

PHILADELPHIA, JUNI 28, 1860.

POLITICAL.

REPUBLICAN PLATFORM. Adopted at Chicago, May, 1860.

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 forty 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 we solemnly re-assert the self-evident truth, that all men are endowed by the Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are those of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that governments are instituted among men to secure the enjoyment of these rights. That the maintenance of the principles promulgated in the Declaration of Independence, and embodied in the Federal Constitution, 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 of Congress 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 strongly to rebuke and forever silence.

Fourth, That the maintenance inviolate of the rights of the States, and especially the rights 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 faith depends, and we denounce the lawless invasion by armed force 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 is especially evident in its desperate exertions to force the infamous LeCompton Constitution upon the people of Kansas—in constraining the personal relation between master and servant to involve an unequalled property in persons—in its attempted enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law, and in its intervention of Congress and the Federal Courts, of the extreme pretensions of a purely local interest, and in its general and unvarying abuse of the power entrusted 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 system of plunder of the public treasury by favored partisans; while the recent startling developments of fraud and corruption at the Federal metropolis, show that an entire change of administration is imperatively demanded.

Seventh, That the new dogma that the Constitution of the United States is that of Freedom; that as our republican fathers, when they abolished slavery in all our national Territory, ordained that no person should be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law, becomes our duty to legislate, whenever such legislation is necessary, to maintain this provision of the Constitution against all attempts to violate it; and we deny the authority of Congress to give legal existence to slavery in any Territory of the United States.

Eighth, That we brand the recent re-opening of the African slave trade, under the cover of our national flag, aided by perversions of judicial power, as a crime against humanity, a burning shame to our country and age, and we call upon Congress to take prompt and efficient measures for the total and final expression of that execrable traffic.

Ninth, 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 and Nebraska bill, and a denunciation of the deception and fraud involved therein.

Tenth, That Kansas should of right be admitted as a State under the Constitution recently formed and adopted by her people, and accepted by the House of Representatives.

Eleventh, That while providing revenue for the support of the General Government by duties upon imports, sound policy requires such an adjustment of these imports as to encourage the development of the industrial interest of the whole country, and we commend that policy of non-interference which secures to the working-men liberal wages, to agriculture remunerating prices, to mechanics and manufacturers an adequate reward for their skill, labor and enterprise, and to the nation commercial prosperity and independence.

Twelfth, That we protest against any sale or alienation to others of the public lands held by actual settlers, and against any view of the free Homestead policy which regards the settlers as purchasers or applicants for public bounty, and we demand the passage by Congress of the complete and satisfactory Homestead measure which has already passed the House.

Thirteenth, That the National Republican party is opposed to any change in our Naturalization laws, or any State legislation by which the rights of citizenship hitherto accorded by the Constitution to foreign born shall be abridged or impaired; and in favor of giving a full and efficient protection to the rights of all classes of citizens, whether native or naturalized, both at home or abroad.

Fourteenth, That appropriations by Congress 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 an obligation of the Government to protect the lives and property of its citizens.

Fifteenth, 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.

Sixteenth, Finally, having thus set forth our distinctive principles and views, we invite the cooperation of all citizens, however differing on other questions, who substantially agree with us in their affluence and support.

CONSTITUTIONAL UNION PLATFORM. Adopted at Baltimore, May, 1860.

Whereas, Experience has demonstrated that all platforms adopted by political parties have the effect to mislead and cause political divisions, by encouraging geographical and sectional parties; therefore,

