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Platform of the Democratic Party.

ADOPTED IN CONVENTION AT NEW YORK, JULY 7, 1868.

The Democratic Party, in National Convention assembled, reposing its trust in the intelligence, patriotism and discriminating justice of the people, standing upon the constitution as the foundation and limitation of the powers of the Government, and the guarantee of the liberties of the citizen, and recognizing the questions of slavery and secession as having been settled for all time to come, by the war or the voluntary action of the Southern States, in constitutional convention assembled, and never to be renewed or reargued, do, with the return of peace, demand—

1. The immediate restoration of all the States to their rights in the Union, under the Constitution, and of civil government to the American people.

2. Amnesty for all past political offenses, and the regulation of the elective franchise in the States by their citizens, and the payment of the public debt of the United States as rapidly as practicable.

3. All money drawn from the people by taxation; except so much as is requisite for the necessities of the government economically administered; to be honestly applied to such payment, and where the obligations of the government do not expressly state upon their face or the law under which they were issued does not provide that they shall be paid in coin, they ought in right and justice to be paid in the lawful money of the United States.

4. Equal taxation of every species of property, according to its real value, including Government bonds and other public securities.

5. One currency for the government and the people, the laborer and the office-holder, the pensloner and the soldier, the producer and the bondholder.

6. Economy in the administration of the Government; the reduction of the standing army and navy; the abolishment of the Freedmen's Bureau and all political instrumentalities designed to secure negro supremacy; the simplification of the system and discontinuance of the inquisitorial boards of assessing and collecting internal revenue, so that the burden of taxation may be equalized and lessened, the credit of the Government and the currency made good, the repeal of all enactments for enrolling the State militia into national forces in time of peace, and a tariff for revenue upon foreign imports, and such equal taxation under the internal revenue laws as will afford incidental protection to domestic manufactures, and as will, without impairing the revenue, impose the least burden upon and best promote and encourage the great industrial interests of the country.

7. The reform of abuses in the administration, the expulsion of corrupt men from office, the abrogation of useless offices, the restoration of rightful authority to and the independence of the executive and judicial department of the Government, the subordination of the military to the civil power, to the end that the usurpations of Congress and the despotism of the sword may cease.

8. Equal rights and protection for naturalized and native born citizens at home and abroad. The assertion of American nationality, which shall command the respect of foreign powers, furnish an example and encouragement to people struggling for national integrity, constitutional liberty and individual rights, and the maintenance of the rights of naturalized citizens against the absolute doctrine of immutable allegiance, and the claims of foreign powers to punish them for alleged crime committed beyond their jurisdiction.

In demanding these measures and reforms we arraign the Radical party for its disregard of right, and the unparalleled oppression and tyranny which have marked its career.

After the most solemn and unanimous pledge of both Houses of Congress to prosecute the war exclusively for the maintenance of the Government and the preservation of the Union under the Constitution, it has repeatedly violated that most sacred pledge under which was rallied that noble volunteer army which carried our flag to victory.

Instead of restoring the Union, it has, so far as was in its power, dissolved it, and subjected ten States in a time of profound peace to military despotism and negro supremacy.

It has nullified there the right of trial by jury.

It has abolished the writ of habeas corpus—that most sacred writ of liberty.

It has overthrown the freedom of speech and of the press.

It has substituted arbitrary seizures and arrests and military trials and secret star chamber inquisitions for constitutional tribunals.

It has disregarded in time of peace the right of the people to be free from search and seizures.

It has entered the post and telegraph offices, and even the private rooms of individuals, and seized their private papers and letters, without any specifications or notice or affidavit as required by the organic law.

It has converted the American Capital into a bastille.

It has established a system of spies and official espionage to which no constitutional monarchy of Europe would now dare resort.

It has abolished the right of appeal on important constitutional questions to the supreme judicial tribunal, and threatens to curtail or destroy its original jurisdiction, which is irrevocably vested by the constitution, while the

learned Chief Justice has been subjected to great and atrocious calumnies merely because he would not prostitute his high office to the support of the false and partisan charges preferred against the President.

Its corruption and extravagance have exceeded anything known in history, and by its frauds and monopolies it has nearly doubled the burden of debt created during the war. It has stripped the President of his constitutional power of appointment even of his own cabinet.

