

WEEKLY OREGON STATESMAN.

FRIDAY : : : : JUNE 8, 1877.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

The New York "Times" editorial thinks with few exceptions the civil service is a failure. The Times is one of the ablest papers now published in the United States, therefore, its utterances are entitled to great weight. In speaking of the President's assurances, repeatedly given on this subject, the Times says: "The reform element of the country, to which he must chiefly look for support, is in no mood to be put off with petty sentiments or glittering generalities. Enemies of the public service are only to be routed by a direct attack." * * * "The President has made a mistake in temporizing. He can repair the error only by forthwith adopting a system of appointments which shall proceed by exact and rigid competition, not to petty politicians and hummers, but to all honorable men who chose to enter the lists," etc. With a portion of the criticism of the Times' editorial we concur most fully; but with the dimly outlined plan of reform we must respectfully take issue. In our judgment it is not within the power of any President, fully supported by his Cabinet, to institute methods of reform, and carry them out successfully, without the support of the people. And that support must take a more tangible form than simply an endorsement by the general public; it must permeate the whole system of government, commencing with the people. If the people choose dishonest or incapable men to fill the minor offices; if he men appointed to stand in high places are sorely in need of reform themselves it will be worse than futile to expect good recommendations for appointments to office. If the channels of information are corrupt the appointments will naturally be corrupt also. In this "competitive examination" business we have no patience; there is competition enough already, it is with bad selections that our complaint is made. The President and his Cabinet may sincerely desire to make only good appointments and labor earnestly to secure such results; no rules can be laid down no policy can be adopted that will be an entire success, until the work of reform has fully taken possession of the masses of the people. Rules and regulations are good in their places, and so are laws and constitutional limitations, but of what avail are these, without the moral support of the people. Law in the abstract is of no value, it is the proper enforcement that gives importance. The laws of our country are for the most part good enough, when carried out according to the spirit and intent of the act, but it is the misapplication and the lack of proper enforcement that plant the mischief in the world. An upright judge is essential in judicial proceedings, but almost powerless with false witnesses and corrupt jurors. The President and his Cabinet may accomplish much in the direction of Civil Service Reform, but they cannot cure all the evils connected with this business at once, and it does not show good judgment in those who expect and demand this of them to the fullest extent. Great reforms are not the work of a day. When the people get fully in earnest on this subject, and wake up to personal responsibility in the premises we may hope for good results. "Is he honest?" and "Is he capable?" should be paramount considerations in the selection of all officers whether elected or appointed, and then hold each responsible to the full extent of the part performed. When this comes to be the rule of action throughout all the Departments of Government, we will have Civil Service Reform in the true sense of the term. Under present conditions it is expecting entirely too much to demand perfection in all the complicated workings of our Government.

VERY LAUGHABLE.

EDITOR STATESMAN:—We notice a recent issue of the Evening Farmer makes the startling announcement that it is a non-partisan paper devoted to the local interests of Salem. The reason why this announcement is so ridiculous is the few readers of the Evening Farmer live in Marion county, and hence are acquainted with Sam Clarke and know it would be impossible for him to run a partisan paper as he usually desires to change his politics once or twice each year. Upon examining the same issue of the Evening Farmer, we notice a great many items about Betty Hill Belle's striped stockings etc., all of which lead us to conclude that the second proposition, devoted to the local interests of Salem, is substantially correct. We are at a loss, however to understand how it is that such a sedate gentleman as Mr. Craig can afford to send out such a silly mess of trash to an intelligent people. The STATESMAN, under its new management is just the paper we want. I enclose herewith a club of names which is a beginning of what we propose to do for the STATESMAN. SILVERTON, May 31st, 1877.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

The silver question is again attracting considerable attention. The telegrams in to-day's paper gives what purports to be President Hayes' financial views, also some of the criticisms of the New York Times dissenting from the President's reported position. It is well enough, doubtless, to have a policy on that subject, but it is evident to careful observers that for cheap demagogism, there is perhaps no theme more fruitful than this. To grapple with the question of National Finance requires not only a thorough acquaintance with and a careful analysis of the business transactions of the Nation, but also of the commercial world. In treating the question of currency it is necessary to understand the laws of trade and commerce governing the commercial world. If the laws of the government are not made to harmonize with the laws of commerce, the result may prove disastrous to the government, for the reason that the laws of commerce control in all questions of finance. Theories may seem very nice on paper, but when reduced to practice prove utterly worthless.

