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"PRINCIPLES AND MEASURES, AND MEN BY THEIR PRINCIPLES."

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AND

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Dec. 30, 1839.

ADDRESS

OF THE DEMOCRATIC YOUNG MENS' CONVENTION, TO THE DEMOCRACY OF BALTIMORE.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—The period is rapidly approaching, when you will be called upon in the exercise of the highest prerogative of freemen, to pass your judgment upon men and measures connected with the government of your country. And whilst it is a proud privilege, it is no less a sacred duty, in view of the importance of the impending crisis, for each and all of us, to be prepared to sustain the cause which we believe in our consciences best calculated to secure the permanency of free institutions, and to promote the safety honor, and welfare of our beloved country.—So much will be demanded on all sides, as the duty of every man to whichever of the great political parties he may be attached—neutrality cannot be preserved, without subjecting our motives to honest suspicion and deserved distrust.

As might be expected, from the source whence this address emanates, it will be our object to enforce the claims of the present Administration upon the undivided support, and zealous co-operation of the Democracy of this city—this, our beloved Baltimore. In making this appeal, we cannot be unmindful that she has furnished many proud testimonials of the attachment of her sons to the cause of popular rights; and that her annals are emblazoned by many and signal Democratic triumphs. Well may it be considered a mark of high ambition to sustain her reputation unsullied in our hands; and may it never be said with truth of us, that this generation have shown themselves unworthy the pride of former years. Enlisted in a just cause, and appealing with confidence to the strong common sense of the people, which is the cardinal point in the Democratic faith, let us buckle on our armour for the conflict, and open the campaign with renewed and redoubled vigor. It is our pride to belong to a party which has been known by its characteristic features in all free lands, but enjoying supremacy alone in this. Which contending fearlessly against the favored few, seeks as its chief aim, the elevation of the many to their true position—boldly proclaiming eternal hostility to tyranny in whatever disguise it may assume, it makes uncompromising war upon the unjust claims of prerogative and privilege—and adopting as its motto, "the greatest good of the greatest number," advocates with untiring zeal, the cause of the oppressed and down-trodden.

A party thus identified with the feelings, the hopes and the true interests of the vast majority, can never fail to enlist the sympathies and zealous support of all who rightly and justly appreciate the inestimable blessings of freedom, accompanied with an earnest prayer to GOD for its promotion and success Never did the light of Heaven shine on a nobler cause.

It has been said in derogation of the Democratic party, that it owes its success to the more fortunate selection of a name, and carried away and strangely deluded by such a supposition, which in itself is a libel upon the intelligence of a free people, we find our opponents spending much time, and displaying great ingenuity in the vocabulary of names. Sad experience, on their part, will confirm the lesson already sufficiently taught, we should think, if they had not turned a deaf ear to her admonitions and hardened their hearts to her precepts, that something more is required than a *name* to enlist the sympathies of a nation of freemen. The word Democracy has become a terror to the enemies of popular rights, and for reasons little understood, or else they would be better appreciated by our opponents. Guided by the language of the "god-like," one might hope that they would at least discover that sometimes "words *are* things." It is the sign and symbol of the *Democratic Principle;* it is the exponent of those noble sentiments, which have been rendered sacred by the blood of Martyrs, and upon the rise or fall of that principle, depends the happiness of millions. It is a name which was given nearly half a century ago, in reproach to those old republican fathers, whose principles we cherish, and by the same party, which, under a new title, have in these latter times, stood sponsors in baptism when we received in mockery and derision, the name of Agrarian; and who, supposing they would annihilate us by the appellation, styled us Loco Focos. In politics, however, as well as in religion, a safer standard might, and doubtless is taken, "by their fruits ye shall know them." The name of "Whig" was once dear to every American bosom, and should have remained sacred to the end of time, as connected with our glorious Revolution; but prostrated as it has been to the vile uses of party, it is now but a feeble watch cry. *We* worship the substance and not the sound, and if our name, which seems as hateful to our foes as Montague to a Capulet, was not rendered holy by its association with the past, mingling with all our recollections of the great and good, most willingly would we blot it out forever.

