

UNION PLATFORM.

Adopted by the Baltimore Convention.

Resolved,—That it is the highest duty of every American citizen to maintain, against all their enemies the integrity of the Union and the paramount authority of the Constitution of the United States; and that, laying aside all differences of political opinion, we pledge ourselves as Union men, animated by common sentiment and aiming at a common object, to do everything in our power to aid the Government in quelling by force of arms the existing rebellion now waging against its authority, and in bringing to the punishment due to their crimes the rebels and traitors arrayed against it.

Resolved,—That we approve the determination of the United States Government not to compromise with rebels or to offer any terms of peace, except such as may be based upon an unconditional surrender, [suspension] of their hostilities, and a return to their just allegiance to the Constitution and laws of the United States, and that we call upon the Government to maintain this position and to prosecute the war with the utmost possible vigor to the complete suppression of the rebellion, in full reliance upon the self sacrifice, patriotism, heroic valor and undying devotion of the American people to their country and its free institutions.

Resolved,—That as slavery was the cause, and now constitutes the strength of this rebellion, and must be always and everywhere hostile to the principles of republican Government, justice and National safety demand its utter extirpation from the soil of the Republic, and that we uphold and maintain the acts and proclamations by which the Government, in its own defense, has aimed a death blow at this gigantic evil. We are in favor, furthermore, of such amendments to the Constitution, to be made by the people, in conformity with its provisions, as shall terminate and forever prohibit the existence of slavery within the limits or jurisdiction of the United States.

The next resolution thanks the soldiers and sailors of the army and navy for their gallant and heroic achievements in defense of the country.

The following resolution approves the practical wisdom and unselfish patriotism of Abraham Lincoln, and indorses as essential to the preservation of the nation, and within the Constitution, the measures and acts which he has adopted to defend the nation against open and secret foes; and approves especially of the emancipation proclamation and the employment as Union soldiers of men heretofore held in slavery.

Resolved,—That the Government owes to all men employed in its armies, without regard to color, full protection of the laws of war, and that any violations of these laws by rebels should be made the subject of full and prompt redress.

The next resolution favors the fostering and encouraging of foreign emigration.

Resolved,—That we are in favor of the speedy construction of the railroad to the Pacific.

Resolved,—That the National faith pledged for the redemption of the public debt, must be kept inviolate, and for this purpose we recommend economy, rigid responsibility in public expenditures, a vigorous and just system of taxation.

Resolved,—That it is the duty of every loyal State to sustain the credit of the Government, and promote the use of the National currency.

Resolved,—That we approve the position taken by the Government that the people of the United States can never regard with indifference an attempt of any European power to overthrow by force, or supplant by fraud, the institutions of any republican government on the western continent, and that they will view with extreme jealousy as menacing to the peace and independence of our own country the efforts of any such power to obtain a foothold for monarchical governments to sustain a foreign military force in proximity to the United States.

A BIG NIGHT'S WORK.—The typographical forces of the *Flag* are of the opinion that on Tuesday last they did the biggest night's work ever performed within the same space of time in any newspaper office in California. Commencing at 5 o'clock in the evening, without the preparation of full cases, they set thirty-eight columns of minion and nonpareil, mostly solid, equivalent to about 175,000 ems, in time for press in the morning. If any of our cotemporarys can cite a typographical feat of greater significance, it will give the *Flag* pleasure to mention the fact. It should be added that nearly all of the copy was presented on both sides of the paper, creating a good deal of inconvenience, and that until the time of beginning work the compositors were not aware of the intention to get out a double sheet, and were not prepared with full cases. A little more than a year ago the *Flag's* typographical forces were two men and a boy; on the night above referred to, seventeen compositors were employed, exclusive of foreman and proof-readers.

A BLUNDER AS IS A BLUNDER.—A cotemporary speaking of a man of some note, lately deceased, undertook to say, "He subsequently commenced life as a legal practitioner; but was diverted from it by his love of letters." The editor did not look at his proof, and on Sunday morning he had the pleasure of reading, "He subsequently commenced life as a legal politician; but was diverted from it by his love of bitters."

MISCELLANEOUS.

