

Next Monday is election day in Oregon, when the free born and naturalized American citizens of the state will wield the powerful weapon of white. Voters will be divided into three classes—those who vote for party, those who vote for principle and those who vote for \$5.00. Low and degraded as is the man who will sell his manhood, in the form of a vote, the man who buys it is the worse enemy of honest government. The danger to American institutions comes from the bribe-giver rather than the bribe-taker. The scum, the ignorant, the degraded, the improvident, the men who sell their votes, constitute an element of danger that can be kept in check by the arm of the law; but the intelligent, the educated debaser of his fellowman is a powerful but insidious force that overthrows law by weakening the public sense of right and justice and honor and true love of country upon which it rests. Let every man who is tempted to be the medium through which is to be poured a golden stream of corruption next Monday think of this and ask himself whether as a man or as a loyal American citizen he can so debase himself.

Opposition to the Bennett law in Wisconsin is very bitter, and frantic appeals to "stand by the church" are being made by those opposed to this effort to make Americans out of the rising generation. It may be that a combination of ecclesiasticism and anti-Americanism by naturalized citizens who ought never to have been naturalized may be temporarily successful in defeating this effort for the supremacy of American ideas in the education of those who are to become citizens, but it can not be so always. The war cry of "stand by the church" is yearly becoming less potent to rally a host to war against the public schools, and there are symptoms of a new policy in the matter of naturalization that will diminish the stream of foreign ignorance that is defiling the purity of American institutions.

Apropos of Rev. LeRoy's claim upon the suffrage of the people of Oregon because he was one of the "Six Hundred," it might be asked—admitting the claim to be true, though it appears shadowy—whether it is the men who charged at Balaklava or those who breasted the storm of battle at Gettysburg that should receive recognition by the people of the United States. It might also be asked why a military career should be advanced at all as a qualification for an office that has nothing of a military flavor connected with it. There is altogether too much demagogy about these appeals to "the soldiers," "the people," "the working-men," etc. On general principles it is safe to assume that the man who boasts of what he has done is unable to furnish the necessary corroborative evidence.

When a member of congress says that the United States does not require a navy because she will never have use for one, we simply question his ability to read the lessons of history aright; but when a man gets up in the senate chamber, as did Senator Voorhees the other day, and emits a bombastic, spread eagle speech about the ability of Americans to rise to all emergencies without any preparation, he simply makes an ass of himself. The United States did rise to an emergency once, but at a fearful cost, and she had to do it without Senator Voorhees's help. Let some one boast whose record is better.

Mr. Hermann is to be congratulated that he had the good sense and high regard for duty that have kept him at his post in Washington attending to the many important interests of Oregon intrusted to his keeping. And, by the way, "Colonel" Miller would have displayed better judgment had he confined himself to the issues of the campaign instead of calling marked attention to the fact that his opponent did not leave his post of duty even to secure his own election.

Alarmed at the fact that the French army is larger than their own, the German military authorities are pressing through the reichstag a bill providing for the military training of every able bodied man in Germany. Even this will not place them in the lead, and the young emperor will be compelled to conscript the negroes in his recently acquired African dominions or resort to some other equally desperate means to increase the military burden of his country.

There is now good prospect that the land grant of the Northern Pacific down the Columbia will be forfeited. This would have been done long ago if a few demagogues in congress would have permitted such a bill to pass without loading it down with efforts to forfeit grants where the road was actually built. Settlers who have been kept on the ragged edge for years have their own special and self-constituted champions to thank for their troubles.

About the silliest thing that has come to light in this "merry month of May" is the filibustering scheme in Southern California. The people of the United States will not countenance, nor the government permit, any armed invasion of the peaceful territory of neighboring states, either by bands of hired toughs or half Americanized foreigners.

The *Oregon Oracle* has been sued for \$30,000 damages for libel. A man must be pretty valuable if he has been damaged as badly as that and enough been left of him to run a law suit.