Fellow Citizens, the Presidential election of 1840, will propably be carried on with more than wonted zeal by our adversaries, if we may judge by the note of preparation.—Rendered desperate by continued defeat, they are marshalling their forces for another struggle. Every devise which cunning can suggest, every means of success however unworthy, are resorted to with more than characteristic recklessness. To the timid, they conjure up before their heated imaginations "all the gorgons and chimeras dire," that ever frightened a disordered intellect. To the sordid, those whose "only care is to increase their store," the delusive promise of unmeasured abundance is *lavishly* extended. To the enemies of popular rights, the flattering unction is applied, that their success will be the beginning of a better system—the dawn of a new era.

You are aware, that the congregated wisdom of the whig party, which met recently in Convention at Harrisburg, "so famed for its skill in nicely discerning," have determined to try the experiment once more, of overthrowing the great Democratic party of the country; and the instrument by which a "consumation so devoutly wished" by them is to be effected, is no less a personage than William Henry Harrison. And, although we are tempted by such a subject to indulge in a little mirth, yet a decent respect for any portion of our fellow citizens entertaining honest differences of opinion, constrains us to forbear; and we must, with what gravity we may, treat the matter by way of argument, And first, and chiefly, what principles are to be the guide of his administration, should he attain the point proposed? We cannot disguise our astonishment, that upon the threshhold of an inquiry of such importance and moment, that a people proverbially watchful, and duly jealous of their rights, are to be met by a self constituted committee of safety, and rebuked, as was the Oswego association, for venturing to put a plain question, in the answer to which they felt anxiously and deeply. But no sooner had the name of Harrison been announced than he was placed under guardianship, where none but the imbecile could submit to remain; every channel of communication cut off; an embargo laid upon all intercouse; forbid to speak, lest, perchance, he might not fashion his speech to the taste of this established *Regency*. Is this a position for a statesman to occupy before the eyes of a great nation? Verily it is a most humiliating spectacle Let us hear the committee—let freemen hear! They say, "the policy"—mark that word—"is that the General make no further declaration of his principles for the public eye, whilst occupying his present position" It is, however, another proof of the discernment of a convention to select a *tool* to do their bidding—a convention which dared not publish any expositions of their creed, conscious as they were, that they were held together by no other bond, than implacable hatred to the present administration, and the unquenchable thirst after office. We have often heard described, and painted too in glowing colors, the dangerous character of *non-committalism* when in all honestly as we were bound to believe they decried the alleged dubious policy of the present worthy incumbent of the Presidential chair. What say they now? Principles are eternal and the evidence is before you. With a view to alarm the apprehensions of the people, the charge was reiterated again and again, until an opportunity was afforded Mr. Van Buren, and readily embraced, to put to everlasting rest, this theme so fruitful of calumny and abuse; so that we may now find the most frank and manly avowal of his sentiments upon every exciting question of the day, in language so plain, that none can fail to admit the clearness and distinctness with which he has "defined his position." Will the Whigs refuse to do equal and impartial justice, by contrasting Harrison's present attitude; will they look upon him as he is, degraded low enough to be "the pity of his friends and the scorn of his enemies," and then listen to the manly sentiment of President Van Buren, contained in the subjoined extract from a letter when similarly interrogated?

"The duty of a candidate for the suffrages of the people to answer fully all inquirers made by an elector undetermined as to his course, and seeking in good faith information as to the opinions of a candidate, touching the appropriate duties of the office to be filled, is one which I cheerfully acknowledge, and will, upon all proper occasions, faithfully discharge."

We do not propose to scrutinize here the military renown of Gen'l. Harrison, time would not permit us to strip him of his borrowed plumes. It is sufficient for us to know that he left the service of his country at the darkest hour, when that country was actually invaded by a foreign foe, and sought quiet at home, induced to this course, even by his own admission, in resentment for a fancied slight which, in that egotism so peculiar to his character, he imagined was put to him. It is more than sufficient to know, that his name had slept in oblivion, whilst the laurel of victory has graced the brow of his subalterns, borne off from him in every fight.

And again; the office to which he aspires is a high and responsible trust, and should never be bestowed as a reward for even admitted mititary service.

We have already shown that clouds and darkness rest upon the "available" candidate; and we are at a loss, those at least who are not satisfied with the endorsement of a convention, however respectable, to know what are his own peculiar sentiments. In that case, we must judge him by the company in which we find. The length prescribed to this address forbids an analysis of the Whig creed; suffice it to say, that even now, while struggling for power and doubtless upon their best behaviour, instances may be taken from their recent movements, which fully demonstrate the danger of entrusting too much power in their hands. "If such things be in the green tree, what will they be in the dry?"

