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BY G. W. REESE.

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The Feliciana Democrat.

Speech of Bythell Haynes, Esqr.
Delivered before the Democratic Central Club, in Clinton, La., on the evening of September 15, 1855.

FELLOW CITIZENS:
I do not know that I can interest you more, in any other way, than by passing in review, the speech of Col. Pond, delivered near this town, a short time past, and making such comments thereon, as the occasion may justify.

Wednesday the 12th instant was the day fixed upon by Col. Randall Hunt to address the people of East Feliciana, at a place about three quarters of a mile north of Clinton.—He, not being able to attend, Col. Preston Pond, the K. N. nominee for Congress being present was called upon by the meeting, and responded in his usual style of pleasant oratory. As a speaker, he is truly eloquent, and happy. His manner was pleasing, his language clear, and his propositions well stated.

He commenced by declaring all the old issues settled by the former political contests, between the whig and democratic parties. He took them up, one by one, and pronounced them disposed of. The subject of internal improvement by the general government was the first he mentioned. This he said was one of the first questions that had ever divided the old whig and democratic parties. That all parties agreed to the policy, and held to the doctrine that Congress possessed the power to carry on a general system of internal improvements—referred to Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe, in support of his assertion. But during the administration of General Jackson, his vetoes of several bills for internal improvements divided the two parties on that question—but now all had been settled. This question Col. Pond ought to know, is yet an open issue. That even at the last congress, Mr. Pierce thought it of such vital importance, that he sent in a Message, discussing the question in all its bearings, and showing conclusively that there were only a few objects, national in their character, on which Congress could exercise that power, such as improving navigable rivers that embraced several states, and improving harbors. Within a very recent period two conventions have been held to memorialize congress on the subject. One at Memphis and one at Chicago. Delegates were in attendance from nearly all the states, yet the question remains undecided, how far Congress can go without violating the constitution or interfering with the reserved rights of the states. If it be settled how did it happen that Mr. Pierce vetoed the river and harbor bill of session before the last. We are sure Col. Pond is mistaken in saying that the bill was afterwards passed over his head by a vote of two-thirds. The bill failed to pass, and was the cause of the message above referred to, at the beginning of last session. There is a wide difference of opinion on this question. The democratic doctrine has generally prevailed, because they have been in power, yet every session of congress, we find the question brought up anew, and but for the strict construction of the democratic party, given to the constitution, limiting as much as possible, the power of congress over the subject we should have had schemes of extravagance, and wild speculation that would long since have bankrupted the nation. Mr. Jefferson denied the right of Congress to make roads, open canals, and make other internal improvements within the territories and jurisdictions exclusively belonging to the several states. Gen. Jackson, in his veto of the Maysville road bill, expressly declares that no bill that admits an infringement of the doctrine of state rights can receive his official sanction.—He says further, that works of internal improvement by the general government, must be "general, not local, national, not state, in their character." Col. Pond's assertion, that the question of internal improvements by the general government had been settled in favor of a general system, was unfortunately for him a mistake. There are some, and not a few who contend for unlimited power by Congress over the subject. The democratic doctrine is the only safe course upon the question and may be defended against all opposition come from what quarter it may. The vetoes of President Jackson of the Maysville road, the River and Harbor bill, of President Polk of the River and Harbor bill, and the veto of President Pierce of the river and harbor bill, during their respective administrations, are among the ablest state papers that were ever sent to congress, and will forever remain enduring monuments of the wisdom of their authors, and the true democratic doctrine on the subject of internal improvement by the general government.

He next adverted to the national bank question and declared it to be settled also. But like other K. N. speakers he failed to acknowledge that it had been decided in favor of the democrats after many a hard fought political contest with the old whig party.

The question of a high protective tariff, which once divided the two old parties had also been settled, in favor of the democrats but not until the object contended for by Mr. Clay, to put our manufactures on a safe footing had been accomplished. He should have told his audience, that that had been obtained long before, and that for years it had been kept up by the whig party, when no such reason could be

ffered in its support. Whig statesmen, and orators, contended, that the democratic tariff for the purposes of revenue only, would not only be unjust to those who had invested capital under the protective policy, and prove ruinous to the manufacturers, but must subject the government itself to bankruptcy, and bring ruin and distress upon every class of our citizens.

