

Our Position.

It is well known to all who are acquainted with us, and those who read the DEMOCRAT last week, that our voice is, and has been, for peace; and that for giving expression to peaceful sentiments, we have been charged with being a secession sympathizer, a traitor, rebel, &c. We do not wish to be understood as being in favor of peace at the sacrifice of honor, for there is a point beyond which forbearance ceases to be a virtue; and if the Confederate forces attempt the invasion of the North, or make an unprovoked attack on Washington, that point will have been passed. As the Government is threatened with destruction by a powerful military combination, and without sufficient cause, as we think, for adopting such a ruinous method of obtaining redress for real or fancied grievances, we favor strengthening the hand of the President, to enable him protect and hold the places and property which were confided to him by the people.

But while we are for upholding the integrity of the nation, at all hazards, and placing at the disposal of the Executive all the means necessary to suppress rebellion and repel invasion, we do not intend that it shall be forgotten, that the Republicans are entirely responsible for the present state of domestic affairs. While we rejoice to see them willing to do something active by way of support to the government, and give them credit for being the *first* party opposed to the Democracy that ever was willing to help the nation in time of war, we do not mean that our readers shall lose sight of the fact that it is a war of their own breeding, and that it is CIVIL WAR, and not with a foreign enemy such as their predecessors opposed. The boy who will play with fire and is heedless of the warning of danger, may well cry for help when he has set fire to his own garments or the house; yet he is beyond question entitled to help, as well as deserving of censure; so they may well call upon us now to lay down all party differences—to bury all partisan recollections—to shout for glory—to cling to the “stars and stripes,” and help them save the nation that they have plunged into trouble, and save from ruin the people they have duped into such terrible folly. We mean to help them, but we do not mean that the people shall forget that they are the authors of the troubles, and that they must reap at least one reward of their error or corruption, in the irrevocable condemnation of their creed by the people at the next ballot-box.

While we are willing to shout with them for the stars and stripes, we shall give an additional “hip hurrah!” as a reminder to them that in 1856 they held conventions, made speeches, and passed resolutions giving birth to their party under the stars and stripes, with fifteen of those stars blotted out. This was the *first* mutilation of our flag.

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While they are begging us to bury party distinction, and help them save the Union, we shall respond heartily, but will murmur in their ears the mottoes of their leaders, Seward, Chase, Burlingame, Giddings, Banks and others. They cannot say these men were Abolitionists and not Republicans. Seward and Chase are at the head of the Cabinet. Giddings holds a responsible representative office at Montreal, and Burlingame represents them at one of the imperial courts of Europe. They may cry to us "save the Union!" We will help them, but cannot forget that they have said "No more Union with slaveholders"—"Let the Union slide"—"No compromises with slaveholders"—"Slavery must be forced into a process of ultimate extinction"—"Let them (the slave States) go out of the Union: the quicker the better." These will be considered by many as harsh responses for tender ears; but they are their own pieces of "bread cast upon the waters" returning "after many days" amid the booming of cannon, the flowing of blood—the blood of American brothers. Every shout from them for the Union will bring back the echoes of their expressions of contempt for those who loved the Union, and were fearful of its destruction. He who "sows the wind, must reap the whirlwind."

When their principles were *first* enunciated, they found the country prosperous, peaceful, powerful, and united in Union. They have gradually initiated their doctrines into practice after four years of effort, and the *first* results are disunion, prostration of commerce, the contempt of foreign powers, inability to enforce obedience or repel invasion at the start, and the plunging of the people in to a maelstrom of unutterable evils, the end and result of which makes humanity shudder to think of, and the extent of which Deity alone can contemplate.

They have torn asunder our temple,—we will help to save it from utter destruction. They cry to us to unite with them for the Union, and the preservation of our flag. We will do it, but never—never—will we cease to remind the people that they are the authors of our national ruin.