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50¢ No paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid, unless at the option of the publisher.

RESOLUTIONS

Adopted by the Republican State Convention, April 23, 1858.

Resolved, 1st, That the Republican party, true to the principles that form the basis of our free and democratic system of government, reaffirms to them its unalterable devotion, as laid down in the blood-bought charter of American liberty, the Declaration of Independence, and developed in the Constitution of the United States, and that the prosperity and perpetuity of our Union depend upon a strict adherence to the doctrine taught, and the rights guaranteed in those honored repositories of republican faith.

Resolved, 2nd, That in relation to the institution of domestic slavery, we remain where the patriots who formed our institutions planted themselves, and where the leading statesmen of all parties, until within a recent period, have harmoniously stood—that it is a purely local, not general, State, and not national, institution—determinable by the States, each for itself—over which the other States have no control and for which no responsibility.

Resolved, 3d, That with Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Franklin, and their contemporaries, who in the framing of the Constitution made effectual provision for the annihilation of the traffic in slaves, and who were especially anxious that that institution should contain no admission of the right of one man to hold property in another, we believe slavery to be a political, social, and moral evil; and while we disclaim all right and inclination to interfere with it as a municipal regulation of any of the sovereign States of the Union, we believe that the organic act of 1787 for the government of all the territory then belonging to the Republic, passed by the sagacious Jefferson, approved by the immortal Washington, and strictly adhered to in the formation of every territorial government from that time down to 1841, embodies the duty of Congress in framing governments for the Territories—that is, the non-extension of slavery.

Resolved, 4th, That the unfortunate departure from that principle in the late act organizing the Territory of Kansas, to which we directly trace the bitter agitation which has destroyed the peace, and reddened with the blood of brothers the virgin soil, of that fair land, has proved by its bitter fruits the wisdom of the ancient policy which it has supplanted.

Resolved, 5th, That we stand by and maintain, as did our forefathers, true popular sovereignty, and the inalienable right of the people to govern themselves; but we deny that a man is deprived of his rights unless he enjoy the privilege of enslaving others, and affirm that the result of such a doctrine would be to found the liberty of the citizen upon a basis of despotism.

Resolved, 6th, That the attempt upon the part of the present Democratic administration to force upon the people of Kansas a constitution abhorred to a large majority of its citizens, and to sustain in power a usurping and tyrannical minority against the known will of the remainder, is an outrage not to be borne by a free people, and we hope that, planting themselves firmly upon the immortal truth first enunciated by the Declaration of Independence, "that all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed," they will be able to wrest from their oppressors that which is inestimable to a free people and formidable to tyrants only—the right to compel the rulers to conform to the wishes of the ruled.

Resolved, 7th, That we insist that the right to govern necessarily follows the right to acquire and hold territory, and that in providing a government for a Territory under this right it should be based upon the inalienable rights of the people, and we arraign the modern system as practically carried out in Kansas for its utter and gross violation of these principles, and affirm that the dark catalogue of wrongs and crimes committed by the late and existing Administrations against popular rights in that Territory deserve the execration of every lover of freedom of the present day, and, as their just reward in history, an immortality of infamy.

Resolved, 8th, That the late partisan decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Dred Scott, which makes the Constitution a grand title instrument to every holder of slaves, is a disgrace to the Judiciary of the nation, and a stain upon the character of our country, whose proudest boast is its love of liberty in its largest sense and its hatred of tyranny in every form.

Resolved, 9th, That we congratulate ourselves and the people of Oregon upon the result of the late election upon the question of slavery as a triumph of the Republican doctrine of non-extension, and we only insist that we ought to use our influence wherever it can be legitimately done to secure to other Territories the same priceless blessings of freedom which by such a gratifying majority we seem so fully to appreciate for ourselves.

Resolved, 10th, That the reckless prodigality of national treasure which has characterized the late and present Democratic Administrations, bringing to bankruptcy a treasury whose vaults have received \$80,000,000 per annum, and necessitating a loan in a time of peace, is a clear and demonstrative proof of that wasteful extravagance which has plundered the nation and turned its treasury into a shipwrecked machine, with nothing but its credit to sustain its finances.

