ment maintains the quarrel with England in the hope of getting claims which she does not acknowledge. The question we have to address ourselves to, is simply whether they can go to war with us with fair prospects of success. If they can, they certainly will.

The *Times* argues that the Washington government will show its wisdom by not attacking immediately after the conclusion of peace, but it will become English statesmen to see that the quarrel is not allowed to hang over till it suits American convenience and opportunity.

The Oregon Statesman.

MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 3, 1865.

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.

CURRENCY, TAXATION, &c.

The subject of currency and taxes appears to be exercising our cotemporaries a good deal just now, both editorially and through their correspondence. We have written somewhat at length upon this subject from first to last, and always, as we supposed, without indistinctness or equivocation. Yet we have not escaped misrepresentation on the subject. Some times for want of knowledge on the part of our critics, and some times, we think, for the want of something more desirable—honesty. Our past course may be briefly summed up as follows:

The *Statesman*, from the first, advocated the adoption of the national currency by the people and the State Government, to be used as money for all the purposes of trade and commerce and revenue. In this we were not successful. The people, controlled by the influence of capitalists and traders in San Francisco and Portland, continued to exclude the national currency from circulation except as an article of commerce at brokers' rates. When the Legislature met, they were beset in various ways upon the subject of currency for taxes.—We admitted, and now admit, that the State has the power to prescribe the kind of money or other thing in which taxes shall be paid, whether coin as is now our rule for State and county taxes, paper money as is the rule in other States, wheat, sheep or chickens, as has been found convenient in other countries, or labor which we receive for road-taxes. We do not think that the act of Congress in relation to legal tender notes, in any way affects or interferes with the power of the State in this particular. The law is made for the government of individuals in their dealings with each other, and not States. Still we agreed and urged that the State, as a matter of public policy, and duty to the Union and the Nation, ought to collect and disburse its revenue in the national currency, and that to exclude it from this use and purpose, was in effect casting our weight in the scale against the government and in favor of its opponents.

When the Legislative Assembly met, currency had about touched its lowest point, between thirty and forty cents on the dollar.—Many of those who were most clamorous for the payment of taxes in currency at par, were the most obstinately opposed to increasing in corresponding ratio the salaries of public officers that had been fixed upon a coin basis. Under these circumstances, the Legislature did the only thing which remained for it to do, and provided for meeting the obligations of the State in coin by requiring the taxes to be so paid.

So one false step made others necessary. By our action as individuals and as a community, we first exclude the national currency from circulation among us, except as an article of merchandise, and thus having depreciated it, we were driven to make laws to protect ourselves from the consequences of the difference thus created between gold and paper, and the palpable absurdity of expecting the State to use a currency different from that in which its people do business. These are our Specific Contract law, and the act for the collection of taxes in coin. The latter, as we have said, we think within the *power* of a State, and perhaps the peculiar circumstances under which it was made, justified it. But the necessity ought never to have existed, and would not if as a people, we had acted as we should have done in the first instance.

The Specific Contract is a further direct and public blow against the national currency. It is the mistaken popular action crystalized in the form of a law, and is a legitimate sequence of that first false step. Against this act the *Statesman* protested (because of its unconstitutionality) when it was pending before the Assembly, but it squeezed through and is upon the statute book. As we said at the time, if we believed the *power* to pass such a law was in the Legislative assembly, its manifest justness, if currency was to remain only an article of trade, would have impelled us to favor its passage. But it is beyond our comprehension how any man can conceive of a more direct and palpable nullification of a law of Congress, than this. It is manifest and apparent in every word and purpose of it. It helps materially to depreciate the national currency in Oregon, by limiting its circulation and use, and so far from benefiting any one, will be a snare and a broken reed to those who rely upon it in the end.—That the Supreme Court of the United States will ultimately declare it invalid and of no force, we have not a doubt.

We have gone so far wrong upon this subject that it is now difficult to get back, and the longer we defer our return, the greater the difficulty will be. We will be compelled to get back some time, to the point from which we never should have departed—the recognition of the same currency which is used by all the other States except California, as the basis of our dealings. Capitalists and money dealers may stave off this result enough longer to do us still further injury, but the sooner we get back the better it will be for us.

The only capital we have is the gold that is dug in the country, and that goes out of it as fast as dug. A dollar in national currency is worth as much in the States on the other side of the mountains, for all the ordinary purposes of life, as a dollar in coin here. We exclude it from circulation among us, and lose the benefit of it, for the advantage of no one except the few on this coast who buy for currency in New York, and sell to us for gold.

Unless all history is a lie, the people of Oregon can never expect to maintain their place in the trade and commerce of the civilized world with only gold coin for money. No people have ever maintained even a second-rate place in trade and commerce without the aid of paper money as a representative of value and medium of exchange. Indeed the extent to which nations have used paper money is usually the measure of their advancement in civilization. The South Sea scheme, the Mississippi bubble, and the Continental money of our own country, are notable exceptions to this, but they are exceptional abuses of a public good, which can and ought to be guarded against. Paper money is the cheapest, and under adequate authority and control, is the best money known to the civilized world. This might be safely affirmed from the fact that it is so generally used.

