

THE OREGON SENTINEL.



"TO THE EFFICACY AND PERMANENCY OF YOUR UNION, A GOVERNMENT FOR THE WHOLE IS INDISPENSABLE."—Washington.

JACKSONVILLE, OREGON. SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 2, 1864.

The Abolition of Slavery.

From present indications this question must be met and decided by the citizens of the United States at their ensuing Presidential election. The incubus that the nation has for so many years been struggling under must now be shaken off. The dead weight which politicians and statesmen have been vainly endeavoring to roll up hill, while it gradually, certainly, and continually increased in size and consequence, must now be kicked to the bottom. If it even cracks into powder the men who would still support it. Some persons tell us slavery is dead, and no longer potent for evil. This is doubtless the fact, viewed as a chain of bondage to the slave or as a pecuniary investment to the master; but the more important question, the great question to the nation, the political question involved in this institution, is not yet decided. The lawfulness, the legitimacy of slavery in the States where it exists, still remains untouched, and remains, too, but as a fountain of bitter waters to poison any pure that may be established, and to stir up still contention and bloodshed upon the slightest pretext. The people of the United States cannot afford to sacrifice so much blood and treasure to put down the slaveholder's rebellion, and then ground their arms and permit the cause of the rebellion to remain rooted in the Constitution, to revive and spring up again as the deadly Uvas tree. The history of the present rebellion demonstrates, not only that slavery was the moving cause and support of the rebellion, but what is much more important to the lovers of liberty throughout the whole world, it has demonstrated that the institution of slavery will canker, poison, rot out, dry up, and destroy the rights and liberties of the common people in any republican government where the institution is permitted to establish itself.

If these conclusions be correct, it is our plain duty as citizens, desiring to preserve the rights and liberties purchased by the blood of our noble ancestry, as a matter of principle second to no other, to demand the total and complete destruction and eradication of slavery from our Government and from our boundaries, by amendments to our Federal Constitution. This we believe to be the sentiment of the Union party of the United States, and the sentiment of nine-tenths of the people in the loyal States, and the unanimous desire of all loyal citizens in the Southern States. We regret any person in the ranks of the Union party should be timid on this question. Do not be alarmed; the cry of Abolitionist will last no one day. Declare openly your honest convictions on this subject, and do it now, for the probability is that you will be taunted with conservatism on this question by the men you now call pro-slavery Copperheads, unless you speak out at once. Declare yourselves in favor of the abolition of slavery not only upon principle, which is the greatest and best reason, but also in favor of it as a matter of sound party policy. The printed proceedings of the Linn county Union Convention show that the following resolution was presented and not adopted: Resolved, That in the event that Congress shall submit amendments to the Constitution of the United States, forever abolishing slavery in all portions of the Union, to the several State Legislatures, we are in favor of the Legislature of Oregon supporting such proposed amendments.

To this the Oregon Statesman remarks: "We understand that the ground of objection to the resolution was that instead of being applicable to any present condition of things, it looked to a future and a possibly never happening contingency; that

we had enough present and urgent issues to settle, without ransacking into the future for contingent events on which to hang political faith or pledge political action."

We are in favor of the above resolution, and should have rejoiced to have seen it adopted by every County Convention in Oregon, although we have no doubt that the next Legislature will vote right on this question when it is presented, as it most surely will be. We differ with the Statesman as to its applicability to the present condition of things. We think the resolution does not "look to a future and possibly never happening contingency." It is an issue that we cannot dodge in the next Presidential canvass if we would. We believe that the National Union Committee had this very question in view, when they made a call upon all voters who desire the unconditional maintenance of the Union, the supremacy of the Constitution, and the complete suppression of the rebellion, with the cause thereof, by vigorous war and all apt and efficient means. If the Union party overlooks this question, the Democratic party will take it up, and it will become the "chief concern" of their political fabric. If the Union party goes for the destruction of slavery by vigorous war, the Democratic party will go for the crushing of the rebellion by more vigorous war, and the abolition of slavery by amendments to the Constitution. There can be no mistaking the signs of the times on this question. The Democracy of the Eastern States have bold, skillful and witty leaders. They know that there is no chance for them in the next Presidential contest, save by becoming more antislavery than the Union party. Slavery is now dead, and no use to them as a political friend, and they now deny any former acquaintance with the "institution." Mr. Cox of Ohio, their ablest leader in the West, has already made a long speech, giving the one to the whole party and paving the way for the abolition platform. Had Mr. Douglas lived he would have surely carried the whole of his party over to emancipation and abolition long ago. He would have been on emancipation ground long before Mr. Lincoln got there. Douglas was too shrewd a politician not to see that there was no chance for him and his party, save by throwing slavery overboard at once and forever. There are several strong reasons why the so-called Democratic party should turn over to Abolitionism, by amendments to the Constitution. First, they have tried the peace passover, and have been overwhelmingly defeated in every State. Second, it is well known that the loyal men of Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana and West Virginia are radical Abolitionists, and that at the recent Border State Convention, Mr. Lincoln was repudiated as too conservative, and a professor for Mr. Chase expressed, Mr. Chase having voluntarily abandoned the Presidential field, if the Democrats can now get on the Chase platform, they will have Abolitionism, together with the prestige of the ancient name of Democracy, and would undoubtedly carry all these Border States and the Free-Soil States for McClellan. Third, it is not certain but that a few of the Northern States might be carried even against "Honest Old Abe," by a terrible "hue and cry" for a more vigorous prosecution of the war, coupled with constitutional Abolitionism by amendments to the Constitution, should the Union party fail to pre-occupy this ground. We all remember how the Democrats carried Ohio, and other Western States, in the fall of 1862, upon the platform of a more vigorous prosecution of the war. In the last place, there is no other platform on which the Copperheads can master a corporal's guard in the Northern States.

