

The Oregonian.

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Oregon, as second-class matter.

TELEPHONE. Editorial Rooms... REVISED SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Fair, winds south to south-west.

PORTLAND, SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 1900.

MR. MITCHELL'S STATEMENT.

The Oregonian today prints a long statement from ex-Senator Mitchell. Since this is a public matter, the Oregonian has not felt at liberty to refuse to print the piece, for it is a newspaper and inasmuch as it had printed Mr. Simon's speech and Mr. Corbett's telegram it felt that it was only fair that it should also print this reply, notwithstanding its vast length, though much of the matter it contains has been printed heretofore. This is Mr. Mitchell's version of a course of events in which he was deeply concerned; but the Oregonian feels bound to say that he was not, with all the space he has taken, touched at all upon the true reasons why the Legislature did not organize and why he was not elected, at the session of January, 1897. The Oregonian will not undertake to speak for Mr. Simon, for Mr. Corbett, or for any other person or persons. It will briefly give its own version.

The reason why Mr. Mitchell was not elected was that he was not in accord with the principles and purposes of the Republican party on the gravest of the questions then uppermost, and was not therefore entitled to Republican support. Yet the Legislature, chosen before the severe logic of the Presidential campaign had drawn issues to very close lines, had been "set up" largely for him through the activity of his supporters, among whom were not a few of the most strenuous silver men of the state.

Yet, through the methods Mr. Mitchell has known so well all his life how to employ, a majority of the Republican members were committed to his support. Nevertheless, the Republicans of the state did not want him elected. The chief reason was their positive disapproval of his position on the great question of the time. He had always been a supporter of free coinage of silver, and he obstinately refused to change it, he would not continue that course. Yet the Republican party had declared for the gold standard, and just now, after the struggle of many years, it has given its platform of 1896 the force of public law. Had Mr. Mitchell come out plainly for the gold standard, the Oregonian would have been entirely willing to see the controversy between the Republican party and the state itself become involved through him, terminated by his election. Many others felt the same way. But Mr. Mitchell gave no sign, and as he had always been a silver advocate, it was a fair and indeed necessary inference that he would so continue. He had no right, therefore, to ask for Republican support, and no Republican member of the Legislature had any right to vote for him. The Demo-Populists, on their part, did not want him elected, because at the critical time in the history of the issue he had spoken and voted against their candidate for the Presidency, contrary to what they felt they had a right to expect from his record as a silver man.

But the Legislature had been "set up" or largely set up for him by active politicians many months before. In the effort to re-elect him all principle was disregarded. Whether he was for silver or gold, his active supporters cared not. They were seeking the usufruct. The Oregonian was among those who thought that this demoralization of the Republican party, and this general juggle of politics through the silver mischief, should cease. Yet it believed that the Legislature had been so set up that if it organized Mr. Mitchell would get a majority. Therefore, it did not want the Legislature to organize. It said so at the time. In this it speaks for itself alone. It does not undertake to speak for others. And yet it fully believes that the Republicans of Oregon are well satisfied with the main result, namely, that the state now has a solid delegation in Congress voting for the legislation that has put the gold standard beyond present peril or dispute.

Here is the core of the matter. All the details presented by Mr. Mitchell are but the limbs and outward flourishes. The Oregonian does not doubt that it was disapproval of Mr. Mitchell's own position, and desire to prevent his election, because of that position, which kept Republican members out of the House organization. The Populists were kept away by their resentments against him because he always a silver man, had refused to support their candidate and platform at the supreme crisis of the silver cause.

path forbidden of honor, sobriety and compassion, but if boys are neighborhood terrors in their early boyhood, the parents are remiss in their duty. That is the whole of it.

THEY DIED FOR IRELAND. The celebration of St. Patrick's day in London, and throughout the British Empire everywhere, may be taken as the end of that anniversary's peculiar bitterness. Irreconcilables we still shall have, until another generation occupies the stage, just as in this country we still have fire-eaters in both North and South. But to the mass of Irishmen in Great Britain, St. Patrick's day will be a day of awfully feelings of pride and heroic memories, instead of acrimony on the one side and derision on the other.

It is a revolution in human sentiments, where change is brought in with the greatest difficulty. Nothing is so hard to eradicate as traditional racial animosity, sectional strife and religious prejudice, for these conflicts take their rise deep down in the springs of human nature—the cohesiveness of family and tribe, the battle for self-preservation, the worship of the finite mind has always paid to the Infinite. All these elements have entered into the ancient feud between Irish and English, Irish and Scotch. In the war between the orange and the green, lives have been sacrificed every year, even in the New World, far from the scenes of the original cause, where Old World hatreds are supposed to be laid aside. We seem to be within half of the close of this distressing conflict, and the victory is noteworthy and far-reaching.