Gold and silver are the recognized medium of exchange among all civilized nations, and in order to regulate these in any one government by statutory enactments, there is great danger of disarranging the flow of circulation so as to work injury to the business community. To illustrate, if the government should by law fix a greater or less relative value on either gold or silver than the commercial world recognizes, the effect would be to drive the undervalued out of the channels of trade, and to flood the country with the overvalued medium of exchange. For these reasons, it is of the utmost importance to keep the relative standard of values so evenly balanced that it will keep up the equilibrium of traffic and circulation. If by law the present standard dollars of gold and silver are fixed as equal for all purposes and in any amounts, and the commerce of the world place a different relative value, it would immediately follow that whichever medium the commerce of the world discounted would flow into excessive circulation, while the medium, at a premium, would pass out of circulation. A standard of values that would work in harmony with the laws of trade to-day so as to keep in circulation a due proportion of each of the metals, might not in six months or a year from now, answer the intended purpose, by reason of some unforeseen change in the flow of exchange in the channels of trade. Hence the difficulty of fixing a standard of relative values, and maintaining them continuously for any great length of time; the laws of trade are more potent than statutes. Would it not be well to fix some standard of weight and fineness in each of the metallic coins, and then transact business entirely on a specific contract system? If business was established all over the country on this basis, commerce would regulate the relative values, and there would be no discrimination between the rich and poor, in business transactions, through the mediums of exchange. Prices would be regulated in proportion to the kind of pay contracted for. To make gold and silver, alike legal tender in all sums, unless the relative values are kept equally balanced, is to make a discrimination, not in law, but in fact, in favor of the rich against the poor, for the medium on which there was a premium, would soon be hid away in the vaults of the rich, and the business of the country would be transacted through the discounted medium. By the laws of trade coins, like all other articles of commerce, will go where they will command the best price. The pure cannot be confined on a level with the baser no more in monetary matters than in any other department.

And to make silver a legal tender in small sums only, is also legislating in the interest of the rich. The laboring man and the small dealer are compelled to receive pay in depreciated currency, but the bankers, large dealers, and creditors will stand on their privileged rights and demand the exact "pound of flesh." It is the first duty of the government to protect the laboring class of community, the rich can take care of themselves.

The telegraph announces the departure on yesterday of the members of the Grover investigating committee for Oregon. Grover may now "put his house in order," for about the twentieth of this month the fur will commence to fly. It will be in order, no doubt, to send for Senator Kelly to explain Grover's crookedness, since he has had some experience in that line—see his speech on the Patrick dispatch.

"We go to press, the Daily Record and Willamette Farmer, in consequence of which our paper" will lack several of its leading features to-day.—Evening Farmer of June 6th. "The public will now understand exactly who to hold responsible for any brilliant effusions that may steal into the columns, such as the 'Polk county girls' socks' and 'gazing over the fence.' Such barrels of eloquence should not be crowded out."

ALL WRONG AND ALL RIGHT.

It was all wrong for Gov. Woods to draw seven hundred dollars for services visiting the Penitentiary, but it was all right for Gov. Grover to draw in two years ending September 1st, 1876, for the same services the sum of seven hundred and sixty-seven dollars and fifty-five cents—for the Mercury endorses it.

AN OPEN LETTER TO G. KAISER.

DEAR SIR: I notice in the STATESMAN, of June 6th, your ironical attack upon the resolutions passed by the Liberalists, regarding the Sunday Question, and as I was the only speaker upon that occasion, I feel it my privilege to reply. But in order to do so understandingly, I will state what I take to be your real meaning, namely:

That Sunday is a holy day, made sacred by God himself, (instead of being a human invention, as I contend,) and that any amusement or unnecessary labor on that day is just as wicked, and should be punished just the same, as lying, stealing, killing, etc.

