

But the majority of this Committee have condescended to be a little more specific, and have told us what they mean by the American party, and say it is the American Party of the Philadelphia Platform, published in June, 1855, a copy of which platform they produced in Committee, where it was marked, and is now hereto appended, and by each and all of the provisions and stipulations of which they have declared that they and their associates are bound and adhere to. This much then is reduced to certainty—let us therefore discard for the present any thing outside of this, and proceed to the consideration of this document, its origin, progress, principles, provisions and obligations.

First, then, where does it come from? From the Grand National Council of the *American order*, held in the City of Philadelphia in the month of June, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five. Who composed that Grand National Council? A large number of delegates from the various States of the Union. Well, but by whom were they delegated, who elected or appointed them, who sent them there? The various Know-Nothing Lodges or Councils throughout the Union. Then they were Know-Nothings or the representatives and agents of Know-Nothings, and this Grand National Council of the American order dwindles into nothing more nor less, than a congregation of Know-Nothings; all besides, in its tilting, is fuss and words, “signifying nothing.” As Know-Nothings, they must have taken one or more of the oaths according to the formula hereinbefore recited, and were bound by them and all their provisions; and it no where appearing that they renounced Know-Nothingism, they must be presumed to have continued throughout their deliberations and still to be, in fact Know-Nothings. The term Know-Nothings is known to be *now* disagreeable to some gentlemen, and sometimes produces a little flushing of the cheek; but in tracing genealogy, accuracy in the use of names is necessary. That is the work at this moment in hand—as soon as it is accomplished, the regular descent shown, and the title of the heirs established, no further offence will be given in that regard, but the heirs and successors will be designated by their newly chosen name. Proof of actual identity is the only object here—what offence it may give or has given to associates, or former companions and collateral relations, to find the possessors of the family property renouncing and ashamed of the *family name*, and it may be of some of themselves, is a matter exclusively with them.

This Grand Council met and published in June, 1855, a platform styled, “Platform and principles of the American organization.” This council had a delicate and most difficult task to perform in preparing this platform. There can be no doubt that the