

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

The NATIONAL REPUBLICAN is published every afternoon, (Sundays excepted), at the corner of Indiana avenue and Second street, and is delivered to city subscribers at six cents per week, mail subscribers at three dollars and fifty cents per annum, in advance.

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THE FIRST CRIME: A TALE OF IRISH FAMINE.

Two days had passed, still no food had reached their lips. It was now evening, and although the sun had set, the heat of the summer day remained in all its oppressive fervor. Brian O'Sullivan looked around upon his wife and children, and a momentary gleam of fancy flashed from his sunken eyes.

"Mary, achora, you shall not die, if these hands can get you food!" he exclaimed. "I have been driven to this, not through my own fault, but from the heartless cruelty and oppression of those who can, and will not, save us. Shall I see my children dying about me, while there is plenty in the land?"

"My poor boy," said the agonized father, "you cannot change my purpose; return home, and let me away; for if crime must stain this hand, it must be in the darkness of night, when no human eye can see the blush of shame on your father's cheek."

"Where is father?" demanded a low, sweet voice. "O, mother, there is something tearing me!" placing her hand upon her wasted breast. "Hush, aridh, hush!" whispered her weeping mother, "you will soon be free from pain, aron!"

but fruitlessly, to reach her mother, that she might embrace her. Her head fell back, and the glazed eye and parted lip told that all was over. Just then a step was heard on the threshold, and Brian O'Sullivan strove, or rather tottered, into his wretched home. Flung a small bag of potatoes on the ground, he rushed to the bedside.

"Mary—Nora—acholla agus anora ma-chrae!" he cried, wildly. "I have brought you food. But, Father of Mercies, what is this?" touching the lifeless hand of his child. "Dead! O, my darlings, and are you gone forever?—gone from the heart that loves you? But your sorrows are over; and perhaps it is better, 'for the continued, mild, far better, than no forbidden food has stained those spotless lips. I would not have that departed spirit proclaim her father's sin among the angels of heaven. No, ahager! your eyes cannot now upbraid him, and your ears are deaf to the voices that mourn over your early death."

"Father," said the eldest boy, "we cannot touch that, we would sooner die. We do not blame you, father, macraochea; it was not done for your own sake, though the hunger was sore on you, but for the sake of your starving children."

"The good priest was deeply moved, for never before had the lips of that humble penitent breathed forth such a declaration; never before had the soul of the prostrate sinner been stained with guilt; and as he, in agony of spirit, 'smote upon his breast, and prayed aloud for mercy, the glance of displeasure faded from the priest's face, and, as the tears rolled down his aged cheeks, he whispered in the poor penitent's ear the welcome tidings, that the broken and contrite heart is not despised in heaven. By the voice of the world, Brian O'Sullivan would be branded as a thief, a midnight robber. O, if those who would thus coldly and heedlessly condemn him could have entered his poor home, how would their hearts have melted into sorrow! Could they have gazed on the lifeless remains of the child whose spirit was with God, as she lay on her ragged bed, holding in her cold grasp a bunch of wild roses—affection's offering to the dead—and listened to the voices that arose to heaven, seeking the forgiveness the cold world would deny, surely, in such a scene, they would have read their own condemnation."

"This is no exaggerated picture of the sufferings or the virtues of the Irish peasantry. Surely, a brave, moral, and religious people will no longer be permitted, in the midst of plenty, to endure such sufferings. We might have turned a still darker page, and yet not have dealt in exaggeration; we might have consigned the victim to a loathsome prison, and left him to rot there, without a shadow of hope. We might have followed his wretched family through lonely wanderings, and seen them spurned from the door of plenty by pampered manials. Surely, such a state of things cannot last forever. Surely, the peace and comfort, nay, the very lives of the community are not to be sacrificed for the sake of the children of prosperity! It is time that the great ones of our land would consider the cause of the people. Fearful is the calamity impending over them; and unless active steps are taken to avert the threatening rain, we fear much that the virtue of our poor countrymen will fall a sacrifice—the virtue that no trials could hitherto overcome. You, who shudder at the recital of the crimes committed by the Irish peasants, bestir yourselves to endeavor to remove the cause of those crimes. Not from the love of guilt do our poor countrymen resort to the 'wild justice of revenge;' and you, who thoughtlessly condemn them, know but little of the struggles often endured before they stumble in the path of virtue."