The estimates of Robt J. Walker, secretary of the treasury under Mr. Polk, of the revenue, that would arise from customs, under the democratic tariff of 1846, was treated as mere guess-work, that a trial of the same, would dissipate the delusion the very first year. They declared it would not produce revenue enough to defray the ordinary expenses of the government by millions. Mr. Webster estimated that at the most, it would not exceed 18 millions, others said less, and all that it could not answer, and would have to be abandoned. What has been the result. Mr. Walker's estimate of 28 millions was more than realized the very first year. Instead of 28, it turned out to be 31 millions, and instead of not answering the wants of the government, and to have to be abandoned, it is even now in most successful operation, and instead of not defraying the expenses of the Government, it has produced a surplus too large for convenience—President Pierce has been wisely applying it to the payment of our national debt, before the outstanding bonds were due; thus presenting an example to the world of a nation comparatively out of debt, and with more money than it knows what to do with. All this too, is accomplished under democratic policy, democratic measures, and democratic rulers.

Having disposed of these questions to his own satisfaction, Col. Pond next arraigned the two old parties, for pandering to foreign influence, charged them with corruption, by using money, whiskey, and other means to catch the foreign vote, by which he meant both those that were naturalized, and those that were not. There were, he said, about 381,000, and about as many more who were not naturalized. That they all managed to vote, and that it was a unit at the polls. He turned state's evidence against the old whig party, and said for the last twelve or fifteen years, he had acted with that party, and knew what he said. He acknowledged that that party had used money, whiskey, &c., to buy up the foreign vote for their side, and that Genl. Scott, had gone round the country making speeches in which he expressed himself particularly in love with the rich Irish brogue, and the sweet German accent, but it all would not do, the foreign vote was cast against them. The foreign vote he said, though not large, was still large enough to hold the balance of power in Presidential elections. In addition he said the foreign emigration of the present day was very different from the emigration that had heretofore come to this country. That it was filling our almshouses, our prisons, and our charity hospitals, &c., &c.—That our naturalization laws must be modified in order to prevent their coming.

How did the old grey headed whigs who were sitting around relish this bare-faced admission of corruption on the part of the party to which they once belonged, and were proud to acknowledge and defend, as worthy of all confidence and support, we are a little curious to know. We are very confident many of them did not acknowledge the truth of the picture. They knew themselves to have been honest, and sincere in support of whig principles, and the whig party, and believed every one else actuated by the same motives. We at least will do them the justice to believe so.

How Col. Pond knows that the foreign emigration to this country is of a different character from what it was in former times, puzzles us to comprehend. They were mostly Irish & Germans heretofore, they are mostly so now. Why the characteristics of these people should be different from what they were in the earlier days of the republic, is a problem which no one but a K. N. can solve. If they have changed at all, we should think it would be for the better, as the means of education has greatly increased in those countries, and the Governments have become more liberal than in days gone by. That most of the poor emigrants who come to this country should remain in the great commercial cities where they can get employment is perfectly natural. They have to do something for a support, and their services are more in demand in the great cities than anywhere else, consequently they remain. We all know how many diseases, vices, and temptations to which they are exposed. Often houseless and friendless, without money, substance, or employment, shivering with cold, and dying of hunger, is it any wonder, many more of them than our own native population, who are much better provided for, should yield to temptation and transgress the laws—should fall victims to vice and disease and death. We do not defend them in their vices, but we deplore their misfortunes, and pity their sufferings, and in the sincerity of truth and the spirit of justice do we confess, that great allowances should be made for those, whose necessities compel them to do those things, that under more favorable auspices they would soon to commit.

