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The Kent News.

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, POLITICS, GENERAL NEWS, &c.

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THE KENT NEWS,

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Devoted to Agriculture, Literature, Politics, and General News.

EDWARD MANSFIELD,

PROPRIETOR.

TERMS:

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AMERICAN PLATFORM,

Adopted by the National Council, at Philadelphia, June 5th, 1855.

I.—The acknowledgement of the Almighty Being who rules over the Universe;—who presides over the councils of nations,—who conducts the affairs of men, and who, in every step by which we have advanced to the character of an independent nation, has distinguished us by some token of Providential agency.

II.—The cultivation and development of a sentiment of profoundly intense American feeling; of passionate attachment to our country, its history and its institutions; of admiration for the purer days of our national existence; of veneration for the heroism that precipitated our Revolution; and of emulation of the virtue, wisdom and patriotism that framed our constitution, and first successfully applied its provisions.

III.—The maintenance of the Union of these United States as the paramount political good; or, to use the language of Washington, "the primary object of patriotic desire." And hence—

1st. Opposition to all attempts to weaken or subvert it.

2nd. Uncompromising antagonism to every principle of policy that endangers it.

3rd. The advocacy of an equitable adjustment of all political differences which threaten its integrity or perpetuity.

4th. The suppression of all tendencies to political division, founded on "geographical discriminations, or on the belief that there is a real difference of interest and views" between the various sections of the Union.

5th. The full recognition of the rights of the several States, as expressed and reserved in the Constitution; and a careful avoidance, by the General Government of all interference with their rights, by legislative or executive action.

IV.—Obedience to the Constitution of these United States, as the supreme law of the land, sacredly obligatory upon all its party and members; and steadfast resistance to the spirit of innovation upon its principles, however specious the pretexts. Avowing that in all doubtful or disputed points it may only be legally ascertained and expounded by the judicial power of the United States.

And, as a corollory of the above:

1. A habit of reverential obedience to the laws, whether National, State, or Municipal, until they are either repealed or declared unconstitutional by the proper authority.

2. A tender and sacred regard for those acts of statesmenship which are to be contradistinguished from acts of ordinary legislation, by the fact of their being of the nature of compacts and agreements; and so, to be considered a fixed and settled national policy.

V.—A radical revision and modification of the laws regulating immigration, and the settlement of immigrants. Offering to the honest immigrant who from love of liberty or hatred of oppression, seek an asylum in the United States, a friendly reception and protection. But unqualifiedly condemning the transportation to our shores of felons and paupers.

VI.—The essential modification of the Naturalization Laws:

The repeal by the Legislature of the respective States, of all State laws allowing foreigners not naturalized to vote.

The repeal, without retractive operation, of all acts of Congress making grants of land to unnaturalized foreigners, and allowing them to vote in the Territories.

VII.—Hostility to the corrupt means by which the leaders of parties have hitherto forced upon us our rulers and our political creeds.

Implacable enmity against the prevalent demoralizing system of rewards for political subserviency, and of punishments for political independence.

Disgust for the wild hunt after office which characterize the age.

These on the one hand. On the other: Imitation of the practice of the purer days of the Republic; and admiration of the maxim that "office should seek the man, and not man the office," and of the rule, that the just mode of ascertaining fitness for office is the capability, the faithfulness, and the honesty of the incumbent or candidate.

VIII.—Resistance to the aggressive policy and corrupting tendencies of the Roman Catholic Church in our country, by the advancement to all political stations—executive, legislative, judicial, or diplomatic—of those only who do not hold civil allegiance, directly or indirectly, to any foreign power, whether civil or ecclesiastical, and who are Americans by birth, education, and training—thus fulfilling the maxim: "AMERICANS ONLY SHALL GOVERN AMERICA"

The protection of all citizens in the legal and proper exercise of their civil and religious rights and privileges; the maintenance of the right of every man to the full, unrestrained, and peaceful enjoyment of his own religious opinions and worship, and a jealous resistance of all attempts by any sect, denomination or church, to obtain an ascendency over any other in the State, by means of any special privileges or exemption, by any political combination of its members, or by a division of their civil allegiance with any foreign power, potentate, or ecclesiastic.

IX.—The reformation of the character of our National Legislature, by elevating to that dignified and responsible position men of higher qualifications, purer morals and more unselfish patriotism.

X—The restriction of executive patronage, especially in the matter of appointments to office, so far as it may be permitted by the Constitution, and consistent with the public good.

XI—The education of the youth of our country in schools provided by the State; which schools shall be common to all, without distinction of creed or party, and free from any influence or direction of a denominational or partisan character.

