THE OREGON SENTINEL.

A Card from the Chairman of the Jackson County Union Convention.

To the Delegates of the Union County Convention, and the people of Jackson county—In the last week's issue of the OREGON SENTINEL, I find an address to the people of Jackson county, by R. H. Haines, one of the Secretaries of the County Convention, held at Jacksonville, on Saturday, April 30, 1864. In the address of Mr. Haines, charges are made against Mr. Allen, as Secretary, and myself as Chairman, which I think, in justice to ourselves, ought to be explained, so that the public mind may form correct conclusions. I will therefore, make a few statements as to the facts; for if the officers of the convention are guilty of the charges made by Mr. Haines, the members of the convention are equally guilty for allowing such acts to pass by without an expression of their disapproval; I therefore feel certain that the delegates will bear me out in my statements.

The first, second and third parts of Mr. Haines address are correct, so far as the holding the convention, the election of the officers and the appointing of the Committees on credentials and resolutions are concerned. Now comes the motion which is the cause of all the difficulty with Mr. Haines. Mr. Allen and myself understood it in one way, and Mr. Haines in another. We understood it to be as it is in the published proceedings, in the SENTINEL of May 7th, of which Mr. Allen made a minute at the time of the convention.

The next business before the convention, as Chairman, I announced to be the election of three candidates for the Legislature. Six names were put in nomination, tellers were appointed, the ballots counted and announced to the convention by Mr. Allen, as Secretary. The result was as follows: B. Myer, 23; O. Jacobs, 24; Thos. Croxton, 26; I. D. Haines, 19; C. Nye, 9; E. Wilson, 1. The three first names having a large majority of all the votes cast, I announced the result of the ballot, by declaring B. F. Myer, O. Jacobs and Thos. Croxton the nominees, on which a motion was made to make the vote unanimous, which passed.

If anything was wrong, why did I. D. Haines' friends permit it to pass over quietly? why did they vote to make the nominations unanimous? why did I. D. Haines himself, who was in the Court House counting the votes as they were handed in, (even before the result was made known to the convention,) declare "I am beat!" why did R. H. Haines declare that the wording of the motion was such as he knew would prevent any one from being elected on the first ballot?—because he must know that upon such a construction it would be impossible to nominate any candidates, for six could be put in nomination, and five on every ballot receive what he calls a majority vote.

All conventions and assemblages (and even the State Constitution of Oregon lays down the same rule for the election of officers,) lay down the same rule that we adopted in the convention. Mr. Haines says he called my attention to the fact that four candidates received a nominating vote. If he did so, I have told him equally as often that I did not hear him. But if he did so, why did not he appeal to the convention. As he did not, but supported the motion to make the nominations unanimous, I think any complaints he may now make are entirely out of place. The next complaint he makes is in the nomination of candidates for sheriff. I do not believe that Mr. Sutton has employed Mr. R. H. Haines as his attorney, to publish complaints for him against the Union Convention. Mr. Sutton, it is true, desired the nomination for sheriff. His friends worked for him faithfully and honorably. On a close vote, he was beaten, and he submits to the action of the convention as a good and true Union man, and with a high sense of honor that commends him to the party in future. In the next place, Mr. Haines says that immediately after the close of the convention, he submitted the minutes to my inspection, and that I only made one correction, changing the name of E. F. Russell to that of S. D. Vandyke. So far that is correct. But he knows that I did not read the minutes any further, supposing everything was correct. On Sunday evening, I saw Mr. Allen, in town, and told him of the difficulty with I. D. Haines, that he was going to be an independent candidate for the Legislature, that we had better go to his brother, R. H. Haines, and have the matter made right. We did so. We told him wherein we differed from him, and requested that he along with us would so word B. F. Dowell's motion, that it would express the sense intended by the convention, so that we could all sign the proceedings and have them published. He, Haines, refused to do so; we then left him. So much for the *demand*. He knows that we did not demand anything. During the week following the convention, I received a letter from Jacksonville, informing me that the editor of the SENTINEL refused to published the proceedings of the convention, unless signed by the Chairman and one of the Secretaries. I went to town to again try to make the matter right. I there met Mr. Allen, and Mr. Haines was requested to meet with us at Mr. Jacobs' Office, which he did. We told him what we proposed to do, and asked him to cooperate with us, so that the proceedings could be published. Haines refused to do so, so that our only alternative was to publish the proceedings without his signature. In Mr. Haines' copy of the minutes of the convention, we find this important omission: that no notice whatever was taken of the motion to make the nominations for the Legislature unanimous. Why was this?

