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GEO. L. CURRY, Editor and Proprietor.

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A PLEA FOR HUMANITY.

The child is still before us. May we not see about it—contending for it—the principles of good and evil? A contest between the angels and the fiends? Come hither, statesman; you who live within a party circle; you, who nightly fight some miserable fight—continually strive in some selfish struggle for power and place, considering men only as tools, the merest instruments of your aggrandisement—come here, in the wintry street, and look upon God's image in its babyhood! Consider this little MAN. Are not creatures such as these the noblest, grandest things of earth? Have they not solemn natures—are they not subtly touched for the highest purposes of human life? Come they not into this world to grace and dignify it? There is no spot, no coarser stuff in the pauper flesh before you, that indicates a lower nature. There is no felon mark upon it—no natural formation indicating the thief in its baby fingers—no inevitable blasphemy upon its lips. It lies before you a fair, unsullied thing, fresh from the hand of God. Will you, without an effort, let the great fiend stamp his fiery brand upon it? Shall it, even in its sleeping innocence, be made a trading thing by misery and vice? A creature borne from street to street, a piece of living merchandise for mingled beggary and crime? Say; what, with its awakening soul, shall it learn? What lessons whereby to pass through life, making an item in the social sum? Why, cunning will be its wisdom—hypocrisy its truth—theft its natural law of self-preservation. To this child, so nurtured, so taught, your whole code of morals, nay, your brief right and wrong, are writ in stranger figures than Egyptian hieroglyphs, and—time passes—and you scourge the creature never taught, for the heinous guilt of knowing nought but ill! The god has been a sealed book to him, and the dunce is punished with the jail.

Doubtless, there are great statesmen—wizards in bullion and bank paper—thinkers profound in cotton, and every turn and variation of the markets, abroad and at home. But there are statesmen yet to come—statesmen of nobler aims, of more heroic action—teachers of the people—vindicators of the universal dignity of man—apostles of the great social truth that knowledge, which is the spiritual light of God, like his material light, was made to bless and comfort all men. And when these men arise—and it is worse than weak, it is sinful, to despair of them—the youngling poor will not be bound upon the very threshold of human life, and made, by want and ignorance, life's shame and curse.

St. Giles and St. James.

INDEMNITY FOR THE WAR.—There is quite a mawkish sensibility among certain persons about making Mexico pay the expenses of the war and give no indemnity for the past. Even the tariff regulations in the ports we have captured do not meet with their approbation.—

They seem unwillling to punish Mexico for her senseless and arrogant declaration of war against us. It is well for Mexico that she has not Napoleon to deal with, who, with a stroke of his pen, would have annexed that country as promptly as he did Holland. It is something new in history to allow a conquered nation, unjustly declaring war against you, to go without punishment. Napoleon made Prussia pay one hundred millions of dollars to meet the expenses of the war of 1806. He compelled Austria to pay forty millions for the campaign of Vagram, and the Allies, when they entered France, made her pay 135,000,000 dollars for the expenses of the war. Why are we to be drawn into an expensive war, and conquer a peace, and yet ask no indemnity?
N. Y. Sun.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

MR. EDITOR—

Whereas, it has been our misfortune to leave the army at Fort Wascopam under circumstances, to us, the most disagreeable and aggravating—and whereas, the public are liable to be imposed upon by false rumors, and conjectures—we beg leave to make a fair and frank statement of the facts which compelled us to this course of conduct.

The company from Yamhill county met at Portland, agreeable to the proclamation, on the 18th of April, and organized on the 19th, and were the 9th company; after which we, who had been elected to office by the popular vote of our company, made application to the Adjutant General for our commissions, to which he replied, that he "would not commission a d—d one of us"—alleging, as his reasons for refusing, that he had not witnessed the elections. He immediately crossed the river, and being met by a friend, was enquired of whether the Yamhill company had not been organized and arranged; he replied, in answer, that he "would not commission a G—d d—d one of them." But after all this, he gave us our commissions, expressing the utmost satisfaction with the men chosen to office, saying that he had just got the men he wanted, any how.

All was right, so far as known to us, until we arrived at the Cascades—where we were politely informed that we must fall back one company, and let the company from Polk county go before—and there, for the first time, we began to entertain fears of having been numbered wrong.

We however traveled on in the road without much complaint, and did not know for certain until a muster roll was presented for our signatures, as the TENTH company. We refused to sign it unless justice was done to our company; and asked to have the error corrected, and give us our own place, which was the 9th company.

Here it may not be amiss to say that we had not only been treated with the injustice complained of, but a distinction was made as to provisions. Capt. Nesmith's company had a beef purchased for them, of which we got none—and we were out of meat nearly two days, while the others were favored with plenty. We also made application for ammunition, as some fourteen of our company were entirely destitute of any, and failed to obtain it—but were told that we should have some before we left for Fort Waters. The other companies were furnished ammunition, plenty, we suppose.

We also asked to have our horses shod, as the other companies were getting theirs shod that needed shoeing, and were promised that after awhile we should be attended to—and finally we are told that we could wait and get our horses shod and follow on, and overtake the army—as all the other companies were ready