

OREGON SENTINEL.

JACKSONVILLE:
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1880.
THE PRIVILEGE OF THE CITIZEN.

Last week we referred to a trial now in progress in the Circuit Court, in language scrupulously respectful, care fully avoiding the slightest suspicion of contempt. We only exercised the right of criticism enjoyed by every free man on all questions of public policy but, unfortunately, the learned functionary who stands in the position of public prosecutor, and, indeed, the Court itself has taken deep offense. The article was referred to in open court with judicial severity, the jury forbidden to read it and, for fear they might disobey, put in charge of a bailiff, deprived of their personal liberty and boarded at the expense of the tax-payers. As we are held accountable for this additional burden on a people groaning under taxation, we rise in self defence to deny any responsibility whatever for the folly or errors of judgment of any one. We regret that a jury should suffer personal inconvenience by reason of any word of ours, but is it our fault? We are sorry that it is thought necessary to increase the public expenses because we pointed out how they might be decreased, but are we responsible? The jury that first tried the celebrated "Covert" case were permitted their liberty, they had ears like other men and could have heard, in every bar-room, store or other place of public resort, the evidence reviewed, the conduct of the case criticized and opinions pro and con expressed with a freedom the SENTINEL has not presumed to exercise. The present jury like the last has been sworn to try the case according to the law and evidence, and it is certainly a handsome concession to the power of the press, when it is feared the perusal of a single newspaper article, carefully avoiding reference to the merits of the case should avert twelve good and honest men from their duty and compel them to ignore the obligations of their oaths. Some jurors might regard it as an imputation on their integrity or at least conclude that a court had made public proclamation that they were lacking in moral stamina and intelligence; and incapable of discharging their duty or weighing testimony for themselves regardless of the opinion of others. When we philosophize on the remarkable fact that forbids jurors their liberty for fear they may be biased by perusal of a newspaper article we wonder why they are not forbidden to listen to the pleading of an advocate, lest they should be prejudiced in favor of the accused, and it is indeed fortunate that the people can destroy at will all things of their own creation.

We hold that courts are the creation of the people. We must respect and obey their mandates. We disclaim any contempt for their lawful authority, but we are not among those who surround them with a sacred halo and stand cowering with suppressed breath, not daring to question their judgment as if it were something divine, and it is only by their own acts that individuals or human organizations can render themselves contemptible. There are sacred rights reserved by the citizen, never delegated to any authority, among them are the right of free speech—the freedom of the press—they are above all law, beyond any judicial tyranny, and so long as we enjoy the honor of American citizenship we will exercise and defend the one and the other. It is not a year since the Supreme Court of the State was asked to punish a citizen by "disbarment" for having sharply criticized its judgments. High as it was it shrank in dismay from the attempt, under conviction that the people would brook no abridgment of their liberties and the sooner all courts recognize this principle, the better for them.

The "Oregonian" is now thirty years old and refers to itself and the SENTINEL as the only survivors of the early period of journalism in Oregon. It is strange that the journals of the extreme Northern and Southern portions of the state should alone have weathered it through, but the fact substantiates the Darwinian theory which asserts, "only the survival of the fittest." Will our venerable cotemporary in the metropolis agree with us?

Except with those who were foolish enough to bet, the election of Garfield does not take a dollar out of any man's pocket. The principles which have floated him to victory are those with which the present undeniable prosperity are associated and identified.

A prisoner took the trouble to escape from the Penitentiary last week and risked the effect of a shot from the guard. Foolish fellow! he should have asked the Governor for a pardon, as he left his merit money behind anyway.

IRISH SLAVES.

