movement as being worse in its tendencies, and more pernicious in its sentiments than original Know Nothingism, because it hypocritically assumes to be the advocate and supporter of human rights and human liberty, while it practically enslaves the citizen, disfranchises a portion of community, and drives from political connection a large portion of American citizens for their religious opinions.

We give the following condensed exposure of this miserable concern, that every reader may judge of it for himself.

Here is the title page of the book:

PLATFORM, LIST OF OFFICERS, CONSTITUTION AND RITUAL, OF THE

Indiana State League of Freedom.

Indiana Journal Company—Print.

OFFICERS.—1855-'56.

President.—W. G. GEORGE, of South Bend.

Vice President.—ORVILLE THOMPSON, Greensburg.

Secretary.—SAMUEL G. DAILY, Indianapolis.

Treasurer.—RYLAND T. BROWN, Crawfordsville.

PLATFORM.

As servility to the Slave Power characterizes the National organizations of the existing political parties, and as the servility is pernicious both to the manhood of the North and the liberty of the people,

WE DECLARE.

1st. That the issue before the American people is whether Freedom shall be limited to the Free States, or whether slavery shall be limited to the Slave States.

2d. That this issue has been forced upon the country by the Slave Power through repeated aggressions, and by acts which have violated National faith, solemn compacts and sacred covenants.

3d. That these aggressions, especially the Nebraska outrage, with the brutal assault upon the elective franchise in Kansas have aroused the freemen of the Republic to a just sense of their duty and danger, and though they will invade no right of any State, they will maintain every right of freedom, and resist the admission of another Slave State, or the addition of another foot of slave soil.

4th. That we shall meet this issue thus forced upon us in the spirit which our fathers met the issues of their day, and believing as they believed, that rightfully man can hold no property in man, we will maintain the NATIONALITY of Freedom.

5th. That Freedom being one in aim and end, the world over, the friends of freedom in this Republic should make principles and character, not birthplace, the test of admission to citizenship, and its constitutional rights.

AND WE FURTHER DECLARE.

6th. That the right to worship GOD according to the dictates of individual conscience being inviolable, we will labor to strengthen this great community through wise State laws; but we will repel every po-

litico-ecclesiastical interference in political affairs, by potentate, pontiff, or priest, or their abettors, as destructive alike to this right of our common liberty.

7th. That we are in favor of a law that shall effectually prohibit the traffic in liquors as a beverage.

8th. That Free Schools, Free Labor, the Improvement of Rivers and Harbors, an Honest Republican, Official Representation abroad, all measures that tend to elevate man, establish the material prosperity of the Country, and give stability to the Union, shall receive our hearty support.

9th. Persons of foreign birth not to be admitted to the right of suffrage till they become citizens according to the Constitution and laws of the United States.

10th. That the people are the rightful source of political power, and all officers, both State and National, should, as far as practicable, be chosen by a direct vote of the people.

11th. That to insure practical success, we will strive to fill all offices with men of undoubted integrity and sobriety of ability, and nerve to resist aggression upon Right, come when, where, or in what shape it may.

Constitution of the State League.

ARTICLE I.

Sec. 1. This Association shall be styled "The Indiana State League of Free Men," and shall be the head of the Organization in Indiana. It shall have exclusive power to establish Subordinate Leagues within the State, and such work and laws for the regulation as may be deemed proper, to secure the success of the Organization and the triumph of its principles: Provided, that nothing shall be done contravening the Constitution of the National League and our Platform and Principles.

ART. 2.

Provides for the election of officers.

Sec. 2.

Provides for the election of one representative from each Council to form the State League.

Sec. 3.

State League shall hold its annual meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of April of each year.

ARTICLE III.

Sec. 1. Provides for the compensation of the President, and fixes his duties, one of which is to appoint a Deputy in each county.

Sec. 2.

Fixes the duties of the Vice President.

Sec. 3.

Fixes the duties of the Secretary.

Sec. 4.

Fixes the duties of the Treasurer.

Sec. 5.

Fixes the duties of the Sentinel.

Sec. 6.

Provides for general duties of officers.

Sec. 7.

