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TO ADVERTISERS.—Business men throughout Oregon and California will find it greatly to their advantage to advertise in the STATE REPUBLICAN.

[From the UNION SONGSTER.]

MY COUNTRY'S FLAG OF STARS.

BY HARRY HIVES, A FORETOPMAN.

I've roamed for many a lengthy mile
Upon the stormy seas;
I've seen full twenty banners float
All proudly on the breeze—
That Standard, too, Great Britain's pride,
The boast of England's tars—
Yet none could thrill my heart but thee,
My Country's Flag of Stars!

Brazil's gay flag of gorgeous dyes;
The banner of old Spain;
E'en Gallia's bunting, as it flies,
Is not maligned by stain;
Their lustre has been sullied oft
At home, by dead y jars;
But thy bright azure fields are pure,
My Country's Flag of Stars!

In some famed foreign ports I've seen
The flags of half the world—
To celebrate a gala-day—
Their bunting all unfurled.
With throbbing heart I glanced my eye
Along the tapering spars,
Until my gaze was fixed on thee,
My Country's Flag of Stars!

And when thy stripes and azure field
First met my eager sight,
My bosom heaved, my heart it thrilled,
With feelings of delight.
I hailed it as the emblem
Of our Columbia's tars;
The banner of the brave and free,
My Country's Flag of Stars!

And where's the heart possessing but
One spark of freedom's zeal,
That would not, gazing on thy folds,
A patriot's spirit feel?
The veteran, too, as he looks down
Upon his ancient scars,
That would not hail thee with delight,
My Country's Flag of Stars!

AGES OF MILITARY COMMANDERS.

Phillip of Macedon ascended the throne at the age of twenty-two, and soon distingushed himself in his wars with the neighboring States. At the age of forty-five he had conqured all Greece.

Alexander the great had defeated the celebrated Theban band at the battle of Cheronea, and gained a military reputation at the age of eighteen. He ascended the throne of his father, Phillip, before twenty, and at twenty-five had reached the zenith of his glory, having already conqured the world. He died before the age of thirty-two.

Julius Cæsar commanded the fleet sent to blockade Mytyline, where he distinguished himself before the age of twenty-two.

Hannibal joined the Carthigenian army in Spain at twenty two, and was made Commander-in-Chief at twenty-six. Victorious in Spain and France, he crossed the Alps and won the battle of Cannæ before the age of thirty-one.

Scipio Africanus (the elder) at the age of sixteen, distinguished himself at the battle of Ticinus; at twenty was made edile, and soon after pro consul in Spain; at twenty-nine he won the great battle of Zama, and closed his military career.

Scipio Africanus (the younger) also distintinguished himself in early life; at the age of thirty six he had conqured the Carthiginian armies and completed the destruction of Carthage.

Ghenghis Kahn succeeded to the dominion of his father at the age of thirteen, and almost immediately raised an army of thirty thousand men, with which he defeated a numerous force of rebels, who had thought to take advantage of his extreme youth to draw from his dominion. He soon acquired a military reputation by his numerous conquests, and before the age of forty had made himself emperor of Mogul.

Charlemagne was crowned King at twenty-six, conqured Aquitaine at twenty-eight, made himself master of France and the greater part of Germany at twenty-nine, placed on his brow the iron crown of Italy at thirty-two, and conqured Spain at thirty-six.

Gonsalvo de Cordova, the "Great Captain," entered the army at fifteen, and before the age of seventeen acquired a brilliant military reputation, and was knighted by the king himself on the field of battle; at forty-one he was promoted over the heads of the older veterans and made Commander-in Chief of the army in Italy.

Henry IV., of France, was placed at the head of the Huguenot army at the age of sixteen; at nineteen he became King of Navarre; at forty he had overthrown all his enemies and placed himself on the throne of France.

Menteceuli, at the age of thirty one, with two thousand horse attacked ten thousand Swedes and captured all their baggage and artillery; at thirty-two he had gained the victory of Triebel.

Saxe entered the army at twelve, and soon obtained the command of a regiment of horse; at twenty-four he became Marechal-de-Camp; at forty four Marshal of France.

Vauban, the celebrated French engineer, entered the army of Conde as a cadet at the age of seventeen; at twenty was made a Lieutenant, and at the age of twenty five he himself conducted several successful seiges and had assisted at several others.

Turenne entered the army at the age of fourteen. He served one year as a volunteer, four years as a Captain, four years as a Colonel, three years as a Major General, five years as a Lieutenant General, and became Marshal of France at thirty-two. He had won all his military reputation by the age of forty.

Prince Maurice commanded an army at eighteen, and acquired his military reputation in very early life.

