

THESIS.

Subject, History of Political Parties

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The period from 1789 to 1801 is known as "The Trying Period" in our history. We had just entered upon the experiment of a uniform and united government. In some of the states there was a strong undercurrent of half expressed opposition to the Constitution. There were also difficulties growing out of the wars then carried on between the nations of Europe. The U.S. adopted the policy of neutrality. A few prominent statesmen were in sympathy with France, and in favor of aiding that power. To promote that object a "Democratic Society" was formed in Philadelphia.

The object of this Society was to oppose the government by secret measures. Such was the origin of the present Democratic Party. The clubs

formed throughout the States were variously called "Republican" or "Democratic" associations.

Washington and his cabinet with the exception of Jefferson were neutral with regard to the foreign wars. Those who were in favor of neutrality were characterized as Aristocrats. The other party was variously called "Democrats" and "Republicans" and sometimes "Democratic-Republican" party or Anti-Federalists.

The Democratic party opposed the National government's assuming and paying the debts assumed by the U. S. Government when it went into operation. Hamilton recommended an indirect tax by imposing duties on imported merchandise. Jefferson succeeded Adams as president and

was opposed to this policy. The party was so successful that before 1805 the State governments of all but two of the States were in their hands. The war of 1812 forced the government to adopt a tariff slightly protective and a national bank in 1816.

The party was divided into two wings. During the presidency of Adams, his followers gradually came to be known as National Republicans, while the others, first known as "Jackson men," ultimately took the name of Democrats.

Jackson and Van Buren served this party and the next president, Harrison, was a Whig. Harrison was succeeded by Tyler, a Democrat. The election of Polk was in a great part due to the Liberty party. His successor, Taylor, was a Whig, but his election was owing to

local dissensions among the Democrats, and Fillmore was succeeded by Pierce, a Democrat. Buchanan was also a Democrat. The party had conflicts, which caused Lincoln, the Republican candidate, to be elected.

From 1801 to 1861 the Democratic Statesmen enacted two important measures which have become the policy of the Nation. The one when they reduced from fourteen years to five years the time of residence required of an alien to become a citizen. The other when they instituted the Sub-Treasury for keeping the money of the United States.

In 1816, the tariff passed by Congress was sufficiently high in its rate to produce revenue and protect our own industries, which having had no foreign competition for the previous four years

had been carried on prosperously. The Slave-Labor States were then in favor of fostering domestic manufactures. John C. Calhoun and Henry Clay took a prominent part in the movement. This tariff was to encourage mechanical industries.

The four principal political parties have been the Democratic, Federalist, the Whig, and the Republican. The Federalist was the organization under Washington, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, and that galaxy of eminent men. The policy of Washington's administration, especially in three respects, has been acted upon by the national government ever since; first in relation to neutrality; second the protection to American industry; and third, the financial measures in an-

gulated by Hamilton, which in principle virtually remain in force today, in the financial policy of the nation.

The Federal party passed out of power in 1801. It became known for a time by the name of the National Republican Party, then the Whig. This party contended that the National government ought to aid in the cause of internal improvements. The Whigs were, also, promoters of all measures having an elevating influence upon the mass of the people; they were, especially, the advocates of schools of learning, and of all forms of industry. The Whigs advocated the protective tariff.

Numbers of the purest and ablest statesmen of the Slave-labor States were Whigs, and were also slave owners. In process of time political questions

arose which involved the system of slavery; this led to the alienation of the Southern wing of the Whig party, because on that subject the portion for the most part did not sympathize with the policy of extending the system to the territories. This deserted the party as such became powerless. A new organization arose from the wreck of that party, for the present Republican party spontaneously out of the political chaos.

Under this party some of the important acts were the Homestead Law, 1863, in the application of which nearly 8,000,000 of Americans, in families of old and young, are enjoying happy homes. The Timber Culture Act likewise enables persons as heads of families to secure homesteads.

During the year 1863 slavery was abolished. During the same year a Republican Congress cheapened postage and inaugurated the National Banking System. The Civil Service Reform began during President Grant's administration. In 1877 President Hayes issued an order that was designed to be applicable to every department of the Civil Service.

He says: "No officer should be required or permitted to take part in the management of political organizations, conventions, or election campaigns. No assessment for political purposes on officers or subordinates should be allowed."

The Republicans were in power from the rebellion for nearly thirty years when the Democrats were again elected to office with Cleveland as presi-

dent Harrison was then elected by the Republicans; the most important act of his administration was the passage of the McKinley Bill.

As in times previous to the Rebellion, Slavery held the balance of power in all National questions, so to day, in its various forms, the Liquor Interest aims at holding the same kind of power between the two great political parties. The political organizations on the question are coming into prominence and must become one of the great questions of the future.

Nick names have been given to the different political parties and other parties which have never come into power have been organized at various times. The two principal parties at present are the Democrat and Repub

lean parties, the former in favor of a  
tariff for revenue only, the latter in  
favor of a high protective tariff.