We recognize in them—

A party which has sought to stifle the public voice by the most outrageous frauds upon the elective franchise—willing to violate the first principle of Republican government—acquiescence to the will of the majority. The disgraceful scenes so lately enacted at Harrisburg, where, for the purposes of the hour, the revolutionary doctrine was boldly proclaimed by a band of conspirators, of treat the election as a nullity, and was not abandoned, even in the light of day, till the unprincipled leaders were made to feel the awakened vengeance of an insulted people—are enough to cast the darkest shade of suspicion upon the patriotism, the moral honesty, not of the followers, but the heros of this shameless tragedy. Destined to a dark celebrity in the same black catalogue of crime, was the daring attempt to deprive the people of New Jersey of their chosen and rightful representatives in Congress; and attempting, under pretended forms of law, to sanction this outrage upon public justice. Distrust has already seized the public mind, and fearful apprehensions are felt least the fountain of freedom be poisoned at its source. If clerks and secretaries of State hold in their hands the destinies of the Republic, soon we may find that we have preserved in the casket a worthless stone instead of a priceless jewel. These infringements upon popular rights, serve to unmask the anti-republican tendencies of the party; and although we are far from attributing base or dishonest motives to those who have been misinformed and led away in error, yet we do proclaim to the instigators of these attempts, their aiders and abettors, in the eloquent language of the Reviewer—'that while the fires of Liberty shall continue to burn bright on our political altars, and in the hearts of our people, they will not be forgotten or forgiven'

A party, which rudely tampering with the right of suffrage, a right "too tender for tenderness itself to touch," seeks virtually to disfranchise the poor man, by means of Registry acts, filled with provisions and restrictions, so odious as are well calculated to deter him from compliance. The course of the Whig party in Maryland, abundantly proves to every unbiassed mind, that this scheme was but a paltry trick, by which short sighted politicians hoped to gain a temporary advantage; for no sooner had the appointment of the Registers passed from them into the hands of a Democratic Governor, and failing as they attempted to transfer the appointing power to a Whig Mayor, the Senate of Maryland's most reverned seignors, discover by a species of second sight, that it is a law filled like the box of Pandora, with innumerable evils, and *unanimously* repealed it. "Consistency, thou art, indeed, a jewel."

A party, which, acting in the same spirit, gave birth to the 'alien and sedition laws" of the elder Adams, and called into being the memorable Virginia resolutions of '98, which have ever since been the guide of Republicans; have undertaken to abridge the freedom of speech and the press, by subjecting to heavy fine such of our fellow citizens as may happen to receive certain highly honorable stations under the government of their own country, if, per-adventure, they should, whilst in the discharge of official duties, in the language of Mr. Crittenden's bill 'by word, message, or writing, or in any other manner, otherwise than giving his own vote, endeavor to persuade any elector to give, or dissuade any elector from giving his vote for the choice of any person to be elector of President, Vice President, &c. of the United States." We cannot refrain from expressing our utter abhorrence of such a doctrine—a doctrine which degrades an American citizen, and stigmatizes him as peculiarly liable to corruption, whose industry or talent may befit him for a public station.

A party, which, in Maryland, has wedded itself to abuse; which has opposed Reform in all its stages and even went so far as to brand with the epithets of traitors and conspirators, men who met to adopt measures of relief who have gone in opposition to such judicial Reform as is greatly needed, and particularly in open defiance of public sentiment, long felt & repeatedly expressed, by refusing to pass the 'bill for the reorganization of the City Court,—a reform demanded by the present embarrassed situation of the public finances, as well as necessary for the promotion of higher and holier objects. A party which has given signal illustration of their attachment to the 'Emigrant from Germany and Ireland,' when in reference to this class of adopted citizens, the following language was held by a distinguished member of the Whig party in the Senate of New York: 'Loafers who swear falsely with perfect impunity as it respects punishment in this world, and according to whose faith, perhaps the price of a day's labor gives them absolute security for the next, and further he remarked 'the *Soldiers, Sailors,* AND OTHER CATTLE combined with the FOREIGNERS, composed of the offscourings of creation, could turn the scale in that city (New York) without some remedy!"

