

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

The only Republican Daily Newspaper in Wasco County.

EASTERN OFFICE—230 to 234 Temple Court, N. Y. City. E. KATZ, Agent.

MONDAY, JUNE 21, 1897

WIFELY DEVOTION.

Lemuel Melson, who is sentenced to be hanged at Grants Pass July 2d, has made no attempt to appeal to the supreme court, or to take advantage of any of those delays now considered a part of a criminal trial. "I have nothing to say," is his only answer to all inquiries concerning his case. And yet one would think, sustained and sympathized with as he is by a tender and affectionate wife, that life would be sweet and he would make a struggle for his liberty.

His case, like hundreds before it, shows the depths of devotion to which a woman's heart may reach. Humanity is prone to speak lightly, in these degenerate days, of wifely devotion, but it is because speakers are heedless of the noble examples which occur every day. Now, in Melson's case, his wife wrote him a letter the other day that must have affected him powerfully, for one can hardly peruse the tender solicitation, the pathetic longing, the despairing anguish of the heart-broken wife, penned on a tear-blotted page or two to the man who won her girlish affections, on whom she leaned, and whom she loved, honored and trusted, without being moved to tears. She was at the time, and probably is yet, in Del Norte county, California, but in his last hours she pours out her love to him, and in a burst of affection, says she would so love to come and see him, but she was busy cooking for a camp of twenty-five men, and couldn't spare the time.

She is a thrifty little housewife and will get along probably as well without him, but still one cannot but feel touched at the hard fate that causes his decease right in her busiest season. The letter has probably had much to do with making Melson not only resigned to his fate, but glad to die.

NOW IS THE TIME.

The California senators are disposed to fight the annexation of Hawaii. Their principal objection, and it is an objection, is to the mixed population. President McKinley meets this and overcomes it. Hawaii will be annexed to the United States, because it is next to impossible for it to maintain its independence, and this country will never submit to any other government getting control of it.

There are some people who look at a gift horse's teeth. They did it concerning the northwest territory, our own fair Oregon, and they poked all manner of fun at Seward for urging the purchase of Alaska. Yet both were, after all, pretty good investments. Senator Perkins says Hawaii isn't much good anyhow, and for his part he would rather purchase British Columbia. He seems to think that all the countries of the earth are on the bargain counter, and that if the United States doesn't see what it wants, all it has to do is to ask for it. Just now, on the eve of her gracious majesty's jubilee, we imagine the price might be a trifle high, but the senator might price it. It might be suggested, though, that it would be better to wait for the special sale to be advertised, which will probably be some time, as England has not yet gone into the business of selling her colonies.

Hawaii we can now get peaceably. The question is, shall we take it, or wait until we have to fight for it?

One of the amusing things about the Cuban question is the cheerfulness with which Canovas and other leading Spaniards view the possibility of war between Spain and the United

States. Canovas says that in such a case "Spain will rise to the emergency." Other Spaniards seem to think that Spain would at once blockade our ports and send an army here and whale us to a standstill instantaneously. They do not seem to realize the open faced absurdity of their threats when viewed in the light of Spain's success in Cuba. If the mother country cannot conquer a few ragged, half armed, barefooted Cuban patriots, with neither friends, money nor credit, what would happen to her if she ran up against this country, with its 70,000,000 people and unlimited resources. There are several countries that might give us trouble by bombarding and destroying our seaports; but to come over and whip the American people, all the nations of the earth could not do it. The United States raises everything necessary to sustain the lives of all of its people, and can defy the world.

At last a spark of humanity has flashed in the darkness of Spanish cruelty in Cuba. The Spanish soldiers of the Guinness garrison have petitioned General Weyler for permission to give half their daily rations to starving Cuban women and children. It is only a little spark, but it shines like a star of the first magnitude, unrivaled and solitary in the universal darkness. Had such Spanish soldiers had to deal with the Cubans, they would have conquered long ago, if, indeed, there had been anyone to conquer.

Eugene V. Debs declares silver a dead issue. As Eugene speaks from the grave, his words ought to have weight.

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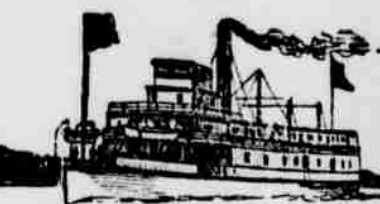
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