

STATE RIGHTS DEMOCRAT.
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, '05
ABOUT NEGRO SUFFRAGE.

It appears that our Abolition contemporaries who, a few months ago, were so fond of prating about Negro Suffrage, have all at once grown very tender-footed and become greatly exercised upon that subject. The Oregonian says:

We think the Copperheads must desire negro suffrage, judging from the constant talk about it. If so, they are taking the very plan to get it. If they really do not want it, they had better be silent.

We should really like to be informed just what it is the Oregonian intends to convey by the above language. "Copperheads" certainly have shown their antipathy to Negro Suffrage in all the days of the Republic—for Copperhead is but the present name by which Abolitionists call a Democrat. On the other hand, it is the Abolition party which favors Negro Suffrage, and has at all times championed that measure. Several Abolition States have inaugurated Negro Suffrage; Horace C.oley, Robert Dale Owen, Henry Winter Davis, Senators Sumner, Wilson, Pottery, Wilkinson, Wade, Chandler, Chief Justice Chase, and a host of other Abolition dignitaries and leaders, have all proclaimed their desire to extend it throughout the whole Union. Is it not plain, then, that it is not the Democrats, but the Abolitionists who want it? Does not the Oregonian know this fact?

But what does it mean by saying that Copperheads, in constantly talking about Negro Suffrage, are taking the "very plan to get it," we should like to know? Does it mean that the Abolition party is not in favor of that measure simply for itself, but only as a means to vex or punish Democrats? that if we keep our mouths closed, they will not put it upon us? Is it an insinuation, then, and not a good thing, *per se*? The Abolition party sets up peculiar claims to be the party of the people, which legislates only for the benefit of the country at large. If honest in this, they will legislate upon Negro Suffrage to the same end, and pass it or not simply with a view to the greatest good of the whole country. But if they pass it merely because Copperheads talk about it, will there not be substantial reason to believe that they act from sheer spite and in pure maliciousness against Democrats, and not from motives of public weal, or with a desire to "do tardy justice to a long oppressed race"?

The Oregonian, like all of its contemporaries and party brethren, is fearfully perplexed over this subject. This is apparent to every one. The fact is, they have "nigger on the brain" so lamentably as not to be very sane or consistent in their treatment of Negro Suffrage or any other analogous question. They have packed their ebony idol until not only their strength has become exhausted under the incubus, but their wits are nearly departed—and yet he sits composed, grinning and chuckling, but merciless and unyielding. To carry him farther will prostrate them; to throw him off will leave them without capital to further gull the populace. Siamese twins in life, they cannot be sundered only with death to both. Negro Eng will cling to Abolition Change to the last gasp, and then fall a victim himself to the destroying influence of contamination with the carcass to which he is indissolubly bound.

The Abolitionists shoulder Sambo to kill off Democracy. Like the horse in the fable which called the man to his back to help him kill the before too formidable lion, the Abolition party put Sambo on its back, to overcome Democracy. The analogy somewhat ceases here. Abolitionism, with Sambo mounted, made its furious tilt at Democracy—and the latter fell prostrate before the first rough shock. But it was not killed. It has revived, recovered, and is again ready for the contest, armed at all points, invincible in its array. Meantime Sambo, having discovered the good service he can put his creature to, is resolved that it shall bear him to the last. And moreover, the cunning black has further discovered that it was for no ultimate benefit to himself, but from a purely selfish motive the Abolition Beast called him to its back in the fight against Democracy. That noble lion never sought harm or injury to him—it simply wished him to confine in the sphere wherein Omnipotence had placed him. Democracy was not his enemy, but his true friend. It sheltered, fed, clad, and humanely protected him in all of his wisely ordained rights. Abolitionism professed great regard and love for him; it led him from kind protectors, from a land of plenty and his sphere of contentment, and turned him loose in deserts itself had made; it left him without means, without preparation, to beg or starve or die; it put over him masters more inhuman than the cruellest he had ever encountered, who worked him to exhaustion; and when he had fallen, through want, hunger, and disease, they left him to die like a brute in the mire; it told him he was "a man and a brother," and then treated him like a dog and an outcast. Sambo has painfully learned all this, and now, sitting astride his hypocritical Beast, he rides it to the encounter with Democracy, almost indifferent to its fate, but quite conscious that his own has been terribly perilled by foul association with it.