The great Conde immortalized his name at the battle of Rocroi, in which, at the age of twenty-two, he defeated the Spaniards. He had won all his great military fame before the age of twenty-five.

Prince Eugene of Savoy gained the battle of Zena at thirty-four.

Peter, the Great, of Russia, organized a large army at the age of twenty; at twenty-four he fought the Turks and captured Asoph; at twenty-eight he made war with Sweden; at thirty he entered Moscow in triumph, after the victory at Embach and the capture of Noteburg and Marlenburg.

Charles the XII, of Sweden, completed his first successful campaign against Denmark at eighteen; overthrew 80,000 Russians at Navarra at nineteen, and conquered Poland and Saxony at twenty-four.

Frederick the Great, of Prussia, at the age of twedty-eight, entered upon that career of glory which has immortalized his name. He established his reputation in the first Silesian war, which he terminated at the age of thirty. The second Silesian war was terminated at thirty-three; and at forty-three, with a population of five millions, he successfully opposed a league of more than a hundred millions of people.

Prince Henry, of Prussia, decided the victory of the Prague at thirty-one.

Cortez effected the conquest of Mexico at thirty-six.

Pizarro completed the conquest of Peru at thirty-five.

Lord Clive reached the zeneth of his military fame at thirty five.

The great Napoleon was Commander-in-Chief at twenty-six.

Desaix became a General of Division at twenty-six; he died at thirty two with a reputation second only to that of Napoleon.

Soult became General of Division at twenty-nine.

Eugene Beauharnais was one of Napoleon's ablest Generals. At twenty-eight he commanded the army of Italy, and at thirty-one gained great glory in the Russian campaign, at the head of the fourth *corps d'armee*.

Gouvion St. Cyr, Suchet, Oudinot, Ney, Lannes, Joubert, Victor, Murat, Marmont, McDonald, Bernadette, Lefevre, Bessieres Duroc, all acquired a high military reputation in the field before the age of thirty-five.

This list might be extended with the same results, but names enough have been given to show that the world's heroes, and especially those who assisted the first Napoleon in his memorable campaigns, were all, with scarcely an exception, young men still burning with the fire of youthful ardor and enthusiasm.

LETTER FROM A "LOVVER."—For the benefit of those of our readers who may be, or are likely to become, afflicted with the tender passion, and who may desire to have a pattern for a short letter for their "deer," we publish the following which seems to have been held in no special reverence by the "divinity" who received it, or it would not have reached the distinction of print. The "pome" in it strongly resembles one in vogue among youths a few hundred years since, when we were boys:

The rose is red,
The violet blue,
The lilac's sweet,
And so are you.

Our Artemus Ward runs a little different style of verse. "Ye epistle" reads as follows:

my dere fren I do in form U of my dere luve i wood like to see you all very mutch my wurk is so that i kant lev it butt dont let that kepe U frum writen 2 me fur i wood like to here frum u al iff yure luve is as trew as min is i nevver forsakan you

the cherry red
the stem is green
the day is past
that we have seen

i hope that the day wil come that we wil bee as won you must exnuse my bad riten no more at present direct yore lerer to———rit sone.

——to——

MASON AND DIXON'S LINE.—On the 4th of August 1763, Thomas and Richard Penn, and Lord Baltimore, being together in London, a reed with Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, two mathematicians or surveyors, to mark, run out, settle, and fix the boundary line between Maryland on the one hand, and Delaware and Pennsylvania on the other. Mason and Dixon landed in Philadelphia on the 15th of November following, and began their works at once. They adopted the peninsular lines, and the radius and tangent point of the circular of their predecessors, they next ascertained the north-eastern coast of Maryland, and proceeded to run the dividing parallel of latitude. They persued this parallel a distance of 23 miles, and 18 chains, and 21 links, from the place of beginning at the N. E. corner of Maryland to the bottom of the valley on Dunkard Creek, where an Indian war path crossed their route, and here, on the 19th of November, 1767—ninety two years ago—their Indian escort told them it was the will of the Sioux Nation that the surveys should cease, and they terminatd accordingly, leaving 36 miles, 6 chains and 50 links as the exact distance remaining to be run west to the south-west angle of Pennsylvania, not far from the Broad Tree Tunnel, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Dixon died at Durham, England, 1777: Mason died in Pennsylvania, in 1787.

INSIGNIA OF RANK.

The highest rank in our army is Lieutenant-General, and was conferred by Congress for merit on Winfield Scott, Generrl-inChief, who is the only one who has ever held that rank in the United States. The principal distinguishing marks of uniform are three stars on the shoulder strap or epaulette—a large one in the middle, flanked by two smaller ones—a double row of nine buttons on the coat disposed in threes, a buff sash, a straight sword, and a sword knot terminating in acorns.