It has long been a matter of surprise that Irish American citizens should have so solidly united their strength in favor of Democracy. There are no people on God's footstool to whom restraint intellectual, or otherwise is more galling and, so far, they have failed to perceive that they have voluntarily given their adherence to a party that has only used them as mere tools. The late election in New York, in which Mr. Grace was nearly defeated for Mayor, on account of his religion, will be food for reflection for Irish Americans and under the heading of "Philosophy of the Election, the 'Tablet,' the organ of the Catholic Church in America, has the following:

To no class of American citizens should the result of the recent elections convey so salutary a lesson as to the Irish-Americans. They have always been true—in fact, slavishly so—to the Democratic party. They never enquired into the religious creed or the nationality of its nominees for office, but voted for them with a blind devotion.

There is nothing in the tenets or doctrines of the Catholic Church to prevent a Mayor of New York from faithfully discharging the duties of his office for the good of the people and in the interest of all classes of citizens.

The forty thousand Democratic bigots who voted the Republican ticket for Mayor know all this as well as we do; but then they could not lose the opportunity of giving full scope to their dominant passion of hostility to Irishmen and Catholics. It is not thus the Republicans treat the Catholics whom they put in nomination. Last year General Carr, a Roman Catholic and the son of an Irishman, received from the Republicans the nomination for Secretary of State, and how was he treated? Instead of being out by his party as Mr. Grace has been by the Democrats, he ran ahead of his ticket and polled a full Republican vote.

The treatment of Mr. Grace by the bigots in the Democratic party should be a salutary lesson to our Irish American citizens. They have been slavishly loyal to the Democratic party, and have voted the ticket with a blind devotion that has brought down upon them the scorn of the American people. A few years since sixty thousand Democrats voted against Senator Kernan for the same reason. This is bigotry with a vengeance, and if Irishmen and Catholics do not take some effective way of rebuking such intolerance at the ballot-box, they deserve to be the despised followers and humble henchmen of the political renegades and fanatics who now lord it over them.

The above is not from a political journal; nor from a Republican source. It is the deliberate conclusion of a journal that measures moral forces by the standard of truth and weighs and estimates all things according to their real value and it truly points out, that so long as the Irish herd like docile sheep in the ranks of any political party and refuse to exercise their own political rights; just so long will they be despised for their slavish obedience, and the remarks of the "Tablet" are food for serious reflection.

For Washington.

Our Congressman-elect, Hon. M. C. George, will leave Portland for Washington, D. C., about the latter end of this week. Mr. George does not take his seat as representative until after the 4th of March next but will spend the Winter at the National Capital to enable him to render the most efficient service to the people of Oregon. He asks information as to the wants of his constituents, without regard to section or party, and letters addressed to Washington City will reach him. We reiterate the prediction, made in his behalf before the election; that Mr. George will be a most efficient and valuable representative. A young gentleman of the finest intellect, unblemished character and personal magnetism cannot fail in gathering friends around him and the support of fellow members is very necessary to a representative of a State, standing singly in a large body of National legislators. It is because Mr. George possesses these qualities, added to individual energy and a high sense of duty that we believe he will prove himself a valuable public servant and worthy of the honor bestowed on him.

Our sedate cotemporary at Ashland, the "Tidings," having offended by copying an article from the SENTINEL is also under judicial ban, the jury having been interdicted from reading it.

"Can such things be and overcome us, Like a summer cloud, without our special wonder?"

Is it possible that the spirit of the infamous Jeffries over shadows a free land and free people are to be debarred the privilege of reading the only two intelligent sheets published between Roseburg and Yreka! In "Measure for Measure" Shakespeare remarks:

"O, but man! Proud man! Dressed in a little brief authority, Most ignorant of what he's most assured,

His glassy essence, like an angry ape, Plays such fantastic tricks before high heaven As make the Angels weep."

Did the immortal bard dream that he was looking forward two hundred years and painting Oregon functionaries to the very life!

Road Matters.