Although the statement of Col. Pond, may be true, yet it is only the bad side of the picture which he presented. There is another side, which it did not suit him to present. It would not answer his purpose. No person of

sane mind, or candid speech, ever pretended there were no evils attendant upon emigration of foreigners to this country but at the same time none but those who are "judicially blind," but must confess that great and permanent good has resulted to the nation from it. That the advantages far outweigh the evils. That it has been the greatest source of national development, and has enabled this nation to grow and prosper, beyond anything that is known in the history of any other country. That without it, we should not now be a third rate nation in population, military power, or political influence. Our national resources would have remained undeveloped, our national debt contracted during the Revolutionary war would still have remained as a mill-stone about our necks, and many parts of our country now adorned with cities, towns, and villages, with churches, schools, and plantations, would still be a wilderness, or inhabited alone by savage tribes of Indians, whose continued hostility would have been a constant source of annoyance and trouble, rendering the lives and property of the people in their neighborhood, eminently precarious and unsafe.

We are indebted to the emigration of foreigners to this country for our language, literature, and religion. For the mechanic arts, for science and civilization. They have assisted in fighting all our battles, both on land and on sea, from the beginning of the revolutionary war, down to the present time. They have shared in all our victories, and their blood and bones have mingled with those of our native born sons whenever duty called them to the field. Side by side they lie, buried in a common grave. They have supplied our navy, filled our armies, constructed our rail-roads, dug our canals, and in every way assisted to build up our country, and develop its national resources. Why then should we turn round and proscribe them from participating in our civil, religious, and political privileges, as they have done heretofore. They have never shown any disposition to interfere with, or to destroy the government. They seldom ever seek office, and when they do, it has been at the ballot-box or by appointment from those higher in authority. No complaint, that they have not discharged their duties in office, has been lodged against them. Oh no! They have only for the most part voted for the democrats. This is their offence. This is the charge. Their vote is a unit, says Col. Pond. They all voted for the democrats, notwithstanding the whigs offered them money, whiskey, &c., in 1852. They all voted for Genl. Pierce, for President, although Genl. Scott declared that he loved the rich Irish brogue and the sweet german accent.—This is the sin for which they can never be forgiven.

Why have the naturalized citizens generally voted with the democratic party. The reason is obvious to every unprejudiced mind. The principles of the democratic party have not only been right and proper on all subjects, but it has always been just and liberal towards them. They have been generally too discriminating not to know it. This accounts for their support of the democratic party without the charge of corruption, by money and whiskey. The Democratic party have always resisted any and every attempt to take away, or abridge their civil, religious, or political rights as guaranteed under the provisions of our Constitution and laws. This they have intelligence enough to know, and their good sense, and self interest prompt them to sustain the party, that has shown itself just and true to them. This is natural, it is what every one might expect, and we repel the charge of corruption on the part of the democratic party, as untrue, ungenerous, and unjust.—we believe that it is not true against the old whig party, to the extent, to which Col. Pond testified in his speech. That there were some corrupt politicians in both the old whig and democratic parties, we shall not stop to deny, but that this corruption pervaded the whole of each party, is too monstrous for belief. It is ridiculously absurd.

Why should our naturalized citizens, and those that wish to become such, be set apart, and proscribed, as not fit to be voted for, for any office or public trust under the Government, as Col. Pond and his Know Nothing brethren desire in future to accomplish. Will any good result to the nation or to the morality of our people by it? So far from it, every one not influenced by prejudice or governed by selfishness, must see that great and powerful evil must result.—We should then have in our midst a large population, who feeling themselves degraded, distrusted, and treated as inferiors, would not have the same inducements to uphold and support the government they now have. Might they not with propriety in future be ready to resent the invidious distinction, by refusing to take up arms in time of danger as they have heretofore done, and justified by joining against it, whenever opportunity offered of bettering their condition, by effecting its overthrow.—Instead of treating our adopted fellow-citizens, as friends and brothers, as our fathers have done before us, the K. N's wish to place a mark of condemnation upon them, which amounts to nothing less, than a charge of unworthiness, because they were born abroad.—When before was it ever known that a man's virtue, intelligence, and capacity was measured by the place he was born? Our Know Nothing friends are entitled to all the honor for the

