

THE FELICIANA DEMOCRAT.

BY G. W. REESE.

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TERMS.

The "FELICIANA DEMOCRAT" will be published every WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY, at THREE Dollars per annum, payable in advance. Two copies will be furnished for FIVE DOLLARS. ADVERTISEMENTS inserted at One Dollar per square (TWELVE lines or less,) for the first insertion, and fifty cents for each subsequent one. The Fee for announcing a candidate for office will be TEN Dollars, payable in advance. G. W. REESE.

The Feliciana Democrat.

The Democracy.

In spite of the painful spectacle which the agitated and up-normal state of public feeling now presents to our country, no one, conversant with our political history, or who has observed the sudden reverses that have befallen the various parties which have hitherto divided popular opinion and sentiment, can feel any apprehension in regard to the final triumph of Democracy over demagoguism, of truth and progress over ignorance and fanaticism. Though at times, apparently shattered into fragments, it soon resumes its pristine form and strength, its broken columns wheel into line again, to present a firm united front. No, the Democratic party can never crumble—it is the corner stone on which rests the fair structure of our Republican Government. Like one of those gigantic piles which loom out in the horizon, its base, though lashed by the angry surges of the sea, stands firm and unmoved, looking on with unconcern, as it were, on the futile attacks directed against it; while its apex, reared proudly aloft, serves as a beacon to the deluded wanderer, a signal of consolation and of rest to the oppressed and persecuted of every clime. Like the Titans of yore, the Democracy, though worsted in the conflict, rises superior to its foe, and derives strength from its fall. Such has ever been the case, and reason and experience prove it.

We have seen it defeated in 1840, and sweeping the country in '44. In 1848, the prestige of a popular name and the gallant military reputation of the Whig standard bearer, combined with manifold treacheries in our ranks, inflicted on it a defeat from which our opponents thought it would never recover. At that time profound seers prophesied its downfall, and declared its power and influence extinct. Yet, how unfounded were their ratiocinations. Who does not remember the tornado which swept over the land at the last Presidential election, and the almost unanimous verdict of the Nation in behalf of Democratic men and Democratic measures.

As it was then, so it is now, and so it will be! It is a fact which must have attracted the attention of every observant mind, that the Democratic party is never so powerful as when it appears weak. We have not forgotten the astonishing fact which occurred in New Orleans and the State, at the last Presidential election, and which is fully corroborative of what we have just asserted. At that period, the City Government was in the hands of our political opponents—the whole police, under the direction of an autocracy, was made to move like a powerful though ponderous machine, in support of Gen. Scott. They had acquired some prestige by the brilliant victories which they had achieved in electing from the city an almost unanimous Whig delegation to the State Convention, and in securing an overwhelming large majority in the joint branches of the city councils.—Every thing seemed to prosper and to go on swimmingly with them. They were confident of success in the City and State, so much so, as to offer heavy bets, with heavy odds on extremely large majorities. The Democratic party, on the other hand, seemed crippled in its resources, unable to stir and to make an effort. Patronage it had none to give. All was in the hands of its opponents. Influence? None, except that which a good cause and sacred principles, always exert. It prepared itself for the contest, however; quickly and without ostentation its faithful followers nerved themselves to perform yeoman service, trusting in the judgment of the masses and the goodness of their cause. What was the result? In spite of their influence, their bribes, their resources and their patronage, the cohorts of Whiggery were laid low and the Democracy achieved a noble triumph.

We mention these facts, in connection with the subject, to remind our opponents, that the lessons of the past, and the warnings of experience should not pass by them unheeded. We stigmatize as insincere, the assertion that the Democratic party is no more. They know it is not. If such was the case, why do they take so much pains to trumpet forth their transient victories? Why do they make such efforts to combine and fuse with the numerous and nonsensical "isms" of the day? Why are they so unscrupulous in their means to attain their ends?

