

THE GRAND OLD FOLKS.

They have built an empire—they are entitled to our respectful loyalty, the sturdy sovereigns of the west. A wilderness has been transformed, and magnificent states have been the result. Dangerous and toilsome was their long journey to the western wilds. Toil and danger marked the carving out of their sunset homes. They give to future generations a heritage, and have added brilliant stars to the glorious banner of the proudest nation on earth.

The roll call grows shorter. They are fast taking their final journey to unknown lands. Each annual reunion pathetically reminds us that the time will soon come when their association here will be dissolved and their will be no more of the grand old folks to answer "present."

They will not be pioneers in that other land. Millions have gone before, but wherever it is and whatever the parting of the curtain may reveal to them, we know that though they mingle with kings and queens, and high potentates of government arts and science, there will not be in all that vast concourse, a nobler people than those plain, courageous men women, the pioneers of Oregon.

We are in the gingerbread season of the school year. This show period of school work, "commencement," recalls to many bread-winners green memories of high resolves and noble ambitions come to naught. Commencement literature and the later lives of commencement orators form a painful contrast. "Over the steeps to the stars," and the stars never seem nearer, nor do the steeps ever seem easier to climb than just at the close of our college life. Then the steeps begin to grow more rugged as the actual ascent commences, and the stars seem dim and distant. But pretty visions are more helpful than hurtful, and besides the worldly-wise youngsters of today have a more practical conception of life's severity, than their graduating speeches usually confess. So let us welcome "commencement time," with its flowers and music, its tears and smiles, its oratory and applaudings, its display and pleasing humbuggery, and as the girls in pretty white dresses and the boys in new black clothes, walk off the stage, let us add to our congratulations a murmured "God bless them."

At last our populist contemporary has struck an attitude and boldly says, concerning the financial question: "Thus, if the dispatches are to be believed, McKinley will go to the country on a platform concerning which there will be no uncertainty and that platform will be entirely favorable to the single gold standard. It is equally certain that the democratic convention will declare for the free and unlimited coinage of silver. For the sake of the country it is to be hoped that all the gold-bugs will follow the one and all the silverites the other banner." There is unalloyed wisdom—a betrayal of a mighty comprehension of great matters. But—not to be bold—it might be well-er could the country, or—well for the sake of the country, which should be successful, Bro. Times?

Mr. TONGUE's position on the financial question is not uncertain. On the canvass he expressed distinct, definite ideas in plain, forcible language. True, he is not an extremist and doubtless failed to please the more radical supporters of the two chief money metals, but to charge that his position was uncertain, simply impugns the comprehension of his critics.

COL. ALLEY's newspaper, the Republican, published at Baker City, is one of the brightest, newest dailies in Oregon. Col. Alley is an editor with ideas, and with backbone enough to express them. From the appearance of the paper it is enjoying deserved popularity.

PROF. E. R. LAKE was elected to the legislature by a gratifying majority. There is plenty of work in the legislature for just such men as he.—Rural North-east.

AND NOW KINCAID.

The Oregonian must certainly be aware that it deceives no one when it attempts to make Mr. Mitchell's financial views appear the reason of its opposition to his re-election. The real reason of that opposition is no secret and needs no explanation.

It is now attacking Oregon's secretary of state, and claims in justification that he is a silver man. The Oregonian is guilty of another transparent fraud. Mr. Kincaid's financial views have nothing whatever to do with the management of his office. Oregon has never had a better, more economical secretary of state. The state has now a novelty, an auditing board that audits. The system of compensation for the secretary of state cannot be commended it is true, but this is the fault of the legislature. Mr. Kincaid is not the lawmaker.

The Oregonian is offended with Mr. Kincaid because Mr. Kincaid is independent of the Oregonian and the political ring that speaks through the Oregonian. It dislikes him especially because he refused to use his official influence in behalf of Mr. Dolph during the last legislature. It can find nothing in the management of his office to criticize and so it tries to read him out of the republican party. A self acknowledged "professional bolt," its assurance is breezy. It reads itself out of the party in nominating and supporting Northrup. "By their fruits ye shall know them," and judging by its intents and by its results, the Oregonian is nothing more than a populist organ. Mr. Kincaid's peace of mind will hardly be disturbed by its choleric denunciation.

