

Weston



Leader



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HANCOCK AND ENGLISH'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.
NEW YORK, July 30.—The following is Gen. Hancock's letter of acceptance:
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, N. Y. CITY,
July 29, 1880

GENTLEMEN—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 13, 1880, apprising me formally of my nomination to the office of president of the United States, by the national democratic convention, lately assembled at Cincinnati. I accept the nomination with grateful appreciation of the confidence reposed in me. The principles enunciated by the convention are those I have cherished in the past and shall endeavor to maintain in the future.

The 13th and 14th amendments to the constitution of the United States, embodying the result of the war for the Union, are inviolable. If called to the presidency, I should deem it my duty to resist with all my power any attempt to impair or evade the full force and effect of the constitution which in every article, section and amendment, is the supreme law of the land. The constitution forms the basis of the government of the United States. The power granted by it to the legislative, executive and judicial departments, define and limit the authority of the general government, power not delegated to us by the constitution, not prohibited by it to the states, and not existing in its own right, without trenching upon the lawful jurisdiction of the other constitute the union,—this comprising a general government with general powers and that of governments with state powers for purposes local to state, is a polity, the foundations of which were laid in profoundest wisdom. This is the union our fathers made and which has been so respected abroad and so benefited at home. Tried by blood and fire, it stands to-day a model form of a free and popular government; a political system which, rightly administered, has been and will continue to be, the admiration of the world. May we not say, nearly in the words of Washington: "The union of government which constitutes one people is justly dear to us, it is the main pillar in the edifice of our real independence." The support of our peace, safety and prosperity and of that liberty we so highly prize and intend at every hazard to preserve; but no form of government however carefully devised; no principles, however sound, will protect the rights of the people unless the administration is faithful and efficient.

It is a vital principle in our system that neither fraud nor force must be allowed to subvert the rights of the people. When fraud, violence or incompetence controls, the noblest institutions and wisest laws are useless. The ballot is not a fit instrument for collecting the votes of freemen. It is only by full vote, free ballot and fair count that people can rule. In fact, it is required by the theory of our government. Take this foundation away, and the whole structure falls.

Public office is a trust, not a bounty, bestowed upon the holder. No incompetent or dishonest person should ever be trusted with it or appointed. They should promptly be ejected.

Our national interests, varied and progressive, demand our constant and united efforts. A sedulous and scrupulous care of public credit, together with wise and economical management of our government expenditure, should be maintained in order that labor may be lightly burdened and that all persons may be protected in their rights to the fruits of their own industry.

The time has come to enjoy the practical benefits of reconciliation as one people. We have common interests, let us encourage harmony and generous rivalry among our own industries, which will revive our languishing merchant marine, extend our commerce with foreign nations, assist our merchants, manufacturers and producers to develop our vast national resources and increase the prosperity and happiness of our people.

If elected I shall, with divine favor, labor with what ability I possess to discharge my duties with fidelity according to my convictions, and shall take care to protect and defend the union and to see that the laws be faithfully and equally executed in all parts of the country alike. I will assume the responsibility fully sensible of the fact that to administer rightly the functions of government is to discharge the most sacred duty that can devolve upon an American citizen. I am very respectfully yours,
W. S. HANCOCK.

To Hon. John W. Stevenson, president of the convention; Hon. John P. Stockton, chairman, and others of the committee of the national democratic convention.

ENGLISH'S LETTER.
INDIANAPOLIS, July 30.—The following is Hon. Wm. H. English's letter of acceptance:
INDIANAPOLIS, July 30, 1880.