The next Presidential contest will show whether the party is entirely deprived of vitality, and unable to resist the encroachments about to be made on the constitution of our land by a ruthless band of fanatics. Then, when the bugle's note shall call us to the conflict, when the alarm shall sound from our watch towers, and urge each one to the support of the redeeming principles

inscribed upon our banner, every American who loves his country, and contemns a low spirit of bigotry—every citizen who cherishes in his bosom the sacred motto of our forefathers, "Civil and religious liberty"—every patriot opposed to proscription on account of the accident of birth, or of particular religious tenets, will rush forward to the upholding and protection of that party which has hitherto proved to our sacred Union a tower of strength and a bulwark of defence. In the meanwhile, "We bide our time."

The Democratic Party and Naturalized Citizens.

It has been charged that it has been the habit of the Democracy to make unworthy appeals to the citizens of foreign birth, and to enlist their support by endeavoring to foster among them a feeling of separate nationality, which would tend to prevent their complete absorption into the general mass of citizens. The injustice of this charge, and the entire absence of any respectable proof to sustain it, must, we think, be admitted by every fair and well informed citizen.

We have nowhere seen a clearer or more just statement of the position the Democracy has occupied, or ought to occupy, towards adopted citizens, than is contained in an able leader of the Washington Union from which the following extract is made. The doctrines are as admirable as they are true:

"We repel, with earnestness, the imputation that the Democratic party has swerved in the slightest particular from its sound national and constitutional principles, for the purpose of securing the votes of our naturalized citizens. It is a calumny upon our party which every member of it will repel, to say that it has sought, or ever will seek, to array the foreign against the native citizens. When the Whigs combine with the Know-Nothings, upon principles of hostility to the rights and privileges guaranteed by the constitution to naturalized citizens, it is natural that those citizens should feel aggrieved, and that they should sympathize and co-operate with the party which maintains their rights as inviolably protected by the constitution. This has been, and will continue to be the policy of the Democracy; and it is this characteristic of our party which has appealed with so much force to the naturalized voters. It is not because our policy has been "incendiary," but that it has been constitutional, that recommends itself to them.

"When the Democratic party arrays itself on the side of the rights and privileges of foreign citizens, it does not do so from any preference of our foreign over our native population, but from a preference of those principles which respect and sustain the rights secured by the constitution, over those which disregard and proscribe those rights. If this preference has led them to adopt an "incendiary policy," in like manner it led our fathers to incorporate an "incendiary policy," into the constitution.—That sacred instrument authorizes Congress to confer the rights of citizenship upon foreigners. The rights thus conferred, the Democratic party feel bound to concede to them, and not to embarrass their enjoyment by organizations based upon the doctrines of proscription and intolerance. The constitution provides against the adoption of any religious test in respect to eligibility to office. The Democratic party acknowledges the obligation of this provision, and therefore resists any sect of religionists.—They insist upon no more than the rights and privileges secured to all naturalized citizens and all religions adopted by the constitution. They insist upon them not for the sake of the foreigners and religionists who are to enjoy them, but for the sake of the whole country, which is deeply interested in maintaining inviolate every provision of the constitution.

"In taking its position it should be carefully borne in mind that the Democratic party neither assumes that the naturalization laws, as they now exist, are perfect, nor that foreigners have not on some occasions subjected themselves to just censure, nor that the Roman Catholic religion is based upon the true Christian creed. Citizenship is a boon granted to foreigners by the liberality of our institutions, and this fact cannot be too carefully weighed and appreciated by our foreign citizens. They should constantly remember that the high privileges conceded to them have been granted upon the reasonable expectation that they would surrender their distinctive native nationalities, and become fused and assimilated to our native citizens in all their feelings, sentiments and devotion to our liberal institutions. It becomes them now, in view of the late significant expressions of popular feeling, to consider well whether in their past conduct they may not have given occasion to much of the opposition which

exists against them. Native Americans are justly proud of their prerogatives, and they are naturally jealous of anything like foreign influence upon their institutions.