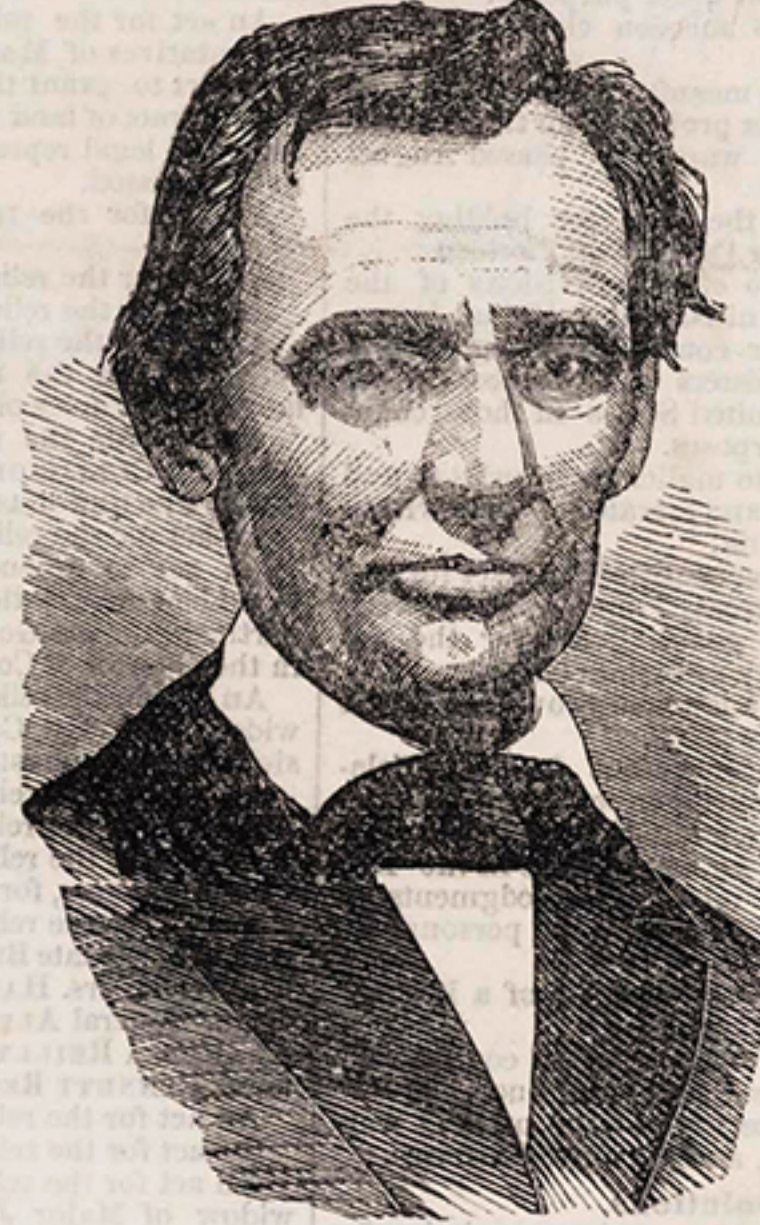
Resolved, That both patriotism and duty require that they should recognize no policy or principles but those resting on the broad foundation of the Constitution of the country, the union of the States, and the enforcement of the laws, (great applause, and six cheers); and that, as representatives of the Constitutional Union party maintain, protect and defend these principles, thus affording security at home and abroad, and secure the blessings of liberty to themselves and posterity.

Adopted by acclamation.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the Republican candidate, is a native of Hardin county, Kentucky. He was born February 12, 1809. His parents were born in Virginia, and were of very moderate circumstances. He removed from Kentucky to Spencer county, in Indiana, in 1816. Mr. LINCOLN received a limited education. In 1830 he removed to Illinois, and passed the first year in Macon county, engaged in agricultural pursuits. He next went to New Salem, where he remained about one year as a clerk in a store. About this time the Black Hawk war broke out, and a company was raised in New Salem, and

LINCOLN was elected captain. He served during this campaign. On his return to Illinois, in 1832, he became a candidate for the State Legislature, but was defeated. The next three succeeding biennial elections he was elected to the Legislature by the Whig party. During his legislative term he studied law, and subsequently engaged practically in the profession at Springfield. For many years he was one of the leaders of the Whig party in Illinois, and was on the electoral ticket in several Presidential campaigns. He was a disciple of HENRY CLAY, and exerted himself in his behalf in 1844, by making a tour



of Illinois, and advocating CLAY'S election to the Presidency. He was elected to Congress in 1846, and served until 1849. While in Congress he voted forty-two times for the Willnot Proviso. From 1849 to 1854, Mr. LINCOLN was engaged in the practice of his profession. In 1849 he was a candidate before the Illinois Legislature for United States Senator, prior to which he stumped the State for the Whigs. When the Legislature met the Democracy was in the majority, and General SHIELDS, the Democratic candidate, was elected. In 1855 he was again the candidate of the Whigs for United States Sena-

tor before the Legislature chosen that year; but the Democracy being in the majority, LINCOLN was again defeated. In 1856, Mr. LINCOLN'S name headed the FREMONT electoral ticket in Illinois. In 1858, it was the desire of the Illinois State Central Committee to have Mr. LINCOLN succeed DOUGLAS in the United States Senate, and to effect this he stumped the State for the Republicans; and it was during this campaign that Mr. LINCOLN made the political speeches from which the people of the Union will at once read his sentiments on the great questions of the day.

