



DAILY EVENING JOURNAL OFFICE,

Chicago, ~~Chicago~~ by 1858.



Hon. A. Lincoln

Dear Sir, The resolutions

Senator Douglas quoted at Ottawa as having been passed at Springfield were adopted at Aurora by what was then called a People's Convention.

He probably will affirm in making the correction, that they notwithstanding embodied the Republican sentiment at that day. I enclose for the platform adopted by the Whig convention (of which I was a member) held at Aurora on the same day, of the People's Convention. There were are now Republicans there were three candidates, Blackwell, Woodworth and Judge Mayo. The latter is now openly advocating negro equality and the election of Judge Douglas, as editor

the De Ralt Sentinel, published
at Syracuse. Perhaps you may
have occasion to use the resolutions
or the facts.

I think in answering the questions
propounded by Douglass you have
a right to demand an answer
to an equal number, such as

If elected will you support the
present Democratic Administration?

Are you opposed to extending Slavery
on to soil now free? or any of
the series enclosed. I much regret
that I cannot be present at Freeport.
I forward this by my Associate
Mr Shuman, who will take full
notes of proceedings

In haste

Respectfully & very truly
Charles Wilson

LINCOLN REFUSES TO ANSWER.—Lincoln refuses to answer the following questions:

1. Will you, if elected to the Senate, vote to admit a State whose constitution authorizes slavery?

2. Will you vote for the acquisition of territory from which slavery has not been excluded by law?

3. Will you vote for the repeal of the Fugitive Slave law?

4. Will you?

People of Illinois, the man who asks your votes for Senator, refuses to answer how he will vote on these questions, if elected.—*Times*.

Inasmuch as everybody knows, Douglas and the editor of the *Times* included, how Mr. Lincoln would vote on these questions, this catechising is as nonsensical, as the Douglas faction is hard pushed for material out of which to make political capital.

These questions were first propounded by Douglas at Ottawa, and Mr. Lincoln very properly refused to be thus interrogated by the man who himself gives no explicit or satisfactory answers to more important interrogations than the above, touching his political views.

Among many other questions, which have been propounded to Senator Douglas, and which he and his organs have not deigned to notice at all, are the following, which we now put to him again, promising that as soon as he answers them, Mr. Lincoln will gratify him and the *Times* by answering those printed above:

1. Do you believe that the people of a Territory, whilst a Territory, and before the formation of a State constitution, have the right to exclude slavery?

2. Do you believe or pretend to affirm that the Republican party do or ever have denied the constitutional right of the people of a Territory, in the formation of a State constitution, to form a free or slave constitution, as they choose?

3. Do you believe the slaveholder can lawfully take his slaves and hold them in any and every Territory of the United States?

5. Do you indorse and approve the doctrine of the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case, that the constitution of the United States protects slavery in the Territories? If yes, in what manner and how, except by changing the constitution, can slaves be lawfully excluded from the Territories?

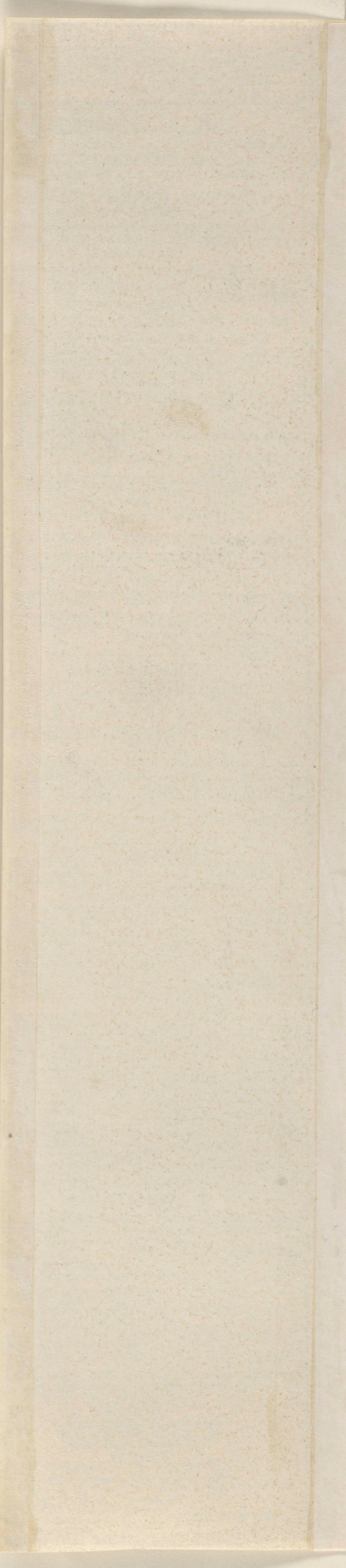
5. If the Constitution of the United States protects slave property in a Territory, so that the people cannot, whilst a Territory, exclude it, how can they exclude it in the formation of a State constitution? Is the constitution of the United States less potent in a State than in a Territory?