In these sentiments and feelings we participate to the fullest extent, and it is because we do that we so earnestly repel the imputation that the Democratic party has pursued, or will ever pursue, "an incendiary policy," in order to conciliate the foreign vote. Naturalized citizens ought to see, in the immense increase of foreign immigration within the last few years, legitimate reasons for an earnest investigation by native citizens of the probable influence of this increase of foreign population upon our institutions. This is a fair and legitimate subject for discussion; and if it shall result in the conviction that our naturalization laws are defective and require to be amended and reformed, the naturalized citizens ought neither to be surprised nor to complain. It may be assumed as a fixed fact that the Native American population will never consent to any modification of the principles which characterize their institutions, and from whatever quarter they see danger of this kind they will be prompt to meet and repel it. When the suggestion is made that this danger lurks under the religious creed of the Catholics, it should be sifted to the bottom, and to such an investigation none will contribute more than the Democracy. But when the civil and religious rights of naturalized citizens are assailed upon mere prejudices, and the barriers of the Constitution are broken down in order that these prejudices may be made available for political ends, the Democratic party will face the storm, even though it sees nothing but present defeat and disaster in the result.

The Approaching Crisis.

As the clouds which, for the first few hours after the conflict, always hang over the field of battle are rolled away and a fairer and clearer view is afforded of the scene which the issue presents, so it would appear that the country is arriving at a juster conception of the controlling influences in the late elections and can now appreciate more truthfully the probable effect which the result of these conflicts is destined to have upon the future politics of the nation.

It does not appear to our minds that any one cause operated in these elections with equal force, and at all points, against the supporters of the present administration of the Federal Government. As we read the details, we think we can clearly perceive in what city, county or district, Whiggism, Anti-Slaveryism, Abolitionism, Anti-Nebraskaism, or Americanism, have respectively been the strongest element of success on the part of the opponents of the Democratic party and its actual chiefs. In some places all these various branches have, it is true been combined; but, in most instances, we do not perceive that their union was by any means complete.

But be these speculations true or otherwise, one fact stands forth which does not, we regret to say, admit of any doubt or misconception. The Democratic party proper, in the States above named, is for the present prostrated by defeat. The question for consideration is, whether that defeat is final, and precludes all reasonable hope of success in any effort which may be made to retrieve it?

We are of those who believe that under existing institutions of the United States the Democratic party cannot die. Before that event could occur, there must take place a great and entire revolution, in public feeling and all reverence for the past, and belief in the policy which has met the popular concurrence from the time of our national birth until now, must be obliterated from men's minds. When that period shall have arrived, the existing constitution will have ceased to command respect, and the confederacy will, as a matter of course, fall to pieces.

We have many reasons, satisfactory to our mind, but which we will not here set forth, for believing that the native vigor and energy of our Democratic party would readily enable it to recover its lost ground and drive back as it often has done, its strong-est foes, whenever a battle is to be fought upon any of the former questions which have divided political parties in the United States from 1789 to the present day; but as we endeavor to read the future we must confess, that we are forced to the conclusion that such issues are not to be hereafter the source of political division to the same extent as they formerly were.

As we gaze northward, there rises before our eyes a cloud, already much bigger than a man's hand, and which appears to be spreading with fearful rapidity over the whole of that section of the country; it is the black cloud which casts upon the landscape the baneful shadow of Sectionalism.

A shadow which bears the vision of all those over whom it passes, and makes them blind to every object without its own black outline. The spirit of Sectionalism is the only foe that we have to encounter, whose strength need give us a moment's pause.—If, as we fear, it has seized on the minds of the most of the people of the North, a terrible and doubtful battle is before us, in behalf of the Constitution of our common country, and of our own local rights and interests; for, the effect of Sectionalism must inevitably be, to render its disciples utterly indifferent to all obligations enjoined by the Constitution.

