

THE OREGON SENTINEL.

G. JACOBS, Editor.



"TO THE EFFICACY AND PERMANENCY OF YOUR UNIONS, A GOVERNMENT FOR THE PEOPLE IS INDISPENSABLE." - Washington.

JACKSONVILLE.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1862.

Important Facts.

We often hear men who deeply sympathize with the Southern traitors remarking, that if the North had given the Southern guarantees on the subject of slavery, there would have been no secession and no rebellion. Our answer is that the North has given every guarantee that reasonable men could ask, and more even than they have demanded. The South demanded a stringent fugitive slave law, and the North granted it. The South asked for the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and the North conceded it. It will not be pretended that the old Democratic party was hostile to the interests or oblivious of the rights of the South. It only remains to be shown that what was and is the position of the Republican party on this subject.

In order to ascertain the doctrine of any particular Church, we go to their Confession of Faith. So in order to ascertain the principles of any political party, we must go to their platform, for that is an authoritative enunciation of their principles. No individual member of a party has a right to speak for that party in opposition to its platform, because the party speaks its principles through its platform, and in no other way.

Having premised thus much, we call your attention to the 4th resolution of the Republican platform, adopted at Chicago, 1860. It reads thus:

That the maintenance inviolate of the rights, and especially of the right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to that balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depends.

No language could have been used to have expressed more pointedly and more forcibly the doctrine of non-interference with the domestic institutions of the South. The principle asserted is, that they not only have no right to interfere, but that such interference would be the destruction of the Government.

Slavery exists in the Southern States, and it exists there by virtue of local law. That law is just as binding upon the citizens of said States as any other enactment of their Legislatures. So far as the citizens of other States are concerned, they are not responsible for the enactment of such laws, and they have not the shadow of an excuse to justify any interference. Such is the doctrine of the Republican Platform with reference to slavery in the States.

But further: the last Congress adopted the following resolution with scarce a dissenting vote, nearly every Republican voting for it. Even Lovejoy voted in the affirmative:

Resolved, That neither the Federal Government, nor the people or Government of the non-slaveholding States, have a purpose, or a Constitutional right, to legislate upon, or to interfere with slavery in the Southern States of the Union.

Here is a clear and emphatic legislative enunciation of the same doctrine as that embodied in the 4th resolution of the Republican Platform. But says an objector, this is all satisfactory enough so far as the Constitution as it now stands is concerned, but the Republicans, once fairly in power, will amend the Constitution so as to give the right to interfere.

We have two answers to this objection. The first is, that it requires two-thirds of both Houses of Congress, or two-thirds of the States to propose amendments to the Constitution, and these amendments before they become a part of the Constitution must receive the sanction of three-fourths of the States. This, in the very nature of things, would be impossible, if in opposition to the interests of the South.

The second answer that we give to this objection is this: The House of Representatives did, before the Southern States seceded, pass a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States, so as to prohibit Congress from ever hereafter interfering with the institution of slavery in the States, making that restriction a part of the fundamental law of the land. This proposition received a two-third majority in the Senate after many of the Southern Senators had withdrawn.

So much for the States. Let us turn our attention to the Territories, and see if there were any grievances there that Congress ought to have redressed, but did not.

After the election of Lincoln, the Congress of the United States organized three Territories, Dacotah, Nevada and Colorado, leaving to the people, when they came to form a State Constitution, and not before, the right to dispose of the vexed subject of slavery. The 4th section of all these Territorial acts, among other things, prohibited the Territorial Legislature from passing any laws to impair the right to private property. What more could be asked?

Again, the following resolution was offered in the Senate of the United States by Mr. Brown, of Mississippi, a few months prior to Mr. Lincoln's election. It read thus:

Resolved, That experience having already shown that the Constitution and the Common Law, assisted by statutory provision, do not afford adequate and sufficient protection to slave property, some of the Territories having failed, others having refused, to pass such enactments, it has become the duty of Congress to interpose and pass such laws as will afford to slave property in the Territories that protection which is given to other kinds of property.

The year and more being demanded on the

A Convocation of Dead Men.