And, inasmuch as Christianity, by the Constitutions of nearly all the States; by the decisions of the most eminent judicial authorities, and by the consent of the people of America, is considered an element of our political system, and, as the Holy Bible is at once the source of Christianity, and the depository and fountain of all civil and religious freedom, we oppose every attempt to exclude it from the Schools thus established in the States.

XII—The American Party, having arisen upon the ruins and in despite of the opposition of the Whig and Democratic parties, cannot be in any manner responsible for the obnoxious acts or violated pledges of either. And the systematic agitation of the slavery question by those parties, having elevated sectional hostility into a positive element of political power, and brought our institutions into peril, it has, therefore, become the imperative duty of the American party to interpose for the purpose of giving peace to the country and perpetuity to the Union. And as experience has shown it impossible to reconcile opinions so extreme as those which separate the disputants; and, as there can be no dishonor in submitting to the laws, the National Council has deemed it the best guarantee of common justice and of future peace, to abide by and maintain the existing laws on the subject of slavery, as a final and conclusive settlement of that subject in spirit and in substance.

And regarding it the highest duty to avow their opinions, upon a subject so important, in distinct and unequivocal terms, it is hereby declared as the sense of this National Council, that Congress possesses no power, under the Constitution to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the States, where it does or may exist, or to exclude any State from admission into the Union because its constitution does or does not recognise the institution of slavery as a part of its social system; and expressly pretermitting any expression of opinion upon the power of Congress to establish or prohibit slavery in any Territory, it is the sense of the National Council that Congress ought not to legislate upon the subject of slavery within the Territories of the United States and that any interference by Congress with slavery as it exists in the District of Columbia, would be a violation of the spirit and intention of the compact by which the State of Maryland ceded the District to the United States, and a breach of the national faith.

XIII—The policy of the Government of the United States, in its relations with foreign governments, is to exact justice from the strongest, and do justice to the weakest; restraining by all the power of the government, all its citizens from interference with the internal concerns of nations with whom we are at peace.

XIV—This National Council declares that all the principles of the Order shall be henceforward every where openly avowed; and that each member shall be at liberty to make known the existence of the Order, and the fact that he himself is a member, and it recommends that there be no concealment of the place of meeting of subordinate councils.

E. B. BARTLETT, of Kentucky,
President of National Council.

C. D. Deshler, of New Jersey,
Corresponding Secretary.

Jas. M. Stephens, of Maryland,
Recording Secretary.

POETRY.

AUTUMN DAYS.

BY LOTTIE LINWOOD.

'Tis Autumn time!—the summer flowers
Have faded 'neath its golden feet;
The birds have let their shady bowers,
The winds chime mournfully and sweet;
The maple boughs, whose faded leaves
Have whispered through the summer days,
Like bright-winged birds around the eaves,
Are flitting in the sun's pale rays,
I hear their rustling low and sweet,
As if an angel floated o'er;
They seem to me like friends I meet
And love, then part forever morn.

The dreamy lull of limpid streams;
The azure haze that floats above,
Enshroud earth as mysterious dreams
O'er all our spirits softly move."
Spirit of dreams! oh, I would bless
Thy soft luxurious charms for aye,
And fold thee in my soul's caress,
Now and forever till I die!
Oh, chide me not!—the low wind rhymes
Full many a plaintive, trembling lay,
And I could listen to her hymns
Till I had breathed my life away.

Hon. John M. Berrien.

The following extract from the letter of the Hon. John M. Berrien is worthy the perusal of every American. He was thought by Webster, and Clay to be one of the ablest men in the country.

'Under the existing laws, five years residence in the country and a compliance with the forms prescribed by them, entitles a foreigner to citizenship, and to all the privileges which you enjoy, with two or three exceptions, to which it is not necessary to refer. The American party desires to enlarge this term—to provide for a more accurate scrutiny of the claims of persons applying for naturalization—and against the immigration of paupers and felons into the United States.

'In my judgment these measures would be eminently conducive to public welfare. This is with me no new opinion—and it is not now for the first time expressed.—Several years ago the subject engaged the attention of Congress. As Chairman of the Judiciary Committee I made a report at the then next session, on the return of certain commissioners, to ascertain the various frauds which were alledged to exist in the grant and subsequent use of naturalization papers. Before that time changes in the Senate resulted in placing a Democratic Senator at the head of the Committee, and the matter was abandoned.