Resolved, 11th, That the Pacific Railroad is no longer an enterprise of doubtful expediency, but has become one of imperative commercial and national necessity; and we favor its construction upon any central and practicable route by the aid of the General Government given in such a manner as may be best calculated to effect its early completion.

Resolved, 12th, That we favor appropriations by Congress for the improvement

The Oregon Argus.

—A Weekly Newspaper, devoted to the Principles of Jeffersonian Democracy, and advocating the side of Truth in every issue.—

Vol. IV.

OREGON CITY, OREGON, APRIL 24, 1858.

No. 2.

of rivers and harbors of a national character.

Resolved, 13th, That the political dogmas sought recently to be established by a party styling themselves Democrats in this Territory, which assert the duty of a representative or delegate in some instances to be to obey the instructions of his constituents while in others specified he is bound to disregard them and bow to the will of others, is dangerous and anti-republican in its tendency, and worthy to be sustained only by a party that everywhere is known as the ally of personal vengeance and the advocate of partisan despotism.

Resolved, 14th, That we believe in the unalienable right of the citizen to think and vote as he pleases, and we utterly deny the right of any representative under any circumstances to violate the instructions or known will of the people he represents.

Resolved, 15th, That the present system of voting *viva voce*, introduced by that party to subject the suffrage of the citizen to the surveillance of partisan inspectors, and awe him, under the penalty of being branded as a traitor, into abject submission, is a relic of barbarism, which finds fit friends in a party whose whole organization is devoted to the extinguishment of every spark of personal freedom, and subjects its members to the entire control of an aristocracy of leaders; and that with such a party we are proud to have neither sympathy nor communion.

Mr. Seward on the Slavery Question.

On the 31st of March, Hon. Wm. H. Seward delivered an elaborate speech in the Senate, on the slavery issues generally—the bill for the admission of Kansas under the Lecompton constitution being under consideration. We can give no more than a brief abstract of this speech, which is pronounced the ablest ever made by Mr. Seward.

Mr. S. said that the question of slavery in the federal territories, which are the nurseries of future States, independently of all its moral and humane elements, involves a dynastical struggle of two antagonistic systems, the labor of slaves and the labor of freemen, for mastery in the federal Union. One of these systems partakes of an aristocratic character; the other is purely democratic. Each one of the existing States has staked, or it will ultimately stake, not only its internal welfare, but also its influence in the federal councils on the decision of that contest.

Such a struggle is not to be arrested, quelled, or reconciled by temporary expedients or compromises. He said that the admission of a new State is not necessarily, or even customarily, attended by other embarrassments or alarms. We have already admitted eighteen new States, with out serious commotions, except in the cases of Missouri, Texas, and California. We are even now admitting two others, Minnesota and Oregon; and these transactions go on so smoothly that only close observers are aware that we are thus consolidating our dominion on the shores of Lake Superior, and almost at the gates of the Arctic Ocean. It is manifest that the apprehended difficulties in the present case have some relation to the dispute concerning slavery, which is raging in the Territory of Kansas. Yet it must be remembered that nine of the new States which have been admitted expressly established slavery or tolerated it, and nine of them forbade it. The excitement, therefore, is due to peculiar circumstances. He thought there were three of them, namely:

First—That whereas, in the beginning, the ascendancy of the slave States was absolute—it is now being reversed.

Second—That, whereas, heretofore the National Government favored this change of balance from the slave States to the free States, it has now reversed this policy and opposes the change.

Third—That National intervention in the Territories in favor of slave labor and slave States, is opposed to the natural, social, and moral developments of the Republic.

In arguing these propositions, Mr. Seward said that Nebraska was resigned to free labor without a struggle, and Kansas became the theater of the first actual national conflict between slaveholding and free labor immigrants, who met face to face, to organize, through the machinery of republican action, a civil community.

In this first hour of trial, the new system of popular sovereignty signally failed—failed because it is impossible to organize by one single act, in one day, a community perfectly free, perfectly sovereign, and perfectly constituted, out of elements unassimilated, unarranged, and uncomposed. Free labor richly won the day. Slave labor wrested the victory to itself by fraud and violence.

