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SATURDAY - MAY 7, 1898
THE BEST THING TO DO.

Judge George H. Williams announces that he is not a candidate for one of the judicial positions in Multnomah county. In view of the fact that Judge Williams was thrown out of the Republican convention in Astoria and given to understand that neither he nor his friends could be longer honored with that name he probably thinks he can be of service no longer to his party or the community in which he lives. The action of the convention was a mistake we are free to admit, and instead of bringing about harmony it will tend towards widening the breach. If men like Judge Williams could have had a hand in directing the action of the convention, the party would be in more harmonious condition today. But two wrongs do not make a right, and the principles represented by the Republican party are the best and wisest for the state. Personal feelings had better be laid aside, and a hearty support be given to the party whose principles and precepts are right, even if sometimes its leaders do err.

The ministers of Portland represent the Church Militant in their objection to the Sunday concert at Camp McKinley. Their course does not seem to be the wisest one, and will hardly meet with general approval. The life in a military camp is irksome in the extreme, and especially is it so to the young recruits who for the first time are undergoing the discipline of restraint. A Sunday concert, of the kind the proposed one promises to be, would work no harm, but, on the contrary, divert the minds of the soldiers from the weariness of camp life. It is hardly fair to deny the men who are about to risk their lives in their country's service, a pleasure which is allowed every week to those in civil life. Why do not the Portland ministers object to the Sunday concerts held regularly in their city, and allow for this once an inoffensive pleasure to the soldier boys to pass without objection?

Time brings many changes, but none more complete than the reconciliation between the North and South. The appointment by President McKinley of Generals Lee and Wheeler, at one time officers in the Confederate service to be major-generals in the volunteer army, illustrates how completely the old bitterness has been allayed. It is true the civil war is still being fought among some people, but generally it is among those who shrank from the conflict when it was raging, preferring to stay at home and criticize. A foreign war is sometimes necessary to bring out the latent patriotism of the people and weld together the conflicting interests of different localities.

The long-continued silence of Commodore Dewey is undoubtedly due to a cessation of cable communication, and there is no reason to doubt that everything is well with him and his men. Yet knowing what a deadly thing modern warfare must be, we shall rest easier when it is told that the loss of the Americans is not large. That some of our countrymen were killed is probably true, for the Spaniards fought a game fight.

Alfred W. Dyer, of Rosland, who was for several years a resident of the far east, and was for a while a dweller in Manila, said in a recent interview: "If the governor general has surrendered the entire islands to

the United States, the Americans have a heavy task before them in controlling them, for the population is totally incapable of self-government, and the governor must be an autocrat of the sternest type." It can hardly be thought that the government at Washington has any serious intention of annexing these islands. As ex-President Harrison put it Tuesday, in his address to the Indiana volunteers: "We do not deny dominion to Europe in order to seize it for ourselves. But we may justly, I think, in the West Indies, and in the far eastern seas where our gallant navy has won so splendid a victory, hold some little unpeopled harbors where our cruising warships may coal and find refuge when in stress."

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