Last Saturday was the day appointed by a mythical personage formerly known in this part as the Democratic County Committee, for the holding of Freeinet Convocations. On that eventful day, about two o'clock in the afternoon, a few melancholy ghosts were seen wending their way towards the Court House. Not knowing whether there would be a funeral or a dog fight, we seized our hats, and with a few and meagre tread approached the solemn place. We were accosted at the door by a pleasing spirit, and were welcomed with a seeming smile, but there was so much of ghostly horror in that facial dilataion that we instinctively shrank back with involuntary dread: re-ascending ourselves, however, we entered and found ourselves for the first time in our life at a convocation of dead men. There were from fifteen to twenty spirits visible to mortal eyes. And we presume that all the ghosts there were visible. For spirits in the other world entertaining the opinion held by these dead men are exceedingly rare and only seen by the lower spheres. If any fortuitous combinations of circumstances should ever raise them to the sphere in which Andrew Jackson moves, there would be a row in ghostland immediately. At last a good looking and pretty ghost of the tribe of Miller, was called to preside over the convocation. One J. W., of the tribe of Sessions, was duly elected clerk. We thought we could detect some elements of mortality in the scribe, and were puzzled to know whether he was a ghost or not. We have since been fully satisfied on that point. He still has an honorable habitation among mortals. Then commenced the delightful operation of your tickle me and I'll tickle you, which we, in our ignorance, had supposed to be obsolete among dead men. This continued until quite a number of genuine ghosts and a few live men were duly elected to attend the grand convocation of dead men, to be held on the 5th of April next. There were one or two ghosts that, from their activity, particularly arrested our attention. There was a bounding ghost who seemed to be restless, unquiet and uneasy, and it is reported in the piteous region that he seeks a place of abode on earth. While on earth he dwelt with the disciples of "Sam," in their tents and his halcyon days. Since he departed this life, he has repudiated "Sam" and all his doctrines. After all the solemn duties of the convocation had been duly discharged, the presiding ghost gave a rap upon the table. We heard a darning rattling of dry bones, felt a rush in mid air, and the ghosts had disappeared from mortal gaze.

4th. The entire North, including all parties, have tendered to the South the proposition, so to amend the Constitution, that in all time to come there should be no right to interfere.

5th. As to the Territories. Southern Senators, just previous to the election of Mr. Lincoln, by their votes on the Resolution submitted by Senator Brown of Mississippi, showed in the most emphatic manner, that there were no Territorial grievances needing the legislative interference of Congress.

6th. A Republican Congress, subsequent to the election of Lincoln, organized three Territories, and in the sixth section of each one of the organic acts, saved in the clearest manner possible, all the rights claimed by the South in regard to slave property in the Territories.

Oregon Regiment--Six Companies.

OREGON CAVALRY--Col. Cornelius, Colonel of the Oregon Cavalry, has received orders from the Secretary of War through General Wright, modifying previous orders: that he should enlist only six full companies for service instead of ten--which number, we learn, is already enlisted. The Colonel holds himself to readiness for further orders from General Wright--Oregonian.

We are very sorry to learn that such is the case, but we still hope that General Wright, in whose military knowledge, ability and patriotism we have the most unbounded confidence, will, upon a complete understanding of the situation of affairs, see that full justice is done to all portions of our threatened State. Every person at all acquainted with the Indians in Southern Oregon, is fully convinced that we are on the eve of another Indian war. This belief is based not only on the positive assertion of the Indians themselves, but also on their actions--their growing insolence. That the four companies, originally to be raised south of the Calapooia mountains, and now absent full, will be necessary the coming year to protect the people of Southern Oregon from Indian depredations, is too palpable for argument. We believe that General Wright will come to the same conclusion when he is in full possession of all the facts. It is this almost universal belief that has hastened the organization of the companies in the north. If the two companies raised in the North, out of the six companies which were to be mustered there, are sufficient, in connection with the California volunteers already in the field, to protect the Dalles country and the Northern mesa, we have not a word to say. But we do most respectfully protest against the withdrawal of men enlisted in Southern Oregon, and who are absolutely necessary for its protection and safety--to go into Northern Oregon, when they have more men and greater resources than we have, and ought to have as much patriotism.

In conclusion, we have to say to our Northern friends, that it is a pity we had not known the true state of this matter a little sooner. The people of Southern Oregon are not only a patriotic, but a generous people. Had they been fully convinced that it was necessary for them to raise five or six hundred men for the protection of the northern frontier, their patriotism and generosity would have been equal to the task. As it is, we have no more men than we need. A citizen of this valley cannot leave it and go twenty-five miles eastward without exposing his life among hostile Indians. The fertile plains and the illimitable pastoral resources east of us are shut out from the enjoyment of the people of Southern Oregon. But it is all well, we suppose.