Under its repeated assaults, the pillars of the Government are rocking on their base, and should it succeed in November next, and inaugurate its President, we will meet as a subject and conquered people amid the ruins of liberty and the scattered fragments of the constitution; and we do declare and resolve, that, ever since the people of the United States threw off all subjection to the British crown, the privilege and trust of suffrage have belonged to the several States, and have been granted, regulated and controlled exclusively by the political power of each State, and any attempt by Congress, on any pretext whatever, to deprive any State of this right, or interfere with this exercise, is a flagrant usurpation of power which can find no warrant in the constitution, and, if sanctioned by the people, will subvert our form of government, and can only end in a single, centralized, consolidated government, in which the separate existence of the States will be entirely absorbed and an unqualified despotism be established in place of a Federal Union of equal States.

That we regard the reconstruction acts of Congress, so-called, as usurpations, unconstitutional, revolutionary and void.

That our soldiers and sailors, who carried the flag of our country to victory against a most gallant and determined foe, must ever be gratefully remembered, and all the guarantees given in their favor must be faithfully carried into execution.

That the public lands should be distributed as widely among the people as possible, and should be disposed of either under the pre-emption or homestead law, and sold in reasonable quantities and to none but actual occupants at the minimum price as established by the Government. When grants of public lands may be deemed necessary for the encouragement of important public improvements, the proceeds of the sale of such lands, and not the lands themselves, should be so applied.

That the President of the United States, Andrew Johnson, in exercising the power of his high office in resisting the aggressions of Congress on the constitutional rights of the States and the people, is entitled to the gratitude of the whole American people, and on behalf of the Democratic party we tender him our thanks for his patriotic efforts in that regard.

Upon this platform the Democratic party appeal to every patriot, including all the conservative element and all who desire to support the constitution and restore Union, forgetting all past differences of opinion, to unite with us in the present struggle for the liberties of the people, and that to all such, to whatever party they may have heretofore belonged, we extend the right hand of fellowship, and hail all such co-operating with us as friends and brothers.

MOTHER.—From our earliest infancy we learn to cling to our mother. She is with us at all times. Night after night, while we are tossing upon a bed of pain, she watches over us with untiring and gentle care, thinking of nothing but that which relates to our comfort. Look upon the battle-field, after the conflict is over, and all is silent save an occasional moan from a dying soldier, and nought to light up the faces of the dying and dead but the pale light of the moon. Here and there we see a fluttering figure darting to and fro among the dead, now and then peering into the face of one whom she thinks, perhaps, may be her boy. What a picture of a mother's love is this! No rest for her until she finds her boy; and when he is found, weltering in his life's blood, the mother bends over him, and sob after sob escapes from her agonized bosom. Let us look into the hospital. See that poor fellow as he lies upon his low couch: kind nurses are around administering to his wants, but what cares he for these—his mother is not there. But, look at him now! why does his eye light up, and his whole frame quiver with joy? It is because his mother is coming to see him. Does not he love his mother? Yet how many of us turn with scorn from her wise advice, and regard it only as talk; but in after years when we are thrown into the world, and have only ourselves to depend upon for support, then it is we call to mind the many lessons which she gave, and regret, when it is too late, that we did not follow her loving advice.

Speak to the drunkard, or criminal, of home and friends, you touch his heart; but speak to him of his mother, and recall to him the weary nights she watched over him while he was in pain, and you see a mist overspread his eyes—he will bow his head and think over the pleasant days of his childhood, remembering them only as a delightful dream that is past and gone forever. In after years, as we stand beside the cold dead body of our beloved mother, the lessons which she taught us when we were young, and which we had before treated with contempt and scorn—these lessons we determine shall be our guiding star to Heaven and to Mother.

"All is not gold that glitters."

Speech of Hon. Horatio Seymour.

The following is the speech of Hon. Horatio Seymour, of New York, Democratic candidate for President, on taking the chair as presiding officer of the Democratic National Convention:

Gentlemen of the Convention—I thank you for the honor you have done me in making me your presiding officer. This convention is made up of a large number of delegates from all parts of our broad land. To a great degree we are strangers to each other, and view the subjects which agitate our country from different stand points. We cannot at once learn each other's mode of thought or grasp all the facts which bear upon the minds of others. Yet our session must be brief, and we are to utter a voice without delay upon questions of an exciting character and of deep interest to our country. To maintain order, to restrain all exhibitions of passion, to drive out of our minds all unkind suspicions, is, at this time, a great duty.

