

THE PLYMOUTH WEEKLY DEMOCRAT.

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 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 PROVE THAT IT OUGHT TO BE ABANDONED?

'By their fruits ye shall 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 policy of the Federal Government. For forty-eight years out of these sixty, Democratic men ruled the country; for forty-four years and eight months the Democratic policy prevailed. During this period Louisiana, Florida, Texas, New Mexico and California were successively annexed to our territory, with an area more than twice as large as all 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, 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 abuses 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 right undisturbed; every man's house was his castle; the courts were open to all; no passports nor travel, no secret police, no spies, no informers, no bastiles; 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 ANYTHING 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 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 was, 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 doubtless 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 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 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 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 as a National organization, however it may have been at times with particular men or in particular States is clear and unquestionable. From the beginning of the 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 everything appertaining to their own affairs not prohibited by the Constitution; that all efforts of the Abolitionists or others made to induce Congress to interfere with the question 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 an 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 Unity 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. NO ADMINISTRATION IS 'THE GOVERNMENT.'

But it is said 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 of arms, but by wisdom, sound policy and peace. But it never did admit and never will, that this Administration, or any other Administration, is the 'Government.'

It is the 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 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 the citizens of the loyal States.

The history of the administration for the twelve months past has been, and continues to be, a history of repeated usurpations of power and 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. To the 'sober second thought' of the people 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 to the utter subjugation of the South and for the subversion of her State Governments with her institutions, without a convention of the States, and without an overture for peace, we should just as resolutely resist the abandoning 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 only party which has done it without abuse of power, without molestation of 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 do it.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS ALWAYS AND WILL NOW SUSTAIN THE GOVERNMENT.

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 years and through so many trials supported, preserved and maintained the Government of the Union. But if their real purpose be to aid the ancient enemies of the Democracy in subverting our 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 enemies of the Constitution and the Union, and to free government everywhere we insist that—

THE REASONS WHICH DEMAND THE RESTORATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO POWER.

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 Democratic government demands it;

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

Economy and honesty in public expenditures, now at the rate of four millions of dollars a day, demand it;

The rapid accumulation of an enormous and permanent public debt demand it—a

public debt already one thousand millions of dollars, and equal at the present rate to three years, to England's 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 demand it.

And, finally, the restoration of the

cord, good feeling, and prosperity of former years, demands that the Democratic party shall be maintained and made victorious.

THE PLYMOUTH DEMOCRAT.

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T. & P. McDONALD.

PLATT McDONALD, ::::::::::: Editor.

PLYMOUTH, INDIANA:

THURSDAY, MAY 22ND, 1862.

DEMOCRATIC STATE TICKET.

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE,
JAMES S. ATHON,
OF MARION.

FOR ATTORNEY OF STATE,
JOSEPH RISTINE,
OF RYAN.

FOR TREASURER OF STATE,
MATTHEW L. BRETT,
OF DAVIES.

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL,
OSCAR B. HORD,
OF DECATUR.

FOR STATE INSPECTOR,
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