SOLDIERS.—Extract of a letter, from Gen. Butler's headquarters, "in the field:"

For the past few days the heat has been almost unendurable, opening a very Pandora's box of miseries, whose influences, if long continued, must surely crush every spark of energy out of man and beast. Heat! dust! flies!!! Suffocating heat! blinding dust! torturing flies! The thermometer reported at 98 to 100 under the canvas of our tents. The dust rising from the dry and incessantly-traveled roads in dense clouds that obscure the wagons whose wheels plough it through, and hide the horses, whose hoofs sink into its almost fathomless depths. The flies swarming everywhere; settling upon hands and faces, biting sharply, buzzing annoyingly, provoking men to profanity, and irritating horses to madness. Wilting heat; perspiration flowing freely from every pore, saturating woolen garments, and leaving the body at night in a state of cold, clammy, discomfort. (Few have clothing for a change). Stifling dust impalpable, yet penetrating; filling eyes, ears, noses; changing hair and beard to dirty gray; enveloping handsome blue uniforms in a cloak as dingy as rebel homespun; searching slowly but surely through all the openings of the garments, to mingle its galling particles with the moist excretions of the body, producing troublesome contagious diseases. Myriads of flies, small, yet venomous; giving no peace, blackening the tent-roofs, buzzing in the ear, settling on every mouthful as it passes from the plate, spoiling meat and drink; phlebotomizing horses, who nervously shake their heads, twitch their bodies and switch their tails; uprising from the withered grass every step and chattering quite lively in quadrilles, winged through to the music of their dreary and sultry buzzing. Imagine these horrors and the thousand other discomforts connected therewith, and you will have some idea of the last few days at Gen. Butler's camp! Heat! dust! flies! No breath of air to relieve the stifling heat; scarcely any water to cleanse away the dust; and the crawling, biting, buzzing insects pestering with impunity. Could the plague of Egypt have been greater? Ah! fighting is not the hardest part of a soldier's life. He has physical tortures to suffer, which, endured patiently, test his heroism more than standing unflinchingly before the hottest fire. Really, the heat is almost intolerable, and unless we soon have grateful, heavy showers to cool the atmosphere and replenish the empty water-courses, there is likely to be sickness and distress. Let the righteous pray for refreshing rain!—[Ex.]

THE CITY OF RICHMOND.—Richmond, by the last census, had a population of 33,000 souls, but the great influx of civil and military officers and refugees from other parts of the State has probably raised it to a much higher figure. It is situated at the head of tide water, at the lower falls of the James river, about one hundred and fifty miles from its mouth. The city occupies a most picturesque situation, being built on Richmond and Shockoe hills, which are separated by Shockoe creek, and surrounded by beautiful scenery. It is regularly laid out and well built; the streets, which are lighted with gas, crossing each other at right angles.

On Shockoe Hill are the State capitol and other public buildings. The capitol is an imposing edifice, and contains in its central hall Houdon's celebrated statue of Washington. On the east of the square is the Governor's mansion. Jeff Davis's residence is a private mansion, which was purchased for him by the rebel government. The city has many fine public buildings, six banks, thirteen newspapers, and twenty-three churches. In one of the three Presbyterian churches Jeff Davis worshipped.

The falls of James river afford immense water power, and there are very extensive factories, including four cotton and about fifty tobacco factories, flour mills, rolling mills, forges, furnaces, machine shops, etc., the latter of which, and particularly the Tredegar iron works, have been of immense service to the rebels in turning out ordnance and material of war. The annual exports of Richmond before the rebellion reached nearly \$7,000,000, and its imports \$750,000.

But since it had the honor of being the rebel capitol its foreign commerce has been extinguished. Vessels or gunboats drawing ten feet can ascend within a mile of the city, at a place called the Rockets. Vessels of fifteen feet draft ascend to Warwick, fifteen miles below. A canal has been built around the falls, and above them there is navigation for two hundred miles. The James river and Kanawha canal, intended to extend to Covington, is completed for two hundred miles.

Richmond has very extensive railroad communications, being the terminus of five roads—running to Fredericksburg and the Potomac, to West Point and the York river, to Petersburg and Norfolk, to Danville, Virginia, to Jackson river, by the Central Railroad—and from these connections lead all through the Southern States. Opposite the city are the two towns of Spring Hill and Manchester.