In speaking of the opinion pronounced by the Supreme Court of the United States in the Dred Scott case, Mr. Seward said—

"In this ill-omened act, it forgot its own dignity, which had always been maintained with just judicial jealousy. They forgot that the province of a Court is simply 'jus dicere,' and not at all 'jus dare.' They forgot, also, that one fatal sentence does more harm than many foul examples, for the last do but corrupt the stream, while the former corrupts the fountain." And

they and the President alike forgot that judicial usurpation is more odious and intolerable than any other among the manifold practices of tyranny."

Having traced, step by step, the history of Kansas affairs, Mr. Seward then gave a concise account of the national intervention in the territories in favor of slave labor and slave States since 1820, adding—"No wonder that the question before us excites apprehension and alarm. There is at last a North side of this Chamber, a North side of the Chamber of Representatives, a North side of the Union, as well as a South side of all these. Each of them is watchful, jealous, and resolute. If it be true, as has so often been asserted, that this Union cannot survive the decision by Congress of a direct question involving the adoption of a free State into this Union, which will establish the ascendancy of free States under the Constitution, and draw after it the restoration of the influence of freedom in the domestic and foreign conduct of the Government, then the day of dissolution is at hand."

The Supreme Court of the United States attempts to command the people of the United States to accept the principle that one man can own other men, and that they must guaranty the inviolability of that false and pernicious property. The people of the United States never can, and they never will accept principles so unconstitutional, and so abhorrent. Never, never. Let the court recede; whether it recede or not, we shall recognize the court, and thus reform its political sentiments and bring them into harmony with the Constitution and with the laws of nature. In doing so we shall not only reassume our own just authority, but we shall restore that high tribunal itself to the position it ought to maintain, since so many alienable rights of citizens, and even of States themselves, depend upon its impartiality and its wisdom.

"If you," Mr. Seward said, "attempt to coerce Kansas into the Union under the Lecompton Constitution, the people of that Territory will resort to civil war if necessary. You are pledged to put down that revolution by the sword. Will the people listen to your voice amid the thunders of your cannon? Let but one drop of the blood of a free citizen be shed there by the federal army, and the countenance of every representative of a free State, in either House of Congress, will blanch, and his tongue will refuse to utter the vote necessary to sustain the army in the butchery of his fellow citizens.

"All parties in this country that have tolerated the extension of slavery, except one, have perished for that error already. That last one, the Democratic party, is hurrying on irretrievably toward the same fate. A pit, deeper and darker, is still opening to receive this Administration, because it sins more deeply than its predecessors."

It is a fact which cannot be disputed, says the New York Herald, with a justness altogether extraordinary in that erratic sheet, that American oratory and statesmanship, taking Congressional debates as exponents, have been gradually declining within the past seven or eight years. Our first class men—like the Websters, Clays, Randolphs, Burgeses, Calhouns, Bentons, and Haynes—are no longer found in Congress. They are in the law courts, or editing the journals, or writing the histories of the nation. In the present House there are some clever tacticians, hard working men in committee, and clever parliamentary dodgers—that is all. In the Senate we find a higher order of ability, and could name half a dozen men, not first rate, but high among the second rates. It is impossible to deny that the Herald's estimate is drawn with perfect exactness.—Louisville Journal.

The American press of Kentucky, in a unit in opposition to the Lecompton swindle, and the Maysville Eagle predicts that Marshall and Underwood, the American Representatives in Congress, will go against it on the final vote. It says they voted against the investigation, because they thought the frauds so evident as to require no further exposure.

During the late Baptist protracted meeting in Lagrange, Missouri, a young man of some seventeen years of age, named J. B. Fuller, who had gained considerable notoriety in that quarter as a theatrical performer, joined the before-mentioned church; and at once set about preparing himself for the ministry. He has been licensed to preach, and has entered upon his mission, and accounts say he is creating the greatest sensation wherever he goes, proving himself a most wonderful "boy."