Makes it the duty of the President to appoint traveling deputies in each county.

Sec. 8.

Provides for the election, by the State League, of delegates to the National League.

ARTICLE IV.

Sec. 1. Provides for the appointment of nine committees.

Sec. 2.

Defines the duties of said committees.

ARTICLE V.

Sec. 1. The revenue of the State League shall consist of such fees as may be derived from the Charters, and such per capita tax as may be levied upon the Subordinate by the State League.

ARTICLE VI.

Sec. 1. The State League shall be called to order at their stated meetings, at 10 o'clock, A. M. and special meetings at the time specified in the notice convening the same, and thirty delegates shall constitute a quorum for business.

ARTICLE VII.

Sec. 1. This Constitution shall take effect from and after its adoption.

SUBORDINATE CONSTITUTION.

The President and Secretary shall have power to issue Charters for Subordinate Leagues upon the application of ten citizens of the requisite qualifications, and after such application to the President, Secretary or Deputy President, either of said officers are empowered to institute and instruct such Subordinate League.

CONSTITUTION.

(The following Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of Order are recommended for adoption for Subordinate Leagues.)

Sec. 1. A person to become a member of a League must be a legal voter of the United States, of good moral character, and not addicted to intemperance. He must believe in the existence of a Supreme Being as the Creator and Preserver of the Universe, and, being sufficiently educated and intelligent to understand the general principles of Government. He must be morally and politically opposed to the extension of slavery, and free from any alliance with a Roman Catholic church.

Sec. 2.

Provides for the election of officers.

Sec. 3.

Provides for the time of nominations, and tenure of office.

Sec. 4.

Ditto.

Sec. 5.

Gives each League the power to institute its own By-Laws.

Sec. 6.

Provides that the vote of four-fifths of the members present shall be required for the election of a member.

Sec. 7.

Provides that the rejection of a candidate shall disqualify him for membership in any other League in the State for six months, &c.

Sec. 8.

Provides for the qualification of members.

Sec. 9.

Provides for withdrawal.

BY-LAWS.

Similar to those of most Western Debating Societies, in ten sections (written by Hon. Schuyler Colfax, editor of the South Bend Register.)

RULES OF ORDER.

In twenty-three sections; similar to the By-Laws.

RITUAL.

(Questions asked by the Marshals outside.)

[When the candidates have assembled in the ante-room, the Platform shall be read, and the following questions asked by the proper officer, using plural words, when necessary.]

1. Whether you become a member or not, do you pledge yourself to an honorable secrecy with regard to what you shall see and hear within our organization?

[Each answers, "I do."]

2. Are you 21 years of age, and a citizen of the United States?

[Each answers, "I am."]

3. (printed 2) Are you a Roman Catholic?

[Each answers "I am not."]

4. Do you pledge yourself, on your honor as a man, that you will support the Platform of principles just read to you, and not reveal the secrets, pass-words, or signs of recognition of this Organization?

[Each answers, "I do."]

[Marshals introduce Candidates.]

In the center of the room stands a table covered with an American flag, and on it lies a Bible, open, as emblems of civil and religious liberty.

Candidates arrange themselves in a semicircle, facing the table.

President advances to the opposite side of the table and says,

Will you place your right hand upon the Bible?

Candidates do so.

PRESIDENT.—You and each of you, with your right hand resting on the word of Truth, and the Flag of your Country, of your own free will and accord, do solemnly pledge your sacred honor as a man, that you will never make known the secrets of this Order to any person except within the body of a legally constituted League of the Order; and not even then, unless you are well assured that he is in good standing, and legally entitled to your confidence.

You furthermore promise, that you will use all lawful and honorable means to promote the interests of this Order, and secure the triumph of the principles of our National Platform; that you will conform to the laws and edicts of the National League of "Free Men of the United States," to the Constitution, Rules, and usages of the State League of Indiana, and of this, or any other local League of which you may become a member, that you will not divulge the name of any member of the Order, your own excepted, unless permitted so to do by the person himself, or compelled by due process of law. (Candidate repeats.) Faithfully to perform I solemnly pledge my honor as a man.