A Major-General is the same, but with only two stars on the shoulder.

A Brigadier-General has one star, and the buttons on his coat number but eight in each row, disposed in twos.

The Colonel is the highest in rank in a regiment, and wears an eagle on his strap, the buttons on his coat in double lines numbering eight at equal distances. When this officer is placed in charge of a brigade he is called a Colonel-commanding.

A Lieutenant-Colonel is second in command of a regiment, and is known by the leaf on his strap, which is of silver, otherwise his uniform is the same as a Colonel's. The Major's is also the same, the leaf being of gold. His duty is to act as Aid-de-camp of the Colonel, and in the event of his two superior officers being disabled or absent, he takes command of the regiment; these three constitute the field officers of a regiment, and are mounted. The Adjutant, whose position to the regiment as that of the Orderly Sergant to a company, ranks as a Lieutenant.

Captains are commanders of companies, and are distinguished by two bars of gold on the shoulder strap, and eight buttons at regular distances in a single row on the coat; the first Lieutenant the same, but with one bar on the strap, the second Lieutenant having a plain strap without marks. These last are called line officers; all regimental officers wear a red sash.

The Surgeon ranks as first Lieutenant in the volunteer service, and as Major in the regulars, and has the letters M. S.—medical staff—embroidered on his strap, which otheswise is the same as a first Lieutenant; also wears a green sash. The Quartermaster also takes a Lieutenant's rank, and has the letters Q. D.—Quartermaster's department—embroidered on his strap; the Paymaster the same, with the letters P. D.—Paymaster's department, and the Commissary with the letters C. D.—Commissary department.

These constitute (with the Captain, who wears no marks, only plain clothes of a uniform cut) the regimental staff, and are allowed to have horses. The non commissioned officers are hospital Steward, whose business it is to attend to the stores of the hospital, and all of the detail of the hospital department, under the orders of the Surgeon. His insignia is a green band on the upper arm, with a serpent entwined round a winged staff embroidered on it.

The Sergeant Major is second Sergeant in the regiment, and acts as assistant to the Adjutant. He wears on the upper arm a chevron of three stripes, connected at the top by half circular continuations. The Quartermaster manages the details of that department; his chevron is straight across the top. The Orderly Sergeant is first Sergeant in the company, and commands it in the absence of commissioned officers; the chevron is of three stripes, without connection at the top, and a diamond or star above. The second Sergeant takes charge of half a company, called a platoon, and has the same chevron as the first, but without a diamond. The Corporals are in charge of sections or quarters of a company, and are distinguished by but two bars in the chevron. Of the swords the cavalry saber is longest, and has a steel scabbard. The field officers come next; the scabbard being of chocolate enamel, with gilt trimmings. The line officers, plainer and shorter, with sheath of black leather. A general officer's weapon is straight, with a gilt scabbard. Musicians and non commissioned officers being shorter still, and more for show than use.

The color of the shoulder straps denotes the arm of the service—infantry being blue; artillery, red; cavalry, orange; and rifles, green.

VALUE OF NEGROES.—We see it stated that the average cash value of male slaves at present in South Carolina, as shown by the auction sales, etc., is $316—females, $400. Thus it appears, that, for the first time in the history of the State, or of any other State, male slaves are much less valuable than female. The reason no doubt is that men don't like to buy male slaves, knowing the strong probability, if not certainty, of their being seized for military service. This strongly indicates the condition of things there. The average value of male and female slaves in South Carolina has hithertoo been a thousand dollars. So the depreciation upon the hundred and eighty five thousand slaves of the State, allowing the number of males and females to be equal, is about two hundred and sixty four millions of dollars. What a monstrous loss for a single State, especially a State no richer than South Carolina. She has suffered fearfully from this war, and, if it comes not to a speedy close, her sufferings will be tenfold what they have yet been. Terrible was her crime, and terrible has been, and more terrible will be, her punishment.

THE FEELING IN KENTUCKY.—Hon. Joshua F. Bell made a speech at Springfield, Kentucky, in which he said he "would rather see Kentucky in its original state of a desolate wilderness, than to see it separated from the Union and brought under the government of the Confederate States." The Hon. Garrett Davis (now U. S. Senator) wrote to the same meeting: "Perish Slavery rather than the Union."

A MAN'S good fortune often turns his head; but his bad fortune as often averts the heads of his friends.