The idea is common that it is the essence of money that it should have some *intrinsic* value. This is a radical error. In three-fourths of the civilized world, silver is recognized as money to the *exclusion* of gold. Copper, paper and even leather, are and have been as much recognized as money as gold and silver. What is money then? What constitutes the particular quality which gives to any substance the power to circulate as money? It is the agreement of nations or of people—generally, though not always, manifested in the form of law—to recognize a particular substance when presented in a certain form, as money or the representative of wealth. Public opinion (whether expressed in the form of law or not) makes it money by making it a representative of wealth, and a legal tender for a particular value, and this without reference to the intrinsic value of the article used. How does gold acquire the peculiar value which the people of America and Western Europe attach to it? Because one half the world requires it for currency, or in other words, because it has been so extensively adopted as money. Destroy that agreement—take away its *artificial* character of money and what would follow? The value of gold would fall immensely because the major portion of it is now used for money. The gold mines of the Pacific slope would be abandoned, and the miners engaged in some other occupation, feeling certain that now gold was *demonetized*, (if we may use a word not found in Webster,) the world had more than enough of the yellow dust. It would become too common even for ornament. It is not merely "as barbaric toys" that people cover their persons with golden ornaments, and load their tables with yellow plate, but because it is condensed wealth. It is this display of wealth which constitutes the principal charm of these ornaments. Demonetize gold, and it would not long rank in value above other metals, because it is intrinsically less valuable and useful. It is its adoption as money which gives it value, and that is purely conventional and arbitrary.—Money has not, then, necessarily any intrinsic value. The substance of which it is composed may have, commercially speaking, more or less, or no intrinsic value. But *as money*, its value depends, between different nations, upon convention or agreement, and among the people of the same nation or government, upon agreement manifested in the form of law.

In the United States, the power to make money and regulate its value is vested in Congress, exclusively. This power it has suffered to remain dormant and be practically usurped by the States in the creation of State Banks, until the terrible necessities of this war have compelled Congress to resume its exercise in the creation of a national money or currency. It has either to do this or rely upon the circulation furnished by the State Banks—institutions that were springing up and tumbling down in every direction, and whose notes would seldom circulate beyond the limits of the State where issued. There is not, never was, and never will be, gold enough in the country to do its ordinary business, let alone the immense business and expenditure created by this war. Of all the crude and impracticable ideas that have been suggested as a substitute for the national currency, this one of the Government *borrowing gold* to carry on this war is the most absurd. If the Government borrowed money it must have borrowed such as there then was in the country, and that was almost wholly State bank paper. Instead of this it acted wisely in asserting its just and plain prerogative, by creating a National Currency to take the place of this one-horse currency of the State Banks.

The thing is done. The want, so long felt, of a national currency that should be of equal value throughout the Union has been satisfied. The old system will never be revived. In the future the money of the United States, whether of gold, silver, copper, nickel or paper, will be made and its value prescribed by the National Government, as the Constitution intended and provided. In the Atlantic States where the change was only from provincial and wild cat paper to national notes, the change was hailed with approval by the people and adopted at once. On the Pacific coast where paper money was unknown, capitalists and importers, combined with certain anti national political influences, have prevented the recognition of the national currency. But this state of things cannot always exist. Were it not for the gold mines on our borders, there would be scarcely a dollar in the country except the national currency. When the yield of these mines decreases, as it did in California, we will be glad to get legal tender notes, and welcome their introduction among us. In the meantime we are involving ourselves in endless trouble and contradiction by attempting to ignore them.

THE PENITENTIARY.—Messrs. Moore and Shaw who have advertised for proposals to erect a building for the confinement of the penitentiary prisoners, design we understand, to put up immediately a wooden building 77 by 36 feet on the ground, 18 feet high, with — cells, to be used for holding the convicts while they can be employed in making brick and other material for a larger and more permanent building. The first building will be valuable as a work-shop, &c., after the larger one is completed. There are thirty-five convicts now in the institution, of whom about thirty are able-bodied workmen. The labor of these men will enable the State to put up a building at small expense which will supply its want for many years to come. The land purchased is so situated that the State can within a year make arrangements for the security and profitable employment of its criminals in a very economical way.

BURNING OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—The country has sustained an irreparable loss in the destruction of the buildings of the Smithsonian Institute, at Washington, on the 24th of January last. The building has been made the receptacle for the collections of science, art, and travel, during the last ten or fifteen years. The loss of the building, scientific apparatus, &c., &c., great as it is, can be replaced by an expenditure of money. But the paintings, the geological and mineralogical specimens, the rare animals and birds which have been gathered from all parts of the world, the manuscripts (of which there was a large and valuable collection) and many of the printed volumes, are gone forever.

THE GREENBACK QUESTION.

