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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.

OUR FLAG.

[From the UNION SONGSTER.]

Fling abroad its folds to the cooling breeze,
Let it float at the mast-head high;
And gather around, all hearts resolv'd,
To sustain it there or die:
An emblem of peace and hope to the world,
Unstained let it ever be;
And say to the world, where'er it waves,
Our flag is the flag of the free!

That banner proclaims to the list'ning earth,
That the reign of the tyrant is o'er,
The galling chains of despotic sway
Shall enslave us no more:
An emblem of hope to the poor and lost,
O place it where all may see;
And shout with glad voice as you raise it high,
Our flag is the flag of the free!

Then on high, on high let that banner wave,
And lead us the foe to meet,
Let it float in triumph o'er our heads
Or be our winding sheet:
And never, oh never be it furled,
'Till it wave o'er earth and sea;
And all mankind shall sweet the shout,
Our flag is the flag of the free!

BALLOONING OVER THE REBEL CAMP.

The following is an extract from a balloon ascension over the rebel camp, by Prof. La Mountain and N. Frank White, as given by Mr. White:

The enemy has not passed unnoticed, for, though I cannot get *inside* their lines, fortunately I am favored with opportunities which few have, I can go *over* their lines; and so, with the Professor, I paid them a morning visit a few days ago. I cannot say what were the remarks of Jefferson D., Esq., as we floated above his encampment at Centerville, and I do not know that Mr. Beauregard spilt his coffee on receiving information that the hated Yankees were so near; but I do know that either of the above-named gentlemen, by looking straight up from Centerville about ten o'clock that morning, could have seen, without a very powerful glass, two inquisitive Yankees taking notes, which in three hours from that time were in the hand of our General. We had indeed a glorious ascension, the wind being from the east, in the right direction to take us to Manassas; we cut entirely loose from the earth, and went up, up, up, until the Professor's able assistant, Mr. Albert Kendrick, of Troy, with our guard of forty men, were a little cluster of dots, and our barricaded mill a mere hand breadth square; off to the east lay Washington and the white tent-dotted hills of Maryland; then came the Potomac, like a silver ribbon, narrowing north towards Leesburg, and proadening out away to the south and south east; right below us, encampment upon encampment, lay the grand army of the Potomac; the thousands of white tents covering all the hill sides; the black, moving squares and lines, which we knew were our own true soldiers; the brown earth fortifications upon each commanding eminence, every angle is marked out to our view as though a map was beneath—and the blended, softened, harmonized music of many bands, now swelling out full and clear, as it pulsed up to us, now toned down to the gentlest strains, were sights and sounds never to be forgotten.

But the wind was fast bearing us to the west, and in a very few moments we were over Fairfax Court House; by descending a little we could see plainly the rebel cavalry, who were scouting in that vicinity; with the exception of those scouts, there was no force there; a few moments more brought us over Centerville, and there, within and around thousand bough huts, were the mortal enemies of those whose tents but a little time before lay below us on the banks of the Potomac. We were near enough to have a fair view of their numbers, to get all the information we wanted, and stir up quite an excitement in their midst, if we could judge by the evident agitation of the living mass; doubtless their blessings were plentifully showered upon us. But as we were above, as a natural consequence the shower had no effect; and as we had made our call sufficiently long, we threw over a little ballast, bade them a polite good morning, and went up in search of some current that would be obliging enough to take us back again under the protection of our own glorious stars and stripes. I confess that I was a little nervous lest Boreas should not be in an obliging mood, in which case our condition would not be exactly the thing, for we well knew that many thousand angry eyes were watching us below; many a finger was ready, if we came in range, to pull the trigger that would speed a ball towards our hearts—wasn't I excusably nervous? I think I was; though, as the sequel proved, unnecessarily so that time, for we soon reached the higher current to the east, and rapidly sped on to safety, landing in a very short time right in the midst of our camps, not two miles from our starting place. That was one day's experience, and I shall probably have many such if this war continues long.

SECESSIONISTS CLAIMING LANDS.

The following Circular has been sent from the Land Office, Washington, to Registers, Receivers and Surveyors-General:

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, Jan. 6, 1862.

Gentlemen: This office has received a communication, dated the 3d inst., from the Hon. C. B. Smith, Secretary of the Interior, by which we are advised that he is in possession of information in which he places entire confidence, "that many persons in Oregon, and probably others in Washington Territory, are claiming and obtaining the benefit of the acts of Congress donating lands to actual settlers, who openly express sentiments hostile to the Government whose bounty they claim, and adherence to and sympathy with the existing rebellion."