In a recent interview with Lieut. F. W. Symons, the U. S. Engineer officer who did the very efficient work on the road between this place and Roseburg last summer, we were glad to learn that there is a prospect of some additional improvements during the coming season only dependent on the action of Congress. Lieut. Symons has recommended an appropriation of \$15,000 for the further improvement of the road and his suggestion is endorsed by the approval of the Chief Engineer of the Army. Our Congressman-elect, Mr. George, gives us the strongest assurance that Mr. Whitesker will have his hearty co-operation in obtaining the amount asked for, and it may be regarded as certain that Lieut. Symons will be enabled next summer to continue this much needed work. Until the Crescent City road is built, if ever that event occurs, our traffic must be Northward via Roseburg and it is highly important that the road be placed in a passable condition. The portion of the road lying in the Roseburg district is being greatly improved by the fund gathered by the energy of Mr. P. G. Strickland, and in due course of time we will have a thoroughfare no longer a terror to teamsters. This improvement is due to the agitation of the Crescent City road scheme, first commenced by the SENTINEL and the people of that city who have been so hard to move in behalf of their own interests may find that they have been losers by reason of their apathy. At all events, they had better make the connection with this valley before the Roseburg road is in such a condition as will preclude any complaint.

Southern Situation.

The Chicago Tribune has a special from Washington giving a hopeful view of the Southern situation from Judge Cochrane of Georgia, who thinks the South has chiefly friendly words for Garfield, is disposed to be reasonable in all matters henceforth under discussion. The South, he says, makes no claim to recognition in the cabinet. She is steadily growing local in sentiment and getting more to love the constitution and the government. The Southern people are fond of their memories, of their history and of the aims of their section, but they daily see more of the logic of events, that loyalty means prosperity, that sectionalism means ruin. They grow wise and the day is distant when the South will be dissolved and the loyalty of the South be as warm as New England's. To accomplish this, Garfield will not make the mistake of his predecessor in accepting lip services for honest patriotism. The masses of the people in Georgia are in accord with the principles of the Republican party with respect to tariff and internal improvements.

In distinction to this roseate picture Roger G. Mills, of Texas, says the Democracy failed on account of failing to meet and combat the protective tariff issue and all the protection of monopolies. They pursued penny-wise economy, crippled the government by cutting down petty salaries, etc. The fight on the tariff question is only just begun and the South will remain solid. States rights will continue to combat centralization and the future of the Democratic party is assured.

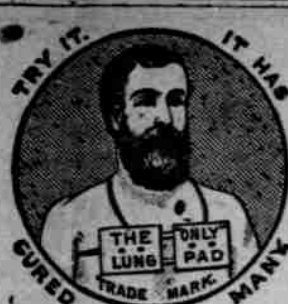
The President's Message.

The fourth and last message of President Hayes is now before the country. While generally conservative in his views the President is, justly, most radical on the question of polygamy and advocates such congressional action as will prevent polygamists from serving as jurors. He recommends a further appropriation for the harbor of refuge between San Francisco and the Straits of Fuca, and expresses a favorable opinion of the quiet growth of public sentiment in the South that will ultimately enforce "a free ballot and a fair count," and all other topics treated in the message are discussed in the broad spirit of statesmanship for which Mr. Hayes is noted. It will repay perusal.

Mart Brown of the Democrat is raising the scalp of the Democrats in Albany because, he says, they can't even be honest with each other in politics. If that is true, and a Democratic editor never carries a "little hatchet," how in thunder, Mr. Brown, can they be expected to be honest with anybody else? The conundrum awaits a solution.

A little "organ grinder" in Oregon placidly observes that "Democratic principles are eternal." If the trash enunciated in the late campaign is a fair sample and the "principles" can only evolve forgery and tissue ballots as their chief essence, then Democratic defeat will be "eternal" also.

The Yreka Journal has copied an article from the SENTINEL and we demand that it be excluded from the males—females may read it as they can't vote.



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Course in Modern Languages.—French Grammar, French Reader, Corinne, Racine, German Grammar, German Reader, Goethe, Schiller.

Course in Natural Science.—Geography, Physical Geography, Botany, Zoology, Natural Philosophy, Astronomy, Chemistry, Rhetoric, Natural History, Modern History, Modern Languages, Natural Sciences, Business, Mental and Moral Philosophy.

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