A controversy has been for some time going on in the Eugene *State Journal* between "K" (Judge Kelsay) and "Justice" (Jesse Applegate) upon the greenback question. The Judge assumes the constitutionality of the U. S. legal tender law, and then proceeds to argue that greenbacks are a legal tender for *all* taxes and debts. Here is what he says on the general issue:

> Congress having determined to exercise its authority to create a currency different from that heretofore used for the purpose of suppressing the rebellion, the commercial world, outside of this government, has no right to complain, according to the law of nations, as above quoted; and the citizens of this government, whether in the States or Territories of the United States, or on board of the vessels of the United States, wherever they may be, (the vessels by fiction of law being Territories) can use the legal tender notes in payment of all demands, equal to gold or silver coin—being made by the same sovereign power of equal value.

He applies these principles to the legality of a tender of currency for taxes as follows:

> A *tax* is defined to be a *debt*. By entering into society every member and individual of such society, each assents, and by implication promises to pay his proportionate part of the amount necessary to govern and protect such society, and when that amount is fixed by law and assessed, it becomes a debt, (Kent's Com. vol 1, 374. Oregon Rep. 363. Blackstone's Com. vol. 3—153.) It is defined by the Legislature of New York to be a debt. (Dayton on Surrogate's 312.) It is also defined to be a debt by act of Congress, referred to page 43 sec. 1, Session acts 1862. As to the rule of interpretation, see Wheaton, 428—2 Cranch 335.
>
> The States have the concurrent power of taxation, but if the national and State laws conflict, the State laws must yield.

The Judge then proceeds to knock the life out of the Specific Contract law in the following vigorous way:

> Every man is morally bound to pay in whatever kind of currency or thing he agrees, and I think in moral honesty he ought to do it. A specific contract debt is none the less a debt than any other paid in money generally, and the act of Congress not excepting specific contract debts, they share the same fate as other debts. The authorities are full on this point. A contract does not enter into and become a part of the law, but the law operates on the agreement. He furnishes the remedy to coerce the payment. (9 Wheaton, 343.) If the remedy to collect payment in coin in the States, is in conflict with the law of Congress which makes greenbacks a legal tender, and the party offers to pay in greenbacks, the State law, then, must yield. This is owing to the supremacy of the Constitution and laws of Congress and that of the several States.
>
> A man has the legal as well as the moral right to do whatever the laws permit or provide he may do; and hence the charges made by "Justice" concerning the good people of Lane county swindling their public servants is wholly gratuitous.

Mr. Applegate takes diametrically opposite views, not only sustaining the Specific Contract law and the law making coin receivable for taxes, but thinks the issuance of greenbacks has been the "greatest strain upon the government, more endangered its stability, than any thing that has happened since the war begun."

Unlike Judge Kelsay, who does not allow his feelings to become apparent in the controversy, Mr. Applegate displays a loss of temper which is presumption of discomfiture in argument, and pitches into the lawyers of this State in the following very "promiscuous" manner:

> Law is a noble, elevating science. It teaches the application of the divine attribute, justice to the condition and wants of humanity. He who masters this science and acts himself according to its teachings and applies its beneficent principles to others, as a legislator, judge, or advocate, deservedly occupies one of the highest places in the esteem of men. But there is another class, a numerous class among us, who call themselves lawyers! Mere sharpers and swindlers, who live by their wits. They gamble with the rights of men. They misuse the law to defeat its intent. They labor to turn the felon loose by a technicality; to shield the criminal from just punishment by a slip of the pen.—They instruct rogues how to cheat under cover of law. They foment discord to cause law suits, and then fleece both plaintiff and defendant. They so crowd the avenues to the courts, and have made law so expensive, that there are few wrongs that one man may suffer at the hands of another, that he had not better bear with patience, than apply to a court (misnamed) of justice for a remedy. If these men are esteemed for their talents, so should be the cunning blackleg, who has more on amusement to fill his pockets with other men's money, the burglar for his triumphs over the skill of the lock-smith, the counterfeiter for ingenuity, the forger for his penmanship. Like the lawyers, all these live by their wits upon the labor of others. God classes them together, *so should men.*

Rather rough on the lawyers we take it, and we advise Mr. Applegate to prepare for the emptying of the vials of their wrath upon his head. We shall watch the *Eugene Journal* with interest for Judge Kelsay's replication.

THE WOOL MARKET.—It is perhaps too early to form any judgment of the prices which wool will bring the next summer. Too many circumstances—the continuance and fortunes of the war—the fluctuations of the currency—the amount of foreign production, and the condition of foreign markets, all will have bearing upon the subject. Our latest advices from New York are that best Saxony and Merino washed fleeces bring from $1 to $1.20 per pound; common and inferior washed fleeces from 80c to $1; California pulled, 70c to 90c; unwashed California fleeces, 25c to 40c for common and 45c to 65c for fine. Ordinary Oregon wool is about equal to the best of California washed, and therefore 65 cents, greenbacks, may be taken as the value of our wools in New York at latest advices. Gold at the same dates was quoted at 195, and therefore the gold price of our staple is about 33 cents. These prices, if maintained, will justify buyers in paying from 22 to 25 cents per pound for Oregon wool for shipment East. There is now enough of brisk competition in the wool trade to insure to the producer the full value of his clip, less a moderate profit to the shipper.