FRESH TEAS. I AM receiving a lot of Green and Black TEAS, among which are some of as fine grades as can be had, to which I invite the attention of all lovers of choice Green and Black TEAS. JESSE B. WILSON, 327 Pa. av., between Sixth and Seventh streets, south side.

Prospectus of the National Republican.

Believing that the time has arrived when the great Republican party of the United States ought to be fairly represented in the daily press of the National Metropolis, we have embarked in the enterprise of supplying the citizens of the District of Columbia with a daily publication, under the title of the "NATIONAL REPUBLICAN."

In its political department, this journal will advocate and defend the principles of the Republican party, and endeavor to disabuse the public mind of groundless prejudices which have been engendered against it, by the false accusations of its enemies. Having the utmost confidence that the administration of Mr. Lincoln will be such as to merit our approbation, we expect to yield it a cordial, but not a servile support. In the great issue that is likely to be made with his administration, by the enemies of the Republican party, the people of Washington and the District of Columbia have more at stake than the people of any other portion of our common country. We believe that to support Mr. Lincoln's administration will be synonymous with maintaining the integrity of the Federal Union, against the machinations of those who would rend it asunder. No one can doubt upon which side of this issue the people of Washington will be found, when they come to realize that it is fairly forced upon them. We feel confident, therefore, that in yielding to the administration of Mr. Lincoln a cordial support, we shall have the sympathy of an immense majority of the people of this District and vicinity.

It is not our design, however, to make the National Republican a mere political paper. We intend, that as a medium of general and local news, it shall not be inferior to any other journal published in this city. We shall pay particular attention to questions of local policy, and advocate such reforms as we may deem essential to the prosperity of the city, and to the advancement of the moral and material welfare of its inhabitants.

We deem it unnecessary, however, to multiply promises, as the paper will immediately make its appearance, and will then speak for itself. It will be published every afternoon, and delivered to city subscribers at six cents per week. Mail subscribers, \$3.50 a year, payable in advance.

The publication office is at the corner of Indiana avenue and Second street. LEWIS CLEPHANE & CO.

Some Opinions of Mr. Lincoln.

"I say that we must not interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists, because the Constitution forbids it, and the general welfare does not require us to do so. We must not withhold an efficient fugitive slave law, because the Constitution requires us, as I understand it, not to withhold such a law. But we must prevent the outspreading of the institution, because neither the Constitution nor the general welfare requires us to extend it. We must prevent the revival of the African slave trade, and the enacting by Congress of a Territorial slave code. We must prevent each of these things being done by either Congress or courts. The people of the United States are the rightful masters of both Congresses and courts—not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution!"—Speech at Cincinnati, September 18, 1858.

"I hold myself under constitutional obligations to allow the people in all the States, without interference, direct or indirect, to do exactly as they please; and I deny that I have any inclination to interfere with them, even if there were no such constitutional obligation. I can only say again, that I am placed improperly, altogether improperly, in spite of all that I can say—when it is insisted that I entertain any other views or purposes in regard to that matter (slavery)."—Speech at Jonesborough, Ill., Sept. 16, 1858.

"While it (slavery) drives on in its state of progress as it is now driving, and as it has driven for the last five years, I have ventured the opinion, and say to-day, that we will have no end to the slavery agitation until it takes one turn or the other. I do not mean that when it takes a turn toward ultimate extinction it will be in a day, nor in a year, nor in two years. I do not suppose that in the most peaceful way ultimate extinction would occur in less than a hundred years at least; but that it will occur in the best way for both races, in God's own good time, I have no doubt."—Speech at Charleston, Ill., Sept. 18, 1858.

"Mr. Douglas's popular sovereignty, as a principle, is simply this: If one man chooses to make a slave of another, neither that man nor anybody else has a right to object."—Speech at Cincinnati, Sept. 17, 1859.

