

note of yesterday, I respectfully suggest that you take means to procure copies of the following papers, entitled as follows, viz: "The Constitution of the National Council of the United States of North America," and the accompanying "Constitution for the government of subordinate Councils," "The Constitution of the North Carolina State Council, adopted January 18th, 1855; an address adopted in the State Council of Massachusetts, June 29th, 1855; resolves of the State Council of South Carolina, adopted at a meeting held at Charleston, August 14th, 1855—copies of which papers, I regret, I have not at hand to lay before you. I have no doubt, however, the committee will be able, if they desire it, to procure them.

I would further respectfully suggest that you summon before you the delegates from this State, to the Convention, said to have been held at the City of Cincinnati, about the close of the year 1854, and also the delegates from this State to the National Council held at the city of Philadelphia in the month of June last.

This last body, whose proceedings are said to have been conducted in secret, issued what purports to be a platform of principles, to which I would respectfully refer you. I do so, because in the 8th section of said publication, the policy of the Roman Catholic Church in our country is denounced as aggressive, and an organized political resistance to those of the Catholic faith plainly indicated and encouraged; thus introducing "religious issues into the field of political agitation."

The 14th section of this platform declares "that all the *principles* of the order shall be *henceforth* every where openly avowed, and that each member shall be at liberty to make known the existence of the order, and the fact that he himself is a member; and it *recommends* that there be *no concealment of the place of meeting* of subordinate Councils."

Here we have the most conclusive proof that to the date of the publication of this platform, every thing connected with the "order" was a matter of secrecy, its members bound to conceal its existence, and their connection with it; and from the specific statement above quoted of what its members are now "at liberty" to reveal, the conclusion is inevitable that there is still left, that which they are not allowed to disclose to the uninitiated.

I further suggest that you summon before you such persons of respectability as are now known to have been connected with the order, and also others who are now members of the same, and that you seek to have produced before you the secret work or ritual of any secret political order, as may be in the possession of any State or subordinate Council in this State, or of any agent or officer of the same.

Should your inquiries result, as I trust they may, in satisfying the public mind that there are no such secret political combinations, or that no oaths, obligations, or pledges are administered in such councils, to the prejudice of any class of American citizens, and that there does not exist any design or purpose in such societies to "trouble, molest or discountenance," or to exclude from preferment, or office, any citizen in consequence of the religion he professes, or the place of his nativity, no one will be more pleased than myself, and none more ready to acknowledge that injustice has been done to a large class of our people.