Mighty War has done this, and it is one of the tremendous revolutions war only can accomplish. The horrors of war make a familiar story. Authors are fain to dwell upon the brutality of carnage, the anguish of the bereaved, the distress of interrupted labor, the legacy of penitence and hate that have descended upon the victors. These evils are real, but they are measurably counterbalanced by the great ends that are reached through war, and war only. It is through war that this nation has achieved its independence, cemented its union and extended its borders. Nothing but the war with Spain, when Blue and Gray tolled side by side up San Juan Hill and saved the guns of the new Navy, and the war with the Germans in Lusitania, have brought us our national honor. A reunited country here, dates not so much from Appomattox as from the night the Maine sank in Havana Bay, or the day that Bagley was shot to death before Cardenas, or the day that the blood of North and South mingled on the soil of Santiago de Cuba.

les have been surveyed and the rails are ready to be laid. With troops in Kandahar and Cabul, an invasion of India would be impossible. Until her vast system of projected railways is completed, it is not likely that Russia would incur the burden of a great war, whose outcome might, possibly, be disastrous to her progress and prestige in Asia. France has a stupid race hate for Great Britain that might betray her into a mood of reckless belligerence, but there is no race hate between Russia and Great Britain, for outside of the Crimean war of 1854-56, Russia and England have not come into conflict. Their rivalry is commercial; there is no blood feud between them, as there is between France and Germany. France is the hereditary foe of both Great Britain and Germany, and still is stirred into a fit of sentimental rage when she thinks of Waterloo or Sedan.

Finally, the chief reason for believing that there will be no war between Great Britain and France, backed by Russia, is that the Emperor of Germany, who is really the arbiter of the peace of Europe, would not permit it as a matter of national self-interest. Germany does not love England, but Germany positively hates and distrusts France. The peace of Europe broken by a great war between France and Great Britain would be ruinous to the business prosperity and tranquility of Germany. Emperor William could not afford to see the peace of Europe seriously broken, and before he will allow France to regain her lost military prestige by a war with England he will interpose to keep the peace.

Nowhere does imperfect knowledge work more grievous havoc than in the study of religious truth; and the same is true of the study of the history of the half-educated. It is the hope of our present-day higher education that it may, through impartment of thorough information, destroy financial heresy and economic error, and show the people the dangers of socialism. It will fall of its highest privilege, however, if it does not provide the world's moral and religious forces with a scientific basis for faith and hope, in place of the old foundations of superstition and legend that are crumbling away.

The meaning of the present conflict between faith and science escapes most of the combatants on either side. Each falsely imagines science and religion to be incompatible with, if not positively exclusive of, each other. The materialistic scientist, or, more correctly speaking, the scientist's half-educated male follower, conceive that demonstration of Nature's methods is itself confutation of religion; and the churchman is apt with equal perversity to reject the conclusions of physical science with cheerful alacrity, if so be they do not square with his denominational creed. Now, the battle-fields of science with faith are two—one over the history of creation, the other over the Bible. There is the war with material science over evolution, and there is the war with literary and historical science over the interpretation of the Bible. The latter of these is the more pressing today, and the erroneous view just referred to is accurately typified in this paragraph from the New York Sun:

it. And it would be fool's play at the very least for the United States Senate to meddle in the British-Boer controversy to the extent of taking a vote on an official resolution of declared sympathy for one side and implied censure for the other. The Senate may not be the most sagacious and statesmanlike deliberative body on earth, but it shows wisdom in treating Senator Mason's crack-brained views on intervention and other matters in regard to our foreign policy with official silence.

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When Mr. Simon says that the Legislative hold-up was caused by Mr. Mitchell himself, the statement is perfectly true in this, that it was caused by Mr. Mitchell's devious ways in politics. Of that there can be no question.

When the people of the United States are expansionists, but not imperialists. Hence they oppose the legislation proposed for the new insular possessions of the United States.

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Building activities are greater at the present than at any time in many years. A most encouraging feature of the situation is in the fact that even the most optimistic promoter of prosperity has not referred to it as a "boom," it being generally conceded to be a growth as natural as that of awakening Spring. House-building is in progress with a vigor unknown to March in any former year, thus proving that house-building comes in the form of a supply that is rising to meet an urgent demand. It proves, indeed, more than this, as it indicates an ability and desire to own the family domicile, both of which were checked by the general depression of a few years ago.

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MASTERPIECES OF LITERATURE V

Three Immortal Odes of John Keats. To a Nightingale. My heart aches, and a drowsy numbness pains My sense, as though of hemlock I had drunk. Or emptied some dull opiate to the drains. One minute past, and Lethe-wards had sunk: 'Tis not through envy of thy happy lot, But being too happy in thine happiness— That thou, light-winged Dryad of the trees, In some melodious plot Of beeches green, and shadows numberless, Singest of summer in full-throated ease.