I am aware that all ignorant religionists hold to the foregoing doctrine, but that a gentleman of your high literary attainments, who knows exactly how to spell "pie(k)nie(k)," should take such a prejudiced view, somewhat surprises me. Now, sir, I deny your premises, as I understand them, and challenge you to a public debate of the whole question, in order that those who feel an interest in the subject may hear all that can be said on both sides. Nor will I limit this challenge to yourself, but leave it open to all who take your view of the matter. Should this challenge be accepted, I thereby agree to treat my opponent with all due courtesy; but if not accepted, and the Christians persist in their abuse of the Liberalists, then I may be tempted to pay them in their own coin.

I never find fault with an opponent, no matter how severe he may be, so long as he is willing to meet me openly; but it is very annoying to have an opponent pretend to all the decency and honesty, and at the same time, without the least provocation, insinuate that I and my friends are the advocates of "lying, stealing and killing," yet when called upon to either make good their charge, or retract it, they get upon their dignity and as mum as the grave. Such a course is not gentlemanly; but whether in accord with popular Christianity or not, I leave others to judge. Yours respectfully, W. H. CHANEY.

UNWISE AND IMPOLITICAL.—Angered controversy quarrelling never pays, and under no ordinary circumstances should it be indulged. It not only renders you unhappy, but once indulged in, your own temper becomes more irritable and you gradually but surely lose self-control. A quarrel degrades a man in his own eyes, and words are often spoken in anger which are far better unsaid, but when spoken cannot be recalled, or forgotten. A quarrel not only degrades, but blunts the finer sensibilities, and lowers the standard of morals, by disgracing those that indulge the passion, lowering them in the estimation of the world. The truth is, the more peacefully and quietly we get on in the world, the better it is for all concerned, our neighbors as well as ourselves. If a man cheats you—quietly inform him that you are aware of it and quit him, forever, and in ninety-nine cases of the hundred, this will prove the better course to pursue. If you are abused quit the company, without running away; avoid personalities, that in their tendency stir up bitter feelings; if you are slandered, let your actions give the lie to whatever accusations are hurled at you. There is no better way of meeting calumny than by a quiet manner of treating the wrong met with. Lies will die; fire unfanned, will burn out, and quarrels neglected become dull as an extinct volcano. Whatever your circumstances in life, no matter what you are called upon to pass through, quietly meet the rough edges that will not wear off by friction, but leave them to wear smooth by time, turning neither to the right or left, but straightforward, not heeding the accusations that may be hurled at you, or noticing the insinuations that are intended to ruin you—by your own good conduct, and a self-assured confidence, void of offense, you will have won the respect, that follows as a result, of a life spent in trying to do right, leaving anger and the baser passions at the starting point.

CAN A CHURCH MEMBER OWN STOCK IN A SUNDAY PAPER.

CHICAGO, May 25.—In the Presbyterian Assembly this morning there was a long, personal and excited discussion on the standing of a church member who owns stock in a paper which is published on Sunday. The whole subject of violation of the fourth commandment came up in debate, and the propriety of church members owning gas stock, street railway stock, railroad stock and mining stock was questioned. The case in dispute was occasioned by the report of the Committee on Bills and Ordinances that the Synod of Erie might discipline a church in the Erie Presbytery which persisted in retaining for its pastor a man who was part proprietor of a Pittsburgh paper which published a Sunday edition.

Will some Presbyterian friend or other, answer the questions naturally arising and involved in the above?

NO DEARTH OF KINDNESS.

BY ORLAND MANNING.

There's no dearth of kindness
In this world of ours;
Only in our blindness
We gather thorns for flowers!
Outward, we are squinting—
Translating one another?
While we are busy yearning
At the name of "brother!"