Richmond was founded in 1742, became the capitol of the State of Virginia in 1779, and in June, 1761, it was made the seat of government of the "Confederate States of America," whose Congress assembled there on June 20. Its history since then is only too familiar to the country. Around the city are various hills, extending a great distance, on the most important of which fortifications were erected in the days of the "on to Richmond" cry.—[Washoe Herald.]

THE KILKENNY CATS.—I have wondered why none of your correspondents who are natives of, or residents in Kilkenny, have given you the real version of the tale of the Kilkenny cats. I have seen the subject frequently noticed in the columns of Notes and Queries, but I have never seen the following accurate version of the occurrence, which led to the generally received and erroneous story of the Kilkenny cats. During the rebellion which occurred in Ireland in 1792 (or may be 1803) Kilkenny was garrisoned by a regiment of Hessian soldiers, whose custom it was to tie together in one of their barrack-rooms two cats by their respective tails, and then to throw them face to face across a line generally used for drying clothes. The cats naturally became infuriated, and scratched each other in the abdomen until death ensued to one or both of them, and terminated their sufferings. The officers of the corps were ultimately made acquainted with these barbarous acts of cruelty, and they resolved to put an end to them, and punish the offenders. In order to effect this purpose, an officer was ordered to inspect each barrack-room daily, and to report to the commanding officer in what state he found the room. The cruel soldiers, determined not to lose the daily torture of the wretched cats, generally employed one of their comrades to watch the approach of the officer, in order that the cats might be liberated and take refuge in flight before the visit of the officer to the scene of their torture. On one occasion the "lookout man" neglected his duty, and the officer of the day was heard ascending the barrack stairs while the cats were undergoing their customary torture. One of the troopers immediately seized a sword from the arm rack, and with a single blow divided the tails of the two cats. The cats, of course, escaped through the open windows of the room, which was entered almost immediately afterwards by the officer, who inquired what was the cause of the two bleeding cat's tails being suspended on the clothes line, and was told in reply that "two cats had been fighting in the room, and that it was found impossible to separate them, and that they fought so desperately that they had devoured each other up with the exception of their two tails!" which may have satisfied Captain Schumelkettel, but would not have deluded any person but a beer Prussian.

HIGHEST MOUNTAINS IN THE UNITED STATES.—Professor J. D. Whitney, the Superintendent of the California Geological Survey, in an article in the "Proceedings of the California Academy," announces his conclusion that Mt. Shasta, 14,400 feet high, probably overtops all other peaks within the limits of the United States. Mount Hood, sometimes called the loftiest peak of the Cascade Range, is probably not so high as Mounts Shasta, Rainer, or Adams, and by no means entitled to the supremacy of the chain, although one of the highest points in it. Trigonometrical measurements of Mount Hood, in 1860, gave its height as 11,834 feet. Mount St. Elias, in the Russian Possessions has generally been considered the highest mountain in North America, on the authority of Malespina's manuscripts, discovered by Humboldt in the archives of Mexico, which assign to it an elevation of 17,845 feet. Mr. Whitney, however, thinks this estimate erroneous, and the estimate given on the British Hydrographical charts of Captain Denham, of 14,070, more nearly correct. Mount Brown and Mount Hooker in British Columbia, have assigned to them a height of 16,000 and 16,750 feet respectively. But the highest mountain on the North American continent is, beyond all doubt the Mexican volcano of Popocatepetl, which rises to the well ascertained height of 17,783 feet.

CANTEEN.—The word "canteen has had a curious history. It is perhaps the only word in our language, which, originally English, passed into a foreign tongue, and was afterwards taken back in a modified form. As originally spoken by the Saxon, it was simply *tin can*, but the Gaul, as is his wont, placing the noun before the adjective and pronouncing the letter *i* as *e*, brought out as *can tin*, pronounced *canteen*. Adopting a thousand other French military terms, the dull Englishman took back his own original word in a new shape, without any inquiries on the subject, and hence we now say canteen instead of tin can.

FIRE.—The tragedy of Santiago came very near a repetition at Montevideo. In one of the fashionable churches in Holy Week, when brilliantly illuminated, a taper communicated fire to some combustibles near it. A cry arose, and a rush was made by the congregation for the doors, ladies in elegant costumes were thrown down and trampled upon, badly injured, and the wildest panic prevailed for a time. The fire was happily extinguished, and there are no more martyrs to fanaticism and illuminations to be canonized in South America at present.

CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD.—We hear the most cheering reports of the receipts of this railway, which is destined ultimately to connect the East with the West. Since its completion to Newcastle, we are informed by a reliable gentleman who knows the net profits of the road have been five hundred dollars a day. It is believed that if the same quantities of freight were being brought across the mountains this year that came last, the net receipts of the road would reach the handsome figure of one thousand dollars a day. No railroad enterprise in the United States was ever undertaken under auspices so favorable as attend the building of the central Pacific Railroad.—[Ex.]

VARIETIES.

—It may be very well to go your own way, but you had better first see that you have a way to go.

—The number of the free colored population of Maryland is about the same as the slave—about 100,000 each.

—A Yankee has invented a new and cheap plan for boarding. One of his boarders mesmerizes the rest, and then eats a hearty meal—the mesmerized being satisfied from sympathy.

—At a spiritual circle, a gentleman requested the medium to ask what amusement was most popular in the spiritual world.—The reply was "Reading our obituary notices."

—There are three or four female physicians in our armies. Prentice hopes they will be able to bear confinement in camp.

—A wife's tears, shed too often, harden the husbands' instead of softening him. The eye-water becomes a petrefying water.

—Who would blame pickets if, in danger, they should be a little paling.

—A thick warm dress in winter is a portable wood-economizing stove.

—Five young Persian gentlemen lately arrived in England to be educated at the expense of their own Government, under the care of his Excellency Mahmoud Khan, the Persian Minister in that country.

—"Notice of Motion?" The railway whistle.

—In what tone should a ghost speak? Tombs-tone.

—The English papers record the death of Mr. Abraham Crowley, the brewer of the famous Alton ale. He was a great advocate of education, and his firm solely supported a girls' school in which were one hundred and fifty scholars, and besides this they were liberal supporters of an Alton boys' school.

—Two men were recently convicted of murder in Washington; one a white man found guilty of murdering his wife, the other a negro who murdered the husband of a woman with whom he had an intrigue. On Friday the white man was hung, and the sentence of the negro commuted by the President.

—Mr. Lincoln in going and returning from his residence at the "Old Soldiers' Home," some four miles out on the 14th street road, is said to be guarded now by the Ohio Black Horse Cavalry, in place of his former guard. Negotiations are understood to be on foot for adding a park of heavy artillery to the escort.

—The "Cruel War." The correspondent of the *Bulletin*, writes that Col. Baker's California regiment, which enlisted three years ago, 1,640 strong, returned to Philadelphia last week with 133 men only.

—Dr. Johnson compared plaintiff and defendant in action at law, to two men ducking their heads in a bucket, and daring each other to remain longest under water.

—It is proposed to build a new post-office at Liverpool—three hundred thousand more letters passing through the city now than was the case eight years ago.

—The Paris police report over 10,000 dead new-born infants having been found at the gratings of the reservoirs, into which the sewers empty, during the past year.

—Rice hats are made in Paris of rice-straw, without any crown, the place of the crown being supplied by two falls of lace, veiling the hair.

Gen. Grant set type 16 years ago in a printing office in Ohio; Gen. Wadsworth, who was killed in one of the recent battles in Virginia, was a printer; the rebel General Zollicoffer was a printer; in fact, the "art preservative" can boast of thousands of distinguished participants in this rebellion.

—A thief in Indiana county Pa., was lately, so mean as to steal a blind horse from a blind Baptist preacher.

—The Ohio, says a correspondent, "is a sickly stream." Yes, replied the Louisville Democrat, it is confined to its bed.

—It is a remarkable fact that, although common sheep delight in verdant fields, religious flocks are not anxious for green pastures.

—The man of the world maintains an upright carriage and a crooked sou; the mere scholar often possesses neither the one nor the other.

—A great choral festival of five thousand voices, was held at the Crystal Palace, London, on Wednesday, the fifteenth day of June. In no part of the world has so large a choir been brought together under one conductor.

—'Tis well enough for an attractive wife to have a repulsive husband. The rose isn't complete without its thorn.

—Tombstones and headstones are taxed five per cent. under the new law. A cotemporary says, grave objections arise. The Committee seem to have forgotten that a considerable amount might have been raised by taxing funeralists and again, births, marriages and deaths! The only thing omitted in the bill.

—"I shall be indebted to you for life," as the man said to his creditors when he ran away to Australia.