With reference to his preaching, the Lagrange American says:

"At the first, second, and third sermons, the people thought that they were 'memorized,' and that it was impossible for a boy not seventeen years of age to originate such discourses in his own brain. Each subsequent sermon was an improvement on the last, and upon the delivery of the fourth, all accorded to the 'boy preacher' the highest meed of praise. The oldest ministers present said that they had never before listened to such powerfully-delivered truths, and to such thrilling eloquence. The congregation have been excited to the highest pitch—the church is crowded to overflowing—the greatest religious feeling has been awakened, and the interest and influence of the 'boy preacher' is rapidly spreading far around."

At a meeting of the Democracy held recently in Hartford, Connecticut, to elect delegates to the State Convention, Douglas Democrats were selected, by a vote of two to one. This is doing pretty well, when it is remembered that every Democratic newspaper in that State is for Lecompton, nearly every proprietor of these journals holding a Government office.

The Washington States says: "In seventy or more of the hundred counties of Illinois, meetings have been held by the Democracy, and resolutions unanimously adopted, disapproving, in the strongest terms, the policy of admitting Kansas, with the Lecompton Constitution. The Democracy of the remaining counties will hold meetings, and utter similar opinions. The Illinois Democracy are united on this question."

SENATOR DOUGLAS AROUSED.—The Washington correspondent of the New York Independent gives the following sketch of Douglas in the Senate:

"The power of his logic is terrible against his opponents; and there are few in the Senate or out of it who like to wake the lion up. He is impulsive, and on the least intimation of a brush from his opponents, throws himself into the ring—hurrying arguments at their heads thick as hail and with the force of trip-hammers. Upon seeing him in these encounters, with his opponents popping all around him, launching their questions as hunters would their spears at a lion at bay, I am often reminded of Fitz James with his buck to the rock and his trusty blade in his hand. When he has silenced and discomfited the host around him, he towers up in all the strength and bravery of the hero of the Alamo, who stood surrounded by his windrows of dead. He says he fought that doctrine of 'popular sovereignty' through against the entire North and West in good faith, and if for his fealty to the doctrine he is to be persecuted to a political death by his Democratic brethren, he gives them fair notice that he shall die hard."

PARSON BROWNLOW ON FILLIBUSTER WALKER AND PRESIDENT BUCHANAN.—Parson Brownlow, of the Knoxville (Tenn.) Whig, is not choice in the selection of words, but "speaks right out." In a recent article on Fillibuster Walker's capture, he says:

"When Walker was arrested, and held to bail in the sum of \$2,000 to appear at the Federal Court in New Orleans, Col. Slater, a rich old bachelor of the city, went his bail. Slater is the owner of the City Hotel, and the New Orleans Arcade, two houses he rents for about forty thousand dollars. He has forty thousand in the Nicaragua enterprise, has been the friend of Walker all the time. Ex Senator Soule also has large investments in Central America, and both of these men went before Buchanan, with Walker, and heard him promise Walker not to interrupt him in his expedition. Walker demands his trial, and both these men will be witnesses, and will swear this in the Federal Court. What a fix it will place the old hypocrite in! It will place him where he stood 24 years ago, in the affair of 'bar-gain, intrigue and corruption,' which he originated against Clay, backed up by old George Kremer! It will show him up to the world, as a hypocrite, a two faced and insincere man, and grey-haired old demagogue!"

It is a disgrace to any grocery keeper, to be detected in such duplicity. It is unworthy of a common black leg. But how much more disgraceful to the President of the United States! The testimony of these two men will be believed throughout the State of Louisiana, and upon their testimony, Walker will be acquitted by the Court, at the expense of Buchanan's character."

JOHN MITCHELL TURNED KNOW-NOTHING.—Our readers recollect an anecdote of John Mitchell, the Irish refugee, published a short time since in the Gazette in which he is represented as having said to a darkey he owns or hires—"Sambo, we are going to open the African slave trade, and bring regular jet black, ivory toothed, Guinea niggers into this country. What do you think of it?"

Sambo replied—"Well, massa, tink it would be a good ting, and keep all dese low Irish out."

John seems to have been seriously thinking of the darkey's answer, and has finally resolved to be guided by his superior wisdom, for he is now denouncing in the Southern Citizen—the paper he publishes in Tennessee—the naturalization laws, and fears that, unless they are repealed, "the United States is in danger of being made the alms-house refugium peccatorum and penal colony of the world."—Cin. Gazette.

For the Argus.

Plank Roads in Oregon.

The undersigned, a committee appointed at a meeting of the citizens of Silverton and vicinity, called to consider the best means of securing better facilities for travel and transportation to Oregon City and Portland, would call the attention of citizens of Portland, Oregon City, the farming community, and all others directly or indirectly interested, to the following facts:

From July to October, our roads are miserably bad, admitting the carriage of light loads only. From the latter period till June, they are, much of the time, impassable, or nearly so, with the lightest loads, and difficult without loads or on horseback.

During the latter period, the continued rains render all effort at improvement of the roads unavailing and worse than useless. In short, there are no means known to the committee of constructing a practicable road of earthy material. A few years' struggle with these difficulties has greatly discouraged the Oregon farmer. They have already paralyzed his vigorous arm, and stopped the plow in the midst of the furrow. Enterprise, in its primary channels, has nearly ceased to flow.

Wheat, the great staple of Oregon, has been abandoned as too cumbersome to pay transportation, even over the shortest distances. A simultaneous rush is made to fruit growing, to avail ourselves of an article of greater value in market, and of lighter transportation. But this relief, such as it is, must be of short duration. A brief period will awaken us to the fact that our splendid orchards will produce only to cover the ground beneath them—valueless for want of facilities to get them to market. Should our orchards produce fruitfully in 1860, we venture the prediction that not more than one half of our apples can be taken to the seaboard. Our reasons are: The quantity is rapidly increasing, and prices are rapidly going down. It is plain to see, then, that our best fruit will pay transportation only when our present roads are in their best condition. When, therefore, our present prices sink to, or below, one half their present rates, although the quantity raised may be doubled or quadrupled, the first dash of rain will wind up the business for the season. The fact should startle every man that the time is upon us, even now at our doors, that something must be done, and that, too, right speedily. Even now our energies are circumscribed to their present dimensions, and cannot be extended until we have other and better facilities for reaching market.

We ask, What shall we do? Shall we attempt a railroad, or construct a plank road? We call upon you to consider. Make your estimates, and compare them with your ability. Send out your figures to the public eye. Let the public be well informed of their wants in this matter, and of the means of obtaining the desired end. We lay before you our views, and they are ours only. However constructed, such road must extend through our valley. A section, or several detached sections, could be of no practical use, and could never be put in operation, if very expensive in their construction, because the limited business, if a railroad, would not defray current expenses.

We estimate the personal property of Oregon at about \$10,000,000, which, at \$80,000 per mile, would be sufficient to construct only 125 miles of road, which road, if within our reach, would be obnoxious to, at least, two objections: First, it would accommodate the country on one side of the river only, leaving, after exhausting all the means in Oregon, at least one third of the Willamette valley not benefited. Second, all experience in railroading in the United States goes to establish the fact that a single span of 125 miles in a thinly-settled country like ours, even when constructed at an expense of one third the cost of ours, can scarcely keep itself in operation; consequently there can be no inducement to invest money in the enterprise. Hence we may rationally suppose that capitalists abroad will be slow to send in their money when there is no probability of realizing a profit, and we believe Congress has got no valuable "alternate" sections of land in Oregon to give for such purpose. We are driven to the conclusion that a railroad, however desirable, is not within our reach at present.

Let us then descend from the loftier contemplation of that which is clearly beyond our power, to that which is practicable and entirely and easily within our reach—an humble plank road,—better adapted to our wants, and which can be carried to all parts of Oregon. A good plank road will cost not exceeding \$4000 per mile,—will answer all our present wants—will wake up the energies of the country—develop its resources—and carry us speedily on to a suitable condition for the introduction of railroads. Within two years a line of

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One square (12 lines or less) one insertion, \$3.00
" " " two insertions, 4.00
" " " three insertions, 5.00
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JOB PRINTING.