[Cheers.] I rely upon your sense of this duty and not upon my own ability to sustain me in the station in which I am placed by your kind partiality. Men never met under greater responsibilities than those which now weigh upon us. It is not a mere party triumph we seek. We are trying to save our country from the dangers which overhang it. We wish to lift off the perplexities and shackles which, in the shape of bad laws and of crushing taxation now paralyze the business and labor of our land.

[Loud cheers.] We hope at least we can give order. We hope at least we can give order. We hope at least we can give order. We hope at least we can give order.

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Again, they say, foreign immigration, which in the past has added so much to the wealth, development and resources, and increase of power to this Republic, the asylum of the oppressed of all nations, should be fostered and encouraged by a liberal and just policy. Is this foreign immigration fostered by a policy which is the mask of laws just passed declaring eight hours to be a legal day's labor, by the cost of the Government, and of swarms of officials which so swell the cost of living that men must toil on to meet these exactions? [Cheers.] The time was when we could not duly invite the Europeans to share with us the material blessings of our great country. But more than this. We could tell those who fled from oppression that we lived under a Government of laws administered by the Judiciary, which kept the bayonet and the sword in due subordination. We could point to a written Constitution which not only marked out the powers of the Government, but with anxious care secured the humblest man the rights of property, of person and of conscience. Is immigration encouraged by trampling that Constitution in the dust, treating with contempt and shackling the Judiciary, insulting the Executive and give all the world to understand that the great guarantees of civil and political rights are destroyed.

But the crowning indictment against the follies and crimes of those in power is in these words: "That we recognize the great principles handed down in the Declaration of Independence as the true foundation of Democratic Government, and we hail with gladness every effort towards making these principles a living reality on every inch of American soil."

If within the limits of ten States of this Union an American citizen, stung by a sense of his wrongs, should publicly and truthfully denounce the men in power, because in the very language of this Declaration of Independence, "they elected a multitude of officers, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance," he would in all probability be dragged to a prison. Or if, in the indignant language of our fathers, he should exclaim, "They have effected to render the military independent of and superior to the civil power, they have abolished the free system of English law and established herein an arbitrary government"—for the offense of associating these principles with a military tribunal. [Great cheering.] Having declared that the principles of the Declaration of Independence should be made a living reality on every inch of American soil, they put in nomination a military chieftain who stands at the head of that system of despotism that crushes beneath its foot the greatest principle of the Declaration of Independence—[Cheers.] To-day, in some of the States, it is held by military orders to be a crime to speak out the indignation and contempt which burn within the bosoms of patriotic men. If to-morrow a military order should be put forth in that State, where the ashes of Washington are entombed, that it be an offense to declare that the military should ever be subordinate to the civil authority, to speak the sentiment that it was a disgrace to our country to let hordes of officials eat up the substance of the people; he who uttered these words could be dragged to prison from the very grave where lie the remains of the author of the Declaration of Independence. [Loud cheering.] From this outrage there should be no appeals to the courts, and the Republican candidate has accepted a position which makes the rights and liberties of a large share of our people dependent on his will. [Applause.] In view of these two things can there be one man in this Convention who can let a personal ambition, a passion, a prejudice, turn him aside one hair's breadth in his efforts to wipe off the wrongs and outrages which disgrace our country? Can there be one man whose heart is so dead to all that is great and noble in patriotism, but that he will gladly sacrifice all other things for the sake of his country, its liberty and its greatness? Can we suffer any prejudices growing out of past differences of opinion to hinder us uniting now with all who will act with us to save our country? [Cheers.]

We meet to-day to see what measures can be taken to avert the dangers which threaten our country, and to relieve it from the evils and burthens resulting from bad government and unwise counsels. I thank God that the strife of arms has ceased, and that once more in the great Conventions of our party, we can call through the whole roll of States, and find men to answer for each. Time and events on the great cycles have brought us to this spot to renew and invigorate that constitutional government which, nearly eighty years ago, was inaugurated in this city. [Loud cheers.] It was here that George Washington, the first President, swore to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of these United States. [Cheers.]