PRESIDENT.—You will now be conducted to the Secretary's table, where you will enroll your name, together with your birth-place, age, and present residence. [Enrolls his name.]

Marshals conduct the candidate to the Instructor and says: Mr. A. B. (and associates if more than one) having been duly obligated and enrolled as "Freemen" come to you for instruction.

INSTRUCTOR.—Gentlemen, we congratulate you on your entrance into our Order. It is no common or trifling political occurrence that has given rise to this organization. The alarming aggressions of Slavery, Political Popery, and Intemperance have aroused the wise and good all over the land, and have banded them in the League of "Freemen" to resist these aggressions. The private matters which you are to keep secret, are not only the obligations and ceremonies of the Order, but include everything said or done in the League, unless secrecy be removed by special act of the League itself.

The Pass Word is (No. 1) "Freedom for all Men." Our sign of recognition for the street is the placing of the (No. 2) (fore finger) of the (No. 3) (right hand) upon the (No. 4) (right side) of the (No. 5) (nose).

The response to the sign is made with the (No. 6) (left hand) in corresponding position. The brother who gives the sign will then say (No. 7) "Have you any news?" The other will reply (No. 8) "All right."

Make any noise you choose at the order door to attract the attention of the O. S.—Give to him the (No. 9) (first part of the P. W.—"Freedom") then advance to the inner door, and give (No. 10) three taps.

The I. S. will present himself, and to him you will give (No. 11) (the remainder of the P. W.) also your name, with the name and location of the League to which you belong, thus: (For all men.)

The T. P. W. (Meaning the traveling pass word, is (No. 12) "Back Bone," to be used, you will remember, only when traveling out of the State, but the signals at the door are uniformly the same.) (Marshals conduct candidate to the President.)

PRESIDENT.—Gentlemen: you have heard and approved our platform of principles—you have sought admission into our Order—you have answered our question satisfactorily, and have taken an obligation of secrecy and fidelity; you have been made acquainted with the Signs and Pass Words of the Order, and it now only remains to explain to you more fully the aims and objects of the League of "Free Men." It is the duty and interest of every "Son of Freedom" to battle for the emancipation of man from the tyranny of Ignorance, Intemperance, and Slavery. No country can be morally and politically opposed to the extension of slavery, and free from any alliance with a Roman Catholic church.

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ion, and plea of infidelity, it is the sworn foe of civil and religious liberty.

It wields the very freedom which our Fathers conferred upon it, as a dagger to destroy our own. Landing upon our shores millions of its superstitious, segregated and clammy instruments, and acting as a unit in popular elections, it uses them with fearful power, first to weigh down one side, then another, ever bawling its votes to the highest bidder, until it has secured control of the most important places in the Government. "The tree is known by its fruits." Those of the Papal tree have ever been ignorance, poverty, misery and crime. Its votaries fill our jails, almshouses and penitentiaries. Intolerance is its principle; ignorance its cement; inquisition and duplicity its means. Its open hostility to the Bible in Free Schools is known to every American. It is the same system of despotism in all climes, in all ages, and under all Governments. Where it has power, it boldly dictates to the civil authority; and makes it subservient to the Church.—Where it is numerically weak, it assumes a devout and meek aspect; but it knows no gratitude, no compromise. Why then should Americans longer cherish their instruments with the elective franchise, or trust them with the administration of Government?

You observe that our Order makes principles, not nativity, the standard of qualifications for citizenship. The place of a man's birth is an accident beyond his control, and for which he is not responsible. But his moral character, and his political principles are intrusted to his own keeping. Ours is a land of refuge for the oppressed of all climes, assigned by Providence as the theater where he may solve the great problem of self-government. The naïve may only ask of his adopted brother "has he renounced all allegiance of every kind to all foreign powers?" "Is he devoted to our institutions, temperate and industrious in his habits, and of good moral character?" We cast out from us no true man, wherever he may have happened to be born. Our Order is not founded in selfishness, but on the more enduring principles of human brotherhood, and Man's republican equality. We exclude only the vicious, the unprincipled, the despot, and the instruments of despotism.