THE PROPRIETOR OF THE ARGUS IS HAPPY to inform the public that he has just received a large stock of JOB TYPE and other new printing material, and will be in the speedy receipt of additions suited to all the requirements of the locality. HANDBILLS, POSTERS, BLANKS, CARDS, CIRCULARS, PAMPHLET-WORK and other kinds, done to order, on short notice.

road can be built, reaching from Oregon City to Silverton vicinity, or Waldo Hills, which would immediately be extended through the Valley, and the enterprise of Portland would carry it to their own doors in self-defense. Upon a good road of this kind, an ordinary team could take to Oregon City or Portland from fifty to seventy-five bushels of wheat, any day in the year. Fixing the rates of toll five hundred per cent. above those usual in the States, they would then fall infinitely short of the saving in tavern bills on our present roads, to say nothing of time saved, broken axles, crippled horses, and smashed wagons. Oregon City would soon be converted from its wintry desolation—would soon show signs of returning life and animation. The stillness of the charnel-house would give place to the bustle and din of business. Long viages would be exchanged for courtesances flushed with animation and radiant with hope. Each day would the busy farmer grace the streets with rattling loads of wheat, pork, apples or cider. Nor would the country matron or her comely daughters, with their well-filled tubs of butter, eggs, pearly lard, or dainty fruits, be strangers in the busy scene. Portland would have her full share of benefits from such an enterprise. In short, we would say, all would be reciprocally benefited. In town, in city, in the country, we should be able to trace on every countenance the well-defined expression "go ahead," where we now see but too visibly the unwelcome "goner!"

SAM'L ALLEN,
P. CRANDALL,
W. GLOVER,
W. KING, } Com.

A gentleman of Cincinnati (says, the Gazette), just returned from a visit to Washington, and who possessed unusual facilities for obtaining a glimpse of things behind the curtain, as well as having an intimate knowledge of Buchanan personally, says the moment he laid eyes upon him he mentally pronounced him "a dead man." With a temperament ill adapted to resist the harassing and consuming cares which beset him on every hand, his form and features give alarming and unmistakable evidence of the ravaging effects of the fierce conflicting elements which are now raging around him.

A DISUNION THREAT.—The Washington Star says:

"Few men are better informed than ourselves upon the state of feeling among the members (of Congress), and we are satisfied that were Minnesota, with all her disregard of the enabling act passed in her case, to be admitted into the Union, and Kansas, on account of the constitution with which she applies, be refused admission, no ten Southern Representatives would remain a day longer in either Hall of Congress. This day for further compromises on the slavery question is passed."

Apres of this, the Baltimore American remarks that Bacon, in one of his essays, says:

"Because half a dozen grasshoppers under a fern make the field ring with their importunate chink, whilst thousands of great cattle repose beneath the shade of the oak, chew the cud, and are silent, pray do not imagine that those who make the noise are the only inhabitants of the field; that of course they are many in numbers; or that, after all, they are other than the little, shriveled, meagre, hopping, though loud and troublesome, insects of the hour."

AN ENQUIRY AT THE NORTH.—An effort is making to unite the British American Colonies in one grand confederacy, contemplating ultimately an independent government. A conference with the Imperial Government has been had on the subject, and the reply was that Her Majesty would be ruled entirely by the wishes of the Colonies themselves on this subject, and in pursuance of this intimation, Nova Scotia has opened negotiations with the other Provinces. The territory embraced in this contemplated confederacy is nearly three millions of square miles, and the population nearly three millions. This is good foundation for another empire.

A RELIGIOUS PRONOUNCEMENT.—Bishop Bayley, the Catholic Bishop of New Jersey, has issued a manifesto, to be read in all the churches, in which he calls attention to drunkards and dealers in liquor. Leaving to the pastors the particular means to be used, he suggests that each should keep a list of the drunkards and liquor-dealers in his church. He says:

"I am determined to make use of the most severe measures against all who are addicted to this scandalous and destructive vice; and if they continue in the practice of it, they must do it as outcasts from the Catholic church, who have no right to the name of Catholic while they live, nor to Christian burial when they die."

Wheat, although considered by some as a native of Sicily, originally came from the central table land of Thibet, where it yet exists as a grass, with small, mealy seeds. Rice was first brought from South Africa, whence it was taken to India, and thence to Europe and America.