TRANSPORTATION ON THE COLUMBIA.—The *Oregonian* says that the O. S. N. Company have purchased and subsidized all the steamboat in the Portland and Astoria trade, with a view to monopolizing the transportation upon the lower Columbia river. We also hear that they have bought up all the schooners, scows, &c., upon the upper Columbia, and if this last report be true the whole freight and passage up that river next summer must pass on their boats, and at such rates as they may see fit to exact. Their monopoly of the business is most complete, and will no doubt be enormously profitable to them. It was said last year that their gains were over $2,000,000.—If so the vastly increased trade and travel of 1865 will swell their profits to a figure which we will not pretend to estimate.

THE ILLINOIS BLACK LAWS.—The Legislature of Illinois has repealed the "Black Laws" so called, which have excluded negroes and mulattoes from the State since 1855, and made it penal for any person within the borders of the State to manumit slaves. These laws were first proposed in 1853 by John A. Logan who is now a Brigadier General in command of a corps under Sherman, and again introduced in 1855 in the State Legislature by Andrew J. Kuykendall, now Union member of Congress from the "Eighth" district of Illinois. Both these individuals were old proslavery Democrats, but as they loved their country more than they did slavery, they became Unionists and abolitionists.

TURNED UP.—Sam Fair, who was sheriff of Siskiyou county, Cal., in 1855 and 1856, and mysteriously disappeared with a large amount of county funds, has turned up in the rebel army, a Colonel in Morgan's command. His disappearance caused great excitement at the time, it being generally supposed that he had been murdered for his money.

☞ Dr. Carpenter has been promoted from Assistant Surgeon to Surgeon, for the Oregon Infantry. He is well known to most of the people in this part of the State as a most efficient and competent physician.

LETTER FROM LIEUT. LAMSON.

U. S. STEAMER GETTYSBURG,
BEAUFORT, N. C., Jan. 8, 1865.

DEAR FATHER AND MOTHER: * * * * You have probably learned that an expedition has been fitting out for some time to take the enemy's forts at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, and capture Wilmington.

The plan of attack was to have a large steamer loaded with *three hundred tons of powder* run close under the guns of Fort Fisher, and explode there. It was supposed by the best ordnance and engineer officers that the terrible concussion of the explosion of such a mass of powder would dismount the guns, and injure the fort to a great extent, besides destroying the garrison.

Of course it was a desperate thing to attempt to run the vessel containing the powder under the guns of a watchful enemy; for besides the danger of a premature explosion, any attempt on the part of the rebels to harm the vessel would have necessitated an immediate destruction, and a single shot or shell from the fort would have ensured the same fate. Commander Rhind, Lieut. Preston and myself were selected by the Admiral to take the vessel in and explode her, which we did successfully, and through the merciful care of a kind Providence without injury to ourselves or those who went with us; though, as the Admiral says in his report, but few in the fleet thought we could escape with our lives.

Capt. Rhind and Lieut. Preston came down in the powder vessel, the Louisiana, and it was expected she would steam into the position selected for the explosion, but the Louisiana was such an old rattle-trap that we found on trial that she could neither steam nor steer sufficiently well to go in by herself, but would have to be towed in. Of course this made the enterprise more difficult, as two vessels were more likely to be seen than one, and a shot in the powder ship or into the machinery of the other would have ensured our destruction. The Admiral sent for me, and said he wished me to tow the Louisiana in to her position, and placed any vessel in the squadron at my order for that purpose. I chose the Nansemond, my old command, but she not arriving in time, I took the Wilderness, a small, fast steamer, and made the necessary preparations, all the details of which were left entirely to me.

On the 18th of December, the army being ready, the fleet sailed from Beaufort, and the Louisiana was to have been exploded that night, and the attack by the fleet and troops to have commenced on the next morning. We started in with the powder vessel, but received an order from the Admiral not to explode her that night, as there was so much surf on the beach that Gen. Butler feared he could not land his men.

We accordingly stood off shore out of sight of the forts and anchored. The next day a heavy gale of wind came on that blew for four days during which we had the greatest difficulty to keep the Louisiana from being lost.