There can be no doubt that the Democratic leaders intend to make this change of front, and are now already on the move in that direction. A well informed correspondent in Washington, speaking of Brooks' recent sermon, says: "These Copperhead organs, the New York Herald, World and Express, and the Boston Post, have already wheeled into line on the new front, and leading Copperhead orators are following in their lead. In less than three months the entire party will have given up the eternity of slavery, and claim to be the emancipation party of the country."

What the Copperheads of Oregon and California will do, doth not yet appear, certainly. But there is some evidence that the bitter search, pro-slavery ac-

ments of the Copperhead leaders of this State are softening down a great deal. O'Meara has quit making anti-war speeches and has become loud in his praise of Judge Hayden, the war Democrat; and the little affair between the *Review* and *Democrat*, as to the affiliation of war and anti-war Democrats, has been suddenly hushed up.

We warn Union men and Union newspapers not to hesitate about advocating the just and righteous principle of the above resolution, and adopting the same as sound party policy; because if we do hesitate, we may find, when it is too late, that even the Copperheads have "stoiled our thunder."

Col. Drew--The Klamath Expedition.

We have no desire to pursue this subject any further, as our first article has not and will not ever be replied to, by either a plain statement of facts or a reasonable argument. Misrepresentations, slung abuse of "the Applegate, Tolmans, Hanbys, Rogers and Gastons," and Copperhead praise of Col. Drew, amounts to nothing, and will convince nobody. We will not charge Col. Drew, or any one else, with anything but the truth, if we know it. We have no personal pique to subserve in this matter, but merely desire to see the truth published, that the people of Southern Oregon may know who is to blame in this matter, and may know who are the true friends of our section. If this displeases any one, they should quarrel with the party in fault, and not with us.

The *Intelligencer*, seeing in what a bad position it had placed the Colonel by its first article, attempts to get him out of it by barefaced misrepresentation. To show this we will bring its two articles together. In the first article, after speaking of the probability of rich mines east of us, it says:

"This, together with the practicability of opening a thoroughfare communication from Salt Lake to Southern Oregon and Northern California, and establishing a suitable number of military posts for subjecting the Indians and affording protection to those who wish to immigrate to and settle in our delightful country, will at the same time open a vast and extensive region of country for settlement by agriculturists. The foregoing praiseworthy inducements influenced Colonel Drew to recommend the expedition. Should Gen. Wright issue the order for an expedition, it will afford protection for prospecting parties from Southern Oregon and Northern California who contemplate exploring that district of country the present season."

Now, then, in the first article, the above were the inducements why an expedition should go out in the country east of us. So far the *Intelligencer* is correct. These are the inducements, the "praiseworthy inducements," to use its own language. But as soon as we review the matter and show that somebody is to blame for not leading these "praiseworthy inducements" at least two years ago, and giving the people of Southern Oregon the advantage of them—so soon as we do this—*per se*, the *Intelligencer* turns around and says they are no longer inducements for an expedition—no longer any need for the expedition, because Colonel Drew has done this already. In two short weeks he accomplishes that great work that he has been praying and beseeching General Wright to let him do for the last two years. Read the following extract from the last issue of the *Intelligencer*, in connection with the one above, and any one will readily see that both Colonel Drew and his organ are overwhelmed by the facts in this matter, and cannot make even a show of defense without eating their own words. Here it is:

"Yet during that 'elegant leisure' he has expended some fifty thousand dollars in our midst; afforded employment to scores of the unemployed; effectually overawed a bitterly hostile and intensely savage tribe of Indians; rendered travel safe through a hitherto inaccessible section; opened up a vast region of country, rich in mineral and agricultural resources, to the adventurous miner and farmer; opened a market for a great portion of the products of this valley; and did this, too, in spite of a bitter, unscrupulous, warring opposition on the part of the Applegate faction."