There's no dearth of kindness
Or love among mankind,
But in darkling loneliness
Hearts grow cold and blind!
Full of kindness flinging
Souls is shut from soul,
When they might be mingling
In one kindred whole!

There's no dearth of kindness,
Though it be unspoken,
For the heart it buildeth
Rainbow-bridges in token—
That there be none so lowly,
But have some angel touch;
Yet, nursing loves unholy,
We live for self too much.

As the wild rose bloweth,
As runs the happy river,
Kindness freely floweth
In the heart forever.
But if men will hanker
Ever for golden dust,
Kindest hearts will canker,
Brightest spirits rust.

There's no dearth of kindness
In this world of ours,
Only in our blindness
We gather thorns for flowers!
Oh, cherish God's best giving
Falling from above!
Life were not worth living,
Were it not for Love.

In scanning the dispatches from Europe, it is difficult to glean anything very definite as to the progress of the war. The general tenor of the news does not give an encouragement to hope for peace at any early day, as some of the dispatches for the last few days foreshadowed. Russia seems to be massing her forces and perfecting the "Anaconda coils" around the "sick man" of the East.

Present appearances indicate less probabilities of outside interference than at any former time. The "coup d'etat" of President MacMahon has somewhat unsettled affairs in France, and caused considerable disquiet among the different European governments. England cannot afford to go to the rescue of Turkey while there is any uncertainty as to how France will act in case of an emergency. Therefore, for the present, Turkey will have to contend single-handed with Russia. It also appears that Russia finds it necessary to move cautiously for fear of treading on the corns of Austria, hence the necessity for holding in check some of the minor provinces that are chafing for the fray. No important battles reported. The rising of the Danube has temporarily delayed movements.

Thomas B. Merry, late of the Seattle Dispatch seems to think it unhealthy for newspapers in Washington Territory, unless the same are subsidized in some way or other. Mr. Merry is an able writer, but for some reason he has not been able, or seen proper to remain in one position any great length of time. We hope Mr. Merry will find some place where "independent journals" are a success, and that he likewise will become a success.

SUNDAY QUESTION.

EDITOR STATESMAN:—Your notice of the resolutions, adopted unanimously by the Saturday evening gathering at the Opera House, has interested me as showing a decided expression of a class of citizens that evidently knows all about the Sunday question.

I gather from the first resolve that they are not heathens, but believe in the ten commandments.

From the second, that some portion of the community have rights that the Sunday Sabbath expressly violates.

Third, that pie(k)nie(k) excursions are at least equal in moral and spiritual influence to concerts of praise, open air worship, or distribution of gifts by chance.

Fourth, that Sunday laws are such a nuisance that they ought to be abolished. Permit me to continue the list:

Resolved, That in this free country all laws for restraining individual action are infringing upon the liberties of the people and ought to be abolished.

2. That religion (so-called) is an individual affair and therefore needs no protection and hindrance to individual enjoyment can only exist within each person's control.

3. That the day set apart for religious actions being unnecessary, the name shall be changed to Nick day, as a tribute of respect to the first advocate of unlicensed freedom.

4. That saloons, profanity, lying, stealing and killing are free to all, and are the surest way for exalting the human race (vide article on Hemp and its cultivation, page 365) and upon proper consideration of this subject hang the destinies of our nation.

5. That all schools or institutions of learning that have anything different from the freest action for individuals as the height of human happiness and the end and aim of life shall be abolished.

6. That all laws governed by any code of morality are infringements upon individual thought and action, and that a committee ought to present and urge the same to the consideration of the next and all subsequent Legislatures.

7. That the principles of our action are such one for himself and the—for us all.

G. KAISER, Secretary pro tem.

EMERSON: The day of days, the great day of the feast of life, is that in which the inward eye opens to the Unity in things, to the omnipresence of law;—sees that what is must be, and ought to be, or is the best.

LAND GRABBER'S HAVEN.