And here, this day, we as solemnly ourselves swear to uphold the rights and liberties of the American people. Then, as now, a great war which had deluged our land had ceased. Then, as now, a great war which had desolated our land had ceased. Then, as now, there was in every patriotic breast a longing for the blessing of good government, for the protection of the laws, and for the sentiments of fraternal regard and affection among the inhabitants of the States of this Union. When our government in 1789 was inaugurated in this city, there were glad processions of men, and those manifestations of

great joy which a people show when they feel that an event has happened which is to give lasting blessings to the land. To-day, in the same spirit, this vast assemblage meets, and the streets of this city are thronged with men who have come from the utmost borders of our continent. They are filled with the hope that we are about, by our actions and our policy, to bring back the blessing of a good Government. It is among the happiest omens which inspire us now, that those who fought bravely in our late civil war are foremost in their demands that there shall be peace in our land. The passions of hate and malice may linger in many breasts, but we find ourselves upheld in our generous purposes by those who showed true courage and manhood in battle. [Cheers.]

In the spirit then of George Washington and of the patriots of the revolution, let us take the steps to re-inaugurate our Government, to start it once again on its course of prosperity. May Almighty God give us the wisdom to carry out our purpose to give every State of our Union the blessings of peace, good order and fraternal affection.

Mr. Seymour closed amid great cheering.

SOMETHING FOR SWEARERS.—A gentleman once heard a profane man swear terribly in the presence of a number of his companions. He told him it was a cowardly thing to swear so in company, when he dared not do it by himself. The man said he was not afraid to swear at any time and at any place.

"I will give you ten dollars," said the gentleman, "if you will go into the village church-yard, at 12 o'clock to-night, and swear the same oaths which you have uttered here, when you are alone with your God."

"Agreed!" said the man. "'Tis an easy way of earning ten dollars!"

"Well, you come to me to-morrow, and say you have done it, and the money is yours."

The time passed on; midnight came. The man went to the grave-yard. It was a night of pitchy darkness. As he entered the grave-yard not a sound was heard; all was as still as death. The gentleman's words, "all alone with God," came over him with wonderful power. The thought of the wickedness he had committed, and what he came there to do, darted through his mind like a flash of lightning. He trembled at his folly. Afraid to take another step, he fell on his knees, and instead of the dreadful oaths he came there to utter, the earnest cry went up: "God be merciful to me, a sinner!"

The next day he went to the gentleman and thanked him for what he had done, and said he had resolved not to swear another oath as long as he lived.

THE HAIR.—The ordinary length of the hair of the head in women varies from twenty inches to a yard, in some instances longer even than that; but they are of unusual occurrence; its weight is from five to eight ounces. A cotemporary relates an instance where the hair of a lady's head attained the measurement of two yards in length. But its proper length for texture and strength should not exceed twenty-four inches, and its value as long hair is much depreciated in price when it falls shorter. It has been calculated by Withof that the beard grows at the rate of a line and a half per week, which gives a length of six and a half inches in the course of the year, while for a man of eighty years twenty-seven feet would have fallen before the razor.

We are informed that the beard of the Burgomaster, Hans Steffingon, was so long that upon one occasion, having forgotten to fold up the same, he trod on it as he ascended to the Council Chamber at Brun, and was thereby thrown down and killed. And still further we may cite from Eble that at the Prince's Court of Eldam there is a full length painting of a carpenter whose beard was five feet long, so that when engaged at work he was obliged to carry it in a bag. At the industrial exhibition of 1862 there were exhibited specimens of human hair taken from English, French and Italian ladies, the longest specimens having been cut from one of our own countrywomen. It was a lock of jet black hair and measured seventy-four inches in length.

BOUGHS AND LEAVES.—Every bough that waves over our head in the summer time has an oracular wisdom. Every leaf is full of instruction. Indeed the foliage of trees is one of the most wonderful subjects of contemplation and delight. Read the history of leaves and marvel! Each leaf is employed in receiving and transmitting gases from the air, in certain proportions, to the plant.

These great operations having been effected during the summer months, and this agency of the leaves finished, they fall to the ground, not as a useless incumbrance, but to convey a large portion of fresh still peculiarly fitted for the nutriment of vegetation. And so it has been written: "The beautiful foliage, which has cooled us with its shade, and glowed, with all the splendor of fruitfulness, at length return to the soil, in the lonely days of autumn, not to encumber it, but to administer health and vigor to a new series of vegetation, and circulate in combinations concealed from every human eye."

A New York physician, formerly of New Orleans, says it is evident that animals understand two or three languages. Mules in New Orleans know what is said to them in either French, English or Spanish.