JOHN BELL

Was born near Nashville, Tennessee, February 18, 1797. He was the son of a farmer in moderate circumstances, who was, nevertheless, able to give him a good education at Cumberland College, now Nashville University, where he graduated in 1814. He studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1816, and settled at Franklin, Williamson county, Tennessee, and was elected to the State Senate in 1817. In 1826 he became a candidate for Congress against FELIX GRUNDY, one of the popular men in the State of Tennessee, and was elected. By successive elections he continued a member of the House of Representatives for fourteen years. He entered Congress a warm admirer of Mr. CAL-

HOUN, and strongly opposed to the protective system, against which he made a speech in 1832. Subsequent investigations and reelection induced him to change his opinions on that subject. Mr. BELL opposed the South Carolina doctrine of nullification, and was made Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, with special reference to the question at that time. His refusal to vote for a resolution approving of the removal of the deposits, was one of the causes which led to the subsequent breach between himself and President JACKSON and the Democratic party, and finally to his cooperation with the Whigs. This change of



party relations was much accelerated by his election to the Speakership of the House of Representatives in 1834, as he was supported by the Whigs. In 1835, Mr. BELL was re-elected to Congress, and an impulse was given to the political character of Tennessee, which arrayed it in opposition to the Democracy during the four succeeding Presidential elections, 1840-44-48-52. When the reception of petitions for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia was agitated in the House of Representatives, in 1836, Mr. BELL alone, of the Tennessee delegation, favored their reception. Subsequently, in 1838, when ATHON'S resolutions were intro-

duced, proposing to receive and lay these petitions on the table, he maintained his consistency by voting in the negative. When President HARRISON, in 1841, was forming his Cabinet, Mr. BELL was invited to accept the War Department Secretaryship, to which he readily assented. Mr. BELL remained in retirement until called by the people of his country, in 1847, to represent them in the State Senate, in which year, on the occurrence of a vacancy, he was elected to the United States Senate, to which he was re-elected in 1853. His term of service expired in March, 1859, since which time he has been living in retirement from public life.

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM. Adopted by the Maryland Institute Convention, at Baltimore, June 23d, 1860.

Originally adopted by the Seceders at Charleston, April 30th, 1860.

Resolved, That the platform adopted by the Democratic party at Cincinnati, be affirmed, with the following explanatory resolutions:—

1. 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 injured by Congressional or Territorial legislation.

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

3. That when the settlers in a Territory having an adequate population, form a State Constitution, the right of sovereignty commences, and being consumed by their admission into the Union, they stand on an equality with the people of other States, and a State thus organized ought to be admitted into the federal Union, whether the Constitution prohibits or recognizes the institution of slavery.

STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS

Was born in the town of Brandon, in the State of Vermont, on the 23d of April, 1813, and is now in the forty-eighth year of his age. His father, whose name he bears, was a native of Lonsdale county, in New York, where he was a practising physician. He died leaving two children, one of them the subject of this notice, who was but two months old at the time. STEPHEN ARNOLD DOUGLAS, at the age of fourteen years, apprenticed himself to the trade of a cabinetmaker, at Milbur; at this trade he wrought for two years, and then, weary of it, he sought the means of procuring an education. He

was admitted as a pupil in the Canandaigua Academy, entered upon a course of classical studies, and at the same time studied law with an attorney of that village. In 1833 he moved to Illinois, and for some time taught school in the village of Winchester, in that State. While engaged in teaching school he still continued his legal studies, and was admitted to the bar in 1834. In the following year, at the age of twenty-two years, he was appointed State Attorney, which office he resigned in 1836 to take his seat in the Legislature. He subsequently held, for a short time, the post of Receiver of the Land Office at



Springfield, Illinois. By this time he became a prominent politician, and ran for Congress in 1838, but was beaten by five votes. He stumped the State for VAN BUREN for the Presidency in 1840. In December, 1840, he was elected Secretary of State, and in the following February was elected by the Legislature judge of the Supreme Court. He was subsequently twice elected as a member of Congress, but only served one term, when he was elected to the United States Senate, in 1847. In 1858 he was again elected to the Senate, after a most exciting contest with Mr. LINCOLN. His engineering of the Kansas

Nebraska Bill, and course on the doctrine of "squatter sovereignty," have made him chiefly remarkable.