discovery. We shall never dispute it with them. The democratic standard has always been, merit in the man, regardless of the portion of the globe that gave him birth. Is he honest, is he capable, is he faithful to the constitution. Is he of proper age, has he been naturalized, and has he the legal qualifications—these are all that common sense or a wise prudence can require. But, says Col. Pond, we don't proscribe any one, any more than the democrats and whigs proscribed each other, at every election. We are very sure there is a wide difference between voting against an individual, and entering into a solemn compact, under oath for all time, to proscribe him from holding office. The democrats and whigs did not deny to each other the right to be elected to any office. They did not dream they were attempting to deprive each other of their political rights. It was exercising for the time being, the elective franchise to advance, what each considered best for the country. One might be in power to day, the other to-morrow. They voted against each other on account of their political opinions, which were subject to be changed, as the minority of today, as is sometimes seen, becomes the majority of to-morrow. It has often been the case. It will be so again. But how is it with the Know Nothing's proscription of foreigners, or naturalized citizens, and catholics, from holding office. It is founded on their place of birth or their religious faith. The one is an objection or disability that can never be changed, or overcome. No matter how virtuous his conduct, how exalted his intellect, or how eminently fit for the station he may be, still the fact of his being born in another country, disqualifies him forever. The other is repugnant to the constitution, and the principles of civil and religious freedom, the very corner stones of our political edifice. The highest duty we owe to ourselves, and our creator, is to worship him, according to the dictates of our own consciences, guided by reason and revelation.

Col. Pond and his "native American" brethren in their over-wrought zeal to prevent foreigners from coming to this country, and becoming citizens as they have heretofore done, seem to have lost sight of the great American doctrine first promulgated in our immortal declaration of independence, that of the right of every man to choose his own government, or in other words the right to expatriate himself from one government, and become the citizen of another, by swearing obedience to its constitution and laws. The doctrine of Kings and despots, "once a subject always a subject," finds no favor among the sons of freedom. Our forefathers openly defied it, in the declaration of independence, and the opposite doctrine has been carried into successful operation by our government for more than seventy years, by the admission of thousands yearly, of all nations, as citizens, and the shield of American protection is thrown around them wherever they go. Yes, even an alien who has declared his intention of becoming a citizen according to our laws, is from that moment under the protection of the United States, against outrage, from other nations, either in his person or property, and the American people, with heart and hand, will proudly uphold the government in vindicating his right to the last extremity.

Col. Pond, and his American party ought to know that becoming a naturalized citizen confers no right of suffrage. It simply adopts the person into the American family, and puts him under the protection of the American flag.—Is it possible he would be willing to withhold that boon for twenty-one years, from those who have left their native land, and from choice have sought a home and protection with us.—In the language of the illustrious Jefferson, "Shall we refuse the unhappy fugitives from distress, that hospitality, which the savages of the wilderness extended to our fathers arriving in this land? Shall oppressed humanity find no asylum on this globe?" To the state governments belong the right of proscribing the qualifications of voters. The general government has no control over the subject. Amending, changing, or repealing, the naturalization laws altogether, would not effect the object the Know Nothings aim at. They would still come to this country and would no doubt be allowed to vote as in some of the states, they now do, without being naturalized. Emigration of foreigners to this country has hitherto, been the greatest source of our national prosperity and greatness. It will be so for ages to come.

Col. Pond spoke of the Kansas Nebraska act, and condemned it because it allowed aliens to vote in the preliminary steps to be taken in forming a government, and because it was gotten up by Mr. Douglas to make him President. Does not Col. Pond know that the permitting foreigners not naturalized to vote in the territories is a political necessity. Congress does not fix the qualification of voters and ought not, because the Constitution confers no such power upon that body. This belongs to the people of each State to arrange for itself when it forms a constitution and applies for admission into the Union. Never in the territorial governments, established by Congress, have they restricted, the right to vote, to citizens only. "Every white male, over the age of twenty one," was the uniform language used. How would Col. Pond's objection apply to California. It would have rejected more than one-half of all the inhabitants. Would the people of that distant territory have submitted to it. Certainly not. They would have declared themselves independent, and set up a government of their own.

As to their voting to exclude slavery any more than native citizens, is a riddle that will puzzle no