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THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE—THE PRESENT LAW—WHY SHOULD LAWYERS BE EXEMPT?

It was enacted by the last Legislative Assembly of this State that all creditors of the State or any of the counties therein, before receiving their money, should take the oath of allegiance to the United States. Also, that any person offering to vote at any election who may be challenged for disloyalty, shall take such oath, or be not allowed to vote.

We confess that, as an abstract proposition, we are not over much in love with the principle of administering test oaths. But there being no fundamental law to the contrary, the question is one of sound policy and expediency, to be determined according to the needs and circumstances of the occasion. An oath to bear true faith, allegiance, and loyalty to the Constitution and the Government of the United States, is at most but a solemn pledge to do that which every individual citizen of the United States is bound, by the conditions of his citizenship, whether by birth or naturalization, to do. In time of war—a civil war—when the party in rebellion against the Government has its partisans and sympathizers scattered through every loyal State, it would seem that something of this kind becomes absolutely necessary for self-preservation.

With the first class (creditors), our law is well enough. No man not loyal to the Government ought to expect the State to put money in his pocket, which may be used for its overthrow. With the second class (voters), the principle of the thing is well enough, but we question the good policy of the time, manner, and place provided for putting it in force. The power or privilege of voting pre-supposes the correlative duty of obedience and allegiance. A disloyal man has no right to complain if he is excluded from the polls. And while the question of *what constitutes* disloyalty might receive many different answers, the test proposed by this oath is not an unreasonable one. Nor should any one be aggrieved if he be called upon to testify by an oath his fealty to the Government, before he is allowed to participate in the control of its affairs by giving his vote at the polls.

But, as we have suggested, we think the law has provided an improper time and place to put the voter to the proof of his allegiance. Election day is no time, and the polls no place for such proceedings, at least when it can be avoided. The challenge should be tendered, and settled, before men come to consider in the heat and excitement of a close contest at the polls, whether a political opponent is loyal or not. We are also inclined to think, that the absolute power to challenge and require the oath, should not be committed indiscriminately to any and every voter in the crowd. This gives too much power to gratify personal malice; and by virtue of it any blackguard or ruffian may call in question the loyalty of any decent man at the polls, without a particle of reason, but simply out of wanton bravado, or from personal grudge. The powers to challenge, ought, perhaps, to be confined to persons selected with some reference to their known good character and loyalty, and to the delicate nature of this business—say to justices of the peace. The law might make it their duty within so many days prior to an election, upon reasonable grounds of suspicion that any person is not loyal, to require such person to take the oath of allegiance, or be excluded from the polls.

But it has always struck us as a singular oversight in the law that it did not require *lawyers* to take the oath of allegiance before being allowed to practice in the courts of the State. A lawyer is an officer of the court and of the Government. Whatever objections there may be to requiring other persons to take the oath, there can be none in this case, either in peace or war. In the courts is the place where the government is brought to bear upon the people, by the administration of its laws between man and man and government and citizen. Here too, in all ages and countries that have had courts and lawyers, is where sedition and rebellion are apt first to rear their snaky crests, and insidiously commence their work. Lawyers, as a class, are conservative it is true, but among them there have always been enough and to spare, particularly in the United States, who from natural inclination, or for want of something better, take to what used to be called the "sedition line," in the hope to make fortune or party leadership out of it. This very position gives them great power and advantage in this respect. All disputed questions between government and citizen must ultimately pass through the courts and become food for what Cromwell used to call the "Sons of Zeruiah." A disloyal man within the bar of the court, with the privileges of an attorney, is more dangerous than the same person in the ranks of the army. Before any government puts a sword or musket into the hands of a soldier, to defend his country, it exacts of him an oath of allegiance and fidelity. For as urgent reasons, before any government allows a man a place within the bar of its courts, with the privilege of assisting in the administration of its laws, it should require of him the like oath of allegiance and fidelity to the government that creates and maintains him. It is a voluntary thing. No man is forced to practice law, and unless he will give the security of his oath, that he will not abuse the position for the purpose of overthrowing the government or giving aid and comfort to its enemies, he ought not to be allowed to occupy it.

We think the next Legislature will do well to follow the example of California and other States, and include the brethren of the long robe in the oath of allegiance. All the loyal ones will be glad to testify their fidelity to the government, and the disloyal ones—if there be any, can well be spared for some other calling. There need be no fear of reducing the number below the demands of the country. If one half of the present number should suddenly become pious and take to preaching the gospel, we are not sure but the country would be the gainer thereby, particularly if they would [illegible] it and do their very best for the salvation of souls—their own included. If such an event should occur, the churches must make their own terms with the gentlemen before they admit them within the fold. If they do not require security, they should at least exact a prolonged probation, before advancing them beyond the first degree—the "deacon." In the few instances which have come within our own observation, where attorneys have left the bar and entered the church; they did not remain long, but as soon as they were washed of their sins and made whiter than snow, or appeared to be, they were back in the world and at the bar, claiming the benefit of their newly gotten character.

But we must apologise for having fallen into a strain that may be thought disrespectful. We did not set out to abuse lawyers. They can be trusted to do that for one another. Among them are men of the first integrity, some of whom we are happy to claim as our friends. We conclude as we begun, that if anybody ought to take the oath of allegiance *they* ought, and we hope the next Legislative Assembly will give them an opportunity to do so.

EXPLANATION.—We refused to publish a card for Mr. Hayden, of Polk county, in our last issue, whereat Ben waxes wroth in the last *Arena*, and pronounces us "knaves" and "scoundrels." We refused for several reasons. In the first place, Mr. H. is part owner in a sheet published in this town, and we thought it best for him to patronize his own organ, as we have understood the unfortunate editor of that paper has to "scratch, scratch," far into the night, to keep up a supply of "copy." In the next place, we thought the "Josh Billings" style of literature, for which the members of that party are noted, would appear to better advantage in that paper than in our own. If gassy Ben will write "a essa on cats or mules," we may consent to publish it, but his political ravings don't suit. We now have on file a number of well written articles from honest and respectable men, that we cannot publish for want of room, and would consider it an insult to them to insert the "cards" of every member of the copperhead party that happens to feel aggrieved by facts that we publish to the world. If it had been a simple denial of Riley's letter, couched in brief and respectful language, we might have decided otherwise. But as it was the reverse, and consisted mostly of wind, it was rejected.

WOOL.—The advance in wool in the East continues. Sales of choice qualities were reported in New York on the 13th of July at 95c to $1,00 ℔ pound. California, sold at the same time at 50 to 75c ℔ lb. large amounts changing hands at those figures. Taking the quotations of gold about the same time for our guide, we find these prices of Pacific wools equivalent to 20 to 29c coin. As Oregon wool is all or nearly all sorted before reshipment at San Francisco, it consequently goes into the eastern markets as "California" produce. It is not unlikely that a part—and probably the best part—of the large amount whose sale we have noticed was from the backs of Oregon sheep. We think the quotations may be fairly taken as the value of Oregon wools in New York at that date.

Prices of wool in Salem remain unchanged, but are almost nominal, there being little or none now coming in for sale.

RESOURCES OF OREGON.—We have been publishing for some time past a call from the Secretary of the railroad company for statistics in reference to the resources of different parts of the State. We learn from the *Sentinel* that southern Oregon is being well reported, and hope our section will not be left behind. This is an excellent opportunity to show the world what our resources are; and we hope those who are posted in different departments will arrange statistics and forward them as requested to the secretary of the company at Salem. All communications must be sent in by the first of September.

ESCAPED CONVICT.—The man confined in Marion County jail, a few days since, under a charge of horse stealing, whose name was given as Wm. N. Johnson, turns out to be Wm. Hograbi, who was sentenced to the penitentiary from Josephine County in 1860 for horse stealing, and escaped after two months confinement. He was given up to the deputy sheriff of Multnomah County, this morning, under a requisition from the Governor. His original sentence was for five years.

GREENBACKS.—The following are the rates at which greenbacks have sold in the San Francisco market on the first of each month, since November, 1862, as shown by the files of the *City Commercial*:

1862—November	81	1863—October	72¼
December	85	November	70
1863—January	82	December	72
February	65	1864—January	68
March	56	February	66
April	62	March	64
May	64	April	62
June	64	May	58¾
July	61¼	June	57
August	74¼	July	47
September	83	August	40

"Thomas Jefferson was the chief apostle of the democracy—the Peter, if we may be allowed the expression. On him the democrats built their church. Jackson and Benton were the Paul and Appollos—Douglas was their St. James, and Jeff Davis their Judas."—*Nevada Gazette.*

Which one of these leaders do the democrats of Oregon follow? Will their organs please answer?

☞ "We remember seeing one of them in the character of a villain, and the other in that of a consummate ass, characters in the play of the 'Lady of Lyons,' produced here some time since, and we thought they filled both characters remarkably well."—*Arena.*

And the reason why the editor of the *Arena* was not on the stage at the time was that there was no baboon or monkey in the play.

MUST BE STAMPED.—The county clerk of this county has called our attention to the fact that numbers of marriage certificates are sent to him for record that are not stamped. Persons performing this important ceremony should remember that every certificate of this character requires a five cent stamp.

GOLD DISCOVERIES.—The Victoria and Puget Sound papers are filled with accounts of recent gold discoveries at Sooke Inlet, twenty miles from Esquimault harbor. The reports are fabulous, but as yet not very definite or reliable.

ASSESSMENT.—Mr. Beck, deputy U. S. assessor for this and Clackamas County, is now at work giving his district a thorough canvassing. He seems to be a persevering officer, and will no doubt look well to the interests of Uncle Sam.

WATER CURE.—Dr. C. Hoel is repairing a large building in the lower part of the city with the intention of fitting it up as a water cure establishment. We understand he expects to obtain the services of an experienced Hydropathist from the East.

SECTIONALISM.

The love of country is as natural as the love of home. And the man who is destitute of either of these is lacking in that without which he cannot be a true man or a patriot. It is proper and consistent for every man to love his own country more than any other—to be zealous for her welfare and jealous of her honor. But when this love is narrowed down to the particular spot or section where an individual's lot happens to be cast, it loses its nobility and ceases to be a praiseworthy sentiment. True patriotism is not sectional but national. It is like philanthropy in some respects. When the love of humanity is narrowed down to a few individuals, it ceases to be commendable, for "even the heathen" possess a philanthropy of this kind. It may be so contracted as to become absolute selfishness. The true philanthropist desires the welfare of all his kind; and the motto of the true patriot is, "My Country, my *whole* Country!" This should be especially true in a country like ours, where every citizen has an equal share in the government, and an equal right to its protection. We think this narrow sectional spirit one of the worst evils against which our country has to contend, and one which no patriot should foster for a moment. It is no doubt one of the causes of the present unhappy condition of our country. Ambitious and unscrupulous demagogues have inflamed the people of one section against those of another, by gross and criminal misrepresentation, until these narrow sectional feelings have ended in a bloody and relentless war. We have heard of many instances during the present war where the people of the South have seemed astonished to find that the "Yankee hordes" were not barbarians, but civilized and educated men. They have been taught to believe that their own section possessed all the excellence of the nation, and that the people of the North and East were their natural enemies, and have only been convinced to the contrary when the men of the North came among them as victorious conquerors. The horrors of the present struggle should teach our people to guard against such blunders in the future.—When the present storm has passed and we are again united, our outward borders should be plainly marked on the map of our country, but the lines which separate the different States should be only nominal, the true character of each should be understood by all, and every citizen should feel a deep, devoted and patriotic interest in every section of *his* own common country. There should be no bickering rivalries between the different sections of a land consecrated to liberty as ours has been by the blood and toil of patriots. The American citizen should feel at home wherever the flag of his country waves, and have the feelings of a patriot for every foot of soil that comes under the sway of her salutary laws. He should never express a wish to see any portion of her domain "left out in the cold," burned up with fire, or buried in the ocean, but should regard all as the natural heritage of freedom—the common property of a nation that is the foe of tyrants and the fostering mother of human liberty.

We have been led to these remarks by noticing a tendency to this sectional spirit, on a small scale, in our own State. That there should be some clashing interests between different towns, as Salem, Albany, Eugene City, Portland, and Dalles, is perhaps unavoidable; but that these petty rivalries should lead to feelings of actual animosity, *is* avoidable, provided these discussions are conducted in a proper spirit. Portland and Dalles both have a right to contend for the mint, but if Dalles succeeds by fair means and obtains it, Portland should not go into hysterics; neither should the Dalles become excited when Portland is made a port of entry. Portland should not hoot at the mines on the Santiam because Salem is to derive the greatest benefit from them, and none of these places should be abused because some of their citizens happen to be "purse-proud," aristocratic, or sectional. Let us remember that we may discuss our various questions of clashing interest with fairness and candor, but when our sectional feelings would lead us further than this, let us not forget that local interests should always be subordinate to the welfare of the whole country.

GRAIN FROM THE EAST.—The scarcity of grain in California is inducing shipments from the east. Large quantities of corn meal and rye flour have been ordered by the street railroad companies of San Francisco, to feed their horses. The dairymen are also compelled to resort to the same source for food for their milk cows. There are now on the way from New York, 500 barrels of rye flour, and 829 hogsheads, 395 puncheons, 3,585 barrels and 450 packages of corn meal, containing in the aggregate the enormous amount of *two million pounds* of feed. Supposing this to sell at wholesale for 2½c per pound—which is less than present rates—it will yield $50,000. And this, it should be remembered, is not the shipment for the whole year, but the amount *in transitu* at one time. Probably the total importations before another harvest will be several times as great.

It is lamentable that Oregon is not prepared to supply the deficiency of our California neighbors. We might just as well have drawn an hundred or two thousands of dollars from them this year, as to have let the same amount go to New York. When will our farmers learn that digging with the plow on our rich valley lands, is more profitable than any other kind of "diggings," and at the same time far more healthful and agreeable.

BUTTER.—The Californians are "heavy" on eastern butter. The *Bulletin* says that the Golden City, which arrived on the 8th instant, brought no less than 6,732 firkins, which added to the stock already on hand makes "at least 10,000 firkins of new butter on the market."—Each firkin contains about 100 lbs, so that the San Francisco merchants now hold *one million pounds* of Eastern butter. Under the pressure of this immense stock, prices have declined to 25c per pound, which is said to be less than the cost of importing. Indeed many of the owners decline to sell at all in the present condition of the market.

When will the Pacific coast make its own butter?

RECEPTION.—The citizens of Dalles have passed resolutions inviting Senator Harding and Hon. John R. M'Bride to that city. Preparations are being made for a grand reception. So says the *Mountaineer.*

SOUTHERN DEMOCRACY.

The self styled democrats of the present day are known to be the fast friends of the southern rebels. This is so patent a fact that very few of their organs ever attempt to deny it. They raise the cry that Lincoln is a despot, and by all their teachings attempt to convey the idea that the southern leaders are the champions of true democracy, the advocates of free speech and the friends of universal suffrage.

Here are a few specimens of southern literature for northern democrats to ponder. De Bow's *Review*, a noted organ of the slave aristocracy, says:

"The real civilization of a country is in its aristocracy. The masses are moulded into soldiers and artisans by intellect, just as matter and the elements of nature are made into telegraphs and steam engines. The poor, who labor all day, are too tired at night to study books. If you make them learned, they soon forget all that is not necessary in the common transactions of life. To make an aristocrat in the future, we must sacrifice a thousand paupers. Yet we would by all means make them—make them permanent, too, by laws of entail and primogeniture. The right to govern resides in a very small minority; the duty to obey is inherent in the great masses of mankind.—All government begins with usurpation, and is continued by force. There is nothing to which the south entertains so great a dislike as universal suffrage.

In an essay published in the Charleston *Mercury*, the writer says:

"THOSE PESTILENTIAL AND PERNICIOUS DOGMAS—'THE MAJORITY SHALL RULE'—are, in their practical application, the frightful source of disorders never to be quieted—philosophies the most false, and passions the most wild, destructive and ungovernable. The institution of *an hereditary Senate and Executive* is the political form best suited to the genius and most expressive of the ideas of the south."

In a letter captured by our forces in South Carolina, Garnett of Virginia writes to a friend as follows:

"I must acknowledge, my dear sir, that I look to the future with almost as much apprehension as hope. You may well object to the term democrat, DEMOCRACY, in its original philosophical sense, is, INDEED, INCOMPATIBLE WITH SLAVERY AND THE WHOLE SYSTEM OF SOUTHERN SOCIETY."

In regard to foreigners, the Richmond *Literary Messenger* says:

"NO FOREIGNER WHO COMES AMONG US AFTER THE STRUGGLE IS OVER SHOULD EVER ENJOY THE ELECTIVE FRANCHISE."

What do our fellow-citizens of foreign birth, our bed-rock democrats, and "the poor who labor all day," think of these sentiments? Innumerable proofs can be brought to show that the few extracts quoted above reflect the real sentiments of the southern chivalry. Yet the blinded masses of the South, and a few equally blinded partisans at the North, are following their commands. When will they see their folly and throw off the yoke of their oppressors?

POWERFUL ARMAMENT.—According to the New York *Times*, the heaviest battery ever mounted on a man-of-war, is now upon the U. S. steam frigate Niagara, cruising in the Mediterranean sea. She carries 20 guns on her main deck, the smallest of which is a 11-inch, or 100 pounder rifle. She is provided with the best guns, both for short range and long range, which science has yet been able to construct. No such armament has ever been known before, and an encounter with her can but result disastrously to her adversary. Her officers and men have all seen service, and will use her immense force to the best advantage. Confederate pirates will not be very apt to court her company.

IMPORTANT LAW TO BE ENFORCED.—At the last session the legislature passed an act concerning crimes and punishments, which provides that, when any person is convicted of a crime, the judge or jury shall ascertain whether the defendant, at the time of committing the offense, was under the influence of any malt or spirituous liquors, and the finding shall be entered on the minutes of the clerk of the court, who shall certify the same to the county clerk, whose duty it is to make an annual report to the board of supervisors of the costs and expenses of the trial—the board being required to make a pro rata distribution of such expenses, and add it to the licenses of retail dealers.—*Cal. Paper.*

Whether such a law can be enforced may be a question. The idea may be worthy the consideration of the legislative assembly of this state.

COMING.—Dr. Bellows leaves San Francisco to-day, August 15th, for an overland trip to Oregon. We cannot expect him to tarry long in our city, as he intends to make the entire trip in twenty days. Would it not be well for our citizens to make some arrangements for his reception? We have long had an epistolary acquaintance with this gentleman, and we think it would be well for us to show our appreciation of the cause he represents by extending to him some kind of an appropriate welcome. We cannot tell just what day he will be here, but that fact can be ascertained in time for its announcement. We suggest that some of our citizens should take it upon them to engage a suitable room, and prepare music for the occasion, and make all arrangements necessary for giving him an appropriate reception and affording him an opportunity to address the people of this community. No community has labored more zealously for the cause than ours, and we should like to see another evidence of its zeal in a large enthusiastic meeting.

RETURNED.—Hiram Smith, one of Oregon's delegates to the National Union Convention, passed through Jacksonville on the 12th inst., en route to his home in Linn county. He came by the overland route.

☞ The Jacksonville *Sentinel* comes to us this week enlarged and otherwise improved in appearance. Its sound Union sentiments entitle it to the liberal support of Union men.

NEW PAPER.—We have received a number of the Idaho tri-weekly *Statesman*, published by J. S. Reynolds & Co., at Boise city. It is neat in appearance and ably conducted.

DISTRESSING ACCIDENT.—On Friday morning, 11th instant, a little girl, three years old, daughter of Martin Cox, near Silverton, was burned so severely that she died in a few hours.

APPOINTMENT.—Cris. Taylor, Esq., of Portland has been appointed by Maj. Gen. Joel Palmer, as his Assistant Adjutant General, with the rank of Lieut. Colonel.

☞ Six wagons belonging to A. D. Runnells and F. S. Glendon, from Keokuk county, Iowa, were in Rogue river valley last week. They design to come to the Willamette valley.

☞ We understand that a live elk will be disposed of by auction or raffle during the state fair, for the benefit of the sanitary fund.

FREEDMEN.

ED. STATESMAN.—The question of relief for the Freedmen is one which is in danger of being overlooked in these times of excitement on other subjects. The battles which our brave soldiers are fighting for the life of the nation, the wounds and deaths which come to them, are full of the deepest interest to us all. But these terrible, yet necessary sacrifices, ought not to lead us to forget any class of our people, which can be saved by the aid we can give. From all the information we can gather, full seven hundred thousand of the slaves are now free, and within our army lines. They are upon our hands, and there is no word or voice, from the best minds of the nation, to advocate their return to bondage. All feel that slaves and freemen cannot live upon the same soil.

Slavery has always been a source of contention and trouble. It is now dead, and we are glad of it, but yet the passage to freedom of the slaves must be only a passing to starvation and death, unless they are cared for by the people of the North.

We must recollect that they have nothing of their own to fall back upon. They are just out of a bondage in which their life-labor has accumulated nothing for themselves. They have neither clothing or food, or money to buy with. They have no land to work upon to raise food. Many of them who have been put upon confiscated plantations and have raised food have had that taken from them by the raids of guerrillas. Many of them are absolutely in a state of starvation, and the question of feeding them for the time being, or until they can have time to turn themselves so as to get work, is one which we cannot thrust aside. The dictates of humanity of religion and our best common sense all require us to help them, if help is in our power.

But this is not all. Their most intelligent, thrifty and able bodied men—those who know best how to make turns and shift for themselves, are now in the ranks of our armies. These; if they were with their wives and children, would be abel to do something towards their support, but of this help they are now deprived. All who have been at the South know that there are a few intelligent negroes, who could and would, do much towards helping the rest to get into some kind of employment by which to earn a living. This fact therefore, together with the consideration that these 100,000 now in the ranks of our armies stand in places, which, otherwise, we should be obliged to fill, call upon us for help in careing for their children. If they fall in battle it is not with their children as it is with the children of the Union soldiers of the North. They are in houses and on farms of their own. They are among neighbors and friends where they have always lived, and who will not see them suffer. The food, the clothing, and the fatherly care of the whole northern States will be given them.

The response which Oregon has given to the Sanitary cause—over $50,000, through one union, shows that the feeling of the nation is in behalf of our soldiers. We have only about $30,000,000 of taxable property, as by the last census: but if that will contribute from one to two hundred thousand dollars to this cause, what will $16,000,000,000 do, which represents the whole taxable property of the country, two-thirds of which is in sympathy with this government through its owners. These negroes who are in our armies are intensely loyal, and we owe it to them to give them their share in the care and relief from suffering which we can bestow. The true spirit of bible christianity, which finds a more complete representation in this land than in any other nation, calls upon us most for help to those who need it most. If there is a man, woman or child in the land who has absolutely nothing, who is without friends or sympathy, or home, that is the one to whom the angel of mercy points as really poor. It is the blessing of him who is ready to perish, which true charity prizes most.

To any who would aid the freedmen, or the poor white refugees, who are flying from the South, I would say that a central committee at Portland has been appointed by the citizens there to receive and forward such contributions as may be placed in their hands. That committee consists of Gov. Gibbs, H. W. Corbett, G. H. Atkinson, D. Rutledge, and others. H. W. Corbett is treasurer, to whom all moneys should be sent. Other committees have been appointed in several of the counties of the State. In Marion county Rev. J. L. Parish is chairman of a committee for the purpose of aiding any who may wish to forward funds for this object. O. DICKINSON.

ATLANTA.—The following is the most comprehensive description of this important place which we have seen. It is from the *New York Express*:

Atlanta, which is the objective point of the Sherman expedition, has a population of 26,000 inhabitants, among whom are a liberal sprinkling of northerners, who are the most demonstrative and extreme secessionists in the town. It is located in an elevated and salubrious section of the State, upon the dividing line in Fulton county between the cotton growing and grain producing regions, and is 310 miles from Savannah, 307 miles from Charleston, and 175 miles from Montgomery, Alabama, 136 miles from Chatanooga, 312 miles from Knoxville and 790 miles from Richmond. Four railroads communicate with Atlanta and form a junction there—the Western or Georgia State Railroad, the Macon and Western Railroad, and the Atlanta Montgomery Railroad. In the spring of 1850, John C. Calhoun, on his return from the Commercial Convention at Memphis, stopped several days in Atlanta, and predicted that it would be the greatest inland city of the South and at no distant day the capital of the southern confederacy, the corner-stone of which he maintained, would be African slavery. Although the rebel capital is at present in Richmond, the public sentiment of the South has already located it permanently at Atlanta provided the confederacy does not collapse. There are quarries of the very finest granite at Stone Mountains, 16 miles from Atlanta, on the Georgia Railroad, and the people of that city determined, when "this cruel war is over," to rear structures more magnificent than those of Rome or Greece, tall as the Tower of Babel, and more durable than the Pyramids. Atlanta is the great military depot of rebeldom, and here are the naval supplies. There is an armory at Atlanta, a chemical laboratory, and a sword factory. Shells, solid shot, siege guns, field pieces, and mountain howitzers are cast there. Percussion caps, cavalry sabres, artillery harness, gun carriages, ambulances, army wagons, tents and all the shoes and clothing for the western department, are made at Atlanta. The armory turns out muskets of the Springfield pattern, and rolling-mills stretch the plates for the rebel iron clads. Large quantities of meat are packed there for the rebel army. It may well be termed the most flourishing city of the southern confederacy, though the first house was built there as late as 1844.

UNITED STATES ASSESSMENTS IN OREGON.—Thos. Frazar, Esq., United States Assessor for the State of Oregon, has furnished us with the following facts in relation to the business of his office, now transpiring, from which it is shown that the total assessments in this State from the 1st of September, 1862, to the 1st of July, 1864, under the Excise Laws of Congress, amounts to $216,430 12. The annual assessments for the year 1864, is as follows:

From Licenses, duties on carriages, Billiard Tables, &c.,	$30,642 21
From incomes for the year 1863,	36,903 74
Total	$67,545 95

There will be scattering licences and incomes yet to return, which will make the amount not far from $70,000 as the annual assessment for the year 1864.—*Oregonian.*

THE BARNHAM MAIL ROBBERY AGAIN.—Mr. S. E. Haines, postmaster at Jacksonville, showed us on last Thursday evening another relic of the Barnham mail robbery, which has lately been found at the foot of the Cow creek hills. It was a mail bag that was made up at Portland, on the 23d of June, 1863. The bag was cut and all the letters broken open. Long exposure in the open air has rendered them illegible. Barnham, it will be remembered, was arrested and by some mysterious manipulation discharged on a writ of *habeas corpus*; and thus escaped the punishment he so richly deserved.—*Sentinel.*

☞ The commencement and the decline of love both betray themselves by the embarrassments we feel at finding ourselves alone.

HAS THE NORTH MEN AND MEANS SUFFICIENT TO PUT DOWN THE REBELLION?

The eleven "Confederate" States, including Tennessee and Arkansas, and excluding Missouri, contained by the late census, 5,500,000 of white persons, of which 1,250,000 were white males between 15 and 50. We make no account of the portion of the population of those States now within our army lines, no longer available for the supply of the rebel armies.—The remaining States, by the same census, contained 21,000,000 of white persons, of whom a little more than 5,000,000 were white males between 15 and 50. Granting that three-fourths between these ages are physically capable of military duty—which is a very large allowance—there were about 900,000 men of whom soldiers might be made, in the "confederacy," and 3,700,000 in the loyal States. So, in round numbers, the two sides started at the beginning of the war. Have the great losses to both sides, inflicted by the war itself, materially changed the proportion? There is good reason to believe that these losses have much differed. Perhaps we have lost more life outright, in consequence of acting there generally on the offensive than the rebels have done, but this is more than counterbalanced by the fact that our wounded have far more generally recovered than theirs, without disablement, on account of the superior skill and larger number of our army surgeons, and the splendid work of our sanitary commissions, which are unknown to the "confederacy," and the other fact, that we have a very large excess of prisoners. It is estimated that our armies have lost since the war was opened 500,000 by death and disablement. If the rebels have lost an equal number—which there is no good reason to doubt—they have now but 400,000 white men left fit for military service, while we have 3,200,000. So stands, to-day, the undeniable fact. We make no account of the circumstance that to the rebels the black race is not available for military purposes, while to us it is so in an eminent degree, we already having 100,000 of them under arms, able and willing to do most effective fighting. Let that pass. The relative figures we have given concerning the material for white soldiers, is of itself far more than enough—making every allowance for the fact that large numbers of white men are necessary at the north to do the labor which is done at the south by slaves—to settle the fact that, as the war is now going on, the material for soldiers must be used up much sooner in the south than in the north.

Three years of the war, as has been shown by Mr. Chase, have loaded the government with a debt of $1,719,000,000. It is safe to say that three years more of war will not more than double that debt, making it less than $3,500,000,000. It is true that the prices of the material of war have greatly advanced, but this is abundantly offset by the fact that a great number of ships and a vast amount of material, which will not have to be replaced have been provided from our present indebtedness, and the other fact that no small portion of this debt accumulated before the tax and tariff systems now in operation could be established to help meet the current expenses. Could we not stand $3,500,000,000 of debt without breaking down? The answer to this is that Great Britain, with less than half our population and available revenue, had a heavier debt than that on her shoulders 50 years ago, and that so far from breaking down under it, she has all the while since been advancing with the strength of a giant. This is the decisive point. If we can endure the debt, regularly paying off the interest when due, the whole financial system of the government is secure, and a national currency, based on the national credit, can be sustained to the full extent required by the business of the people. The end of the next three years would see us heavily burdened to be sure, but still uncrushed. But where would they find the armies of the rebellion? If the last three years have put 500,000 rebels *hors du combat*, and there are but 400,000 able-bodied men left, it needs no labored calculation to prove that, with the same active prosecution of the war, the last rebel soldier would be in the same condition before the end of the next three years. The fighting of the "confederacy" will be brought to a stand-still simply from the lack of men to do the fighting. And when the "confederacy" ceases to fight it ceases to exist.
—*N. Y. Times.*

CAPT. WINSLOW'S LETTER ON THE SINKING OF THE ALABAMA.

"EDITOR LONDON NEWS—SIR:—There have been so many nonsensical publications on the engagement that took place between the Alabama and Kearsarge that it is my wish that a correction should be made. In the first place no challenge was sent by Capt. Winslow; to have done so would have violated an order of the Navy Department. On the contrary Capt. Winslow received a request from Captain Semmes not to leave, as he would fight the Kearsarge, and would only occupy a day or so in his preparations. Five days, however, elapsed before they were completed. The Kearsarge's battery consists of 7 guns—two 11 inch Dalgrens, 4 32-pounders, 1 light rifle 28-pounder. The battery of the Alabama consisted of one 100-pounder rifle gun, and heavy 68 ditto, and six thirty-two pounders—that is, one more gun than the Kearsarge. In the wake of the engines on the outside, the Kearsarge had stopped up and down her sheet chains. These were stopped, by marline, to eye-bolts, which extended some 20 feet, and was done by the hands of the Kearsarge; the whole was covered by light plank to prevent dirt from collecting. It was for the purpose of protecting the engines, when there was no coal in the upper part of the bunkers, as was the case when the action took place. The Alabama had her bunkers full, and was equally protected. The Kearsarge went into action with a crew of 162 officers and men. The Alabama, by report of the Deerhound's officers, had 150.

The Kearsarge steamed to sea in order that no question of neutrality jurisdiction should be raised. When far enough she turned short round and steered immediately for the Alabama, for close action. The Alabama fired as she was coming down on her, two broadsides and a part of another; not one shot came on board of the Kearsarge. The Kearsarge then sheered and opened on the Alabama, trying to get nearer. The action lasted one hour and two minutes from the first to the last shot. The Kearsarge received 28 shots above and below, thirteen above her hull; the best shots were abaft the mainmast, two shots which cut the chain-stops, the shell of which broke the casing of wood covering. They were too high to have damaged the boilers had they penetrated. The Kearsarge was only slightly damaged, and I supposed the action for hot work had only just commenced when it ended. Such stuff as the Alabama firing as she was going down, and all such talk, is twaddle. Alabama towards the last, hoisted sail to get away, when the Kearsarge was laid across her bows, and would have raked her had she not surrendered, which she had done, and was trying to get her flag down, and showing a white flag over the stern. The officers of the Alabama, on board the Kearsarge, say that she was a complete slaughter-house, and was completely torn to pieces. This is all I know of the Alabama.
Yours, etc., JOHN A. WINSLOW, Cap't."

OBLIGATIONS.—The thanks of this office are due to D. D. Prettyman of Polk county, for a basket of plums of the blue damson variety.—The boys tested their quality and pronounced them the best of the season.

OYSTERS.—Mr. J. M. Martin has delivered at our office two cans of oysters from Captain Alex. Dodge of Yaquina Bay. They are said to be the first ever put up at that place and are of a good quality.

☞ Go to Kenyon's and get a photograph of Gen. Grant, the Union's hero. No loyal man should be without one.

Stockton, Cal., has contributed $9,351 in greenbacks to the Christian Commission.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

Special Dispatches to the Oregon Statesman.

General Burnside relieved from his Command.—Rebels strongly Entrenched at Cedar Creek.

HEAD QUARTERS ARMY POTOMAC, Aug. 14.—Burnside was relieved yesterday and left the command last evening. Wilcox temporarily commands the ninth corps. It was reported last week that the enemy intended to make a flank attack on our left, but up to this time no demonstration has been made. Considerable firing was kept up all night between pickets on the centre and right. Yesterday morning heavy firing was heard in the direction of James River, lasting two hours. It is reported that a working party of Butler's command, engaged in cutting a canal across the peninsula, had been attacked by rebel rams, on James river.

The *Herald's* Washington dispatch says; We hear that Gen. Grant has some important movement in view, improper to indicate now. Large numbers of transports have been sent down the river. It is surmised for the purpose of assisting Grant's troops. Large bodies of cavalry have been brought here, and a heavy movement up the Shenandoah Valley may be looked for soon.

MIDDLETON, Va., Aug. 12.—Our cavalry came up with the rear guard of the enemy early this afternoon. Slight skirmishing ensued in town. Our infantry were close at the heels of the cavalry. The rebels' line of battle now extends from opposite Cedar Creek across to the Staunton Pike—between 2 and 3 miles distant. They occupy a high land beyond which it forms a strong defensive position.—They are said to have two lines of battle half a mile long. Like us they have been severely marched, and being closely pressed may have seized the opportunity of securing a position for rest.

CEDAR CREEK, Aug. 12.—Our skirmishers who first crossed the creek are now skirmishing. Our skirmish lines, and also the enemy's are plainly perceptible—firing moderately brisk. Only a portion of the enemy's line of battle is visible. No artillery firing taking place.

LATER—The rebels now show themselves on a distant ridge. They have opened upon our skirmish lines from guns posted in an admirable position, but doing no damage. Skirmishing getting heavier—our artillery just replying. Prisoners captured say Gordon's division of Ewell's corps is immediately in our front. They probably compose the rebel rear-guard. A decisive battle here at present does not seem at all probable. Skirmishing is still going on.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—Rebel deserters from Richmond report 64 trains of cars as having arrived, there, bringing troops from Petersburg. It is reported that a division left immediately to reinforce Early. A large body of rebel cavalry who arrived the same day departed in the same direction.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15.—Official dispatches have been received by the navy department from Farragut, dated Mobile Bay, 5th, confirming accounts heretofore received of our successes. After the Tennessee surrendered, the rebel gunboat Fort Morgan succeeded in getting under the protection of Ft. Morgan. This terminated the action for the day. Farragut sent a flag of truce to the commanding officer of Fort Morgan, Gen. Page, to say that if he would allow the wounded of our fleet as well as their own, to be taken to Pensacola where they could be better cared for than here, he would send a vessel, to which Page consented and the Metacomet was dispatched. Total loss on our side is 40 killed and 88 wounded. On rebel ram Tennessee were captured 20 officers and 170 men, on the Selma, 90 officers and men.

NEW YORK, August, *Herald's* correspondent says that when the Selma surrendered, it was found that she had lost fearfully. Her deck was covered with dead and dying, and her scupper ran with blood. Her commander, Lieut. Comstock, formerly U. S. navy, was lying dead across the breech of a gun, with his bowels torn out.

The Tennessee attempted to avoid our monitors and made for the wooden ships, but the flagship Monongahela followed her up and struck her amidships with terrible force, causing the huge monitor to reel like a drunken man. The Hartford then grappled the Tennessee, but further bloodshed was saved by the latter raising the white flag. The same horrible slaughter was visible here as on the Selma. Captain Girard now commands the captured ram.

We captured 300 prisoners, and have possession of Dauphin Island; the Hartford was injured more than any other ship, having been struck more than any one of ours, except the Oneida.

A large force marched from Pensacola to invest Fort Morgan.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15.—The mail boat from City Point to day reports that on the afternoon of the 11th a body of Earley's [?] corps embarked in transports at City Point and moved up the river. During the night, and under cover from their gun boats they effected a landing near Dutch Gap. The object of this movement is stated to be the dislodgment of a considerable force of the enemy who had intrenched themselves, on the river, and also a reconnoissance to ascertain what troops Lee has before Richmond; also to see if he is sending any considerable reinforcement to Early. Heavy firing was going on when the boat left, both cannonading and musketry.

NEW YORK, Aug. 16.—A special dispatch to the *World* on the 15th, states that rumors are in circulation to day regarding the movements of different armies in Virginia, most of which undoubtedly are without foundation.—There seems to be important changes going on in the disposition of the rebel forces, which of course must cause a corresponding change on our part. It will require some time for the development of these movements.

A Point of Rocks correspondent, under date of August 14th, says: For some time Butler has been concocting a brilliant scheme whereby to annoy the enemy, and advance the Union cause. The plan contemplates the construction of a canal at Dutch Gap—directly in front of the enemy. When it is done it will compel the rebels to extend their lines of defence a distance of 4 miles. The distance saved by us by digging this canal will not fall short of 7 miles of water on James river. The canal is to be 1400 yards long. This morning a force engaged on this work were shelled by rebel rams but our gun boats soon drove them away.

A correspondent before Petersburg, under date of Aug. 13th, says: The rebels erected a new fort inside of the one that was exploded. It opened yesterday with Whitworth guns. Very few casualties occurred. The rebels threw several hundred shells during the day.—The *Times'* Washington special, says: Sheridan has pushed his advance from Winchester to Strasburg—Early retiring from that point towards the west. It is believed to be Sheridan's intention to head off Early and envelope him between two forces; but as it is ascertained that Lee has sent at least 20,000 men to reinforce his column in the valley, there will probably be a stout contest for possession of that region.

The *Herald's* City Point correspondent of the 14th, says, but little firing occurred for a week past until yesterday about 6 A. M. heavy guns were heard in the direction of Deep Bottom, steady and sometimes furious cannonading was kept up all day. The attack commenced by the enemy proved to be an attempt to dislodge with their artillery, certain working parties of ours whom they seemed to have just discovered. Finding their batteries unable to accomplish it, one or two of their rams dropped down the river as far as prudent and added their fire. The affair was an artillery engagement at long range throughout. The character of the design of operations in which the working parties were engaged cannot be more than alluded to at present; time must develop them further.