The resources of the Government, necessary to sustain its credit in the future, and required so far as available in the present, to suppress this rebellion, ought not to be squandered upon those aiding and abetting the treason, which it is the great object of the Government to destroy and eradicate.

The acts of Congress granting donations of land, restrict those donations to citizens, and those who have solemnly declared their intention to become citizens, before the judicial tribunals.

The spirit of these acts, therefore, confines the grants of lands to persons loyal to the United States, and to such only.

Your office, and the local offices of the Land Department, should refuse to execute and deliver certificates and evidences to disloyal persons, whether they have aided and assisted the existing rebellion, or are plotting to render it assistance in the future.

The act of Congress of March 3d, 1857, (section 5.) "In addition to an act more effectually to provide for the punishment of certain crimes against the United States," recognizes the right of the Commissioner of the Government Land Office to issue orders, regulations, and instructions respecting the public lands, and the authority of the District Land Officers to administer all oaths required by such orders, regulations, or instructions. The act of Congress of August, 1861, "requiring an oath of allegiance and to support the Constitution of the United States," to be administered to all persons in the civil service of the United States, has prescribed a form of oath, which, under orders of the Executive, has also been administered to pensioners and persons having claims against the United States; and which, in my opinion, it is proper to cause to be administered to all persons claiming certificates of donations of lands.

These remarks, it will be observed, apply with equal force to all persons claiming pre-emption rights, which are special grants of preference and favor conferred by the Government and by it restricted to loyal persons.

In accordance with these views and pursuant to instructions (1). "All persons claiming pre-emptions or donations of lands are required to take the oath of allegiance above designated (form herewith) before obtaining certificates from the local land offices."

2. These certificates have already been issued, and the patents in these classes of cases remain under the control of this office or the local offices. The patents will not be delivered until the required oath is taken by the party or parties to whom they are issued, or who have direct interest in them.

3. A like oath of allegiance will also be required of all persons taking contracts in the surveying service in any portion of the public domain.

In any and all matters falling within the range of your duties, upon the aforesaid instructions may have a hearing, you are herby enjoined to faithfully observe the said instructions.

You will please acknowledge the receipt of this circular, and will promptly report any case or cases heretofore returned to this office, in which its interpositions may be required to give a full effect to the Secretary's instructions.

A supply of the forms of oath will be furnished you by this office.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. M. EDMUNDS. Com.

A FORTY-SHOOTER.—The forty-shooter invented by Rev. Mr. Moore, of Iowa—a perfect Nimrod of a preacher—is described as a weapon which will kill with accuracy at a distance of three hundred yards. The editor of the St. Louis *Republican* inspected the weapon, and says its caliber is ninety-five balls to the pound, and it has the Maynard primer attached. The powder and balls are put into two tubes, which extend from the chamber about one foot up the barrel, parallel with each other, and both can be filled with ammunition in a few seconds. These serve the purpose of a cartridge box, and the rifle is charged from them by a partial revolution of the stock, which is quickly reversed, and the gun is ready for firing. The ball is rammed into the chamber with a sliding rammer, by the movement of returning the stock to its place. The contrivance is by no means complicated, and its perfect simplicity is a guarantee against its getting out of order. The manner of handling it may also be learned thoroughly in a few minutes. This rifle may very readily be adopted for army purposes, made of any caliber required, and would not prove more expensive than many of the fire-arms now in use. A capacity of twenty charges would be entirely sufficient for an army gun, and, in the hands of a regiment in action, would render it equal to at least five regiments armed with a common musket or rifle. Arrangements are being made, at St. Louis, to manufacture the weapon.—*Sac. Union.*

SALUTE FOR FLOYD.—The last gun fired at the Union salute, on Saturday evening, was given for Floyd. It comprised a small charge of powder and no wadding, resulting in a "fizzle out."—*Yreka Journal.*

WRECK OF THE STEAMER COLUMBUS.—The Panama correspondent of the *Bulletin*, writing under date of Jan. 20th, gives the following particulars of the loss of the steamer Columbus, whose wreck was announced by telegraph from New York recently:

A Sardinian schooner arrived at Panama a few days since from Salvador, but brings no letters or newspapers from the Central American States. She, however, brings us news of the total loss of the Panama Railroad Company's steamer Columbus, which has been anxiously looked for at Panama for a month past. The Columbus was bound up, and safely landed her cargo at Puntarenas de Costa Rica, Realejo, Nicaragua and La Union, Salvador. On the 8th of December, while running for the port of Acajutla, and off Punta Remedois, close to the port, she ran on to the reef, on which the surf always breaks heavily and commenced breaking up rapidly. In ten hours there was nothing to be seen of her, she having gone to pieces. Capt. Ludwig had mistaken, in the night, a vessel in view, in the harbor, for the rock near the reef, and running for her, struck the rock instead of reaching his anchorage. The Columbus, when she struck, had 1,250 packages of goods on board, principally Guatamala, valued at $150,000. Only two hundred cases were picked up, but in so damaged a condition that the salvos scarcely paid for their trouble. The goods are presumed to be mostly insured in Europe, from whence they came. There was no insurance on the Columbus. The passengers and crew were all saved, and were awaiting the steamer Guatamala, which could not arrive at Acajutla till the 6th of the present month. Californians will recollect the Columbus as the George Law propeller, of about 500 tons, which in 1850 used to tote them up and down between San Francisco and Panama, packed like herrings in a box, for the trifling sum of three hundred thousand dollars each. About eighteen months since, the Railroad Company expended the sum of forty thousand dollars in re-building her, and when lost she was sound and in good order. Their other steamer, the Guatamala, will have to do all the steam trade, which has become very valuable, between Panama and Central American ports, till July, when the Salvador, a fine new vessel just launched by the Company at New York, will join in the business. The Guatamala will arrive to-day, perhaps, and will bring a cargo valued at not less than two million dollars, consisting of indigo, cochineal, balsam and coffee—and she will also bring the officers and crew of the Columbus.

PARSON BROWNLOW.—The following from the St. Louis correspondence of the *Alta* is the last intelligence which we have from the indomitable parson:

The Parson's adventures are not finished yet. In the Confederate Court at Knoxville, on the 27th ult., a *nolle prosequi* was entered in the case of Parson Brownlow, on the ground that having surrendered himself voluntarily, on condition that the Government would agree to convey him out of East Tennessee, and protect his exit. The faith of the Government being pledged, his discharge was ordered. The Knoxville *Register* remarks as follows:

"Whether Brownlow was well enough to leave the jail last night, or what has become of him, we have not learned; though we understand it was the intention of the commander of the post here to hold him under arrest, with a view to his safe conduct beyond the lines, where he may be able to co-operate with Johnson and Maynard."

The release was by the Court authorities. Immediately upon his discharge Brownlow was re-arrested by Col. Monsarrat, Military Commander, and remanded to custody.

FURTHER FROM THE EAST.—From late Eastern papers, to Jan. 11th, we extract the following items of intelligence:

Under the caption of "A year closing under gloomy auspices," the Richmond *Examiner* commences an article thus:

"The year closed under gloomy auspices with a check at Dranesville and a rumored disaster in Missouri. The year which yesterday began has opened with evil tidings. We fear that there is no doubt that the Northern Union has consented to the surrender of Mason and Slidell; and with that event all hope of an immediate alliance between the Southern Confederacy and Great Britain must cease."

The *Examiner* then goes on to portray the depth of degradation to which the North has been reduced by the surrender of Mason and Slidell, in which it can find no consolation, however, because it removes the chance of a war with England, and because it cannot discover any sign of a popular revulsion at the North against the action of the Government, which is evidently sustained by the people. Then it believes that Palmerston is the friend of the North, but thinks that the Palmerston Ministry must soon be overthrown, as the interests of the British people are with the South, and then intervention will assuredly take place. The editor closes as follows:

"But, for some time, we may be left alone in this quarrel. Let us not repine though the task be heavy on the arm. If we would respect ourselves, consolidate our nationality, insure our independence and transmit a heroic memory to posterity, we must prove to ourselves and to all others that our own unaided strength is sufficient for our redemption. If it is not, there remains one resolution by which every citizen that is worthy of freedom can avoid the sight of its extinction and the spectacle of his country's ruin—to die in the last ditch of their defense."

BLACK AND WHITE FLAG.—The rebels at Fort Donaldson raised the black flag on Saturday, but substituted the white flag on Sunday, which may be considered a pious move, in order that the sinners might have opportunity of redeeming themselves from being subjects of Satan's kingdom.

EASTERN NEWS.

FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 19.—Gunboats had returned to Elizabeth City, all the fleet was anchored at Roanoke Island. An immense number of trophies had been captured, including a splendid State flag of antiquated arms, flintlock muskets, old swords, shot guns, pistols, etc.

Col. Corcoran and 700 Federal prisoners are expected hourly at Old Point.