The power of our Government is, that all theory emanates from the people. But such is not, and has not been much in practice. It has become little better than a centralized despotism, with a Republican name. The single branch of the General Government which they are permitted to choose is overshadowed by the Senate, and the Executive with his vetoes, and his great and increasingly dangerous patronage.

A restoration of power to the hands of the people will be our most sacred duty. Finally, the grand aim of this organization is to establish a League of Freedom for the assertion of the inalienable Rights of Man, and for the protection of civil and religious liberty; to restore the political institutions of our country to their original purity, and execute the grand will and testament of its founders; to make this Republic the dwelling-place of Freedom, the polar star for the oppressed of all nations, to exhibit the glorious spectacle of a government without a King, religion without a Pope, a Continent without a slave.

This is the Platform, and these are the Principles, of this League of Fanatics, whose doctrines, if carried into practical operation, must inevitably produce revolution, civil war and disunion.

We have given the whole of the address of the "President," that the League may have the benefit of his hypocritical speech to the silly novitiates, which blends, now and then, a proper sentiment with a large amount of sophistry. We permit them to tell their own story in their own way. Every sensible reader will easily discover which is the grain and which is the chaff.

In the language of patriotism and assumed love of the Union, they pretend to sustain the works of our Revolutionary ancestors in behalf of the right of conscience and of civil and religious liberty. They speak in ardent terms of their opposition to the union of Church and State, and in the same breath denounce all Catholics as beyond the pale of favor or of citizenship, and plainly assert that their religion should be regulated by law, at least so far as to disfranchise them. Is this not invoking the power of the State to regulate Church affairs? Every species of ignorance and crime is charged against them as a general class of people, and they are consigned to infamy morally, socially and politically. These inconsistencies are so numerous, flagrant and glaring, that it would be a waste of time and space to specify them. To every ounce of honey, they add a pound of gall; to every profession of liberal and honest political feeling, the most tangible evidence of Abolition bigotry and intolerance. They desire all fusion factions to unite with them in upturning the foundations of our Government, and denounce it as a "centralized despotism."

They attack the provisions of the Constitution, and assail its checks and safeguards, especially the equalizing and regulating power of the Senate and the Executive veto. They cherish a deadly hostility to the white foreign born citizen, but lament over the fate of the negro, and profess a brotherly love for him. They would wantonly incite internal strife and contention between the States of the Confederacy, regardless of the consequences to our national existence.

After the reader calmly reflects upon the tendencies of such an association or Secret League, he will certainly perceive its deleterious features. They proscribe a large portion of the people of this Union for their religion and for no other cause. They would disfranchise and de-nationalize more white people who are actual citizens freeholders in the country than the whole number of slaves in all the States of the Republic. What charity, what holy

piety, what moral feeling, what political tolerance is there in such men and in such an effort?

The secret character of the League classes it with Know Nothingism, and shows that a great wrong is intended to be practiced upon the people. If its purposes were mainly, honorable, and laudable, why require solemn oaths of secrecy, and the signs of bandits and robbers to conceal its existence? Such men talk of Inquisition and the subtle power of Popery. When did the Pope do more than they here attempt to do? They wish by secret and clandestine means to control the government and rule the country.

Many of their officers are known to our citizens. Are they any more moral, religious, or philanthropic than those whom they stigmatize and condemn? They are generally hopeful politicians, who have hoped against hope for political preferment but who, we think, are destined to be disappointed in spite of their secret Leagues.

We are informed that the most worthy President of the "Indiana State League of Freedom," who was recently from Pennsylvania, was on revisiting his former place of residence, arrested on a charge of sedition, so that he has found it inconvenient to return to the further discharge of his important duties in Indiana.

In conclusion, we invite most seriously, every German and Irish citizen, every Catholic, be he of foreign or native birth, and every honest, patriotic freeman, to contemplate this diabolical league; study their platform, their ritual, their constitution, and their secret oaths, and then to determine, upon his conscience, whether or not he desires to join such a league, to become a member of such a party, or to stand by the Constitution and institutions of our glorious Union.

ARRIVAL OF THE ARABIA.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

HAIFA, March 12.