

Valley Spirit.

CHAMBERSBURG, FEB 12, 1862.

THE NATIONAL PLATFORM!

PURPOSES OF THE WAR!

Congress, by a vote nearly unanimous, passed the following resolution, expressing the voice of the nation and is the true standard of loyalty:

"That the present deplorable civil war has been forced upon the country by the disunionists of the Southern States, now in arms against the Constitutional Government, and as arms around the Capital; that in this National emergency, Congress, banishing all fear of rebellion or treason, will call out only such as the whole country; that this war is not waged on their part in any spirit of oppression, or for any purpose of conquest or subjugation or purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the right or established institutions of those States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution, and to preserve the Union with all the dignity, equality, and rights of the several States unimpaired; and that as soon as these objects are accomplished the war ought to cease."

Let us be Consistent.

The worship of the Goddess of Reason has often been performed by her enemies the most unreasonable and ridiculous. Under the banner of liberty tyranny has achieved many a triumph. The warrior with glory at his guide has led his followers into battle-scarred gloom in their execution, as inglorious in their results. The patriot under the plea of loyalty has committed treason again his country of the blackest dye. The politician while professing to serve his country has robbed its treasury of its last dollar. The name under which crime is now-a-days committed is everything. These are some of the inconsistencies we meet with on every hand, but so perverted has the moral sense of our people become, that they "pass over us like a summer cloud without exciting our special wonder."

It is a horrid but true saying—"put a beggar on horse-back and he will ride to the devil." This need not excite surprise; but that an American citizen who has reason to glory in the recorded annals of his country should, now that his country is bleeding at every pore, ignobly lower his mind to schemes of profancy and plunder, is a solemness we would hardly expect in a civilised man. The first ball ever given in the White House came on of Thursday evening last. This is an inconsistency and an impropriety we would hardly have expected in "Hon. Old Abe, the rail-splitter." It must, indeed, have been a depraved taste that could have projected such a revel at such a time. Every virtuous citizen must feel that the day is not far remote when he will be compelled to rally around the altar of his liberties and drive away the reckless crew who have so shamefully defaced and disgraced it.

The late Administration was overthrown by the cry of "extravagance and corruption." It was accused of spending some eight millions of dollars a year and the people were horrified! The present Administration is squandering at the rate of ten hundred millions a year and the people are grieved! The Hon. THADDEUS STRATFORD, in his great speech delivered at the Cooper Institute, New York, previous to the election of Mr. LINCOLN said, "I think we are, from the character of the next President, to tell something that will happen—

"*First. He will drive the plunders from their prey.*" We need only take from the running debates in Congress a few extracts to show how consistent these honest Republicans are in the extensive promises of reform they throw out so profusely previous to an election. This party has been in power a little less than a year, and if all the populations and corruptions, that have taken place in the Government since its establishment, were summed up, they would not amount to as much as have been strewed into this one short year. We make a couple of extracts from the proceedings in the Senate, but a few days ago, to show we might in what we say / that we have been forced to take the records of Republicans, for we are accused of being the friends of the Administration, which is very freely condemned to meanness and vice.

Mr. WARREN said the people's right have recovered, but the Government had none. The Government was in debt \$60,000,000 to day, and without a dollar to pay it. We are here today to complete the "regiment" he has developed himself, and can stand up like any other old lady in this land and exclaim "didn't I tell you?"

The Government was reduced to the condition of issuing paper money and making it a legal tender. Why, the view the world has on us, is that we are a nation of rebels, traitors, but he would say plodderers in the cause of the war for the life of the country.

Mr. HALE believed the liberties of the country were in greater danger to-day from frauds and predilections than from the Rebels.

He would, oh, Christ! who, with small cords drove out the many changes from the Temple of Jerusalem, is there no age of liberator for these who turn the temple of our liberties into a den of thieves?

HISTORY will not trace upon its record—partisan bigotry will not ever dare to lay—the guilty responsibility for all this disgrace, and disasters, brought upon the country, to the Democracy. When the Republican party came into power the country was prosperous and at peace. Now one half is in the full blaze of rebellion, while the other half is in a fair way to become bankrupted in putting it down, and the party that has the management of the affairs of the country in its hands is stigmatized by its own friends a gang of thieves.—For consistency sake the Republicans had better, hereafter, extract the beam from their own eyes before they profess to see the mote in the eyes of the Democracy.

We have still another sample of the inconsistency of the party in power, at the head of the Government. It shows a perfectly willing disposition to make every concession, no matter how humiliating, that England may demand, to prevent a war with that country, but will not allow one word of compromise to stop the horrid war that is deluging our own land with fraternal blood. If the Republicans had been half as willing to "compromise" with the South as they have been to compromise with England, to avoid a fight, there would be no civil war in the country. How much more would have contributed to the happiness, prosperity and glory of our country to have adopted the "Crittenden Compromise," and satisfied our countrymen, than to degrade ourselves in the estimation of the world by exhibiting such a readiness to reconcile our deadly enemy England.

We might go on showing up the inconsistency of the Republican party ad infinitum, but what we have already said must suffice every rational mind that if consistency is a jewel the Republican party does not possess it.

What Allis Him?

The semi-weekly man appears to have been wakened up from a Rip Van Winkle sleep by a remark of Senator McDougal, the other day, and to have had his drowsy mind illuminated for the first time, with the intelligence that a war of opinion, at least, has been going on in the country since 1832!" This so astounds the semi-weekly man that he pronounces it an "extraordinary confession" and hastens to spread it before his scanty readers as something very new and wonderful! The tad-pole state of blissful ignorance from which he has emerged on this "great question" is evidently a source of great enjoyment to him, for he spreads himself on it with all the self-important airs of one who has made a grand discovery—Eureka! As he is a parent of a patent right he should by all means lose no time in "filling his cave" to prevent any one from depriving him of the glory he must reap by his highly important and entirely original discovery!

This, however, is not the only gleaming of light and knowledge that McDougal has let into the benighted mind of the semi-weekly man. He is indebted to him for the astounding information that "heard had been a regular plan to bring about Secession, which was well known to Democrats and to him, (Mr. McDougal,) and as a DEMOCRAT the Senator from Indiana must have known the fact!" Now the semi-weekly man goes off into extasies over this as if it was something never heard tell of before. His dash does not consist in the least that he has discovered a mass of imminent treachery. In his voracity he applies to the flattering creation as his good old McDougal-like style, for the first time, "We are out of the bag," to designate the whole Democratic party, and apparently think that he has

walked so long, or gone so far, to obtain this wonderful news! McDougal, however, is very docile after the "regiment" he has developed himself, and can stand up like any other old lady in this land and exclaim "didn't I tell you?"

McDougal is, doubtless, a very shrewd politician, but we think we can convince even the semi-weekly man, that our own fellow townsmen Col. A. K. McClellan are a good deal sharper, and ten times more of a Prophet, that McDougal will die lay stain to. The Government was reduced to the condition of issuing paper money and making it a legal tender. Why, the view the world has on us, is that we are a nation of rebels, traitors, but he would say plodderers in the cause of the war for the life of the country.

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