

Salem, Friday, Dec. 8, 1876.

The National Exigency.

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The man who can divest himself of merely partisan feelings, at the present time, and view the political situation, must realize that our government is in a precarious condition that in many other lands might lead to serious complications, if not resulting in civil war. Our Republican institutions are subject to a severe test and the arising of unforescen circumstances will call for a strict rendering of the national Constitution upon the points therein that relate to election of President and Vice President of the United States. We must hope and pray that at this juncture wise counsels will prevail in the government, so as to soothe the inflamed public feeling and satisfy the masses that an honest return of the presidential election will be had, and so secure the presidency for the man who has been honestly elected.

The question now before the people is more important than to decide whether Hayes or Tilden has been elected president. Under either of these gentlemen the country may prosper in all respects, though the mere partisan may find it difficult to believe that the prosperity of the nation is not dependent upon the success of his favorite candidate. The election is so close that it seems as if one vote in the Electoral College might decide it. The charge of fraud and corruption is made from both parties, and there is fair reason to believe that great frauds have been practiced on all sides, in many States, and especially in the South, so that it will be almost impossible to satisfy the unsuccessful party, whichever that may be, that it has not been defrauded of a great national victory.

It would be an unprecedented wrong to have the :Executive chair occupied by any person not fairly elected, and and yet we fear this important matter can never be satisfactorily decided. To possess in this country good government and honest administration we must insure at the outset a fair expression of the wishes of the people, and it would seem as if our national system had proven faulty in that respect. The opinion prevails that to the fullest extent the popular vote should decide all great questions: that the popular vote of the States should be taken in the election of Senator in Congress, so doing away with the fraud and bribery that often disgrace election of Senators by legislatures, and

that the aggregate vote of the whole nation should be taken, directly, for candidates for President and Vice-President, thus doing away with the bulky and unnecessary machinery of the electoral college. In this age all thing undergo a simplyfying process, and the red tape and routine of the past ages are not consonant with the spirit of our times.

of our own people. densely ignorant, and only so far removed from barbar-ism as slavery in the South has been superior to it, taking them from servi-tude and giving them dominion over those who have been their masters. We are of those who would have rec-ognized the negro'as entitled to all civil rights as fast as he was capable of using rights as fast as he was capable of using

them safely, but the fears we have always entertained are realized in the terrible state of society that exists in many of the Southern States and the complications that have resulted to the whole of the United States. What is past cannot be undone, but the situation calls for wise and peaceable counsels in the present, and such prudent action as may be possible to cure the evils that affect the present and threaten the future.

THE ELECTORAL VOTE OF OREGON.

Considerable interest has been enlisted throughout the whole United States, as well as at home, respecting the electoral vote of Oregon, Monday, the entire vote of the counties being in, the Secretary of State, in presence of the Governor, opened the returns, and canvassed the same, the result being that the Republican electoral ticket had 1,165 majority, and Richard Williams, Republican candidate for Cangress, 1,108 majority. On the result being ascertained, the Governor announced that Richard Williams was elected to represent Oregon in the next Congress, and gave notice that a protest had been filed with him against the appointment of J. W. Watts as elector, on the ground that he was postmaster at the time of his election, and was, therefore, under the provisions of the Constitution of the United States. ineligible to the office of elector, also claiming that a certificate should issue to the candidate for elector having the next highest number of votes. The Governor announced that, as two days would intervene before the meeting and action of electors, he should hear any argument on the subject that might offer, in the Supreme Court room, commencing at ten o'clock the next morning .--The next morning, at that hour, the **Republican candidates for electors filed** a protest, read by W. H. Odell, against the exercise of judicial functions in this matter by the Executive, claiming that such exercise would be gross usurpation of authority.

Senator J. K. Kelly, H. Y. Thompson, Col. Effingor and Judge Strong, occupied the day and until a late hour in the evening, arguing the matter on the side of the Democrats, showing that grounds existed for disqualifying Dr. Watts, and quoting authorities to justify the Executive in considering him ineligible and granting a certificate to Mr. Cronin-the Democratic candidate for elector who received the greatest number of votes.

The Republicans declined to make any argnment and rested the case on their protest against the authorily of the Governor to claim jurisdiction, although there is conflict of authorities as to whether the ineligibility of the candidate receiving the majority vote give the election to the next highes candidate, the ground being taken that the ineligibility of the candidate does not elect his opponent, a majority or plurality vote being needed to elect. Wednesday noon the certificate of election of electors was issued to E. A. Cronin, the contesting Democrat, and to W. H. Odell and J. C. Cartwright, Republicans. All the six electoral candidates assembled in a room off the Senate chamber and Mr. Cronin having possession of the certificate, (all three being included in one certificate and delivered to Mr. Cron n by the Secretary of State) and Odell and Cartwright declining to recognize Cronin, the latter declared that two vacancies existed in the electoral vote of Oregon, and thereupon elected J. N. T. Miller and H. Parker to fill said vacancies, and then the three proceeded to cast the electoral vote of Oregon, Miller and Parker voting for Hayes and Wheeler, and Cronin for Tilden and Hendricks. Messrs. Odell and Cartwright, having refused to act with Cronin, accepted the resignation of Watts, which was tendered by that gentleman, and declaring a vacancy of one in the electoral board, proceeded to elect Dr. Watts to fill the same, after which a vote was taken ior Hayes and Wheeler.

retary of the Interior.

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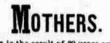
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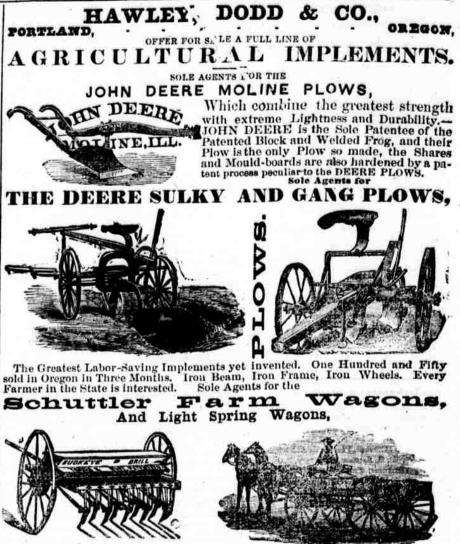
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The great evil of our age is the spirit of corrupt ambition that would perpetrate any fraud possible, for the purpose of securing power and possessing the spolls of office. How to prevent this corrupting influence should be the aim and the effort of all good citizens. Education of all classes is a public neceseity, but it is unfortunately true that learning is not a synonym for integrity though we can safely assume that intelligence must be possessed by the governing power, which makes it necessary that every voter should be intelligent, therefore let us foster the common school as the best safeguard of our liberties and an indispensable prerequisite for good government; but even with the means of intelligence secured, we must place the strictest watch upon the ballot box, and for that purpose it seems as if the enactment of a registry law is needed, by the Congress of the United States, which will insure the identifination and registration of every voter, who shall be required to vote only in his own precinct, filing his certificate of registration when he votes, so as to silence all complaint of fraud and guarantee an honest election by the people.

It is most unfortunately and certainly true that we have incorporated into our governing principle a mass of ignorance that is utterly incompetent to reason fairly or act wisely in the conduct of public affairs. Not content with forcing the ballot into the hand of every European foreigner who lands on our shores, before he has time to speak our language much less understand our institutions, the last great crowning aet of folly has been to endow with the elective franchise four millions, or more

That is the present situation of affairs, and much interest and no little excitement has been caused by it.

We present the facts thus fully, as no other matter of equal importance to the public exists at this time.