I do not think it necessary to enter into an elaborate argument to prove that the indiscriminate admission of foreigners after a residence of five years to the privilege of citizenship, is an evil. We are making—we have thus far successfully made an experiment of self-government. Our free institutions which have hitherto been found efficient for national advancement, and for individual security, have been indebted for their support, to the loyalty of our people rather than to their own compulsive powers. The founders of the Republic were men qualified for their office—united in reference to the laws—in resistance to oppression—in devotion to the principles of civil liberty—and the spirit which animated them, was infused into the institutions which they established. It was only *such men*, who could have founded *such a Government*. Men *animated by a similar spirit, can alone* preserve it. Let the abortive attempt in revolutionary France to establish and maintain free institutions, attest the truth of this assertion.

Now I propound this inquiry—Are the foreigners, who are being, and especially on the approach of our election, so rapidly incorporated among us, likely to be animated by this salutary spirit—fitted to be guardians of our free institutions? I would be sorry to deny that among these emigrants, there are some worthy men, who when familiarized to our institutions by long residence among us, may become good citizens, and capable of participating in our privileges, but no candid man will deny that a large proportion are of a very different character, consisting for the most part of Red Republicans, anarchists, criminals, and paupers—or will venture when dismounted from the stump, calmly to assert, that five years residence here will qualify an ignorant foreigner thoroughly to understand our institutions, and loyalty to confess them. Then let it be remembered that each one of these, who is admitted to the exercise of the elective franchise, without being thus qualified, and who is consequently liable to be led astray by the article of the demagogue, or coerced by the threatened anathema of his priest, annuls the vote of one citizen—may in fact expunge your vote or mine. Then consider the number and character of the people, who are annually cast upon our shores. I do not mean to trouble you with statistics. I dare say the records have been ransacked by opposing candidates for your favor, and that the results are familiar to you. I take from the papers of the day those to which I refer—uncontradicted statements.

Bear in mind then the fact that foreign immigration, which, up to eighteen hundred, did not exceed five thousand persons; has arisen since eighteen hundred and fifty, to half a million, and which, looking to the state of Europe, will probably, and in a very short time, amount up to a million a year. Now give free scope to your benevolent feelings—exercise the most extended charity, in estimating the propable number of these who are worthy men—capable by a proper probationary term, of being rendered good citizens and what a fearful residum will remain, what a mass of poisonious ingredients to be infed into the body politic! The census of 1850 shows that the number of foreign paupers and criminals exceeds that of native paupers and criminals, although the *native* population was *seven times greater* than the foreign. What would be your feelings if poverty and crime existed in this proportion and to this extent among yourselves? If the quantum of pauperism and vice which existed among you, was the proportion of a population seven times greater than your own, what security would you have for your free institutions? what guarantee for your individual rights.

Consider, also, that these emigrants, shunning the South, from the unwillingness to compete with slave labor—and flocking to the North, from their abolition tendencies, in search of kindred spirits, are thus rapidly increasing the majority against you in Congress, at every appointment, and will, unless checked, in no very great length of time, place the Constitution and the institutions of the South at the mercy of the fanaticism.

And how are these calamities to be averted, if this horde of foreigners, rapidly increasing, is to be annually added to your society? The plagues of Egypt were mercies, since they were guided by Divine benevolence, and stayed by His omnipotence, when the deliverance of His chosen people was affected. But who shall stay this moral pestilence, if you are insensible to your danger! If persevered in, in what can it eventuate but in the ruin of the Republic? Can the noble system of Government, established by our fathers, be administered by men like these?

You are told that your numbers so largely exceed that of the foreign population, that all apprehension of danger is idle. I do not mean to give offence to any man, but to speak in the sincerity of my heart, when I say that such an argument seems to me to estimate very humbly the understandings of those to whom it is addressed. In the open, manly defence of your rights and liberties—of that glorious Constitution bequeathed to you by your fathers—of your homesteads and your household—in the defence of these against open and manly assault, you are competent to resist not only the foreigners among us, but a world in arms.—God forbid that one American bosom should palpitate with craven fear in view of such a conflict. But this is not the danger which menaces. Every man unworthy of citizenship, who is admitted to its privileges, is an enemy in our camp—a moral leper, spreading contagion far and wide. The morals of the community are corrupted—its heart is tainted by such an association; for however stained with crime the stamp of citizens makes them politically part of yourselves. Can you bear the amalgamation?