The fleet generally rode out the gale without any loss except that of a few anchors and chains, and on the 23d we had good weather again, and that night started in with the powder ship. Neither Captain Rhind or Mr. Preston had ever been on that part of the coast before; but from long experience there on the blockade I was well acquainted with the channels leading into the fort. Soon after dark I started in with the Wilderness, having the Louisiana close astern in tow. Capt. Rhind and Mr. Preston were on board the Louisiana ready to light the fuses and start the machinery by which the powder was to be exploded. They had a small boat with a long line attached to the Wilderness, so that we could haul them along side quickly after they had completed their arrangements and were ready to leave the vessel; and signals were agreed upon between Capt. Rhind and myself to let him know when the Wilderness had got as close in as she could go. When within two miles of the fort we stopped to let the darkness increase, and were just ready to start when a barque blockade runner passed very near us bound in, and I determined to follow him as closely as possible, both for fear he might give the alarm and to avail myself of the bearings of the lights which I knew the rebels would show on the forts to guide him over the bar. Without these lights it would have been more difficult to have found our way over the shoals and close under the forts, and had it not been for the aid thus providentially received we might not have escaped as safely as we did.—When we reached the bar the blockade runner and ourselves took different directions—he running in for the harbor and we steering directly in for the fort. We were soon close into the breakers, and the depth of water given by two good leadsmen showed that we were running up fast on the beach. The fort, with its casemates and parapets, and its barbette guns looking down directly on us, loomed up bold and distinct, and we knew that the guns were always kept manned at night ready for a shot at any blockader that might get in too near or that might show an uncovered light for even a moment. Small objects were distinctly visible on shore, but some small clouds around the horizon to seaward, and a light mist on the water made it more difficult for them to see us. We were swiftly running into the position selected for the explosion. The noise of the wheels was drowned in the roar of the surf, but the moments were anxious ones, as every instant we expected a broadside from the fort. At last we reached our position, and were as near the fort as we could go, when I gave the signal to Capt. Rhind, and he cut the hawser by which we were towing him, and headed the Louisiana directly for the fort. Finding I had not room to turn the Wilderness around without danger of getting ashore, I had an anchor gently lowered with a spring on it, and soon sprung the vessel's head off shore, and prepared to pull Capt. Rhind's boat alongside and receive him and his party on board.

Twelve long minutes passed, when he made the signal that the clocks were started, the fuses lighted, and the Louisiana set on fire, and that he was ready to leave her. In almost less time than I can write it, we pulled up his boat, he jumped on board, I gave the order to cut the spring we were anchored by, and the Wilderness dashed off at the rate of fourteen miles an hour. Just as Captain Rhind was ready to leave the Louisiana, the rebels discovered us and challenged from the shore. We expected a round then, but the rebels perhaps thought we were another blockade runner from our being so very close in and repeated the challenge, and while they were doing so we cut and were off—reaching a safe distance when the explosion occurred. An immense column of fire seemed to reach the sky, followed by a dense mass of black smoke, and a concussion like that of a heavy earthquake—the Wilderness trembled, and all loose articles on board were shaken with considerable violence. At Beaufort, *seventy-six* miles from the place of explosion, people were awakened, houses were shaken, and windows shattered. The effect on the fort was not so great as was expected, and the sand parapets were not much injured. We learned from prisoners and deserters, however, that almost the entire garrison were killed or disabled by the explosion, and a new garrison had to be sent into the fort the next morning. This was the greatest advantage we derived from the affair, for the old garrison were well drilled at the guns and knew the ranges of the different points of approach, while the new troops were unacquainted with the handling of the guns and did us less damage when we went into action next day.

The Admiral expressed himself well pleased with our execution of what he calls in his report "the most perilous enterprise perhaps ever undertaken," and has recommended Captain Rhind, Mr. Preston and myself for promotion.

The effect of the "great torpedo" on the forts was not as great as has been expected, but with that we have nothing to do, our part being to take the vessel under the forts and explode her. I have passed through many dangers during the war, but none so imminent and fearful as this. Yet no consideration whatever would have induced me to yield my place to another. Captain Rhind wished me to go with him, and I volunteered from a sense of duty as well as from a desire for honorable distinction. Besides, Oregon has but few in the war and they should always be in front.

* * * * *

ROSWELL H. LAMSON.

THE NEW SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

Our exchanges partially enlighten our ignorance of the new minister of finance, Hugh McCullough, whose nomination and confirmation was announced by telegraph a short time ago, and the indications are that the appointment is a good one—a business man for a business place. It is not surprising that the general run of us American voters were not very familiar with the past history of such a man as McCullough. He has not attended conventions, concocted platforms, written political letters, or made partisan harangues to excited crowds.—From all we can learn he appears to be a practical financier, one who has devoted his life to the study and management of money and monetary affairs. For many years he was President of the State Bank of Indiana and its branches, and since the advent of the National currency he has been controller of the currency department, and is understood to have given that assistance to the late Secretary in the management of that bureau. Last year he was offered, but declined, the presidency of the Fourth National Bank in the city of New York.

His name indicates a Scotch origin—a race of people distinguished in modern times above all others for their aptitude and success in the higher walks of commerce, finance and political economy generally. The Bank of England is the main spring of the financial system and circulation of Great Britain. A Scotchman was the originator of that project, and its adoption was as potent in supporting the revolution of 1688, the success of which permanently excluded the Stuarts from the throne of England, as our new system of National finance has been in supporting our government in putting down the slaveholders' rebellion.