Hon. John W. Stevenson, President of the Convention, Hon. John P. Stockton, Chairman, and other members of the Committee of Notification—GENTLEMEN:
I have now the honor to reply to your letter of the 13th instant, informing me that I was unanimously nominated for the office of Vice-President of the United States by the Convention which assembled at Cincinnati. As foreshadowed in the verbal remarks made by me at the time of the delivery of your letter, I have now to say that I accept the high trust with a realizing sense of its responsibility, and am profoundly grateful for the honor conferred. I accept the nomination upon the platform of principles adopted by the convention, which I cordially approve, and I accept it quite as much because of my faith in the wisdom and patriotism of the great statesman and soldier nominated on the same ticket for President of the United States. His eminent services for his country, his fidelity to the constitution, the union and the laws; his clear perception of the correct principles of government as taught by Jefferson; his scrupulous care to keep the military in strict subordination to the civil authorities; his high regard for civil liberties, personal right and rights of property; his acknowledged ability in civil as well as military affairs, and his pure and blameless life; all point to him as a man worthy of the confidence of the people; not only a brave soldier, a great commander, a wise statesman and a pure patriot, but a prudent, painstaking, practical man of unquestioned honesty; trusted often with important public duties; faithful to ever trust and in the full meridian of a ripe and vigorous manhood, he is, in my judgment, fitted for the highest position on earth, the Presidency of the United States. Not only is he the right man for place, but the time has come when the best interests of the country require that the party which has monopolized the executive department of the general government for the last 20 years, be retired. The continuance of that party in power for four years longer would not be beneficial to the republic, or in accordance with the spirit of our republican institutions. The laws of entail have not been favored in our system of government. The perpetuation of property or place in one family or set of men has never been encouraged in this country, and the great and good men who founded our republican government and traditions wisely limited the tenure of office, and in many ways showed their disapproval of long leases of power. Twenty years of continuous power is long enough, and has already led to irregularities and corruptions which are not likely to be properly exposed under the same party that perpetrated them. Besides, it should not be forgotten that the last four years of power held by that party were procured by disreputable means, and held in defiance to the wishes of a majority of the people. It was a grievous wrong to every voter, and to our system of self-government, which should never be forgotten nor forgiven. Many of the men now in office were put there because of their corrupt partisan services in thus defeating the fairly and legally expressed will of the majority, and the hypocrisy of the professions of that party in civil service reform was shown by placing such men in office and turning the whole brood of federal office-holders loose to influence the elections. The money of the people, taken out of the public treasury by these men for services often poorly performed or not performed at all, is being used in vast sums with the knowledge and presumed sanction of the administration to control the elections, and even members of the cabinet are strolling about the country making partisan speeches instead of being in their departments at Washington, discharging the public duties for which they are paid by the people; but with all their cleverness and ability, a discriminating public will no doubt read by the lines of their speeches that their paramount hope and aim is keep themselves or satellites four years longer in office. The perpetuating power of the chronic federal office-holders four years longer will not benefit the millions of men and women who do not hold office, but who earn daily bread by honest industry will no doubt fully understand as they will, also that it is because of their own industry and economy and good and bountiful harvests that the country is comparatively prosperous, and not because of anything done by these federal office-holders. The country is comparatively prosperous not because of them, but in spite of them. This content is in fact between people endeavoring to regain political power which belongs to them, and to restore the pure, simple and economical constitutional government of the fathers on one side, and one hundred thousand federal office-holders and their backers hampered with place and power and determined to remain at all hazards, on the other. Hence the constant assumption of new and dangerous powers by Gen. Grant under the rule of the Republican party, the effort to build up what they call "strong government," interference with home rule and with the administration of justice in the courts in several States.

The interference with the election through the medium of paid partisan federal office-holders interested in keeping their party in power, and caring more for that than for the fairness in elections. In fact the constant encroachments which have been made by that party upon clearly reserved rights of the people and the States will, if not checked, subvert the liberties of the people

of the government of limited powers created by the fathers and end in a great, consolidated, concentrated government, strong indeed, for evil and the overthrow of republican institutions. The wise men who framed our constitution knew the evil of strong government, and the long continuance of political power in the same hands. They knew there was a tendency in this direction in all governments and the consequent danger to republican institutions from that cause, and took pains to guard against it. The machinery of a strong centralized general government can be used to perpetuate some set of men in power from term to term until it ceases to be a republic or is such only in name, and the tendency of the party now in power in that direction as shown in various ways, besides the willingness recently manifested by a large number of that party to elect a President an unlimited number of times is quite apparent, and must satisfy the thinking people that the time has come when it will be safest and best for that party to be retired. But to resisting the encroachments of the general government upon the reserved rights of the people and the States, I wish to be distinctly understood as favoring the proper exercise of the general government of the powers rightfully belonging to it under the constitution.

Encroachments upon the constitutional rights of the general government or interference with the proper exercise of its powers, must be carefully avoided. The union of the States under the constitution must be maintained, and it is known that this has always been the position of both candidates on the Democratic Presidential ticket. It is acquired everywhere now and finally, and favored as one of the results of the war. It is beyond all question that the legitimate results of the war for the union will not be overthrown should the Democratic ticket be elected. In that event, the proper protection will be given in every legitimate way to every citizen, native or adopted, in every section of the republic, in the enjoyment of all rights guaranteed by the constitution and its amendments.

A sound currency of honest money of a value and purchasing power corresponding substantially with that recognized by the commercial world, and consisting of gold and silver and paper, convertible into coin, will be maintained. The labor and manufacturing, the commercial and business interests of the country will be favored and encouraged in every legitimate way. The tolling of our own people will be protected from the destructive competition of Chinese, and to that end their immigration to our shores will be properly restricted.

Public credit will be scrupulously maintained and strengthened by rigid economy in public expenditures, and the liberties of the people will be protected from the destructive administered strictly in the interest of all people and not of corporations and privileged classes.

I do not doubt the discriminating justice of the people and their capacity for intelligent self-government, and therefore do not doubt the success of the democratic ticket. Its success would bury beyond resurrection sectional jealousies and hatred, which have so long been the chief stock in trade of pestiferous demagogues, and in no other way can this be so effectually accomplished. It would restore harmony and good feeling between all sections and make us in fact, as well as in name, one people. The only rivalry then would be in the race for development of material prosperity, the elevation of labor, the enlargement of human rights, the promotion of education, morality, religion, liberty, order and all that would tend to make us the foremost nation of the earth in the grand march of human progress. I am, with respect, very truly yours,
WILLIAM H. ENGLISH.