HISTORICAL PARALLELS.—"A peerage or Westminster Abbey," exclaimed NELSON, when he came in sight of the French at Aboukir Bay; "the scaffold and imprisonment rather than compliance," said Archbishop HUGHES, when called on to obey or fork over "a dozen of silver spoons, or a revolver," is MONTGOMERY'S choice to the assaillant of his honor. So we go.

JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE

Mr. BRECKINRIDGE was born near Lexington, Kentucky, January 18, 1821; was educated at Centre College, Kentucky; spent a few months at Princeton; studied law at the Transylvania Institute and was admitted to the bar at Lexington, where he practiced his profession with success during the war with Mexico he served in one of the Kentucky regiments as Major, made many warm friends amongst the officers of the war, and established an honorable reputation as a soldier and a gentleman. After the war he returned to the practice of law in Kentucky, soon becoming distinguished for learning, eloquence and acumen. In 1841 he was elected to the State Legislature, there gaining out as an orator. His style is com-

pact, severe and logical, whilst his views on public questions are marked by solidity and vigor.



office March, 1857. By virtue of his office he is President of the United States Senate, as a presiding officer he takes a high rank. He has just been elected to the United States Senate for six years from the 4th of

March, 1861, to take the place of Mr. CRITTENDEN, whose term then expires. Mr. BRECKINRIDGE is about thirty-nine years old, and is possessed of a moderate fortune, accumulated by his own efforts.

Resolved, That the National Democratic party do hereby pledge themselves to use every means in their power to secure the passage of some bill, in their order to secure the passage of some bill, to the effect of their constitutional authority by the construction of a Pacific Railroad, from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, at the earliest practicable moment.

The following is the Cincinnati Platform.—

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be secretly applied to the national objects specified in the Constitution, and that we are opposed to any law for the distribution of such proceeds among the States, as alike inexpedient in policy, and repugnant to the Constitution.

7. That Congress has no power to charter a National Bank; that we believe that an institution of this kind, dangerous to our republican institutions and the liberties of the people, and calculated to place the business of the country within the control of a concentrated money power, and above the laws and will of the people; and the results of the Democratic legislation in this and all other financial measures upon which issues have been made between the two political parties of the country, have demonstrated to candid and practical men of all parties their soundness, safety, and utility in all business pursuits.

8. That the separation of the moneys of the Government from banking institutions is indispensable to the safety of the funds of the Government and the rights of the people.

9. That we are decidedly opposed to taking from the President the qualified veto power, by which he is enabled, under restrictions and responsibilities amply sufficient to guard the public interests, to suspend the passage of a bill whose merits cannot secure the approval of a majority until the judgment of the people can be obtained thereon, and which has saved the American people from the corrupt and tyrannical domination of the Bank of the United States, and from a corrupting system of general internal improvements.

10. That the liberal principles embodied in JEFFERSON'S Declaration of Independence, and sanctioned in the Constitution, which makes ours the land of liberty and the asylum of the oppressed of every nation, have ever been cardinal principles in the Democratic faith; and every attempt to abridge the principles of becoming citizens and the owners of soil among us ought to be resisted with the same spirit which swept the alien and seditious laws from our statute books.

And whereas, Since the foregoing declaration was uniformly adopted by our predecessors in National Conventions, an adverse political and religious test has been secretly organized by a party claiming to be exclusively American, and it is proper that the American Democracy should clearly define its relations thereto, and declare its determined opposition to all secret political societies, by whatever name they may be called.

Resolved, That the foundation of the Union of States having been laid in, and its prosperity, expansion and presentment exemplified in free government, built upon entire freedom of matters of religious concernment, and no respect of persons in regard to rank, or place of birth, no party can justly be deemed national, constitutional, or in accordance with American principles, which bases its exclusive organization upon religious opinions and accidental birth-places. And hence a political crusade in the nineteenth century, ever been carried on, against Catholics and foreign-born is neither justified by the past history or future prospects of the country, nor in unison with the spirit of toleration, and enlightenment, which peculiarly distinguishes the American system of popular government.

