

Nothing is repudiated. We will inquire presently whether their principles, practices and purposes have been similarly disposed of. Should it turn out that this is one, it will not be the first instance by very many of individuals or societies becoming ashamed of their origin and renouncing their names and associates. But some of these have found it difficult to throw off or obliterate all family features and peculiar characteristic marks.

The American party,—what is it? Verily it is difficult to tell. The appellation is a proud one. The term *American* applies equally to all citizens, at least of these United States. It would seem to be an absurdity, therefore, to assume it as a designation of any particular portion of those citizens, or of a political party amongst them. Names are properly taken and used to distinguish men and things from each other. They are, or should be, the sign or sound which conveys to the mind the ideas associated with and distinguishing from others the man or set of men, the principles, policy, political association or other thing to which it is applied. This is the proper use and office of *names*. When, therefore, a term is assumed and used as a name, which has not this definite sense, but is equally applicable to thousands and hundreds of thousands of other men and things than those meant, it causes a confusion of ideas in the mind, leading inevitably to delusion and deception.

Diplomatists have said that language is used to conceal ideas. If this be so, and concealment and deception be the purpose and policy of this newly baptized “American” party, then, indeed, the name has been wisely appropriated; for it certainly has and will continue to effect those ends. History, however, tells us that the purposes of the presumptuous ambition of the Babylonian hosts were frustrated by a confusion of tongues, and consequent confusion of ideas. Something of not a very dissimilar fate seems to be impending over the heads and likely to befall the ambitious, not to say evil, designs of certain recently organized hosts in this country, usurping the name and style of *Americans*. They, or their high priests, were dispersed from a Grand Council in the city of Philadelphia, in June, 1855, with a remarkable confusion of ideas and purposes. Large fragments, fleeing to the North-east and gathering around them there the multitude, denounced in divers places the acts and doings of the Grand National Council from which they were scattered; and we find, among other things, a platform of the “American party,” put forth in Massachusetts, and re-echoed and responded to with great unanimity by professed members of the party there, of high and low degree, in which the Grand National Council of Philadelphia is severely rebuked, and other principles and purposes solemnly set forth in the following words: