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The Statesman has a larger circulation than any other paper in the State, and is the best medium for Advertisers.

The U. S. Laws and Resolutions are published in the Statesman by Authority.

THE STATESMAN FOR 1865.

With the present number commences the fifteenth volume of the OREGON STATESMAN. The publishers refer to the paper for the past eighteen months (the time during which it has been in the hands of the present proprietors), for an indication of what its readers may expect in the future.

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CHARLESTON.

One hundred and sixty years ago, the lively peninsula between the Ashley and Cooper rivers was settled by an English colony, under William Sayle, and thereafter was known as Oyster Point because the site of the celebrated city of Charleston, the metropolis of South Carolina, and the intellectual capital of the South. As Boston has been to New England, so has Charleston to the Southern States and cotton States—the focus of original governing thought and idea. Those two cities—although the antipodes of each other, in feeling, purpose and manners—have more than all the other cities of the United States combined, cultivated the intellectual domain and thereby reared the conduct of men. These are the two great idealistic centers of the United States, where dramatic office-getting had not engrossed the better minds, and where the conflicting ideas of government and social science which have resulted in this war, had their origin and development.

To reduce and conquer this nursery and stronghold of secession ideas and Southern independence, has been the leading purpose of the National Government since the fall of Sumter in April, 1861. For nearly four years the doomed city has been beleaguered by the Northern forces by sea and land. During all this time "the rockets' red glare, and the bombs bursting in air," have been of daily and nightly occurrence there. Still the place breathed defiance and held out. But at last it has yielded. The telegraph informs us that the enemy have abandoned the place after destroying the public property and firing the town. The Stars and Stripes again float over Sumter. The defence of Charleston has been the most persistent and determined of any city of the South. We do not expect Richmond, because events have made that the center of the war, the fortified camp of the flower of the forces of the Confederacy. But the defence of Charleston has been principally by Charleston, and its destruction is the work of its own people, who have given it to the torch when they could no longer defend it. They have come nearer realizing their original boast, to make Charleston the Saragossa of the South, than any of their sister cities. For the most part, the other towns of the South have tumbled loquaciously and surrendered tamely. Political idealists are troublesome creatures in time of peace, but they are more likely to endure suffering for the cause than the practical tradesman and mechanic, whose purpose is how to live rather than to die.

During the revolutionary war, Charleston took an early stand for independence, and in 1776 and '80 was three times assailed by the British forces. The first effort, in June, 1776, was from the sea, by a British fleet, with near two hundred guns, under the command of Sir Hyde Parker. A land force, under Cornwallis, was also with the expedition, but was prevented from co-operating with the fleet. The fleet advanced upon Fort Moultrie, and after a long day's hot work was repulsed with heavy loss of ships and men.

Again, in 1778, the British army from Savannah assailed Charleston from the land, on the south side, and was forced to retire to prevent being captured.

The third time, Charleston succumbed after a vigorous siege of forty days. The place was invested by sea and land, the British forces being under the command of Sir Henry Clinton. The forces of the town were under the command of Gen. Lincoln, of Massachusetts, appointed by the Continental Congress. The surrender took place on the 12th of May, 1780, just one hundred and one years from the settlement of the place. And now after a long peace, during which life is reckoned, three generations of her sons and daughters have been born and buried in her sandy soil, the proud and stately city has again passed under the yoke of the conqueror—surrendered to Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States. Our readers will notice the ominous coincidence of name. In 1780, Gen. Lincoln, of Massachusetts, surrendered the city to the British, and in 1865 it was again surrendered or abandoned to Abraham Lincoln of Kentucky, and President of the United States.

GENERAL ALVORD.—As we intimated some time ago, Brigadier-General Alvord has been ordered East to report at headquarters at Washington, immediately. We understand that he will leave upon the next steamer.

Twenty years of old city in Oregon and Washington Territory, has made Gen. A. well known to all our people, and where known he is universally esteemed and respected. A ripe scholar, an able man, a devotedly industrious officer, and a thorough patriot, he will carry with him to whatever new vocation he may be assigned, the good will and respect of the loyal men throughout the State.

No information is given as to who will be chosen to succeed him. Unless some officer of higher rank is sent here the command will devolve upon Col. Maury of the First Oregon Cavalry, he being the ranking officer. The command could not fall into better hands.

Very large shipments of breadstuffs have arrived lately in San Francisco from Oregon, Chile and other places, yet there has been a constant advance of prices. The demand now is purely speculative, and prices must go down very suddenly and largely when the new crop comes in. The breadth of land sown in California is very large, and the season thus far has been very favorable. There is every promise of an abundant harvest, and the high rates will bring it into market very early. Barley, of the new crop, will be sold in San Francisco in May. Now is the time, in our opinion, to sell grain. Those who have any surplus on hand had better get it into market as soon as possible.

MILITARY ROAD.—On the 16th of January, Mr. M'Brice introduced a bill to amend an act entitled "An act granting lands to the State of Oregon, to aid in the construction of a military road from Eugene City to the eastern boundary," approved July 2, 1864, which was read a second time, and referred to the Committee on Land.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS—THE FALLS CANAL.

We think that this long talked of enterprise is the initial point of all public improvements in the Willamette valley. Not that all public improvements should command or center at Oregon City, but that this canal should be constructed first, and that it should be constructed at the earliest possible period.

The reason is obvious. This is a measure that will benefit the whole valley at a single stroke. It will open the river from one end to the other, and accommodate both sides of the river equally. As far as the Willamette valley is concerned, it cannot be said that the canal will be, can possibly be, local in its benefits, because it removes at one stroke the only barrier to the free navigation of the river which traverses the valley from one end to the other. Both sides of the river have equal and unobstructed access to it, and consequently the farmers of Lane and upper Clackamas and Benton are equally interested with the farmers of Yamhill and upper Clackamas or Butterfield and Corvallis, and will be benefited by the early completion of the canal. If the farmers and shippers of the valley take hold of the matter in earnest they can build and own the canal, and then they can say at what rates their produce shall go out of the river, and what tariff may be imposed on their merchandise as it comes in.

HON. J. R. M'BRIDE.

The Portland correspondent of the Sacramento Union, writing under date of Jan. 31, contains the following in reference to our Representative in Congress who has lately been appointed Chief Justice of Idaho Territory:

We received yesterday word by telegraph, as you probably have been advised, that John R. M'Brice of Oregon had been appointed Chief Justice for Idaho Territory. M'Brice is now winding up his first term in Congress, where he has been marked as a man of great ability, and who would call high talent, but accomplishing quite as much for the State at large as any of his predecessors have done. In his political views he is decidedly radical, but was placed in Congress by the aid of the Douglas Democratic wing of the Union party, under a suspicion on the part of quite a large number of his former associates, that his nomination was parcel of a plan by which they secured to the succession a man of their own choice for United States Senator to fill the unexpired term of E. D. Baker. Whatever they may have expected of him in his official career, he has been a faithful supporter and friend of the Administration, and seems to have had more influence in the bestowal of Government patronage than any one else. His father was a successful merchant in Portland, and was a good appointment, and now John himself is made a Chief Justice. Idaho has secured in his person a very able political worker, who will do all any man can to restore harmony to the Union ranks, and the bench will be filled by a lawyer that may not rank among the first, but commands respect for industry and ability. On the Mint question M'Brice lost some friends by not securing the location at Portland, and might have been again returned to Congress but for perhaps unfounded suspicions as to some matters connected with his career. Your correspondent is not being particularly partial will do him the justice to say that he deserved to be re-nominated in preference to being succeeded by a gentleman who is undoubtedly a clever man, but not so well qualified to conduct previous to the campaign he effectively made to win it.

SALEM.

This is the prettiest place I have yet seen in the State, and if I should ever settle down as a respectable citizen, here would I make my home. The streets are wide, and as dry as could be expected in a damp climate, and the houses are mostly of a pleasant and comfortable style to the best spot to be found in the streets of Portland. The main street is lined with blocks of brick buildings, occupied as stores and public offices, and a beautiful little theater, in which a company of amateurs give theatrical entertainments once or twice a week, which are said to be very well got up. As the people have no money to spare, they are naturally inclined to save, and they will proceed next summer to erect the proper buildings for the State officers and also a State prison. The society here is excellent, the people being possessed of more than ordinary intelligence and refinement. Although apparently a very quiet city, there is a large amount of business done, it being the shipping port of a very large section of country, which is thickly settled by farmers, manufacturers of staves and other articles, and stock raisers. Some of the finest horses I have seen on the coast are raised in this vicinity, and they are equal in every respect to the best of any other section of the State, and also a State prison. The society here is excellent, the people being possessed of more than ordinary intelligence and refinement. Although apparently a very quiet city, there is a large amount of business done, it being the shipping port of a very large section of country, which is thickly settled by farmers, manufacturers of staves and other articles, and stock raisers. Some of the finest horses I have seen on the coast are raised in this vicinity, and they are equal in every respect to the best of any other section of the State, and also a State prison. 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