The very name of the new Secretary sounds well in connection with the treasury branch of the Government. The commercial and statistical dictionaries of the celebrated and now venerable John Ramsay McCullough are familiar to every tyro in those pursuits, and known to thousands of others. A good name is a sweet savor.

Since the adoption of the Constitution there have been twenty-four Secretaries of the Treasury preceding Mr. McCullough, who makes the twenty-fifth. Seven of them have been from the slave States, and the remainder from the States north of Mason's and Dixon's line. The north being engaged in commerce has generally been represented in that Department. Unlike the corresponding position in the British Cabinet, the first Lord of the Treasury, our Secretary has never been considered the premier or prime minister of the Administration. The politician of the Cabinet is usually the Secretary of State. To this rule, Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury, was an exception. He was the premier of Washington's Administration, and the special champion of its policy, which in most instances was his own. The Secretary of State—Jefferson—was a *politician*, but not the exponent of the Administration.

For many reasons we are disposed to congratulate the country upon the appointment of the new Secretary McCullough. It looks as if it were made because of his fitness for the place, and not to please a political faction that might not know the difference between three per cent. consols and five-twenty bonds.

To pick up a smart, "tongney" lawyer or stump-speaker, because he lives in a certain State, or has procured the endorsement of a convention of his fellows, and entrust to his management the finances and revenue of this great country, will never do. It is one thing to be able to milk a jury of their tears, or pump the loud cheers from a sympathetic crowd, but quite another to be a Statesman, a Financier, and capable of conducting the affairs of this nation so that the people will not suffer from the ignorance and incompetence of their rulers. Politicians are often utterly unfit for public positions, requiring either official industry, special knowledge or much learning. Their vocation and mode of life is utterly inconsistent with serious application, methodical business or enlarged culture. With them, life is necessarily a long struggle to get place and get somebody else out—not a training how to deserve it, or successfully administer it when obtained. We don't propose to do away with politicians, and could not hope to if we would, particularly in a country that is governed by stump-speeches (in Congress and out of it), conventions and newspapers.

What we hope to see is more attention to the fitness for the place in the appointments in the administrative department of the Government. Political influence is something that cannot be altogether overlooked by our Government in the distribution of offices, but we think it has been pressed too far, and that the people are beginning to see the necessity of selecting their public "help" more upon the rules that govern them in the employment of their private "help"—*capacity and integrity*. A system of appointments to public offices, particularly administrative ones, which should proceed upon this rule, irrespective of changes in the mere political policy of the Government, would give the country faithful public servants, when too often we have mere political partisans. As a step in this direction we hail the nomination of McCullough to the Treasury Bureau, and we hope the good precedent may become the rule rather than the exception.

DALLAS, OREGON, March 15, 1865.

ED. STATESMAN: By request of John Waymire, Esq., of this place, I send you for publication the following extract from a letter received by him from Rev. G. M. Berry of Baltimore Conference, formerly of Oregon. The letter is dated Jan. 4th, 1865.

"The election is over. God is in elections and He is at work now. His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour. He will not allow man always to attain his ends. No people so bitter and unjust, as willful slaveholding secessionists. The negro has no rights that they care to respect. They separate husband and wife, parent and child, brother and sister. They would sell them in cold blood, to be carried south by masters in human shape, frequently they would whip them unmercifully and sometimes kill them. The poor negro's cries have been for many years going up to God. In His goodness He caused a long discussion on the subject of slavery in Congress and out, by the press and human voice, that the slaveholder might be convinced and *abandon his crime*. But no; like the Jews of old, they shut their eyes and stopped their ears, and hardened their hearts, and put additional burdens upon the poor African. God then arose, girded on His sword and beheld the result. The backbone of the sin is broken and Abraham Lincoln is re-elected to finish the monster. And he WILL DO IT. God has decided that it shall be done, and by His providence has appointed Abraham Lincoln to do it. It is God, and I rejoice. The Democrats would not do it therefore God took away their senses that their political opponents might triumph. I thought so. I felt so after the Chicago Convention. I could not support their platform; I could not support McClellan because the platform upon which he professed to stand did not harmonize with God. I did what I could for Abraham Lincoln." G. H.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

CHERRY HILL, Polk county, March 24.