The New York editor, of the evening Mercury, gives a full description of a plan for the reclamation of the desert plains of Africa. French engineers have made surveys and estimates of the cost of cutting a canal from the Mediterranean Sea, into the great Sahara Desert and thus rendering fertile an immense district of country, now barren and utterly worthless.

The project has been reported feasible, and it is now proposed to irrigate the sands of Africa, even if it drains the Mediterranean Sea; then indeed shall the "desert blossom as the rose." Notwithstanding that this is a project inaugurated by French engineers, still there may be an opening for western enterprise. The desert land squatters in California and Oregon have not had full scope for their "taking talents;" besides it is extremely annoying to sensitive minds, to have the unappreciative populace continually giving publicity to modest enterprise. Here there is a broad field for "desert land" speculation—free from the petty annoyances incident to land grabbing efforts in this narrow contracted country.

Here, no jealous Homestead or Pre-emption claimant would be found to contest or question the right of honest hunters after dry lands to file his application for unlimited quantities of the sea of moving sands, in the great Sahara Desert.

Then it would be a huge joke on the Frenchmen, after their skill and money have opened a channel for the sea to flood the plains, to find the whole plains claimed under the provisions of the "Desert Land Bill;" then would the "tide in the affairs of men" take a turn and Eastward "the march of empire take" its way.

Twice glorious would be the consummation; it would give ample scope to "expanding genius and rest to the actual Homestead and Pre-emption claimants in California and Oregon from unpleasant dreams of speculator claims. Then it would seem a little more considerate to jump a claim of the French, than that of neighbors and fellow citizens.

THE "STATESMAN" AND ITS FIGURES.

The STATESMAN, under the new management, seems to be in the way of making columns of figures concerning money drawn by certain persons from the State Treasury, and then, for fear none of its readers will believe them, wants us to endorse the figures to give them respectability and standing in that paper. This we have refused to do, for were we to do so we would be endorsing a falsehood and impairing our own standing for truth and veracity. In the issue this morning it is charged that ex-Governor Grover, for two years, ending September 1, 1876, drew for expenses in visiting the Penitentiary \$767 55, while the truth is, from the reports, he only drew \$825 as expenses in visiting said institution from May 1, 1873, to September 1, 1876, a period of nearly four years. Our neighbor only makes a mistake of \$442 in this one item, besides misstating the facts as to time, the period being nearly four years instead of two.—Evening Mercury.

Do tell! This is an unequivocal answer is it? We, in our simplicity, answered the report of the State Treasurer to be nearly correct. We must confess that we did make a mistake of four dollars in our calculations, it ought to have been \$771 55 instead of \$767 55. "The truth is," as shown by the Treasurer's Report, that L. F. Grover drew out of the Penitentiary Fund, between and including the first day of March, 1873, and September, 1876, that is in three years and six months the sum of \$1,146 55. The "Mercury" should not endorse a falsehood neither do anything to injure what little standing it has "for truth and veracity." So it must have been that other fellow, the State Treasurer, that has been putting up these figures on the Ex-Governor. Eleven hundred and forty-six dollars and fifty-five cents, in three years and six months, drawn out of the Penitentiary Fund by Ex-Governor Grover, so says the State Treasurer.

Come neighbor, be unequivocal and do not impair your "standing for truth and veracity." But to be candid, neighbor, how did it come when you were giving the figures exact as the "truth is from reports," that you did not tell us just how much Grover did draw out in two years for this service! Were you afraid of impairing your standing! But then we are pleased to have you make this much of a start; it may be, after a little further effort, you may be able to give "unequivocal" answers, to some of the other queries we have propounded. "Courage my boy."

The homeliest man in America will visit Oregon in a few days. He has the physiognomy of the ideal prize fighter. Evening Standard.

We had supposed that man reached Portland some time since, but everybody (noses) knows something smart.

There are nine things that will make a man mad, but one is enough when his wife tells him he can't have any dinner because she couldn't get the wash-bowls off the stove in time.

