

Journal Divided – “Republicans Gather at Chicago”
Excerpt from Chapter 15 of Michael Burlingame’s *Abraham Lincoln: A Life* (pgs 1671-73)

Link to full Chapter Fifteen:

<http://www.knox.edu/documents/pdfs/LincolnStudies/Burlingame,%20Vol%201,%20Chap%2015.pdf>

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The plank on corruption was emphatic: “That the people justly view with alarm the reckless extravagance which pervades every department of the Federal Government; that a return to rigid economy and accountability is indispensable to arrest the system of plunder of the public treasury by favored partisans; while the recent startling developments of fraud and corruption of the Federal metropolis, show that an entire change of administration is imperatively demanded.”¹ The platform committee omitted any reference to the Declaration of Independence. When doughty old Joshua R. Giddings moved from the floor that a plank endorsing its principles be added, his motion was defeated. Angered, he stormed out of the Wigwam, whereupon young George William Curtis of New York made a stirring speech which reversed that action. Giddings came back radiant.²

¹ *Proceedings of the First Three Republican National Conventions of 1856, 1860 and 1864* (Minneapolis: Charles W. Johnson, 1893), 131-33. Greeley said he wrote the homestead plank to his own liking. Greeley to Colfax, New York, 20 June 1860, Greeley Papers, New York Public Library.

² Murat Halstead, “A Historic Day,” *Los Angeles Times*, 5 June 1892.