"Let me say I have no prejudice against the Southern people. They are just what we would be in their situation. If slavery did not exist among them they would not introduce it. If it did now exist among us, we should not instantly give it up. This I believe of the masses, North and South. Doubtless there are individuals on both sides who would not hold slaves under any circumstances; and others who would gladly introduce slavery anew if it were now out of existence. We know that some Southern men do free their slaves, go North, and become tip-top abolitionists; while some Northern ones go South, and become most cruel slave masters."

"When Southern people tell us they are no more responsible for the origin of slavery than we are, I acknowledge the fact. When it is said that the institution exists, and that it is very difficult to get rid of it in any satisfactory way, I can understand and appreciate the saying. I surely will not blame them for not doing what I should not know how to do myself. If all earthly power were given me, I should not know what to do, as to the existing institution. My first impulse would be to free all the slaves, and send them to Liberia—to their own native land. But a moment's reflection would convince me, that whatever of high hope (as I think there is) there may be in this, in the long run, its sudden execution is impossible. If they were all landed there in a day, they would perish in the next ten days; and there are not surplus shipping and surplus money enough in the world to carry them there in many times ten days. What then? Free them all, and keep them among us as underlings? Is it quite certain that this betters their condition? I think I would not hold one in slavery at any rate; yet the point is not clear enough to denounce people upon. What next? Free them, and make them politically and socially our equals? My own feelings will not admit of this; and if mine would, we will know that those of the great mass of white people will not. Whether this feeling accords with justice and sound judgment, is not the sole question, if, indeed, it is any part of it. A universal feeling, whether well or ill founded, cannot be safely disregarded. We cannot then, make them equals. It does seem to me that systems of gradual emancipation might be adopted; but for that tardiness in this respect, I will not undertake to judge our brethren of the South."

"When they remind us of their constitutional rights, I acknowledge them, not grudgingly, but fully and fairly; and I would give them any legislation for the reclaiming of their fugitives, which should not, in its stringency, be more likely to carry a free man into slavery than our ordinary criminal laws are to hang an innocent one."—Speech at Ottawa, Ill., Aug. 21, 1858.

"Has anything ever threatened the existence of this Union, save and except this very institution of slavery? What is it that we hold most dear amongst us? Our own liberty and prosperity. What has ever threatened our liberty and prosperity, save and except this institution of slavery? If this is true, how do you propose to improve the condition of things by enlarging slavery—by spreading it out, and making it bigger?"

"You may have a wen or cancer on your person, and not be able to cut it out, lest you bleed to death; but surely it is no way to cure it to engraft it, and spread it over your whole body. That is a no proper way of treating what you regard as a wrong."—Speech at Alton, Oct. 15, 1858.

"I suppose most of us (I know it of myself) believe that the people of the Southern States are entitled to a Congressional fugitive slave law. As the right is constitutional, I agree that the legislation shall be granted to it, and that that we like the institution of slavery. We profess to have no taste for running and catching negroes; at least, I profess no taste for that job at all. Why, then, do I yield support to a fugitive slave law? Because I do not understand that the Constitution, which guarantees that right, can be supported without it."—Speech at Alton, Oct. 16, 1858.

"The real issue in this controversy—the one pressing upon every mind—is the sentiment on the part of one class that looks upon the institution of slavery as a wrong, and of another class that does not look upon it as a wrong. The sentiment that contemplates the institution of slavery in this country as a wrong, is the sentiment of the Republican party. They look upon it as being a moral, social, and political wrong; and while they contemplate it as such, they nevertheless have due regard for its actual existence among us, and the difficulties of getting rid of it in any satisfactory way, and to all the constitutional obligations thrown about it. Yet having a due regard for these, they desire a policy in regard to it that looks to its not creating any more danger. They insist that it should be as far as possible treated as a wrong; and one of the methods of treating it as a wrong is to make provision that it shall grow no larger. If there be a man among us who does not think that the institution of slavery is wrong in any of the aspects of which I have spoken, he is misplaced, and ought not to be with us. And if there be a man amongst us who is so impatient of it as a wrong as to disregard its actual presence among us, and the difficulty of getting rid of it suddenly in a satisfactory way, and to disregard the constitutional obligations thrown about it, that man is misplaced if he is on our platform."—Speech at Alton, Oct. 15, 1858.