SHELLS AND BIG GUNS.—For more than twenty years the officers of the Ordnance and Engineering Department of the United States Army have been advocating the introduction of very heavy guns into our sea coast fortifications, and Commander Dahlgreen, of the Ordnance Department of the Navy, has been laboring to arm our ships of war with the large shell guns. The action at Fort Hatteras has demonstrated in a very conclusive manner the wisdom of both these innovations. It was by means of the shell-guns on board the naval vessel that the fort was reduced, while there is no doubt that if the place had been armed with Rodman's 15-inch guns, or even with 10-inch Columbiads, the ships would either have been driven away or very quickly blown to pieces. But as the Forts had only 32 pounders the vessels were able to lie out of range of these and to pour their shells into the Fort in such a storm as to drive the garrison into the magazine. From Engineer Thompson's report, it seems that some 10-inch Columbiads were on the way to the forts, and one had actually arrived though fortunately it was not mounted. It is quite possible that if that one gun had been ready for service, the action might have resulted in the sinking of some of our ships and the withdrawel of the remainder. When shells were thrown from mortars at an angle of 45 degrees, the hitting of a ship one or two miles off was a feat of rare accomplishment; but with one of the great Columbiads, which send their shells at point blank, or at moderate elevation, a ship can be hit at almost every shot, and a shell in the side of a wooden ship is so terribly destructive that but very few shots are required to send the largest man-of-war to the bottom. Even before the great revolution in naval warfare effected by the introduction of shell-guns, the attacks on land fortifications by ships were seldom successful, but to send wooden vessels against forts armed with these guns would be simply madness. The money which has been expended by the nation in enabling our ordnance and engineer officers to make their investigations, has resulted in giving us knowledge of immeasurable value in this crisis; it has been as profitably laid out as any portion of the national expenditure.

CAPTURE OF THE BEAUREGARD.—A letter from Key West gives some interesting details concerning the capture of the privateer Beauregard by the United States gunboat W. C. Anderson. The Beauregard was overhauled off Abaco, on the morning of the 12th Dec., when she had been out but five days from Charleston, and before she had made a single capture. The Beauregard was owned by a company in Charleston, and had just been fitted out at an expense of $15,000. She was commanded by Captain Gilbert Hay, and carried one rifled gun on her deck. When the Anderson was bearing down upon the Beauregard, an attempt was made by the Lieutenant of the latter vessel to bring his gun into use, but the Captain, seeing the superior force of the gunboat, forbade any resistance. He had doubtless the fate of the privateer, Savannah, before his eyes. The Beauregard, therefore, together with her crew, fell an easy prey to her captors. The prize turned out to be not a very valuable one in this world's goods; for the pursers accounts showed a cash balance on hand of 25 cents. The Captain of the pirate, Hay, is a Scotchman by birth, but is a naturalized citizen of the United States, and has resided in Charleston twenty-eight years. He served at one time as prize-master on board of the pirate, Jeff Davis. The 1st Lieutenant, John B. Davis, was serving in the same capacity on board of the rebel man-of-war, Winslow, when that vessel was committing her depredations off the Hatteras coast. John H. Stuart, the 2d Lieutenant, is a native of England. He was an ordinary seaman on board the ship Mary Goodell, of Portland, when that vessel was captured by the Jeff Davis. He was taken on board the pirate, enlisted as one of her crew, and very soon promoted to the 2d Lieutenancy. The crew of the Beauregard numbered twenty-seven men, nearly all foreigners, who are represented as the hardest looking, most desperate and wretched set it had ever been the lot of the writer to encounter. They are now in jail at Key West awaiting their trial.

THE PEN MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD.—The United States *Gazette* thinks that even this war proves that the "pen is mightier than the sword," and gives the following proofs:

Gen. McClellan, before the breaking out of this war, had never in all his life commanded nor maneuvered a regiment. He had been a captain and nothing more. Yet he was thought to be a general, and why? Chiefly because of his able report on the operations of the Crimean war. His report was a mere criticism of the events of the campaign, and the management of each side, a written series of opinions, just such as the newspapers of the country have given of the progress of affairs in the present war. His writings made him a general, and events have shown him worthy to wear the title. Henry W. Halleck of California has also been made a major-general for similar reasons. He never yet has commanded or maneuvered so much as a battalion. But his lectures on the art of war, which have since their delivery been published in book form, showed him to have studied the art thoroughly, and the War Department has on that ground made him a major-general. So much confidence has the Government in his abilities that he has been made successor to Fremont.

COMMODORE TUTNALL, of the rebel fleet, has given it as his opinion, that the entire rebel defences of the Southern coast must be abandoned, as they could not withstand the armament of our fleet.

"DRAWING FOR A PAIR OF JACKS."—The Marysville *Express* makes merry over the perplexities of a man whom the editor saw trying to rope a couple of stubborn donkeys off an island. He called it "drawing for a pair of jacks."