THE TWO PLATFORMS.
[From the N. Y. Herald.]

Whatever may be said against the Democratic platform, it cannot be denied that it is an honest and business-like document, and in this respect it is very unlike the blustering and bragging Republican platform. There are, undoubtedly, a great many voters to whom the Democratic propositions will be unwelcome; voters who do not like free ships; voters who are opposed to a tariff for revenue; voters who want more subsidies; and who will, therefore, dislike the Democratic declaration that taxes shall be spent only for public and not for private objects. But it is the great merit of the Democratic platform that it says something; that it proposes reforms to which those who have been benefited by old abuses will of course object, but which will relieve and benefit the people; that it courageously strikes at monopolists, subsidy mongers and jobbers. Naturally monopolists, subsidy mongers and jobbers do not like it; but then it was hardly to be expected that they would. These classes, who wish to live on the tax-payers as they have long done, prefer the Republican platform, and they are right. That platform has nothing in it distasteful to them. Where the Republican leaders did not think it prudent to encourage monopoly, they cautiously said nothing, and their platform leaves the door open to all the abuses, the extravagance and the reckless waste of taxes which characterized Republican legislation before the people and put Democrats in control of the House of Representatives.

It has often been said that the platform means nothing; but, in the present instance, it happens that the national platform's reputation is accurately the spirit of the two parties. The Republican platform looks backward, the Democratic platform looks ahead. The Republican platform deals in and appeals to old and mischievous sectional issues; the Democratic platform, though not perfect, is yet thoroughly national and not sectional in its spirit. The Republican platform favors or encourages monopolies; the Democratic platform favors the taxpayers—the people.

We have spoken of the Democratic platform as an honest and business-like document, and one proof of that is that, though much shorter than that of the Republicans, it contains all that is good and pertinent, and a great deal more besides. The Republicans in a cumbersome paragraph speak for free education, and in another, equally cumbersome and verbose, for separation of Church and State. The Democrats cover the same ground in one energetic and clear sentence, demanding "separation of Church and State for the good of each; and common schools fostered and protected." The Republicans talk vaguely of protecting the liberties of all; the Democrats declare boldly that "the right of a free ballot is the right preservative of all rights, and must and shall be maintained in every part of the United States." We have looked for some other points for comparison, but the Republican platform does not afford them. It is weak, shallow, wordy, and purposely vague, and would make the fathers of the party blush with anger if they could read it in their graves; for those men—the Sumners, Andrews, Giddings, Lovejoys—were not accustomed to the mincing and cautious verbosity of their successors.

The Republicans declare that "commerce should be steadily encouraged," which may mean anything or nothing; the Democrats declare manfully for "free ships and a living chance for American commerce on the seas and on the land," which means something definite. The Republicans say timidly that "the credit acquired should never be impaired;" the Democrats declare for "honest money and the strict maintenance of the public faith, State and national," which covers the whole ground without limitation or timidity. The Republicans say in one section that "the reviving industries should be further promoted," and in another, lower down, that "the duties levied for the purpose of revenue should so discriminate as to favor American labor," which may mean anything, and was evidently written in the hope that it might catch in one net the Protectionists of Pennsylvania, and the free trade farmers of Illinois, and the Northwest generally. It holds out a shadowy promise to both. The Democrats declare for "a tariff for revenue only; public money and public credit for public purposes solely," and the party "pledges itself to protect the workman alike against the cornermen and the combine." There is the clear ring of honest purpose in these words, which may alarm monopolists, but will reassure legitimate enterprise and honest labor everywhere. Even on the wretched Chinese question, where both platforms are, in our opinion, bad and un-American, the Republicans halt and shuffle, while the Democrats are outspoken. Mr. Facing-both-ways, who was evidently the author of the Republican platform, tells John Chinaman that he must go—but tells him with a snivel; he puts his arm lovingly around John before he stabs him; the Democrat bluntly and definitely, tells him he must not come here "except for travel, education or foreign commerce," which, by the way, are the only purposes for which the Chinese allow Americans to enter China.

Finally, it must be admitted that there is a little brag also in the Democratic platform, but it is on a point where the party has a right to boast of itself. It "has reduced the public expenditures forty millions a year," say the Democrats, and they might have added that it did this against the ansers and open and covert opposition of the Republicans in Congress. This Democratic boast is well founded. They had the courage to be unashamed. From the day they regained control of the House of Representatives they have fought for rigid economy, sometimes with poor judgment, but courageously and regardless of the outcries and resistance of the Republicans. The lobby has disappeared from Washington since the Democrats "came in;" that lobby which was once so powerful that in the last House which was under Republican rule, the Speaker was publicly presented with a piece of silver as a testimonial from the "king of the lobby."

It was said by one of the shrewdest men in the Democratic party some years ago, "I don't believe we Democrats will ever win until we dare to be Democrats." Well, the platform this year is a genuinely Democratic platform; the party at last seems to have turned Democratic. It has regained its old-time boldness and directness; it dares one more to say what it means. Who knows! perhaps it will win. It looks a little that way just now.