REPUBLICAN PLATFORM.

Resolved, That we, the delegated representatives of the Republican Electors of the United States, in Convention assembled, in discharge of the duty we owe to our constituents and our country, unite in the following declarations:

First. That the history of the nation during the last four years has fully established the propriety and necessity of the organization and perpetuation of the Republican party, and that the causes which called it into existence are permanent in their nature, and now, more than ever before, demand its peaceful and constitutional triumph.

Second. That the maintenance of the principles proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence, and embodied in the Federal Constitution, "that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed," is essential to the preservation of our republican institutions; and that the Federal Constitution, the rights of the States, and the Union of the States, must and shall be preserved.

Third. That to the Union of the States this nation owes its unprecedented increase in population; its surprising development of material resources; its rapid augmentation of wealth; its happiness at home and its honor abroad; and we hold in abhorrence all schemes for disunion, come from whatever source they may; and we congratulate the country that no Republican member of Congress has uttered or countenanced a threat of disunion, so often made by Democratic members without rebuke and with applause from their political associates; and we denounce those threats of disunion. In case of a popular overthrow of their ascendancy, as denying the vital principles of a free Government, and as an avowal of contemplated treason, which it is the imperative duty of an indignant people sternly to rebuke and forever silence.

Fourth. That the maintenance inviolate of the rights of the States, and especially the right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions, according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to that balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depend; and we denounce the lawless invasion by armed force of the soil of any State or Territory, no matter under what pretext, as among the gravest of crimes.

Fifth. That the present Democratic Administration has far exceeded our worst apprehensions in its measureless subservience to the exactions of a sectional interest, as especially evidenced in its desperate exertions to force the infamous Lecompton Constitution upon the protesting people of Kansas—in constraining the personal relation between master and servant to involve an unequal property in persons—in its attempted enforcement everywhere, on land and sea, through the intervention of Congress and of the Federal courts, of the extreme pretensions of a purely local interest, and in its general and unvarying abuse of the power intrusted to it by a confiding people.

Sixth. That the people justly view with alarm the reckless extravagance which pervades every department of the Federal Government; that a return to rigid economy and accountability is indispensable to arrest the systematic plunder of the public Treasury by favored partisans; while the recent startling developments of frauds and corruptions at the Federal metropolis show that an entire change of Administration is imperatively demanded.

Seventh. That the new dogma that the Constitution of its own force carries slavery into any or all of the Territories of the United States, is a dangerous political heresy, at variance with the explicit provisions of that instrument itself, with contemporaneous exposition, and with legislative and judicial precedent; is revolutionary in its tendency, and subversive of the peace and harmony of the country.

Eighth. That the normal condition of all the Territory of the United States is that of Freedom; that as our republican fathers, when they had abolished slavery in all our national territory, ordained that "no person should be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law," it becomes our duty, by legislation, and over such legislation as is necessary, to maintain this provision of the Constitution against all attempts to violate it; and we deny the authority of Congress, of a Territorial Legislature, or of any individuals, to give legal existence to slavery in any Territory of the United States.

Ninth. That we brand the recent reopening of the African slave trade, under the cover of our national flag, aided by perversions of judicial authority, as a crime against humanity, and a disgrace to our country and age; and we call upon Congress to take prompt and efficient measures for the total and final suppression of that execrable traffic.

Tenth. That in the recent votes by their Federal Governors of the acts of the Legislatures of Kansas and Nebraska, prohibiting slavery in those Territories, we find a practical illustration of the boasted Democratic principle of non-interference and popular sovereignty embodied in the Kansas-Nebraska bill, and a demonstration of the deception and fraud involved therein.

PUBLISHERS' NOTICES.

Subscriptions, advertisements, and communications, intended for this paper, may be left at Adamson's periodical store, on Seventh street, opposite the General Post Office, where copies of the paper may also be had immediately on its issue.