AFTER the celebrated passage of the bridge of Lodi, the Directory at Paris, alarmed and jealous at the growing popularity and power of the rising star, appointed General Kellerman to an equal command with Bonaparte in Italy, thus dividing the responsibility and hoping to divide the glory between them. Napoleon immediately tendered his resignation, and after paying a high compliment to the abilities and experience of Kellerman, briefly and curtly told the Directory that "one bad General was better than two good ones," and they must choose between him and Kellerman. The Directory did not dare to displace the young Bonaparte, and called the old General to another command. The President, by quoting, has recalled that little incident in the life of Napoleon, to whom our young Commander-in-chief, McClellan, is thus neatly and justly compared.—*Freka Journal.*

THE Visalia *Delta* (whose editor is an old line Democrat and voted for Breckinridge, but is against secession) has the following tart observations: "Secession papers are eternally harping about this bloody war, 'got up by the Republicans.' While we are not by any means the apologist, or defender of Republicanism, it is well enough to simply say that the statement is a gross and unmitigated lie, and the man making it either is himself an unmitigated fool, or thinks he is addressing fools. When Lincoln took office he found—what? Can any 'secesher' tell? Why, everything taken that well could be, and ten thousand men and nineteen batteries around Ft. Sumter, Washington threatened, etc., and the Government slightly objecting to the proceeding was war! wasn't it? A man making such a statement is contemptible for his ignorance."

HON. GEORGE BANCROFT says, "Now, has any new phantom risen up to turn us aside from the support of the Union? If any such has, it must give way. If slavery and the Union are incompatible, listen to the words that come from the tomb of Andrew Jackson; 'The Union must be preserved at all hazards. We send the army into the South to maintain the Union, to restore the validity of the Constitution. If any one claims the compromises of the Constitution let him begin by placing the Constitution in power by respecting and upholding it.'"

THE following is a letter from a country postmaster, who voted for Breckenridge and Lane, and who is beginning to feel an uneasy sensation about the neck, "I voted for neither Dougless nor Linkin. I take no responsibilities for the trouble of the our. I, whose grate, eternal eternal ancestors fit, bled and dide at the battle of Brande Wine, I'm proud to say i voted the grand nashunal dimeeratic ticket of Beverage and Layin!

SAMBO IN KENTUCKY.—A member of one of the Indiana regiments, writing from Kentucky says: "While passing through Elizabethtown, an incident occured which serves to show the state of feeling there, prior to the advent of our forces. An old negro woman was heared shouting, "De Lor breff us, whar all dese men from? Shoah as God dey's come jes to show dey wasn't 'fraid to come. God breff dar souls, I isn't 'fraid to holler for de Union now!"

IN a recent case of assault in Chelsea, the defendant pleaded guilty. "I think I must be guilty," said he, "because the plaintiff and me were the only ones in the room, and the first thing I knew I was standing up, and he was doubled over the stove. You'd better call it guilty.

THE Richmond *Examiner* says "Benedict Arnold was the best officer the North has produced." No wonder they think so. "A fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind."

A SOUND PLATFORM.—The *National American*, published at Belair, Maryland, thus defines its position: There are two parties in the country, only two. One goes for crushing out rebellion by the Government; the other is for crushing out the Government by rebellion. *We* belong to the former.

LANDLORD.—Mr. Editor, I'll thank you, if you will say that I keep the best table in the city.

Editor.—I'll thank you to supply my family with board gratis.

Landlord.—I thought you were glad to get something to fill up your paper.

Editor.—I thought you were glad to board men for nothing.

Its a poor rule that won't work both ways.

What is the difference between a hen with a wing and a hen without a wing. A mere difference of a pinion.

SHOULD you happen to catch yourself whistling in a printing office, and the compositors tell you to whistle louder, don't you do it.

SOLDIERS ALLOWANCE.—The allowance of clothing to our soldiers is much greater than to soldiers in European armies. Our troops get one uniform coat and two sack coats a year, a pair of trowsers every five months. In the French army, the allowance for three years is only one tunic and three pairs of trowsers, while a shell jacket is given every two years. In the Sardinian and Belgian armies, the great coat is expected to last eight years. But the great durability of the clothing of European armies is easily accounted for when we consider the care which is taken to insure good materials. Every yard of cloth is subjected to very minute and distinct examinations by boards of officers, assisted by experts who weigh it, and shrink it, and examine it inch by inch against a strong light. They also apply chemical tests to detect the durability of the dye, and the manufactories are at all times open to inspectors, to watch the fabrication at every stage.