That Colonel Drew has expended fifty thousand in our midst, we suppose, is a fact; and that it has gone into the pockets of Copperheads and enemies of the Union party and of the present Administration, is another fact; and that nearly all this money has been expended through contracts *in private*, and not by public advertisement, as the Act of Congress requires, is another fact. But where is the "vast region of country, rich in mineral and agricultural resources," which Col. Drew has

opened up to the "adventurous miner and farmer?" Where is it? Who has made any mineral discoveries in Drew's "land of milk and honey?" What has been discovered? Out with it! publish it! let the miners know it! And where is the "market for a great portion of the products of this valley," which the Colonel has opened up? Where is that? Publish it, and let the farmers hasten off with their surplus thousands of pounds of flour, bacon, beans, etc., that cannot be sold here. There are good markets at Boise, Owyhee and Humboldt, but Colonel Drew has not made them, nor opened them up. Where is Drew's market, then? Is it at the Fort? We are told by the Colonel's friends that farmers will raise enough at the Fort and near it to supply that, and that, instead of a market there, the farmers of this valley have lost that little bit of patronage. Probably the gentleman who writes Col. Drew's defense and eulogy, intends to turn consumer on a large scale himself, and thereby enlarge his proportions.

But the question comes back to us, and it will occur to every man who thinks about it, that if Colonel Drew is such an almighty great man, and an everlasting smart, as the *Intelligencer* man tries to make him out to be, why did he not do all this great work the first summer he had command of the troops in this valley? It is not necessary for us to show, that if Col. Drew had opened up the country in the direction of Goose Lake in the summer of 1862, the entire range of mountains between Humboldt and Boise would have been prospected by parties from this direction long ago, and whatever discoveries, if any, had been made, would have directly accrued to the benefit of the people of this valley. Instead of the Colonel doing more to assist in developing the resources of Southern Oregon than anybody else, we venture to assert that the facts will show to every candid, unprejudiced mind, that he has not done one-tenth so much as he might have done, and not a tribe of what has been done by Hon. Lindsay Applegate.

The *Intelligencer*'s man could not get through his article without making an ugly snarl at Messrs. Wagner and Applegate, who were members of the Legislature with him, and who enjoyed so much more of the confidence and respect of that body as to provoke his envy and call out his spleen through T. Van's spittle. As to the maps and reports which are paraded before us, we happen to know that Col. Drew is indebted to Mr. Applegate for the information contained in them, and if Colonel Drew had a spark of gratitude in him, instead of inciting and encouraging the *Intelligencer* to misrepresent and abuse Mr. Applegate in this matter, he would come forward and defend him. Mr. Applegate makes his own defense in another column in a plain, straightforward and sensible manner; and if Colonel Drew desires to say anything in reply thereto, or to this article, the columns of the *Sentinel* are open for communications of a reasonable length. If anybody is wronged, we desire to see them righted.

From the following extract from a letter by General Alvord to Governor Gibbs, dated February 14th, 1864, it would appear that our thanks are due to the energy and foresight of Gen. Alvord, rather than to Col. Drew, for the promised expedition to the east of us. Here it is:

"But I desire to say distinctly that more troops are necessary, and that we have next spring and summer important work for the Oregon Cavalry to perform. I shall recommend to the General commanding the Department that troops be sent to traverse thoroughly the whole region between Auburn and Canyon City and the California line. I hope to put two expeditions in the field the whole season for that purpose, against the Snake Indians—one from Fort Dalles southeasterly, and one from Fort Boise westerly and southwesterly. I shall also recommend a movement from Fort Klamath easterly; but as that post is not in my district, I cannot speak so definitely in reference to it. Thus you will perceive that it is hoped that the troops will be able to assist the mining population in prospecting, occupying and exploring that portion of Oregon east of the Cascade mountains, which is now a centre of great interest to the public on this coast. It contains, no doubt, immensely valuable mineral deposits. It is doubtless the intention of the brave and hardy miners to explore it, in any event. It is my earnest wish to give them all the assistance and protection in my power. To aid in such an interesting development should be the aim and policy of the Government. Besides the ordinary wants of the Indian frontier, we shall also require troops for the fortifications now building at the mouth of the river.

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