Resolved, That we reiterate with renewed energy of purpose the well considered resolutions of former conventions upon the sectional issue of domestic slavery, and concerning the reserved rights of the States:—

1. That Congress has no power under the Constitution to interfere with or control the domestic institutions of the several States, and that all such States are the sole and proper judges of everything appertaining to their own affairs not prohibited by the Constitution; that all efforts by Abolitionists or others made to induce Congress to interfere with questions of slavery, or to take inoperative steps in relation thereto, are calculated to lead to the most alarming and dangerous consequences, and that all such efforts have an inevitable tendency to diminish the happiness of the people, and endanger the stability and permanency of the Union, and ought not to be countenanced.

2. That the foregoing proposition covers and was intended to embrace the whole subject of slavery agitation in Congress, and therefore the Democratic party of the United States, on this national platform, will abide by and adhere to a faithful execution of the acts known as the Compromise measures, settled by the Congress of 1850: "the act for restraining fugitive slaves from labor" included; which act being designed to carry out an express provision on the Constitution, cannot, with fidelity thereto, be repealed, or so changed as to destroy or impair the rights of labor.

3. That the Democratic party will resist all attempts at renewing in Congress, or out of it, the agitation of the slavery question, under whatever shape or color the attempt may be made; and that the Virginia Legislature in 1799—that adopts these principles as constituting one of the main foundations of its political creed, and is resolved to carry them out in their obvious meaning and import.

And that we may more distinctly meet the issue on which a sectional party, subsisting exclusively on slavery agitation, now relies to test the fidelity of the people North and South, to the Constitution and the Union.

Resolved, That claiming fellowship with and desiring the cooperation of all who regard the preservation of the Union under the Constitution as the paramount issue, and repudiating all sectional parties and platforms concerning domestic slavery, which seek to embroil the States and invite to treason and armed resistance to law in the Territories, and whose avowed purpose, if consummated, must end in civil war and disunion, the American Democracy recognize and adopt the principles contained in the organic laws establishing the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas, as embodying the only sound and safe solution of the slavery question, upon which the great national idea of the people of this whole country can repose in its determined conservation of the Union, and non-interference of Congress with slavery in the Territories or in the District of Columbia.

2. That this was the basis of the compromises of 1850, confirmed by both the Democratic and Whig parties in National Conventions, ratified by the people in the election of 1852, and rightly applied to the organization of the Territories in 1854.

3. That by the uniform application of the Democratic principle to the organization of Territories, and the admission of new States with or without domestic slavery, as their most desired objective, American Union insured to its utmost capacity of embracing peace and harmony, every future extension of a State that may be constituted or annexed.

Resolved, That we recognize the right of the people of all the Territories, including the legally and Nebraska, acting through all efforts to establish the will of the majority of the actual fairly expressed, and whenever the number of their inhabitants justifies it, to form a Constitution, with or without domestic slavery, and to be admitted into the Union upon terms of perfect equality with the other States.

Resolved, Finally, That in view of the condition of the popular institutions in the Old World (and of the dangerous tendencies of sectional agitation, and the dangers of the attempt to enforce civil and religious disabilities against the rights of acquiring and enjoying citizenship in our own land), and sacred duty is involved with increased responsibility upon the National Democratic party of this country, to uphold and maintain the Union, and the rights of every State and Territory thereof, and to sustain and advance among us the States—and to sustain and advance among us constitutional liberty, by the continuing of the several States, and exclusive legislation for the benefit of the few at the expense of the many, and principled and constant adherence to the Constitution— which plan and compromise, if carried out, will embrace and uphold the Union as it was, the Union as it is, and the Union as it shall be in the full exercise of the energies and capacity of this great and progressive people.

Resolved, That there are questions connected with the foreign policy of this country which are of no domestic question whatever. The inferior to no domestic question whatever, the States to declare themselves in favor of free seas, and progressive free trade throughout the world, and by solemn manifestations to place their moral influence at the side of their successful example.

Resolved, That our geographical and political position with reference to the other States of this continent, no less than the interest of our commerce and the development of our growing power

Resolved, That the proceeds of the public lands ought to be

