

Donaldsonville Chief.

ton banquet on the 17th inst., was exceedingly suspicious. "While responding to a toast"—we quote the telegram of the *Herald*—"he thought he heard expressions of incredulity from some of the guests as to his meeting Dr. Livingstone. He vehemently retorted, withdrew in indignation from the table, and subsequently left Brighton."

These are all established facts which no one will dispute. They form the foundation upon which all reasoning on the subject must proceed. We submit them to our readers as what is now ascertained respecting the interesting problem, and we shall take care, as the subject is still further developed, to display every new aspect of it in the full light of the *Sun* which shines for all.

Mr. J. M. Usher, a prominent temperance advocate of Boston, has written a letter to Senator Wilson, asking him to task for his letter to Mr. Denison on Grant's temperance habits, and maintaining that the Senator, while attempting to shield Grant, has virtually admitted all that Mr. Denison charged. In conclusion, Mr. Usher says: "I have it on the best authority that William E. Dodge of New York, and President of the National Temperance Society, visited the President with a view to persuade him to take the pledge. Why was this? Undoubtedly because it was well known that he used intoxicating liquors. That in the future we may have in the chair of State none but total abstinence men is my desire, and I doubt not is the earnest desire of the American people. Then it will not be charged that the President drinks 'too much, and if it is, his defenders will not feel 'regret that he uses it at all,' nor will it be necessary for him to take the pledge as a guarantee of personal sobriety. The thought that the President of this great nation drinks intoxicating liquors so as to excite anxiety on the part of his friends, brings mortification to the heart of every American citizen who seeks the honor of his country. Upon this subject there should be no occasion for regrets or special need of pledges."

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Liberal Republican Platform.

Address and Declaration of Principles Adopted by the Convention of Liberal Republicans in Cincinnati, May 3rd, 1872.

THE ADDRESS.

The administration now in power has rendered itself guilty of wanton disregard of the laws of the land, and has usurped powers not granted by the Constitution. It has acted as if the Government were only for those who are governed, and not for those who govern. It has thus struck a blow at the fundamental principles of constitutional government, and the liberties of the citizens. The President and his Cabinet have openly used the powers and opportunities of his high office for the promotion of personal ends. He has kept notoriously corrupt and unworthy men in places of power and responsibility, to the detriment of the public interest, and has used the public service of the Government as a machinery of partisan and personal influence, and interfered with tyrannical arrogance in the political affairs of States and municipalities. He has rewarded with influential and lucrative offices men who had acquired his favor by valuable presents, thus stimulating demoralization of our political life by his conspicuous example. He has shown himself deplorably unequal to the tasks imposed upon him by the necessities of the country, and culpably careless of the responsibilities of his high office.

The partisans of the administration, assuming to be the Republican party and controlling its organization, have attempted to justify such wrongs and palliate such abuses, to the end of maintaining party ascendancy. They have stood in the way of necessary investigations and indispensable reforms, pretending that no serious fault could be found with the present administration of public affairs, thus seeking to blind the eyes of the people. They have kept alive the passions and resentments of the late civil war to use them for their own advantage. They have resorted to arbitrary measures, in direct violation of the organic law, instead of appealing to the better instincts and latent patriotism of the Southern people by restoring to them those rights the enjoyment of which is indispensable for a successful administration of the local affairs, and without which no patriotic and hopeful national feeling can exist. They have degraded themselves and the name of their party, once justly entitled to the confidence of the nation, by a base sycophancy to the dispenser of executive patronage, to maintain in authority the selfish ends by an unscrupulous use of the power which rightfully belongs to the people, and should be employed only in the service of the country.

Believing that an organization thus led and controlled can no longer be of service to the best interests of the republic, we have resolved to make an independent appeal to the sober judgment, conscience, and patriotism of the American people.

THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

Therefore, we, the Liberal Republicans of the United States, in National Convention assembled at Cincinnati, proclaim the following principles as essential to just Government:

1. We recognize the equality of all men before the law, and hold that it is the duty of Government in its dealings with the people to execute equal and exact justice to all of whatever nativity, race, color, or persuasion, religious or political.
2. We pledge ourselves to maintain the Union of these States, emancipation, and enfranchisement, and to oppose any resorting to the use of force to maintain the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments to the Constitution.
3. We demand the immediate and absolute removal of all disabilities imposed on account of the rebellion which were finally endured seven years ago, believing that universal amnesty will result in complete pacification in all sections of the country.
4. Local self-government, with impartial justice, will guard the rights of all citizens more securely than any centralized power. The public welfare requires the supremacy of the civil over the military authority, and freedom of person under the protection of the habeas corpus. We demand for the individual the largest liberty consistent with public order, for the State self-government, and for the nation a return to the methods of peace and the constitutional limitations of power.
5. The civil service of the Government has become a mere instrument of partisan tyranny and personal ambition, and an object of selfish greed. It is a scandal and reproach upon free institutions, and breeds a demoralization dangerous to the perpetuity of republican government. We therefore demand thorough reforms of civil service as one of the most pressing necessities of the hour; that honesty, capacity, and fidelity constitute the only valid claims to public employment; that the offices of the Government should be a matter of arbitrary favoritism and patronage, and that public station become again a post of honor. To this end it is imperatively required that no President shall be a candidate for re-election.
6. We demand a system of Federal taxation which shall not unnecessarily interfere with the industry of the people, and which shall provide the means necessary to pay the expenses of the Government, economically administered; the permanent reduction annually of the principal thereof; and, recognizing that there are in our midst honest but irreconcilable differences of opinions with regard to the respective systems of protection and free trade, we resist the discussion of the subject to the people, in their Congressional districts, and to the decision of Congress thereon, wholly free of Executive interference or dictation.
7. The public credit must be sacredly maintained, and we denounce repudiation in every form and guise.
8. A steady return to specie payment is demanded alike by the highest considerations of commercial morality and honest government.
9. We remember with gratitude the heroism and sacrifices of the soldiers and sailors of the republic, and no act of ours shall ever detract from their justly-earned fame, or the full reward of their patriotism.
10. We are opposed to all further grants of lands to railroads or other corporations. The public domain should be held sacred to actual settlers.
11. We hold that it is the duty of the Government, in its intercourse with foreign nations, to cultivate the friendship of peace, by treating with all on fair and equal terms, regarding it alike dishonorable either to demand what is not right, or to submit to what is wrong.
12. For the promotion and success of these vital principles and the support of the candidates nominated by this Convention, we invite and cordially welcome the co-operation of all patriotic citizens, without regard to previous affiliations.

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