The Sumter is off the coast of Spain.

Gen. Burnside's fleet is at anchor off Roanoke Island. Troops have been sent on enough to increase his force to 40,000. Edenton is occupied by his men, and their picket extend six or eight miles into the interior from that point

The war in Venezuela continues.

A frightful revolution is progressing in Honduras. Gen. Guardiola has been assassinated at his own house. The troops had joined the insurgents, and excesses were being committed in Truxillo.

Advices from St. Thomas to the 2d February state that a british commander had attempted to take a seaman from an American vessel, but was prevented by a Federal gunboat. The British Admiral subsequently arrived, reprimanded the commander and apologized to the American Consul.

Ship Island [Miss.] dates reach to the 7th of February. Five ships of Foster's expedition had arrived, and two more were spoken off Havanna on the 11th.

Four rebel schooners had arrived at Havanna from New Orleans on the 10th, loaded with cotton.

Washington, Feb. 20th.—The Senate has passed the army appropriation bill.

Chicago special dispatches say that out of one company of the 11th Illinois Regiment, [at Ft. Donaldson] there were only 16 men who were not killed, wounded or missing. There are but 140 effective men left in the regiment.

Of the rebel prisoners taken at Donaldson 3,000 have asked to be allowed their arms and be enrolled in the union army.

Tennessee has convened the Legislature of the State to repeal all laws passed by the Confederate Legislature inconsistent with the Federal Constitution.

White flags are flying at Nashville.

Gens. Floyd and Pillow committed many acts of vandalism as they passed up the river.

Gen. Halleck has telegraphed to McClellan that Clarkesville has been taken, with supplies enough for the army for 20 days. The place is now occupied by Gen. Smith's Division.

Chicago, Feb. 21.—The Illinois State Convention, now in session at Springfield, has appropriated $500,000 for the exclusive purpose of relieving the wants of the suffering soldiers who have been or may be wounded at battles fought in defense of the Union.

A rebel telegram from Augusta says that Gen Johnson telegraphed to Gen. Grant that he wo'd surrender Nashville, provided private property would be respected. No answer was made.

Gordon, the slaver, was executed to-day.

General Grant has been made a Major General.

General Butler's preparations at Ship Island, doubtless for an attack on New Orleans, go on vigorously.

Nothing definite from Savannah yet reaches us. It is certain that Fort Pulaski is isolated from the land it was built to protect, and that our forces have a battery on an island lying between it and Savannah.

New York, Feb. 20th.—The substance of Earl Russell's letter to the Lords of the Admiralty, states that all ships of war or privateers, of either belligerent, are prohibited from making use of any port or roadstead in the United Kingdom of Great Britain, Ireland, the Channel Islands, or in any of Her Majesty's colonies, foreign possessions dependencies, or of any waters subject to the territorial jurisdiction of the British Crown, as a place for any warike purposes, or for the purpose of obtaining any facilities for warlike equipments. No ship of war or privateer of either belligerent, shall be permitted to sail out of or leave any port, roadstead, or waters subject to British jurisdiction, from which any vessel of either belligerent, whether the same be a ship of war, privateer, or merchant ship, shall have previously departed, until after the expiration of at least twenty-four hours from the departure of such last named vessel beyond the territorial jurisdiction of Her Majesty. This order was to go into effect on the 6th inst.

Last advices represent that there is but little doubt but that France will follow the example of the British with still more stringent obligations of neutrality on the part of French subjects in reference to the American belligerents.

Col. Richasdson from the Committee of the House on Military Affairs, is preparing a bill to effect the incarceration of, and refusal to exchange, all prisoners who have taken the oath to support the Constitution of the United States, such as Senators, Members of Congress, Foreign Ministers, all who have been regular army or navy officers, or who have accepted office, either civil or military, under the so called Southern Confederacy—in short to punish the leaders of the rebellion, and under no pretext whatever, allow them to escape.

The recent news from Europe, touching the determination of the Allied Powers to put a Hapsburg as the ruler over Mexico, and thus create a monarchy on our borders, is exciting profound emotion here. The fact that some such scheme was contemplated has been in possession of the State Department for some time past, and it will be found that dispatches have been sent to our Ministers in London, Paris and Madrid, protesting energetically against any such project.

It is asserted that the allies are determined that their armies shall march on the Capital of Mexico next month.

The report gains strength that the Arch-duke Maximillian will be tendered the throne of Mexico.

There have been popular demonstrations at Parma and Florence against Papal temporal power, and in favor of Victor Emanuel.