We entertain no doubt that the Abolitionists are sorely chafed at the "talk about" Negro Suffrage on the part of Democrats, in this State. It is a subject they would like to dodge. To favor or oppose it will hopelessly break them down. Their only salvation is to keep silent upon it, to ignore it if they can. Or, if it must be met, they would have the fatal day for their decision upon it put off to the last. But Democrats are determined to press them to a conclusion upon it, and they will not permit Abolitionists to remain silent in the matter. The leaders and aspirants for State offices in that party will have to come out flatfooted and squarely, and say whether they are or not in favor of it. They are the quacks who proffered the noxious nostrum to the people; they must now swallow the vile mixture themselves. It will surely kill them politically, but it will thus prove of incalculable benefit to the State, by aiding to restore to it a sound Democratic Administration.

The Suppressed Mail.

Nothing has yet transpired in reference to the restoration of the Daily Overland Mail. The people of Oregon have now been deprived of mail communication through and along the main highway of the State, from Jacksonville to Portland, for nearly three weeks. No steps have been taken, so far as we are aware, by those in power, to restore mail facilities. Mail communication is being extended to even the States South; but Oregon is deprived of it. The reason the authorities at Washington have for this wrong and outrage upon the rights of this people may be conjectured. Oregon has ceased to be an Abolition State. As a punishment for her return to Democracy she is deprived of the Daily Mail. Very well, her citizens will remember this wrong and outrage in June next.

It is gratifying to know, that while our State Executive and all the Abolition officials, whose remonstrance against this mail deprivation, and whose petition for the restoration of the Daily Mail, ought to avail with the men in power at Washington, have taken no measures in the matter, the Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco have intervened in behalf of Oregon. At a meeting of that body, Sept. 14th, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco views with serious concern the action of the Postoffice Department in abolishing the daily service on the Overland Oregon mail route from Lincoln, Cal., to Portland, Oregon, whereby the entire population of the Northern portion of the State, and of Oregon, are deprived of mail facilities of every kind.

Resolved, That a Daily Overland Mail between San Francisco, Cal., and Portland, Oregon, is essential to the development of the commerce of the sister States of California and Oregon, and that it is to be hoped that the Postmaster General will immediately take steps to restore said daily service.

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to forward a copy of these resolutions to the Postoffice Department, and to furnish a copy to each one of our Senators and Representatives.

We hope that the action of the Chamber of Commerce may have the effect to induce the Senators and Representatives from California to interpose in the interest of Oregon, and that they may prevail upon the Postmaster General to restore what has been so wrongfully snatched from our people; but we are aware they will have to overcome not only the stubbornness of that high functionary, but also the antagonism of Senator Williams to the mail; and it is feared that in this they will not be aided, but obstructed, by Senator Nesmith and Representative Henderson. These men were sent from Oregon to public servants to labor for her benefit. Not one act of benefit or good have they, officially or unofficially, performed; but on the contrary, the former two, who have sat in Congress, have simply worked to her injury and disadvantage. Henderson takes his seat in December. So far he has had little opportunity to perform either good or evil, but that little seems to have been devoted to the accomplishment of all the harm it has been possible for him to inflict upon his State. Oregon is most vividly represented in Congress, and her people are most shamefully treated by the Administration. Think of no mail being afforded to the people of a whole State!

GOING AND COMING.—The Oregonian of Tuesday tells of families, with teams and many head of live stock, journeying from Portland to the country east of the Cascades, to seek farms and homes; also of many freshly arrived emigrant families at Portland, on their way to this upper Valley, with the same intention.

FIGHT WITH INDIANS.—Captain Powell's company had a fight with a party of Indians, sixty miles from Camp Lyon, south of Fort Boise, lately. The Indians were routed. One soldier wounded in the shoulder, is the only casualty reported.

BOATING.—The roadsters Challenge and Boston went a match at the Portland Course last Monday, mile heats, best two in three, to harness, for a purse of \$500. Challenge won in two straight heats, in 3:17, 3:20.

ACCIDENT.—Chas. Warren of Portland was dangerously wounded by a shot discharged from the gun of a companion, with whom he was hunting near that city, a few days ago. It was feared he would not recover.

NEW ACADEMY.—A new academy building has been lately completed at Forest Grove, Washington county. A new College building is also going up there, to be finished next year.

PERSONAL BLANDERS.