And why should you bear it? Foreigners aided us in our revolutionary struggle. Aye,—and they have received their reward. They became incorporated among us, or have voluntarily gone elsewhere in quest of new adventure. But we invited immigration. Aye,—at the close of our revolutionary war, when amid its toils and privations we had achieved our independence we had a sparse and exhausted population, and an extensive and uncultivated domain. We required an increase of population, for the purpose of internal improvement and external defence, and conforming to this policy, our system of naturalization was established. Europe was then calm, at least free from the menace of intestine commotion. Party spirit among ourselves was comparatively quiescent. We invited foreigners, and we received them. They came to us in small numbers, mingled with our people, and peacefully pursued the avocations of this industed. *All this is changed.*—We have a population sufficiently numerous for every present purpose, and without the aid of immigration we are increasing in numbers as rapidly as we could desire.

Notwithstanding this, there is an annual outpouring upon us of the restless and unquiet spirit of Europe, its paupers and its criminals. Not mingling with us, as when their numbers were small, they are now sufficiently numerous to herd together—to live apart from us—to constitute distinct foreign societies in the midst of the native population. In the bitterness of our party contests, this foreign vote has been eagerly, and often by unworthy means, sought after and obtained alternately by both parties; and acting as a unit, the host of Kossuth has been realized—it holds the balance and may decide our elections.

This is a state of things not to be borne by American freemen. This foreign incursion must be regulated, or checked, and the American party has its origin in the conviction of this necessity. The very general existence of this conviction has secured to them a support beyond the limits of their association. I concur with them in the belief that the laws regulating immigration, and the naturalization of foreigners ought to be subjected to a thorough and searching revision, that the term of probation should be largely extended, that to protect us from the intrusion of paupers and criminals, provisions ought to be made for the ascertainment by our consuls abroad, of the character and condition of persons proposing to emigrate to the United States, and that every safeguard which the wisdom of Congress can devise, should be thrown around the amendatory statute, to prevent and punish its evasion.

[From the Washington Organ.]

The President in the hands of a Committee.

This administration has reversed the Roman maxim: instead of making war upon the powerful and sparing the feeble, it has oppressed the weak and truckled to the strong. It backed down at Ostend and set fire to Greytown; it repudiated the National minority; and rewarded the Free Soil majority; it has employed the most indecorous language towards the American party generally, whilst individually it has been careful to escape that personal responsibility which, amongst honorable men, invariably follows its use; it has indulged the more distinguished members of the Democratic party with a dispensation of opinion, whilst it has pursued with a malignant and cowardly animosity those humble men who are wholly dependant, and whose cries cannot be heard beyond the immediate scene of their punishment. Indeed, we have in this helpless District a system of espionage and persecution which the free people of the Union can scarcely believe to be possible. Often, humble but respectable men come to us—removed without cause assigned—with a helpless and infirm family, deprived of employment. *These men are reduced to actual beggery.* We have known their miserable little furniture, even the bed on which their children slept, redeemed from the officer's hands by charitable contribution! And this for the crime of opinion. Such cases command a premium with the administration. When women and children can be brought to actual want, and strong men made to weep in the bitterness of their necessities, this is a triumph celebrated by the President of a great nation over public sherry and champagne with the dastardly and obsequious spies who have wrought out the iniquity. We cannot be calm under such a prostitution of power. We would gladly make ourselves the champions of the weak; we would that words of ours could inspire the mean and malignant men who work so much mischief, with the spirit to turn from the persecution of the helpless, to those who would meet them with the measure of resentment and chastisement which they deserve.

There is a set of spies attached to the Departments, who resemble the police agents of Fouche or Matsell. It is their business to ferret out the unfortunate men who believe that the Protestant religion is not "a sin," as Bishop McGill has pronounced it to be, or who are suspected of believing that an American is as good as a Hessian. This gang of spies is furnished with an assistant press, which, obeying the will of its superiors, hunts down every one who has not the courage to hold it to a just responsibility. The combination of these two influences is inexpressibly formidable to poor men who live upon a Federal salary. If one of the spies should take a fancy to the office of a clerk, he sets about convicting him of the crime of Amercanism. As in the McGuire case, he endeavors to extract from the unlucky office holder some expression of opinion. If the latter says anything that can be perverted to the prejudice of the Dutch or Papists, the spy makes an affidavit before Justice Offutt and the unhappy clerk receives his dismissal.

For this conviction the spy gets from the successor of the removed about the bounty paid for a wolf scalp. If the clerk is silent upon the subject of politics, it is regarded as a circumstance so pregnant with suspicion, as to place him upon the suspected list. Failing to commit or convict the clerk upon his own disclosures, perhaps a little child at school, or an American wife, artless and ardent in her love of country or religious faith, may drop an indiscreet observation; this is taken by the hounds of the administration, and conveyed to headquarters, where it may furnish the cause for dismissing a clerk, just as the same system of irresponsible and secret proceeding, has dismissed from the navy unexceptionable officers and confounded them in its blighting condemnation, with the few profligate and abandoned men who have been removed, for having disgraced the flag under which they serve.

