

Daily Spirit & Times
Philadelphia, Pa.

Wednesday Evening, May 6, 1863.
S. A. DAVIS, T. L. HARRISON, W. J. DIXON,
Proprietors and Publishers.

Good evening, Friends! I am the man—
The master or the slave. We claim
No greater honor. Walk the blast
Of civil strife, robust and bold,
We stand by our country, and we stand
Our heads high, and we stand
A wall of fire to guard our star.

Let Us Be Honest With Ourselves.

Facts brought to our knowledge, at
most every week, have convinced us that
there is a grand change taking place in
the political sentiments of the people of
Franklin county. Thinking men and
thinking men are beginning to feel that the
crisis demands intelligent action on their
part; and they are passing and giving a
more and more consideration to public
affairs. They are wretchedly opposed to
any division of the Union; they are will-
ing to make the greatest sacrifice to re-
store the Union and maintain the Gov-
ernment; and yet they can see no ray of
hope in the present armed policy of the
party in power. That party holds out
no encouragement, gives no basis upon which
to build for the future, embraces nothing
but hatred and vengeance, conquest and
subjugation. Many of these men, who
have been lifelong opponents of the Dem-
ocratic party, are coming out and declar-
ing their belief that the only hope of the
country is in the success of Demo-
cratic principles. We could mention
numbers of them by name, but they are
sufficiently well known in the communities
in which they reside.

There are other men, who, sick at heart
and bereft of hope, disgusted at the an-
gry animosities and recriminations which
characterize the political discussions of
this day, have resolved not to mingle with
either political party. In this decision
they are manifestly in error. No citizen,
in the hour of national peril, can shirk
responsibility by wrapping himself up
in the seclusion of his home, and saying "I
will have nothing to do with this trouble;
I will have none of the responsibility
clinging to my skirts." My dear sir, if
wicked and injurious measures triumph
at the ballot box, while your vote might
have defeated them, you will be responsi-
ble for the result. Every man has an in-
terest in the preservation of good govern-
ment; and there is a corresponding duty,
of which, as far as may be, he cannot
desert himself. The obligation of civil
society demand that he shall voice his
opinion clearly whom he will serve. If he hon-
estly believes there is safety for the coun-
try in the principles of the Republican
party, let him advocate them with all his
ability and vote for them; but if he as
honestly believes that those principles are
sapping the very foundations of our Gov-
ernment, leading inevitably to anarchy
or despotism, let him have the manliness
to say so, despite the slanders and vil-
uperations which may be cast upon him.
"If the Lord be God, serve him; but if Baal,
then serve him." However much we
may differ as to principles and policy, no
man has a right to say, "As for me, I
have no principles and policy." If he is
possessed of any intellect at all, the asser-
tion must be false. He must believe
some things in themselves to be right,
and others to be wrong; and he may
mean, by this assertion, that he lacks the
moral courage to avow the right and de-
nounce the wrong.

There is another and a numerous class
of men who are anxiously asking about
the political horizon to see which way the
polar needles of duty point. They come
to us, as advocates of the Democratic
party, and say, "What is your position in
reference to the war, and what do you
intend to do if you get into power again?"
The question is honestly asked, and should
be honestly answered, difficult as the
task may be, in the present anomalous and
unsettled state of events. It is impossible
to read right the horoscope of the
future, and our line of policy must in
a great measure depend on events as they
transpire; but this much we may declare,
without fear of our position ever being
questioned. We have never agreed, do we not now agree, and have no intention
of agreeing, in future to a dissolution of
the Atlantic Union, unless indeed it be
to avoid some still greater calamity. We
propose to accomplish the preservation of
the Government and the Constitution by
the sword, or the sword with the alternative;
for those who will resist the power
of this Government, legally and
rightfully constituted, under the Con-
stitution, we are the sword. To those
who are willing to submit to its baleful
influence, we are the sword, and to those
who are neutral, we are the sword.

For Boston and the Am.—Mr. Clegg, one
of the editors of *Editor & Publisher*, who
was born in Boston, has brought a hundred
copies of that paper to us, and we have
arranged to publish them in the *Times* and
the *Spirit*. We trust that the Bostonians
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Peace and the Democratic Party.

There seems to be a growing desire on
the part of some, whom we believe to be
men of peace and loyal to the government
of the South, to be admitted, thrown in the way
of a restoration of the Union, rather than
submit to it. If we gain no power,
we will restore the liberty of the press
and the freedom of speech, believing these
to be the very bulwarks of individual
liberty; and we will give a still stronger
guarantee to this individual liberty by re-
establishing the severe privations of the
wars of Maximilian. We will reassess
the supremacy of the law, by sub-
jecting the military to the civil authority
of the country, in districts where war
does not exist. We will stop all arbitrary
arrests, believing that the aquittal of the guilty
and the punishment of the guilty by legal
arrests and trial, under due process of law. We will endeavor to
institute a rigid system of reform, turn
from their places the Contractors and
Government agents who have robbed the
country of hundreds of millions of dollars
during the last two years, and use our
best vigilance to keep all such, in
future, from filling places of honor and
profit. Should it's efforts of the present
Administration fail to crush the rebellion,
the Democratic party will, when it gets
hold of the reins of Government, use all
power, and all the statutorily opposed to
any division of the country, to restore the
Constitution, to unite the South, and
reunite the swelling ranks of southerners
upon the seas—solidarity, respect
and credit abroad. We think those who hold
these views are a small minority of the
people of the Northern States. The
House of Representatives of Pennsylvania
recently declared, "that the people of
this State are unalterably opposed to any
division of the Union, and will persist
in their efforts to annihilate the rebellion
of the Southern states, to maintain
and defend it." This sentiment has been
endorsed by Democratic county conven-
tions and meetings all over the State, and
we believe it to be honestly entertained
by a large majority of the people; peace
upon the basis of a dissolution of the
Union can never be acceptable to them.
However much we may desire, we
are powerless at present to effect it, ex-
cept we yield to conditions which involve
a certain and permanent dissolution of
the Union. We can never believe that any
green body of men will listen to such
terms as these, unless, indeed, it comes to
be demonstrated that this is the only way
to avoid still greater calamities. It is
idle and mischievous to agitate peace, as
long as it is clearly unattainable upon
any honorable and patriotic considerations,
for its tendency is to distract, and
divide during that period. How, then,
can they be charged with inactivity now?
In the everyday relations of business, we
do not call him a rascal who has al-
ways dealt fairly and honestly with you.
Apply the same rule to the political par-
ties. We can never believe that any
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