There is one abuse of the press which never can be justified, under any aggravation, and that is the assault of individuals on wholly and solely personal grounds. This abuse, we regret to say, has been carried to greater excess and into lower depths by some members of the press in Oregon than by any others we have known. Yet, we are glad to state also, that at the present time there are only one or two journals which engage in and continue the vicious practice. Generally, now-a-days, opposing papers discuss questions at issue with something like fairness, and with the proper courtesy which should be observed in those whose occupation develops upon them the discussion or treatment of public matters, with each other. It is with no small pride that we hear testimony to the courtesy and good feeling with which the principal journalists of the Opposition in this State have exchanged their very antagonistic views and arguments with Democratic contemporaries lately, and we trust this course shall be adhered to by them, as it will be, we feel confident, on the part of the Democratic press. It is certainly more gratifying to the disputants themselves thus to encounter each other than to descend to bitter personal abuse and vituperation, and so it is more pleasing and edifying to their readers. If men who conduct newspapers can respond to the arguments of a political adversary in no other way than by totally disregarding the subject at issue, and resorting to scurrilous and filthy calumnies of solely personal nature against his individual, purely personal character or acts, his kin or kith, then are they entirely unworthy to continue at their stations. Readers care more to be informed upon subjects of public interest than of the individual characteristics, private transactions, quarrels or wranglings, or social affairs, of editors even. If men who set themselves up as debaters, critics, or reviewers of subjects of public import, when unable to answer the arguments of an adversary, to comment upon the conduct of men in any public light, and to review a given subject, turn from those performances, and apply themselves simply and only to belauding, or slandering, or tearing down the personal reputation of their opponents, or the author of the views presented, in what are they any better than the low blackguard who stands on the street corner and hurls his abusive, slanderous, scurrilous billingsgate, at the respectable passer who deigns no notice of him?

Most men who take papers in Oregon have families at home. They want the paper which comes to them of such a character that it can be read in the family without injury to the morals of any in that sanctuary, without causing a blush to tinge the cheeks of their daughters, without corrupting the healthful tone of their sons' home-breeding. They want a paper which will present to them new lights and impart better information to all who constitute the household, in the subjects offered. If the views of an adversary on this question or that are subjects offered, they expect and have a right to find, in their paper, fair counter-views or arguments are presented, and that the subject at issue is at least attempted to be answered. If, on the contrary, they find no further attempt at response except that which a blackguard would essay, they must regard a contemptible opinion of the ability of the editor, as a writer, and also learn to despise him as a man. The party or sect or faith which has only such men as its champions, must fall as they fall, into disgrace and contempt, in the course of time. A public which supports such a champion, and encourages him in such disreputable practices, has well-nigh descended into barbarism, and become lost to the better, higher, nobler attributes of man's God-given nature.

Of what more consequence to the public are the private matters of editors than of men in other occupations? None whatever. The conductor of a paper has no more right to parade in his columns anything pertaining to himself personally than he has to devote the paper to the mere personal affairs of other men. His patrons do not pay him so much per annum for a paper which shall tell them of himself, or his acts or grievances, as an individual. And for an editor to take advantage of his own columns to assail or malign the conduct or character of one who has not a paper at his command, is as cowardly and base an act as can be described. If an editor's duty leads him to review or criticize the public conduct of a public man, let him do so, and do it with respect to his public career or behavior; but he ought never to drag in also acts or anything else which pertains to his subject solely as an individual. To do so is on a par with that most base thing which some resort to—the publication of entirely private letters which may have passed when the parties were exchanging views and ideas with each other in perfectly friendly and confidential correspondence. The petty larceny thief is a model of manly honor in comparison with the creature who does this.

The editor who will indulge in this personal abuse and slander himself, or who yields his columns to others for that purpose, virtually places himself beyond the pale of respectable journalism, and merits neither the notice nor consideration of men in newspaper business, nor of any decent citizen. He is an outlaw against good morals, a boomerang to the community in which he dwells, and the occupation which he disgraces. No condemnation which can be couched in language is so deep and damning as that which the wanton slander of private character deals against himself in his low work of seeking to defame and injure the character of the person he assails. All are aware in what light he is regarded in society who prides and sneaks and noses into the minutest details of another's private business or social affairs; who hunts up the petty tattlings of courtiers, of small scandal-mongers, and pests of society, who revamps old calumnies, invents new lies, exaggerates small stories, adds to the falsehoods of others—and all with the set purpose of fomenting strife, sowing discord, and poisoning the minds of his readers with malicious, unprovoked slander, against one whom he is well aware will never stoop to notice him, to respond to his tirade, or to do aught else than despise him, and utterly disregard his base but valueless frothings. The best way to treat such men is to leave them to themselves, the best manner in which to meet their slanders is to live them down. The community in which a person lives will sooner or later fix a proper estimate upon his character. If as bad as his enemies allege him to be, all the cunning, dissembling he may practice, all the hypocrisy he may summon to gloss over his imperfections, will not avail—discovery of his true character must and will ensue. So, on the other hand, if a person be painted over by slanders as black as ever existed from the mouth of Ate, and they be undeserved, his fellow men will in fair time judge him rightly, and no vindication of his own can be half so effectual as that which will flow from this course and this test. Every man worthy of the name, however much calumniated, can best afford to patiently undergo this test process, await this best final vindication, and rest his case solely in his fellow men to do him simple justice. In that good time also, he may rest assured, the same impartial tribunal will properly pass judgment upon the character of his slanderer.

THE OREGONIAN HITS ITSELF.

A Democratic Vice-President was once married to a black woman and his effrontery was well known to all the States. We may say "Age of progress. Moral and God-loving Kentucky."—Oregonian.

There is no truth in the above old, repeated Opposition slander. Richard M. Johnson did not have a "black" nor a "colored" wife. He did sit in taking to himself a mulatto concubine, and in shamefully living with her. In doing so, he violated both human and Divine law. His party never approved that part of his private conduct; it was his public work, his honored, England certainly did not commend Lord Nelson's intimacy with Lady Hamilton; it was his distinguished merit as a sea chieftain for that country applauded and rewarded him. The present age, and our own country, offers many similar acts of shame and sin—in the lives of popular heroes and statesmen, too. Some of the great chieftains of the Federal army in the late civil war, and several of the conspicuous leaders of the Oregonian's own party have, in like manner with Richard M. Johnson, sinned in private life. It would be unfair to charge upon their profession or their party this sin. Equally unfair is it to charge the sin of Richard M. Johnson upon the Democracy of his day, or of this period, or his State.

But let the Oregonian bear one fact in mind: At that day, the laws of the State which Vice President Johnson sinned, forbade marriages of whites to blacks. In this period, several of the Northern States, under Abolition rule, have by statute law permitted such marriages. This is not a private evil, but a public shame, and not an individual is implicated, but the whole Abolition party is involved in the shame. If the Oregonian is shocked at Richard M. Johnson for having been "married to a black woman" (as it asserts), what has it to say about the members of its own party who passed laws permitting and legalizing the marriage of whites to blacks? If it views with disfavor the "safrony progeny" of that union, what does it think of its party's conduct in so legislating as to people the land with more of the same sort? To be consistent, it ought to now claim the deceased Vice President as one of the great apostles of its party, on account of that very "marriage," just as the party generally now have the shameless audacity to claim President Jackson as their own, because of his course towards South Carolina in 1832. For the organ of a party to slander the memory of the dead statesman for having, as it charges, married a black woman, when it seems the policy of Jones has been captured by Maximilian's troops. The other Imperial victory was the occupation of the town of Hranville, which the republicans had previously evacuated.

MECHANICS INSTITUTE.—The mechanics of Portland propose to organize and establish a Society for the promotion of useful knowledge in the line of their pursuits. A library is to be made up, and other excellent features will be added. It is a good move, and ought to succeed.

TELEGRAPHIC.
OVERLAND DISPATCHES.
DATES TO SEPTEMBER 15.

The South Carolina Election.

New York, Sept. 15.—The Herald's Charleston correspondent says: That the Union League of the State Council in a house in Charleston, S. C., has been organized, and the work of the State Council, though the members are not yet fully organized, is being carried on. The Union League of the State Council, which is a house in Charleston, S. C., has been organized, and the work of the State Council, though the members are not yet fully organized, is being carried on. The Union League of the State Council, which is a house in Charleston, S. C., has been organized, and the work of the State Council, though the members are not yet fully organized, is being carried on.

Colored Troops Mustered Out.

New York, Sept. 15.—The Herald's Washington correspondent says: That the colored troops of the United States Army, who were mustered out of service, are being sent to their homes. The colored troops of the United States Army, who were mustered out of service, are being sent to their homes. The colored troops of the United States Army, who were mustered out of service, are being sent to their homes.

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