Leaving the matter now in the hands of the people—who I believe will do right—having given you a plain statement of all the facts that I am in the possession of, of all the caucuses and subsequent meetings referred to in I. D. Haines' announcement card. I surely think our acts will bear investigation as to consistency, and the testimony of every Union man that I have conversed with, outside of the two brothers, R. H. Haines and I. D. Haines, convinces me that a man who is defeated by as large a majority as was I. D. Haines, in a fair and honorable contest, should willingly submit to the voice of the majority. Any action to the contrary only satisfies me that he is pursuing a course that he hopes will defeat the nominations of the Union Convention.

THOS. CROXTON.

The Crowning of Horror—the Palm of Infamy.

All along the crowded pages of authentic history, are scattered the records of deeds that afford the thoughtful student strange glimpses of "the dark side of human nature;" and that startle and sadden the amiable optimist who cherishes lofty views of the greatness and perfectibility of man. When we peruse those fearful chapters which portray the deeds done in the name of religion, by the "Holy Inquisition;" when we read of fifty thousand French *Protestants* massacred as "heretics" on the fatal eve of St. Bartholomew, and that the successor of St. Peter, the Vicegerent of Christ on earth, struck off a medal in approving commemoration of the butchery:—when we find the official organ of a great government that boasts itself "the bulwark of Freedom and Christianity," justifying the inefable horrors of British rule in India; when in our own day, the telegraph brings us the hideous story of a people arrogating a lofty chivalry and a superior civilization crucifying disarmed and unresisting captives taken in battle, and consigning them in masses to a common grave while yet writhing in torments devised with fiendish ingenuity as "those which longest rack and latest kill;" when we pause to contemplate facts like these, the soul sickens with disgust and loathing, and would fain blot out the damning record that seems to blacken and disguise universal humanity.

On the 11th of February, 1799, the first Napoleon, then in military possession of Egypt, began his march towards Syria. Arrived before Jaffa, (the Joppa of Crusaders,) he invested the place, and two days after sitting down before it, carried the town by storm. The garrison consisting mainly of some 4,000 Albanian soldiers, who, after a gallant resistance, surrendered to superior force. Four days afterwards, these prisoners who had yielded up their arms in reliance upon French honor, and unresistingly submitted to have their hands bound behind their backs with ropes, were marched out and shot in cold blood, by their civilized and Christian captors. Such are the details of the infamy that lives in history as "The Massacre of Jaffa," and which has called down upon its imperial perpetrator the execrations of the civilized world.

In 1845, Amable Jean Jacques Pelissier, the French General commanding in Algeria, in attempting to suppress the Kabyle insurrection, entered the territory of the Ouled Riahs, an Arab tribe, who took refuge in one of the spacious caverns in which their country abounds. Secure in these natural fastnesses, which constitute a sort of subterranean Sebastopol, the Arabs laughed their foes to scorn. Summoned by the French to surrender, they sternly refused. For twenty-eight hours, Pelissier strove to bring them to terms by negotiation—but in vain. Then, maddened by the obstinate courage that would have excited the admiration of a generous nature, frantic with rage at the idea of being baffled by the stubborn valor of a tribe of savages, he resorted to a horrible expedient unknown in honorable warfare. It was deliberately determined that these desperate men, who preferred their barbarian freedom to French dominion—who could neither be persuaded by promises, nor subdued by threats, and to storm whose stronghold, would cost so dear a price in Gallic blood, it was determined that they should be smoked to death like noxious vermin. A vast supply of faggots and combustibles was collected and heaped into the entrance of the cavern; the torch was applied, and in a few moments, nearly the entire tribe of the Ouled Riahs—warriors, women and children, all crowded together in this last asylum which their country afforded, expired in the pangs of suffocation!