The evidences of a general and widespread determination on the part of the mass of the Northern people, to wage a war against the rights, interests and prosperity of the slave-holding States are fearfully numerous, and must be acknowledged now, by those who were formerly most skeptical of their existence. If the feeling which generates this reckless hostility towards that portion of the Union which has ever been foremost in its manifestations of reverence for, and obedience to, the provisions of our common bond of Union, be not soon checked, the most devoted friend of that Union will very soon be forced into the admission that its longer existence will be incompatible with the most cherished interests or the self-respect, of the Southern States of the confederacy. Of course, these speculations are based on the supposition that there yet exists at the South some feeling of State pride, some glow of local patriotism. If it be otherwise, and our people are so dead to every feeling of independence and manly courage, as to suffer themselves to be absorbed, after a faint and reluctant struggle, into the North, and to become the ready and cringing slaves to all its arrogant and unreasonable demands, then the future of the Democratic party becomes to them a matter of so much indifference, as it is to those who till the sugar or cotton fields.—If we surrender to the North on the points she so unjustly and wrongfully urges upon us; the form of government must from that moment be radically changed, for the present constitution will be utterly unsuited to the state of things which will thenceforth prevail. For, instead of being members of a confederacy of sovereign States, the South forgetful of all her past glories, and of all her dearest rights, will become the despised appanage of her relentless Northern conquerors.

When will our people awake to a sense of the real danger which is hovering over them, by reason of this mad and bigotted sectionalism of the North? Will they rouse themselves in time to give it successful battle, or will they lie supinely until their enemy shall, with one final spring, rush on them and stifle forever all pride, all independence, all vitality?—*Courier.*

THE FRENCH INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.—A Paris correspondent says that the approaching exhibition in Paris promises to be more brilliant and successful than was anticipated by the most sanguine three months ago. All the continental nations will be extensively represented. In Great Britain only does the war so extensively engross public attention as to interfere seriously with the preparations of the Paris fair. Austria, which had seven hundred exhibitors at the London fair, will have eighteen hundred at Paris; Prussia, which had six hundred exhibitors at London, will have sixteen hundred at Paris; and even Switzerland will have more than five hundred, vouching for the dignity of her position as a manufacturing State.

The United States has the place of honor in the exhibition. On entering the building by the grand entrance, the visitor will advance at once into the American section. Great Britain will have a position upon the right and France upon the left. More than four thousand square feet of space has been assigned to the United States, and on the 23d of February last the Central Committee of American Commissioners had been notified of intention to exhibit but by sixty-four Americans. The prospects were that the department would not be filled before the time of opening. It is to be hoped that this will not be the case. America should be well represented in an exhibition like that which is coming off in Paris, and we trust that her citizens will be enterprising enough to send a handsome show of goods to the fair. A display of American productions, manufactures and inventions might be made which would be second to that of no other country.

The Democrats of Cincinnati have nominated James J. Faron for Mayor, and have passed resolutions denouncing the Know-Nothings. All the candidates for nomination were required to give assurances that they were not Know-Nothings.

CARDS, PROFESSIONAL, &c.
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JOHN & CHARLES McVEA,
Attorneys at Law
CLINTON AND JACKSON, LA.

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Attorneys at Law,
CLINTON, LA.

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Office in Clinton, on the East side of the Public Square. a 15

W. FERGUS KERNAN,
Attorney and Counsellor at Law,
CENTON, LA.

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JAMES B. SMITH,
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mar 28

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WILL practice in the Courts East and West Baton Rouge, and St. Helena Parishes. april 8

HENRY HAWFOD,
Justice of the Peace & Notary Public,
CLINTON, LA.
Office on the North side of the Public Square.

JAMES WELSH,
Notary Public and Auctioneer.
CLINTON, LA.

WILL attend promptly to all business entrusted to him.
OFFICE: North East Corner of the Public Square. april 8

DR. F. R. HARVE,
CONTINUES the practice of his profession, and respectfully tenders his services to the citizens of Clinton and vicinity. mar 28

DR. C. H. PORTE,
RESPECTFULLY offers his professional services to the citizens of Clinton and its vicinity. He can always be found when not engaged, at the Drug Store of W. SADDLER on Brick Row. mar 28

E. L. HAYGOOD,
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