5. Is the prohibition of slavery in the constitution of Illinois valid?

7. You once said in the United States Senate that the question whether the people of a Territory had a right to exclude slavery therefrom, was a question for the Supreme Court, Now, sir, have the Supreme Court decided that question in the Dred Scott case? If yes, how have they decided it, and do you indorse and approve that decision?

8. If the dictum of the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case be true, that the Constitution of the United States directly recognized and protects slave property the same as any other property and knows no difference between that and any other property possessed by the citizens of the United States, and if the people of a State or Territory have the right to exclude slave property, have they not an equal right to exclude all other kinds of property?

In the language of the *Times*, we exclaim: "People of Illinois, the man who asks your votes for Senator, refuses to answer how he will vote on these questions, if elected."



1339. WHIG PLATFORM,

Adopted by the Whig Congressional Convention, Second District, at Aurora, September 20, 1851.

Whereas, One of the oldest and most cherished of our National Compromises has been ruthlessly overthrown in the passage of the bill commonly called the "Kansas-Nebraska bill," and whereas this utter disregard of a solemn compact by those who aided in its formation, and who now seek to propagate and perpetuate slavery in the Union, absolves us from all other compromises between Freedom and Slavery in the administration of the federal government, and compels every lover of truth and justice, to return to those great and redeeming principles by which the patriots of the revolution were governed;—promulgated by the "Declaration of Independence," and practically carried out in the celebrated and time-honored "Ordinance of 1787." And whereas, as it is desirable that all who are opposed to the Kansas-Nebraska bill should act in concert upon the great and controlling question of slavery extension;

Therefore, we, as freemen, make the following declaration of principles by which we will be governed in the coming contest.

1st Slavery in the States where it now exists is local in its character, over which Congress possesses no constitutional control.

2nd, That the Federal Government ought not to aid, by its power and patronage, or in any manner whatever, the nationalization of slavery, but on the contrary to use all constitutional means to confine that institution to its present limits.

3d. That the portion of the Kansas-Nebraska bill which declares inoperative the slavery prohibition, contained in the so-called Missouri Compromise, ought to be forthwith repealed, and those territories restored to freedom.

4th That we are in favor of the abolition of slavery in all territory over which Congress has exclusive jurisdiction.

5th That we are in favor of such an amendment of the Fugitive Slave law, as shall secure to the slave the right of trial by jury in the State in which he is taken, and the privilege of habeas corpus, as to his right to his freedom, and at the same time remove that legal compulsion upon the citizens of free States of this Union, which compels them to be 'slave catchers.'

6th That River and Harbor Improvements, Homestead Grants, and cheap inland and oceanic postage, are measures which the people of the West have a right to demand at the hands of the Federal Government.

Resolved, That in furtherance of these principles we use such constitutional and lawful means as shall seem best adapted to their accomplishment, and that we will support no man for office under the general or state government who is not positively and fully committed to the support of these principles, and whose personal character and conduct is not a guarantee that he is reliable.

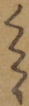
Resolved, That we cordially invite persons of all former political parties whatever, in favor of the objects expressed in the above resolutions to unite with us in carrying them into effect.

Resolved, That we now take our stand upon these principles, and further declare that all territory hereafter acquired by the United States, must be free territory.

Resolved, That we are in favor of the repeal of the laws of this State, known as the Black Laws.

Hon. A. Lincoln
Freeport
Illinois

Favor of
Mr Shuman



1340 - 4

L. J. Wilson

Aug. 1858