Laying aside joking, the essence of this matter is simply this: The people of Southern Oregon heavily felt the necessity of raising at least four companies for their own defense and protection, and every man lent a helping hand. The people of the Willamette, although as patriotic and loyal as any people in the world, felt no such necessity; hence they failed to raise their quota.

GENERAL SHEL.--This noble and patriotic German has had another signal opportunity afforded him to show his devotion to his adopted country. Driven as a refugee from the Old World, received and honored by America, every pulsation of his heart is for the Union with all its civil rights and political blessings. Instinctively hating tyranny and oppression, and loving liberty and Constitutional freedom, his heart is in the struggle.

He is one of those men whose intellectual perceptions clear up amid the roar of cannon and the smoke of battle. No dangers appal him, and no difficulties balk the intuitive certainty of his judgment.

At the battle of Sugar Hollow, on the first day, he was in command of a detachment of 600 men detailed to guard a baggage train. Whilst in the performance of that duty he was attacked by twice his number. He successfully fought them all day and safely brought the train up to the main army. Twice they had him and his little Spanish band entirely surrounded, but he cut his way through.

Twice, we presume, the Confederate officers thought, now old Fox has you, but they were disappointed of their game. Where is there a German whose heart does not glow with patriotic fire at the mention of Sigel's name?

DAVE.--There are quite a number of crazy men in town.

BY OVERLAND TELEGRAPH.

(Dispatches received by *Alta*, *Union* and *Hullin*.)

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FOURTEEN MARCH 10th.
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The chief engineer of the Monitor says three balls from that vessel passed through the Merrimack. The Monitor was struck thirty-three times, but not injured. Only the opportune arrival of the Monitor insured the safety of the Minnesota and the other Federal vessels. She disabled the Merrimack, which, previous to her arrival, was proof against everything.

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Assistant Secretary Fox has returned to Washington, and reports the Merrimack badly injured in the two day's fight. She has a hole burned in her hull by the Monitor, and was leaning badly when she put back. The Cumberland's broadside on the first day of the fight injured her so badly that she could not attack the Minnesota and Ironsides, although both were aground. He thinks the Minnesota can now handle the Merrimack, she being so slow and unswifly. He considers it utterly impossible for her to go to sea, as she would immediately founder in an ordinary gale.

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The earthworks at Centreville are greatly misrepresented. They were not of so formidable character as was supposed. The enemy, before leaving, had somewhat injured them by breaking embrasures and openings.

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The Battle of Sugar Creek, Arkansas.
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The attack by the enemy commenced March 6th, on my right, and continued until 9 o'clock on the morning of March 7th. I ordered an advance of cavalry and light artillery under Colonel Osterhaus, with orders to attack and break what I supposed would be the reinforced line of the enemy's center. The movement was in progress when the enemy, at eleven o'clock in the morning, renewed the attack on my right. The fight continued mainly at these points during the day, the enemy having gained the point lately contested by Colonel Carr at Cross Timber Hollow, but was entirely repulsed with the fall of their commander and General McCulloch, by our forces under Colonel Davis. The plan of the attack on the enemy's center was gallantly carried forward by Colonel Osterhaus, who was supported by Gen. Davis' entire division, although that of Gen. Sigel's command, which had remained till near the close of day, left before the day closed. I was convinced the enemy had concentrated their main forces on my right. I therefore commenced a change of front forward, so as to face the enemy when he displayed on my right flank in strong position. The change had been only partially effected, but was fully in progress, when, at sunrise, the attack on my right and center was renewed, there being firing along the whole line. My left, under Sigel, moved close to the place occupied by the enemy, driving him from the heights, and advancing steadily toward Head Hollow. I immediately ordered the center and right wings forward, our right turning the left of the enemy and cross firing on his center. This final position enclosed the enemy in the arc of a circle. The charge of the infantry, extending throughout the whole line, completely routed the whole rebel force, which retreated in great confusion through deep and impassable ditches and cross timber. Our loss was heavy. The enemy's loss cannot be ascertained from the dead scattered over a large field. The enemy's force scattered in all directions, but I think the major force returned toward Keittsville, and my cavalry is pursuing him towards the mountains, scouring the country and bringing in prisoners.

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FROM SAN FRANCISCO, WHICH ARE OFFERED AT

LOW PRICES FOR CASH

To correspond with the hard times.

QUICK SALES AT SMALL PROFITS, FOR READY PAY, IS BEST FOR ALL.

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