The populists have had a meeting at Salem to denounce the defeat of Vanderberg. They claim he was "counted out," i. e. more votes were counted for Tongue than for the populist man. It strikes us that the democrats have more cause to complain than the Weaverites. Myers was counted almost "out of sight." Let the democrats by all means hold an indignation meeting.

PHILOMATH ITEMS.

Born, June 7th, to the wife of Ed. Sharp, a son.

Recorder-Elect Johnnie Gellatly is moving to Corvallis.

Hill pastures are putting on "the sere and yellow leaf."

Miss Bertha Ellis, of Albany, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Gray.

Mrs. Ella Jones, of Portland, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Roles.

R. O. Logan M. D., is attending the National Eclectic Medical Institute at Portland.

The Salvation army had an interesting street meeting Friday evening. A great deal of enthusiasm was manifest.

The conference of the radical United Brethren has been an interesting one, and well attended by ministers from abroad.

The machinery of the Kleppin flouring mill has been removed to Monroe, A. Wilhelm of that place having purchased it from the Case Manufacturing Company.

"Let brotherly love continue." On Sabbath afternoon Bishop Dillon, of the radical United Brethren church, and Elder Parker, of the liberal, administered the rites of baptism to eleven persons at the same hour and place.

Commencement Announcements.

Friday, June 19, 8 p. m., Freshman entertainment in chapel.

Saturday, June 20, 8 p. m., Sophomore entertainment in opera house.

Sunday, June 21, 10:45 a. m., baccalaureate sermon, Rev. E. P. Hill, D. D., Portland.

Monday, June 22, 2 p. m., battalion drill on campus; 8 p. m., Junior entertainment in opera house.

Tuesday, June 23, class day; 2 p. m., battalion review, and dress parade; 8 p. m., class exercises in opera house.

Wednesday, June 24, commencement; 9 a. m., graduating exercises—address to graduating class, Hon. J. K. Weatherford, of Albany; delivery of diplomas, President John M. Blose; delivery of state teacher's diplomas, State Superintendent G. M. Irwin; 8 p. m., alumni reunion.

Sunday Seaside Excursion.

On Sunday, June 21, the Oregon Central & Eastern Railroad Co. will begin running their popular excursions to Yaquina bay. Train leaves Albany 7:30 a. m., Corvallis, 7:50 a. m. Returning, steamer leaves Newport at 6:30 p. m. Fare from Albany, Corvallis and Philomath to Newport and return, \$1.50.

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THE PEOPLES' FRIEND.

Brief Sketch of Senator Mitchell's Public Life at Washington.

The following sketch of Senator Mitchell was made by Frank A. Peltret, the well-known Washington correspondent, while collecting material for his book of congressional wit, humor and satire. It is nicely written and contains a vast amount of data heretofore unpublished, which will be read with pleasure and interest by the senator's many warm admirers throughout the state.

"The true gauge of a lawyer's ability is what his brother lawyers think of him; of a general, what his brother generals think of him; of a statesman what his brother statesmen think of him; for to secure the approbation of his rivals, a man must be possessed of qualifications which command their respect and admiration.

"The honors which have been thrust upon Senator John H. Mitchell by his confederates in the senate, testify with more force to his signal abilities, than could columns of laudatory comment. Panegyrics on statesmen are about as tiresome as epitaphs on tombstones, and as a rule, even less truthful, and therefore are regarded with suspicion and skepticism; but when a man has been selected to arrange the committees of the senate of the United States, the committees through whose hands all the legislation of the country must pass, and by whom all proposed legislation must be considered, when a man has been selected to perform such a task, out of all the distinguished men who adorn that body with their experience and wisdom, no more convincing testimonial to his impartiality, wisdom and the esteem in which he is held could be given or asked. And the manner in which he performed that delicate duty confirmed the wisdom of the senate's selection. Amidst the clash of conflicting interests and desires of the different senators, he made the assignments with such tact, with such manifest propriety, with such consideration for all the senators and the different sections of the country, that there was not a single objection, not a dissenting voice, when it came to a ratification of his action.