ED. STATESMAN: Was it intended in framing the Constitution to submit amendments to States that were not United States at the time when the amendments are to be submitted?—Doubtless the only answer is that, "it was certainly not." If then this is so, why does the editor of the *Statesman* say that "There are thirty six States, including the rebellious ones, and that it will take twenty-seven to ratify the amendment." Are the rebellious States at this time States of the United States? If so why are we at war with them? And if they are not why does the editor include them as necessary to ratify this amendment? Is not Sonora of Mexico as much *a State* of the United States for all practical purposes as the State of South Carolina is at this time? The fact is South Carolina ceased to be *a State* of the United States more than four years ago, and may never be a State of the Union again—not that she will not be subjected to the authority of the United States, for she is practically that now, but her people may refuse to reinstate her as a State of the United States. In fact, I think that she ought to be singled out separate from all her sisters, to be made an example of, and for ever refused the glorious privilege of becoming a State of the Union, that she may taste the glorious sweets of her secession doctrine to the full. But I am digressing. By inviting these former States of the Union to amend the Constitution of the United States which they have despised and set at naught, we put ourselves in the ridiculous attitude of thirty-six men who when nine of them have set all law and order at defiance, the twenty-seven say come, now you nine, and help us make laws to convict you that from henceforth we may compel you to respect the law.

It will do no good to say that the Constitution so enjoins, for it no more enjoins that we shall submit a constitutional amendment to States that are not States of the Union than it enjoins that we shall use the horns of the moon for a compass. Would it not be as reasonable to let Gwin of Mexico exercise the elective franchise in the State of California, as that these rebellious States should exercise the elective franchise on the Constitution of the United States. It will not vary the matter on account of Gwin's having taken the oath of allegiance to Maximilian, since he was a citizen of California. For the rebellious States have also taken the oath of allegiance to the Southern Confederacy since they were States of the United States.

But if you announce the doctrine that the seceded States have a right to vote on this amendment, you kindle the fires of Kansas among them and offer a premium for the blood of the remnant of Union men that are among them, and fill the cup of their present ruin to overflowing, and by internal distraction protract their return to the Union indefinitely, and the vexed question of slavery will remain unsettled for years. Until perhaps foreign powers will conclude that we need a second Maximilian. Therefore the condition of the Southern people and humanity both alike, require of us that we remove from among them a source of corruption that has already worked their ruin, and one which their wisest men have always said was a curse to them, (as indeed it has proved to be,) but one which their own blind and perverted views may not enable them to dispose of without help. Not that we would do any injustice to the South, but that we would do them a permanent good.

We count then about twenty eight States that perhaps would be called upon to act on this amendment, including Tennessee, Louisiana, and perhaps Arkansas—perhaps not the last, for this amendment is now submitted and the latter is not a State of the Union yet. And if eight of these reject the amendment it will all be knocked into pi at once, and three have already done so, and five more hold the balance of power. Now let four more reject the amendment within a year, and my word for it *the coppers will import enough into Oregon to carry her*, and the amendment will be lost and then the matter will rest altogether on the action of the Southern people to reject or retain slavery, making the matter of doubtful solution at least.

We therefore insist on calling the Legislature at once, that they may adopt this amendment and thus add the crowning touch to their already fair wreath, instead of wearing a crown of shame and everlasting contempt.

But we presume that if there is three-fourths of the now loyal States that sanction this amendment, that Congress will act upon the custom of all legislative bodies, which is to act when there is a quorum to do business, and let absent members incur the responsibility if there be any. Under this rule it will take three-fourths of the States that are found at their posts to constitute a quorum for this amendment, leaving the insane, sick, and other members who are off playing the fool, in place of attending to their own business, to shoulder the responsibility. For the Southern seceded States are either absent members, or are not members at all—it makes but little difference to us which. We say that on account of their past and present action they are not entitled to a voice on this question. If so, we see no good reason why Kamiakin and his confederate tribes may not also be consulted in the matter, or the British provinces.

In regard to paying the expenses by subscription, for the extra session, I say yes by all means. The Cops are opposed to this amendment, are opposed to the prosecution of this war by the Government for the suppression of the rebellion, therefore I am averse to their sharing in the honor. The Union men have to bear the brunt, and they are entitled to the glory of this mighty triumph over despotism, anarchy and confusion. WM. RUBLE.

LETTER FROM CAPT. CRANDALL.

FORT STEILACOOM, March 10, 1865.

ED. STATESMAN: * * * * It is known here that rumors are in circulation in Marion county, that the soldiers of my Company have been swindled (by the officers) out of their private bounty. Having had no part in the receipt or disbursement of that bounty, I may be presumed to be a disinterested witness as to the *facts* in the case. About $700 were subscribed in all, (not including such sums as were paid at the time directly into the hands of volunteers,) in various parts of the county. Of that sum, about $200 only was paid over to Lieut. Reynolds. The balance, so far as I know, remains unpaid—or if paid, has not come to the hands of any officer of this Company. Of the $200 paid to Reynolds about $100 was expended, by express understanding with parties, in payment of certain costs of recruiting, and bills contracted by recruits; just $70 were expended in the purchase of necessaries for the Company. This expenditure was by and with the advice of non commissioned officers, for articles that the soldiers would have to subscribe for, otherwise, and accounted to the same thing as paying the bounty to them and then receiving it right back as subscription to Company Fund. The Company having then no Company Fund, the only way left was to make one, as we did. The expenditure was strictly for the *enlisted* men, and for no one else to the amount of a cent.

