

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1888.

REPUBLICANS AND PROHIBITION-

A Scathing Rebuke of Republican Dema-Egoguery and Hypocrisy-An Open Encmy Better than a Treacherous Friend.

To the Editor of the East Oregonian. There is something Indicrous in the anxiety expressed by the Republican newspapers of the State lest St. John's visit to Oregon will do the Prohibition cause great harm and retard the move-ment for years to come. In one meath they call St. John all the names in the calendar, in language choice and eloquent, and consign him and all the 'fa-natic Prohibitionists" to the blackest depths of political perdition; in the next they shed copious showers of e-cordile tears and touchingly condule with their "good friends, the Prohibitionists," over the terrible misfortune of the "sham saint's" campaign of the State. All this

far short of its object.

St. John may be a charlatan, and all the other things charged, but the hatred entertained for him and the abuse heaped upon him by Republican news-papers, are not caused by any shortcom-ings in his moral nature. Rather, they springs from the results brought about by the moral cowardice on the part of the Republican party in refusing to heed the Republican party in relusing to heed the request of a large proportion of the best and most intelligent of our national population, and declare in favor of constitutional Prohibition. There was a time when the Republican party was young and fired with a noble enthusiasm for principle; that it was the party of progress and reform; that it was not slow to take the advance step in any worthy the advance step in any worthy move-ment for the improvement of our govern-ment and the well being of our people; that it was to be found on the right side of all the great questions of the day; but in its old age it has grown more worldly, selfish and corrupt; it has be-come possessed of the office-holding mania, with all its attendant trickery, moral cowardice and bargain-driving; it has contracted the habit of viewing all questions with an eye on the main chance; it no longer declares featlessly for the right, regardless of all opposition, but cautiously ascertains which faction is the strongest numerically and financially, before granting its endocsement; if the difference is slight it dodges the issue or holds out prospects to both. Still some of the old spirit, integrity and conscience remain; enough, at least, to cause it to feel its present degradation, hence its bit-terness toward those whose convictions and adherence to principle compelled them to leave the party of their faith and band themselves together in an organiza-tion pledged squarely to the support of constitutional prohibition. The Republican party was given a fair opportunity to show its colors on the prohibition question. It equivocated, dodged the issue, and climised gracefully upon the fence where it remains. From its elevated perch it haves its elevated perch it howls and becates the Prohibitionists with all the volubility and spitefolness of an old woman. In its ravings it iterates and reiterates the statement that the great majority of the prohibitionists are deserters from the grand old party, and that they should not, really now, go back on it in its de-cline. If it is true that the Prohibition ranks are principally recruited from the Republican party, more is the shame for the latter, and its newspapers should have the good sense not to harp upon a state of things brought about by its own moral cowarcice and indecision. If the party does not dare to come out squarely for or against this great question, it should quietly abide the results. It assuredly gains nothing by its spiteful and petty abuse of the Prohibition leadors, for, unpleasant as the fact is to Republican newspapers, the Prohibition party has evidently come to stay. As to the charge that Prohibitions ists favor the Democratic party, it is ab-surd as many other charges made by Republican campaign sheets. The Prohibitionists never have expected any-thing from that party, for it has declared itself opposed to what it pleases to term "sumptuary legislation." It is at least an honest opponent, and the third party people know where to find it. A fair for is more to be respected than a cowardly, vacillating, would-be-if-he-dared-to-be friend. One can philosophically endure and return the former's blows, but it requires something more than philosophy to be calmly indifferent to the latter's ungenerous, cowardly and virulent abuse.

Quack Business.

A sudden marriage, short honeymoon and quick divorce are thus briefly preand quick divorce are thus briefly pre-sented by an Oregon City paper: The suit for a decree of divorce by J. H. Sim-mons was begun a week after marriage to Ishia B. Fish. He is a man of about an years. He met the lady, a widow of about 37 years, on a Friday, and between that time and the Monday following he proposed, was married to her directly, and just a week after marriage, on the second just a week after marriage, on the second Monday, he began his divorce suit. Mr. Simmons had a nice farm, of which Mrs. Simmons carries off a desirable slice.

At Santiago de Chili Sunday, a mob composed of the worst element of the populace gathered to destroy the cars of the train company, because the company bad not acceded to a demand for a reduc-tion of its rates of fare. More than thirty of the company's cars were burned. The police and military captured the leaders. The train company loses \$100,000 in cars alone.

Edgar L. Hermace, a Presbyterian preacher of White Plains, N. Y., shot and killed hunself while in the pulpit, because his salary was not raised

All the U. S. Associate Justices requested the President to make Justice Fields Chief Justice.

Gov. Foster thinks Sherman's strength in the Republican National Convention will be 200 delegates.

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