Such is the system by which the Greytown administration would strike terror into the hearts of Americans. They make a prison ship of the District. Here they confine the unhappy political prisoners, until they can be decimated by dismissal or menaced into compliance. Here the whole power and patronage of the republic are employed to punish helpless women and children—the only foes which this cowardly administration, and the mercenary hounds that do its bidding, dare to pursue. We confess that when we see a person clothed with the dignity of American Empire—entitled to a proud place amongst the magnates of the earth—turn from antagonists worthy of his steel—abase himself before the insults of the more powerful section of his own party, and concentrate his vengeance upon the miserable and dependent; when we see him deliver over "to the tormenters" his unprotected fellow-citizens, to become objects of speculation and extortion, we are almost tempted to forget what is due to the highest and most honorable station in the world, in our indignant contempt of the individual who happens to occupy it.

But the President has been reduced to a lower and yet to a natural stage of degredation. Certain persons, holding office under the government, have organized a "Union Association." Certain officeholders, marshals, postmasters, attorneys, and clerks, combining with the foreign population that infests this city, have organized themselves for the mutual assurance of their salaries. At an early period they denounced the American party, and praised the President for the possession of every high quality in which his administration has proven itself signally deficient. Subsequently, they resisted the will of the people of this District, by bringing the whole power of the government to aid the Papists and the Hessians. This association has endeavored to recommend itself their little master by every species of servility that can dishonor a freeman. More recently they have become more bold. Not satisfied with the comparative moderation of the Departments, they have taken charge of their patronage. They have taken the reins from the timid hands of the President, and dictate with audacity the policy of proscription. Read their proclamation of outlawry against American citizens:

"The following resolutions were unanimously passed by the Union Association, viz:

"Whereas, certain persons, who have stood high in the Democratic ranks, are deceiving the heads of the Executive Departments by recommending and urging the appointment of Know Nothings, or persons of doubtful standing in the Democratic party—

"*Be it resolved by the Union Association*, That hereafter, whenever an improper appointment is made, application will be presented to the department making the appointment, for names of recommenders, and, if obteined, they shall be given to the public, so that the administration may be relieved of the odium of the appointment, and the responsibility thrown upon the proper persons.

"*Resolved*, That the Union, Evening Star, and News be respectfully requested to publish these proceedings.

Wm. Jones, President.
"*Z. K. Offutt*, Recording Secretary."

"Certain persons who have heretofore stood high in the Democratic party" to be courtmartialed before Offutt, Hoover, Ratcliffe, and others who have not even a vote for a member of Congress! "Deceiving the heads of Departments?" which are not so competent to determine the competency of Democratic gentlemen in the States, as the book-binders, mail-sorters, bum-bailiffs, and pettifoggers of the District, aided by a jury *de mediotate linguæ*, composed equally of hod-carriers and Hessians! This omnipotent council enact that "hereafter, whenever an improper appointment is made"—An "improper appointment?" Messrs. Guthrie, Davis' and Dobbin, are not supposed to have the sense to determine upon the propriety of their own appointments, but must submit them to the supervison of this revisory committee, who threaten to publish a defaulting Department, in order, ostensibly, that it may escape the odium of its own acts, but, in reality, with the effect of holding the administration in awe of exposure and animadversion!

Yet in all this, not a word of notice is taken of the President; possibly he has subsided so much in the estimation of the committee, which conducts his administration, that if he is duly flattered with paragraphs, on the one side of which is printed the glories of his administration, and on the other, proposals for navy beef and ship biscuit; if he is sent under convoy to an Agricultural Fair—persuaded that the sole object of the crowd that assembles is to see him, or, clad in his best check shirt, is dispatched to carry Virginia by denouncing the American party in response to a complimentary welcome; he is supposed to be "pleased with a rattle, tickled with a straw," and willingly leaves the distribution of office and the dictation of policy to those committees respectively who have taken charge of the subject.

We believe the American people are independent of their government. They can pay millions to men who stay in Washington and play at politics. We have no objection to indulging such men—something of this sort must go on everywhere. It no more impairs the strength of the body politic, than a few woodworms can weaken the mighty trees of the forest. But really, when our administration makes the pursuit of clerks, and the evasion of responsibility its sole characteristics—when the bestowal of patronage, and the superintendence of the Departments, is taken from the Executive, or delegated by him to a committee of its own creation, we think a proper regard for the honor of the American name makes it our duty to protest against it and oppose it.