Andy Johnson will probably proceed to Nashville as soon as that place is taken, and assist in organizing a provincial government in Tennessee. That State will probably send a full loyal delegation to Congress by the last of March.

THE companies of the First Regiment of Cavalry Oregon Volunteers, mustered into the service of the United States, are lettered as follows:

Co. A commanded by Capt. T. S. Harris.
" B " Capt. E. J. Harding.
" C " 1st Lieut. Wm. Kelly.
" D " Capt. Sewal Truax.
" E " 1st Lieut. Geo. B. Curry.
" F " 1st Lieut. D. P. Thompson.

Thus it will be seen that Jackson county leads the van in the Volunteer Regiment, called for by the General Government, to protect the exposed frontier of our youthful State and to give protection to immigration. When the call was first announced, secession sympathizers offered to bet that twenty men could not be enlisted in this county. It only took Captain Harris six days to fill his company.

We do not believe that Capt. Truax has as high an alphabetical position as he is entitled to. It may be we are mistaken, however. We are willing that honor should be given where the honor is due.—*Sentinel.*

THE PROSPECTIVE DEBT OF THE UNION.—Secretary Chase sums up the prospective debt of the country at the close of the financial year ending June 30th, 1863, as follows:

It only remains to complete the view of the financial situation, to submit a statement of the public debt as it was on the 1st day of July, in 1860 and 1861, and will be, according to the statement now presented, at the same date in each of the years 1862 and 1863.

The statement, in brief, is as follows:

July 1, 1860, the public debt was	$64,769,903 08
July 1, 1861, the public debt was	90,876,826 68
July 1, 1862, the public debt will be	517,372,802 93
July 1, 1863, the public debt will be	897,372,802 93

WE learn that a private in Company C, Oregon Cavalry Volunteers, seeing there was no chance for any of the Southern rebels to do the job for him, concluded to relieve the Government of further expense by cutting his throat. Unfortunately for the Government but perhaps fortunately for him, he did not succeed in completing the job, hence he is now undergoing medical treatment in the military hospital at this place.—*V Telegraph.*

FROM KERN RIVER.—The Los Angelos *News*, of the 12th, has advices from Kern river, which show a damage of some $20,000 in value to that locality by the floods. Three quartz mills were swept off with a toll-bridge and many mining improvements. On Greenhorn mountain White river and in Linn's valley the damage was also very large. The people of Linn's settlement, on Kern river, had a norrw escape for their lives, the entire settlemnt being swept off by the flood.

Why is it necessary for the rebels to carry a white-wash bucket in fighting? Because its contents are needed to white-wash the black flag.—*Yreka Journal.*

THE IRREPRESSIBLE REPORTER.—Colonel Baker's funeral ceremonies took place at Webb's. The friends, the honorables and the military, filled the house, and reporters were shut out. Now came the tug of war. One reporter's efforts alone I will give as a sample, selecting the victor in the case. Having failed in all other efforts to get in, he brassed it up to Gen. McClellan and asked a pass. This was rediculous, of course, as it was neither McClellan's house nor funeral, and reporter was snubbed. Off he goes to Gen. Marcy, Chief of McClellan's staff and was as cavalierly treated as he deserved. Round the house he goes, and finding the omnipresent contraband, gives him a dollar to shoot him down the scuttle hole, when round through the lobby and larder he creeps to the side of the Parson. But he dare not use his pencil lest it bring on a gentle leading out by the ear. Down he sits, with one eye half closed in full funeral flow, and the other on the Parson's manuscript. The address over, down knelt reporter, meek and mousing, and when all hearts were melting and all eyes were closed save reporter's *one*, he stole the manuscript and "slid cannie out." Long the weary Parson looked for his truant address, but when morning dawned he was able to read it entire in the papers.—*Cleaveland Plaindealer.*

MODERN DEFINITIONS.—Oversight—To leave your old umbrella in a new room and carry away a new one.

Unfortunate Man—One born with a conscience.

Progress of Time—A peddler going through the land with wooden clocks.

Rigid Justice—A juror on a murder case fast asleep.

Honesty—Almost obsolete; a term formerly used in the case of a man who paid for his paper.

Credit—A wise (?) provision by which constables and sheriffs get a living.

Love—An ingredient used in romance and poetry.

Religion—Damning your neighbor for not thinking exactly as you do.

A wag of a Union man says that many men have raised a large crop of hemp, and he is consoled with the idea of reciprocity, that a large crop of hemp will raise many men this year.