

when this excitement shall be raised to such a height as, blinding the people to their true interests and security, it may clutch and wield this instrument of ruin and destruction to all the South!

The repudiation or pretermission of the twelfth article of the Philadelphia Platform by the National Council of this party, convened in the same city so lately as the 20th of February of the present year, in the new platform then adopted, as appears from the public prints on the 21st, affords the public now just enough of light on this subject to make the "darkness visible."

The hope had been excited in some, by the conflicting explanations heretofore attempted or offered to the public by members of the order, of the 8th article of their platform of June, 1855, and of the 14th article of the same, (see platform appended,) which they have tried to make the public receive and consider, as doing away with their secrecy, when, in fact, it merely says that their *principles* may be 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, (he is not to name as such any other member,) and recommends that there be no concealment of the *places* of meeting of subordinate councils;—nothing said of liberty to *tell* what is done *in those councils*, or the *oath taken there*, or the mutual obligation of and to the different degrees of the order, or the open disclosure of any of their *purposes*—all these are left to rest still under the sworn pledge of secrecy, contained in the formula of the oaths set forth in the first part of this report. The hope, it is repeated, was excited by the unsatisfactory explanations which had been given, or attempted to be given of these articles, that this recent Grand Council would have made these explanations perfect. That they would have annulled all those oaths, and released all the members of the order from the obligations they impose; that they would have given full liberty to all, to have freely and fully disclosed every thing relating to the order; not only their principles, but also their purposes, aims and objects; not only the fact of the membership of the individual member himself, but of any or all the members; not only the *place* of meeting of subordinate councils, but the *oaths, acts and doings in them*, and thus cease to be a "secret political society," and become in fact what it has been pretended that they are, an open political party, having no concealments, but openly and boldly avowing everything.

But this hope is disappointed, and we find not one word is said about rescinding the oaths, but they are left to bind with all their force, to the continued observance of all the pledges and obligations, except the privilege is renewed and the declaration made in their 15th article of "a free and open discussion of all *political principles* contained in our (their) platform."

The eighth article of the platform of June, 1855, appears to be also pretermitted in this new platform, and a substitution in its place