If it were necessary to match these historic "tableaux of horrors" with another, marked by features not less cruel, and even more hideous in their cold brutality, the fitting companion piece might be found in that chapter of English history that chronicles the Sepoy rebellion, and witnesses how multitudes of men guilty of no crime but fidelity to the land of their birth, were bound alive to the muzzles of cannon, and blown to shreds of palpitating humanity for "treason" to foreign robbers. Such are a few of the most frightful examples in the modern history of the old world, of the triumph of the satanic element in human nature. It was reserved for the latter half of the nineteenth century, and this Western continent, not only to eclipse all contemporary barbarity, but to furnish an instance heretofore without a parallel in the annals of mankind.

On the 12th of April, 1864, the rebel forces under Brigadier-Generals Forrest and Chalmers attacked Fort Pillow, held on behalf of the United States by a garrison made up of native Tennesseans and colored soldiers. Soon after the commencement of the attack, Major Booth, the commander of the Fort, fell mortally wounded, and almost instantly expired. After several hours of severe fighting, and a series of assaults and repulses, the officer upon whom the command had devolved, finding further resistance useless, pulled down his flag and surrendered. The fighting ceased; the troops stacked their arms, and stood unresisting and defenseless. Then commenced a scene of hitherto unimagined horrors—a very carnival of slaughter, over which the two rebel leaders presided as officiating high-priests. Wounded officers lifting their helpless hands in a vain appeal for quarter, were hacked to pieces or their brains beaten out with the butts of muskets. This much of mercy at least was extended to the whites, that they were butchered at once. But for the negroes a more horrible fate was reserved. Some driven into the barracks were burned alive; some after being compelled at the point of the bayonet to dig their own graves, were thrust into them and consigned to a living sepulcher. But all were not even so fortunate as this; for as if to give an infernal completeness to this Pandemonium of horrors, some of the negroes were subjected to the torture of a rude process of crucifixion. Their limbs were nailed to pieces of wood, in such a way as not to destroy life; and then, when satiated with the cries and groans of the sufferers, and impatient of the tardiness of death, the victors piled them into promiscuous graves, and ended their torments, not so much from pity as from weariness!

Such are the authentic details of an event which will forever occupy a place apart, in the annals of human depravity—a place isolated in its diabolical preeminence over all kindred deeds of infamy. Napoleon pleaded the stern exigencies of his position in excuse of his slaughter [illegible] whom he could not feed, and who if spared how would swell the already formidable ranks of the foe he had yet to encounter. Pelissier urged the same plea of military necessity for exterminating an obstinate enemy who would listen to no conditions and accept no mercy. The English justified the execution of their Sepoys on the ground that they were deserters from a service which they had voluntarily accepted, and were taken in arms against the government among whose defenders they had enrolled themselves. No such plea can be urged in behalf of the rebel butchers; nor can any plea be devised even by the subtlest casuistry that was ever yet employed by man or fiend to gloss over the hideous lineaments of crime. The perpetrators of this execrable infamy, at the record of which humanity will shed tears of shame and pity through all coming generations, have forfeited every title to be ranked as members of the human family; and they should be hunted down and exterminated as ruthless as infuriated wild beasts or venomous reptiles. Nor is the guilt and infamy of this deed confined to its immediate actors. It even taints the wicked and unholy cause in whose behalf it was enacted, and reaching beyond the physical boundaries of the "Confederacy," touches every traitor who openly advocates, or secretly sympathizes with the rebellion.

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ROBERT TRIMBLE, Administrator.

Scottsburg, Jan. 6, 1864. jan16w4