The balance, $30, was long since distributed among the most needy members of the Company—usually those who had received no private bounty at the time of enlisting. I *know* these facts.

So far from swindling the men out of their bounty, the officers of this Company have given and loaned to many of the men, in the aggregate, more money of their own than will ever hereafter be paid by all the subscribers to the Marion County Soldiers' Bounty Fund—though the greater part is still *unpaid*.

The rumors above alluded to are doubtless put afloat by parties who never subscribed a cent, or if they did subscribe, never *paid* a cent, and to cover their ineffable meanness they now set up a howl about the soldiers being swindled. The real swindlers are those who were too niggardly, in the first instance, to subscribe to the bounty, or so intensely dishonest in the second as to refuse to pay it, (because the soldiers were gone away where they could not ask the subscribers for their niggardly pittance subscriptions,) and now entrench themselves behind such a charge to avert just denunciation.

I would be glad if you would make the above statement public over my signature.

Yours, respectfully, C. P. CRANDALL.

NOTICE.

A REGULAR meeting of Webfoot Fire Company will be held at the State Library room on Thursday evening, April 6, 1865, at 7 o'clock. A full attendance is requested.

TO TEACHERS.

A PUBLIC examination of teachers will be held at the Court-House in Dallas, Polk county, Oregon, on the 10th day of April, 1864, commencing at 10 o'clock a. m.
Dallas, April 3, 1865. J. L. COLLINS, School Sup't.

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE bark "Industry" was wrecked on Columbia river bar on Thursday evening, March 16, 1865. The ill-fated vessel was visible to the citizens of Astoria, and Capt. Flavel, an old and experienced pilot on the bar, gave us to understand that nothing could be done to reach the wrecked vessel unless by some steamer. Shortly afterwards, the steamer Wright hove in sight, and landed at the wharf, when it was suggested by a number of citizens to send her to the wreck, the Captain of the Wright consenting to make the attempt for $100, which amount was instantly subscribed by a portion of our citizens. John Shively, who had a son on the Industry, was the first to urge the sending of the steamer, and one of the subscribers to the fund for that purpose, signing his name for $50. While the steamer was on her way to the wreck, the sloop M. H. Clinton neared, with seven of the survivors, among them being Mr. Shively's son. When Mr. Shively learned that his son was saved, he refused to pay one cent of the sum he had subscribed. He is one of the principal owners of the town of Astoria, and well able to pay the sum he subscribed, and not miss it. On the return of the Wright, the money was collected and handed to the captain of the steamer and receipted for. H. A. SHAW.
Astoria, March 23, 1865. 5w1

TAKEN UP

BY the subscriber, living 8 miles northeast from Dallas, Polk co., on the 18th February, 1865, one sorrel filly, 2 years past, about 14 hands high, with a small star in the forehead and a small white spot on one side of the nose, both hind feet white, and a little white on the left fore foot. Said animal came to my place some time in December last. Appraised by T. Pearce, J.P., at $25. C. C. KEYT.

BY the undersigned, living 4 miles west of La Grande, Union co., one red and white ox, with broken horns. This ox was posted Jan. 6, 1865, and was appraised by Rhinehart, of La Grand, at $25. C. M. SAWTELLE.

J. B. UNDERWOOD,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
EUGENE CITY, OREGON.

Closing Out--At Cost!

AS WE INTEND making a change in our Business, we will sell our entire Stock of Dry Goods at COST. Persons wishing to purchase at the *Lowest Prices* will do well to call and examine our stock.
SMITH & CARTWRIGHT.
Salem, Oregon, March 31, 1865.
N. B.—We would be pleased to see our Old Customers, especially those who have unsettled accounts on our books.
Please come forward, Gentlemen, without further invitation. (5tf) S & C.

Steam Boilers For Sale.

WE HAVE TWO LARGE Second-hand, Flue Boilers, which we will sell low, if applied for soon. WILLAMETTE WOOLEN M'F'G CO.
J. S. Smith, *Agent.*
Salem, March 29, 1865. 5 3t.

"AN OUNCE OF PREVENTIVE IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE."

Gunn's New Family Physician,
OR
Home Book of Health.
FORMING A COMPLETE HOUSEHOLD GUIDE.

GIVING many *Valuable Suggestions* for avoiding Disease and Prolonging Life; with plain directions in cases of emergency, and pointing out in familiar language the causes, symptoms, treatment and *Cure* of disease incident to men, women and children, with simplest and best remedies.
BY JOHN C. GUNN, M. D.,
Author of the old work known as "Gunn's Domestic Medicine."

EDITORIAL NOTICES.

* * * DR. GUNN is famous to all western people if not indeed to all America, for his celebrated writings, and the success of the present work is the best certificate of its character that can be produced. The style of the book is a very superior one, both as to its typographical appearance and binding.—*Daily Oregonian, Feb. 27th, 1865.*

DR. GUNN, author of the old and deservedly popular work called "Gunn's Domestic Medicine," has lately published the results of his riper experience in the "New Family