UNEQUIVOCAL answers are the Mercury's strong hold. Would it not be well to let the people know just how far the Mercury endorses Grover's action in the Cronin business? This may be important in view of the investigation business the Senate Committee has in hand. Grover will need a little "unequivocal" support Mr. Mercury, and perhaps it would be just as well to give samples of your "unequivocal" equivocation.

CORRESPONDENCE.

W. H. CHANEY.—Dear Sir: Your open letter in the STATESMAN addressed to G. Kaiser is before me. Its invitation to discuss the subject for the benefit of others is noted and declined for these reasons:

I did not attend the meeting on Saturday evening, and neither know who were prominent in the advocacy of the sentiments which culminated in the resolutions that were adopted, nor was I acquainted with any person (the Secretary excepted) that had been connected with the discussion of the subject.

I cannot believe that you would enter upon the proposed discussion with a gentlemanly spirit, or conduct it without personality.

You have entirely mistaken or willfully misrepresented the tenor of my communication, and made assertions that are merely insinuations.

You are viewing the matter in question from so different a stand-point that anything like a fair investigation would not only be impracticable, but impossible.

After stating what you believe to be the meaning of my "ironical" communication your first counter statement is a sneer at "ignorant religionists" and with a playful illusion to my gift of speaking, places me among the despised class.

When you commence with personality, a promise to refrain from it during the heat of debate, is "too thin."

My wish in writing this communication was simply this—to show that the claim of individual right of action is not to be allowed when the consequences are such as to directly destroy the recognized principles of those laws, that as good citizens, we have pledged ourselves to abide by.

Whatever of "irony" existed in the article was not aimed at individuals or liberals, but at conclusions which could be legitimately deduced from resolutions given to the public for consideration.

Yours Skeptically, G. KAISER.

TORPEDOES AND IRONCLADS.

The destruction of the Turkish ironclad on the Danube by gunboats armed with torpedoes conveys a lesson of great importance. If a great ironclad can be thus successfully destroyed by a few insignificant vessels, the whole character of naval warfare must be changed. Some allowance should probably be made for the bad aim of the Turkish gunners, for it is scarcely conceivable that trained artillerymen would have suffered the Russian gunboats to approach so closely with impunity. Nevertheless it must be remembered that a gunboat presents a very small surface to an enemy, and that by activity of movement it may render any aim uncertain. The torpedo question, however, concerns the English navy quite as nearly as that of the Porte. Russia has no navy to speak of, it is true, but she can easily procure torpedo boats, and before them the most formidable ironclad in the British fleet would appear almost a little child. It would seem that the only salvation for large ironclads henceforth would be to surround them with small craft, capable of moving quickly, and detailed for the express purpose of intercepting torpedoes. All even then, if the Russian Government had a missile resembling the Whitehead torpedo, it would be almost impossible to protect ships against its attacks. It is evident that the torpedo is destined to revolutionize naval architecture, and that it will play a far more important part in the future than the heavy armor plate and the big guns have in the past.—Record-Union.

The publication of the delinquent tax list of Chicago, this year, it is said, will set the tax payers \$50,000. Over two hundred pages of a good-sized newspaper is required to set it up. It looks as though there might be a "set up" little job in the arrangement, at all events the showing is not very brilliant for the "Queen City" of the West.

A California paper is responsible or he fact that all the ugly girls are drowned a certain day in a Lower California city, notwithstanding this, the girls outnumber the boys two to one—and not one of them wears "striped stockings."

Where does Dr. Mary Walker strike a match?—Danbury News. A man who wears bifurcated frocks should know enough to strike a match on the side containing the brimstone—and it is safe to wager that she does.—Norriston Herald.

The latest "war" maps are all wrong for amusement, but a Daily Bulletin printed in blood would affect the wheatmarket more than all the maps in the world.

Now that battles are going out of fashion a woman will not have to wiggle like an snake before seating herself.

"Are angels playing croquet, Anna?" asked a little four-year-old, the other evening, when she saw the meteors shoot.

A fellow in New Orleans is said to have eaten a box of Castle soap, to rid of freckles. He still has a few on his face, but inside he isn't freckled a bit.