"On March 4th, 1897, Senator Mitchell will have concluded his third term of service in the United States senate. He is today as alert as industrious and as sound, physically and mentally as he was when he first entered the senate, twenty-three years ago. In accordance with the law of nature he is probably not as vigorous physically, as he was a quarter of a century ago, but if he has lost anything in vigor, his vitality in those days must have been wonderful. During the present session of congress he has worked an average of fifteen hours a day, some days more and some days less, but striking about that average. He dictates almost everything to his stenographer, and seldom makes a correction after the first dictation. His great speech on the Dupont election case, considered to be one of the finest legal arguments ever made in the United States senate, was dictated at odd moments during the course of three or four days. This is the way in which most of his speeches are prepared. He never neglects one thing for another, if he can possibly help it. His popularity among the people of Oregon, is largely due to the fact, that every man however lowly, however obscure, has consideration at his hands. There is no letter addressed to him from a constituent, however trivial, or unimportant in its nature, that does not receive his personal consideration. 'They are all equally my constituents,' he says, 'and as such, have a right to my attention and consideration.'

"Senator Mitchell first took his seat in the senate at the United States on March 4, 1873, being then 37 years of age. Six years before, he had fallen one vote short of obtaining the same honorable prize, in the republican caucus.

"There were giants in the senate in those days. The young senator from Oregon found himself pitted against such men as Chas. Sumner, Roscoe Conkling, Hannibal Hamlin, the elder Cameron, Oliver P. Morton, Mat Carpenter, Zach Chandler, and John A. Logan, to say nothing of John Sherman, Allison, Thurman, Ingalls, Edmunds, Bontwell, Bayard, Windom and many others.

"The young senator, in those days, and especially the young senator from the 'wild and woolly' west, was supposed to keep himself very much in the background, and to content himself with drinking in wisdom from the lips of the seniors. Such enforced subject did not sit well on a man of the nervous energy of Mr. Mitchell and he chafed under the bit, which he finally broke at age 37, when he had not been in the senate months before he took the venerable traditions of the senate by the ears and actually made a set speech. It was on a resolution, offered by him, providing for a commission to investigate the depredations of Indians in Oregon. In it he made a stirring appeal for the hardy settlers who had suffered in the Modoc and other Indian wars. He reviewed the atrocities of which the Indians had been guilty, and how the settlers had been compelled to take upon themselves the duty of the government, expend money and offer up their lives in defense of the lives and property of the people of Oregon.

"In the next session, he did a much more daring thing. He crossed swords with John Sherman, a veteran, even in those days, and the latter remembered the rencontre for some time. The bill for The Portland, Dalles & Salt Lake Railroad was up, and Senator Sherman interrupted the reading of it with a motion to table, speaking of it contemptuously. It was a discourtesy, and Senator Mitchell resented it with a vigor which must have shaken some of the old senators out of their chairs. He said:

"If the senator from Ohio is the senate of the United States, then the bill cannot pass; but I think that common courtesy, at least, if nothing else, from the honorably senator from Ohio, would prevent him from rising in his seat, and interrupting the reading of a bill, that has been reported by a committee of the senate and reported favorably; I say, without any discourtesy to the senator from Ohio, that I think common courtesy to the representatives from Oregon here; common courtesy to this senate; common courtesy to a people who today occupy a territory larger in extent than all of New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Ohio combined; a people that today ship more wheat to the port of Liverpool, more wheat per capita, five times, than all the wheat growing states of the Mississippi valley; common courtesy would require that the bill, at least, should be allowed to be read."

"It is hardly necessary to say that the bill was read, and that the senator from Ohio made his excuses.

"It is easy to find even in this first session in the written record, evidence of the same zeal, the same unflagging industry, the same regard for the interests of his state for which he has since become distinguished. It was an up-hill battle in those days to secure any recognition for the North Pacific coast in the appropriation bills, but he fought it regardless of the odds. He never lost an opportunity and made a good many in addition to those made by others, to champion the interests of the hardy people, who far away from railroads, cut off in a measure from the rest of the world, were engaged in turning a wilderness into a splendid abiding place for man.

"In the 43rd congress Senator Mitchell succeeded in establishing a standing among his compeers, and when the forty-fourth met, he was honored by being made the president pro tempore an unusual number of times, probably more or at least fully as many times as any other senator. He made a masterful speech during that congress in favor of the Hawaiian reciprocity treaty, a measure the wisdom of which, has been justified by subsequent events. It was not his first effort in that line, for eleven years before he had introduced a resolution in the Oregon legislature which was unanimously endorsed by both houses, instructing the representatives of the state in congress to that end. It is, of course, difficult to say how much the success of the Hawaiian treaty had to do with the subsequent advocacy of reciprocity with South American countries, by Hon. James G. Blaine, but there can be no doubt that influence was considerable."

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