

DEMOCRATIC INCONSISTENCY.

Of the many inconsistencies of the democratic party none is more striking than that of its present opposition to the expansion resulting from our war with Spain.

"I had rather have war with Spain as not if we are to go to war against England. Our Southern defenses can take care of the Floridas; volunteers from the Mexican army will flock to our standard and rich tabularium will be offered our privateers in the plunder of their commerce and coasts; probably Cuba would add itself to our confederation."

Two years later Jefferson wrote President Madison regarding the probability that Napoleon "would consent to our receiving Cuba into our union to prevent our aid to Mexico and the other provinces."

"We should then only have to include the North in our confederacy, which would be, of course, in the first war and we should have such an empire for liberty as she has never surveyed since the creation, and I am persuaded no constitution was ever before so well calculated as ours for extensive empire and self-government."

Sixteen years later we find Jefferson urging the advisability of the acquisition of Cuba on President Monroe with evident effect, for Monroe is on record as saying:

"We ought, if possible, to incorporate it (Cuba) into our union, availing ourselves of the most favorable moment for it, hoping also that one would arise when it might be done without a rupture with Spain or any other power."

As soon as the war with Spain had ended, President Polk, anxious to expand still farther, undertook to annex the island, making a proposal for its purchase for \$100,000,000. The offer was refused because Spain did not wish to part with it.

The agitation for its annexation waxed hotter under Pierce, who declared in his inaugural that:

"Our position and attitude might render the acquisition of certain possessions not within our jurisdiction, eminently important for our protection."

Professor Callaghan says that "In the month following Pierce's election, Buchanan told him that he should make the purchase of Cuba the chief aim of his administration and thus render his name as illustrious as that of Jefferson, who had procured Louisiana for the union."

With this object in view, apparently, Buchanan was sent as minister to London, Mason to France and Soule to Spain. Confidential instructions were sent to Soule to offer Spain \$100,000,000 for the island, but should Spain demand more that the president would not have negotiations fall, even if \$30,000,000 more were required. Soule's offer was

again rejected and Pierce ordered his three ministers to hold a conference and announce the sentiments which they held on the subject. The conference was duly held at Ostend and the celebrated "Ostend manifesto" was the result. They said:

"Our past history forbids that we should acquire the island of Cuba without the consent of Spain unless justified by the great law of self-preservation. After we shall have offered Spain a price for Cuba far beyond its present value and this shall have been refused, it will then be time to consider the question: Does Cuba, in the possession of Spain, seriously injure our internal peace and the existence of our cherished union? Should this question be answered in the affirmative, then by every law human and divine we shall be justified in wresting it from Spain if we possess the power."

President Buchanan, who followed Pierce, continued the efforts openly and secretly to annex the island and urged the matter upon congress in at least one message during each year of his administration. That these messages met with a hearty response, especially in the democracy of the South, may be inferred from the speech of a Mississippi congressman, who said:

"I propose that we shall take it (Cuba) now—take it in its perfection, redolent with the rich colors of its budding flowers and tropical fruits and productions."

With all these efforts the attempt to annex the island failed and the democratic convention, which met in Charleston to nominate a successor to Buchanan,

"Resolved that the democratic party are in favor of the island of Cuba upon such terms as shall be honorable to ourselves and just to Spain."

The convention failed to nominate but the two democratic conventions held subsequently at Baltimore and Richmond, which made separate nominations for the presidency, each adopted the resolution which expressed the sentiment of the democratic party from Jefferson to the abolition of slavery when the chief incentive of democratic expansion was removed forever. And the one significant fact in all this record is that these vigorous sires of a degenerate and emasculate progeny never for a single moment thought of asking the consent of the inhabitants of any territory they sought to acquire or dreamed that the declaration of independence had any application in the premises.

The democrats in congress voted against a proposed anti-trust amendment to the constitution on the ground that it would give congress too much power. This tender solicitude for monopolies is characteristic of the party that organized the tammany ice trust of New York and consolidated the street railways of St. Louis.

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Timber Land, Act June 3, 1878. THE DALLES OFFICE, APR. 12, 1900. Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the States of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory."

William K. Ketchum, of the Dalles, County of Wasco, State of Oregon, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 159, for the purchase of the W3, N34, and N35 3/4 of section No. 33, in T. 12 N. E. No. 11 E. W. 4 E., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the Register and Receiver of this office at The Dalles, Oregon, on

Saturday, the 23d day of June, 1900. He names as witnesses: J. B. Golt, D. P. Ketchum, Joseph Hanna and William Spencer, all of the Dalles, Oregon. Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 23rd day of June, 1900. JAY P. LUCAS, Register. apr11-10-1

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