There is one topic which in this connection we are bound to notice. The right of opinion and the power to express it, we hold to be the substance of liberty. The time *was*, when any attempt to coerce men into the adoption of a political creed, would have been deemed a damning sin. We deeply lament that efforts have been made, and are now making, to take from the citizen this volition by depriving him of the means whereby he lives.

We ask the *mechanics and laboring men of Baltimore*, are they prepared to surrended this inestimable privilege; they who have been early taught 'that liberty alone can give the flower of fleeting life its lustre and perfume,' to acknowledge that the laborer is not worthy of his hire; but is the recipient of charity, from those who give him leave to toil? We warn those who have adopted this high handed policy, that if they once array the capitalists against the laboring classes, they put on foot a revolution which may shake the foundations of civil society;—then will the tiger strife begin, in which man must vindicate his personal rights, and show the pretension of individual man, by the might which slumbers in a freeman's arm.

Many of us have chosen our position in despite of personal aggrandizement, and we are willing to bear much as we have already borne of the 'oppressors wrong the proud man's contumely,' but there is a point beyond which we cannot and will not be forced. The rights of conscience must not be invaded; we shall adhere to our principles though we should be 'steeped in poverty to the lips;' and wretched indeed is the policy of a State which rewards the treachery and venality of the apostate, and casts odium upon him who has the strength to stand by his principles. When the hour of danger to the State arrives, is it upon the traitor to his principles she can best rely for support, or upon him who throughout life has upheld his sentiments even in view of the faggot and the flame? Far be it from us to encourage a spirit of intolerance in our own ranks, or to forget in political strife, those finer feelings of our nature which soften and subdue the heart of man. We are speaking of a fault, aye a crime, which loses none of its enormity when practiced by friend or foe.

In viewing, then, the attitude of parties, we have every thing to encourage us in addition to the promptings of patriotism, and that sense of duty which nothing should hinder us from performing. The prominent measures of the Government have all been fully canvassed, and met with the decided public approbation. The elections of last year, have confirmed the policy which Jackson began, & which his successor has pledged himself to pursue. Did not our adversaries indulge the confident hope that the separation of Bank & State by the adoption of the "Independent Treasury Bill," would prove the death knell of the party; and are they not now left like 'Paganini on the single string,' to ring the changes of panic and distress? Beaten *upon every question*, their resort in a land whose proudest boast is the intelligence of the people to the meanest passions and the worst prejudices. Where is the pride of a party, which once boasted 'all the talent?' When a man of such 'a feeble temper" should outstrip all competitors, and 'oh! shame where is thy blush,' when "all the decency" can boast no brighter weapon than a *"log cabin and hard cider!"* Vain hope to deceive the people by such subterfuge—Vain such reliance upon trick and hypocricy!

It is with feelings of honest pride, that we turn from such a picture, to inquire under what banner we fight, and who is the chosen head to lead us on to glorious victory?

With an unanimity, the result of undiminished confidence, the Democracy again seek to re-elect their Chief Magistrate, that distinguished Statesman, Martin Van Buren; who four years ago, was deemed by them a worthy successor of the illustrious Jackson. The guarantee his past life then afforded of his entire devotion to Democratic principles, has been fully sustained by his inflexible adherence, under the most trying circumstances, to the policy which he then determined to pursue. Truly has he redeemed the pledge to follow in the footsteps of his predecessor;—with him there has been no change, or shadow of turning. Succeeding a man of unbounded personal popularity, it might be considered a mighty task to occupy the position he so brilliantly filled. No blaze of military renown surrounded him; he laid no claim to the wreath of the warrior; but the eyes of the people were fixed intently upon him, & each day he grew in the confidence of a great nation, till, like the immortal Jefferson, his name will be transmitted to admiring posterity, as among the ablest champions of an undying cause.