Advertisements should be sent in before twelve o'clock, M., otherwise they may have to lie over a day.

Communications upon all subjects, particularly with reference to our city affairs, will receive respectful attention.

for river and harbor improvements of a national character, required for the accommodation and security of an existing commerce, are authorized by the Constitution, and justified by the obligation of the Government to protect the lives and property of its citizens.

Sixteenth. That a railroad to the Pacific Ocean is imperatively demanded by the interests of the whole country; that the Federal Government ought to render immediate and efficient aid in its construction; and that, as preliminary thereto, a daily overland mail should be promptly established.

Seventeenth. Finally, having thus set forth our distinctive principles, and views, we invite the co-operation of all citizens, however differing on other questions, who substantially agree with us, in their adherence and support.

BELL AND EVERETT PLATFORM.

Whereas experience has demonstrated that platforms adopted by the partisan Conventions of the country have had the effect to mislead and deceive the people; and at the same time to widen the political divisions of the country, by the creation and encouragement of geographical and sectional parties; therefore, Resolved, That it is both the part of patriotism and of duty to recognize no political principle other than the Constitution of the country, the union of the States, and the enforcement of the laws; and that as representatives of the Constitutional Union men of the country, in National Convention assembled, we hereby pledge ourselves to maintain, protect, and defend, separately and unitedly, these great principles of public liberty and national safety against all enemies, at home and abroad, believing thereby peace may once more be restored to the country, the just rights of the people and of the States re-established, and the Government again placed in that condition of justice, fraternity, and equality, which, under the example and Constitution of our fathers, has solemnly bound every citizen of the United States to maintain a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

DOUGLAS AND JOHNSON PLATFORM.

Resolved, That we, the Democracy of the Union, in Convention assembled, hereby declare our affirmation of the resolutions unanimously adopted and declared as a platform of principles by the Democratic Convention at Cincinnati, in the year 1856, believing that Democratic principles are unchangeable in their nature, when applied to the same subject matter; and we recommend as the only further resolutions the following:

Resolved, That it is the duty of the United States to afford ample and complete protection to all its citizens, whether at home or abroad, and whether native or foreign, in the enjoyment of the rights of life, liberty, and property.

Resolved, That one of the necessities of the age, in a military, commercial, and postal point of view, is speedy communication between the Atlantic and Pacific States; and the Democratic party pledge such constitutional government aid as will insure the construction of a railroad to the Pacific coast at the earliest practicable period.

Resolved, That the Democratic party are in favor of the acquisition of the island of Cuba, on such terms as shall be honorable to ourselves and just to Spain.

Resolved, That the enactment of State Legislatures to defeat the faithful execution of the fugitive slave law are hostile in character, subversive of the Constitution, and revolutionary in their effect.

Resolved, That in accordance with the interpretation of the Cincinnati platform, that, during the existence of the Territorial Government, the measure of restriction, whatever it may be, imposed by the Federal Legislature over the subject of the domestic relations, as the same has been, or shall hereafter be, finally determined by the Supreme Court of the United States, should be respected by all good citizens, and enforced with promptness and fidelity by every branch of the General Government.

BRECKENRIDGE AND LANE PLATFORM.

Resolved, That the platform adopted by the Democratic party at Cincinnati be affirmed, with the following explanatory resolutions: First. That the Government of a Territory organized by an act of Congress is provisional and temporary, and during its existence all citizens of the United States have an equal right to settle with their property in the Territory, without their rights, either of person or property, being destroyed or impaired by Congressional or Territorial legislation.

Second. That it is the duty of the Federal Government, in all its departments, to protect, when necessary, the rights of persons and property in the Territories, and wherever else its constitutional authority extends.

Third. That when the settlers of a Territory, having an adequate population, form a State Constitution, the right of sovereignty commences, and, being consummated by admission into the Union, they stand on an equal footing with the people of other States; and the State thus organized ought to be admitted into the Federal Union, whether its Constitution prohibits or recognizes the institution of slavery.