Having now briefly set before you, fellow citizens, the reasons which compel us to cast our lot with the Democratic party of the country, we should prefer leaving the consideration of them with you, as confident that we have said enough, but we might fail to meet the views of others were we to pass unnoticed the last resort of the opposition—the *appeal to the pocket nerve!*

That there is some truth in the picture, although greatly exaggerated, which our opponents have drawn of 'blasted credit and stagnant trade,' we may admit, although we differ widely in the cause which produced it.—It is in reference to the instability of business, that Senator Buchanan, in his speech so fallaciously misrepresented, held the following language:—'Under the present system the laboring man cannot calculate what a day may bring forth. He receives high wages to day and is starving for want of employment to morrow.' Capitalists who realize enormous profits at one time, may endure a reverse by recourse to profits already reaped, not so with the Mechanics, and all those who depend upon daily employment. We are surely not to be deluded by the sophistry and declamation of those who would visit upon Government all the accumulated evils of the times, whilst the misdeeds of individuals are absolved by party allegiance. When we remember the storm which passed over the country in '19 and '20, when industry was prostrated, and enterprize paralyzed, we may discover that the same causes which were in operation then, spreading on all sides one scene of bankruptcy and ruin, are at work now.

The great love of money and greediness of gain, which withdraws industry from its legitimate channels, converting the farmer into the broker; the lawyer into the banker; the merchant into the gambler in stocks; and all into speculators; fostered by a bloated system of credit and the abuse of paper money, constitute the true secret of our national disorders. Will men, forgetful of the lessons of the past, prefer to believe that the government of their own country has poisoned the channels of trade, and wantonly deprived them of the fruits of their labor? If we desire stability in our business operations, we must come back to the system of rigid economy, abandon those indulgences little suited to the objects of our republican institutions—loose sight of the delusion that speedy fortunes can be made, and then we may secure the golden mean—

"And although we may not make great gains, we may escape great losses."

And here it is proper for us to remark, on the course of the opposition, that it is in every way calculated to inflame the evils. A press whose daily avocation is to manufacture glowing descriptions of the downfall of trade, and the ruin of commerce, striking at all confidence between man and man, and whose systematic misrepresentations, being supported by the mercantile class, (their own worst enemies,) find a welcome reception in every portion of the land. A body of reckless politicians in Congress, and out of it, maddened by political disappointment, with a malignity that renders them indifferent to all consequences, have endeavoured to clog the wheels of government, occupying the attention of House of Congress in idle debate to the hindrance of public business, indulging in unfounded charges distract the public attention from the enormity of their own conduct. But the day of retribution is at hand, the people have already discovered who are the true authors of the embarrassments—the remedy is in their hands, and it will soon, no doubt, be applied.

In conclusion, Fellow Citizens, we again remind you that the time for *action* has arrived; throughout this wide spread land, the fires of liberty are being enkindled upon every hill and mountain top, the clans of Democracy are gathering in their might—the tocsin has sounded,

Awake to the sound! 'tis the soul thrilling cry,
That Freedom breathes forth from her high mountain dwelling;—
It sweeps the green earth, it ascends the calm sky,
On the wild chainless breezes triumphantly swelling!
The voice of the past,
It is blent with the blast.
While the forms of our sires on the bright clouds are cast:
Then Democrats rally, the battle is near,
And curst be the dastard who shrinks back in fear!

BENJAMIN C. PRESSTMAN, Prest.
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NATHANIEL COX, O. B. WIGHT. } Secretaries.

THE ROYAL PAIR.—The New Orleans Picayune has a private correspondent at the court of Victoria, who sends him the very latest intelligence in regard to the movements of the royal pair. The news is generally of a character accessible to no other journal either in this country or in Great Britain.—Take the following authentic hit of gossip for instance.

War—Love in a Palace.—It is said that Albert and Victoria have already had a quarrel.—By an epistolary favor from one of the royal household we learn the following particulars.—It seems that the Prince accidentally trod upon one of Victoria's toes, upon which the Queen gave the royal Albert a shove, and exclaimed,

'Ah! you brute!'

The Prince made no reply, but with great unconcern walked away with his hands beneath his coat tail.

Presently he received a note by a page, requesting his immediate attendance upon her, to which he returned a written answer respectully declining the invitation, and signing it "*The Brute*."

He was instantly visited by the indignant queen, who placed herself before him, with arms a kimbo, and without speaking commenced distorting her countenance and making frightful faces at the Prince.

Albert sat for a few moments, whistling, and then said with great coolness,

"Is your Majesty afflicted with corns?"—

'Un—um—um—um—um,' exclaimed Victoria, curling up her nose and projecting her under lip at Albert.

Hereupon the Prince rose, put on his hat and walked out. Since then not a word has passed between the royal pair, and it is said that they occupy distinct apartments and eat at separate tables.

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