

ROSEBURG REVIEW

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1887.

MALARIAL POISON.

Its Existence Described as Long Ago as the Decline of the Roman Republic... When we talk of the Roman climate we can not dissociate the theme from its distinctive characteristic—the malarial poison.

POVERTY IN LONDON.

The Hopelessness which is the Curse of Improvidence and Waste... Poverty in London is increasing, both relatively and actually.

—Do you think I'm a simpleton, sir? thundered a fiery Scotch laird to his new footman. "Ye see, sir," replied the canny Scot, "I'm no laird here, and I dinna ken yet."

A CONFEDERATE VIEW.

The Grand Army of the Republic and the Confederate Flags

Portland, June 21, 1887.

ED. OREGONIAN: Now that the first mad explosion over the president's approval of Gen. Drum's recommendation in regard to the Confederate flags may be said to have somewhat subsided, cannot the matter fairly be viewed in another light than that in which it is held by the G. A. R.?

I ask you to give space to an expression of opinion upon what I am forced to admit is here the unpopular side of the question. At the outset, I consider that this episode, coming as it did was unfortunate. It has occasioned needless agitation of a subject concerning which our country is not yet at peace, and, be it said with regret, is not likely to be for years to come.

Why should not the Southern flags be returned? Two reasons are assigned: First—They should not be sent south "as emblems to be revered and teach coming generations treason."

Second—The Northern states have the proprietary right of conquest over them. It will be conceded that the first is the chief ground upon which the objection may be based, and, so viewing it, let us see in what position the G. A. R. is to urge it.

Is not the G. A. R. in this matter, placed in an embarrassingly inconsistent position? Is not this the sincerity, or insincerity, of Senator Sherman, who, one day at Nashville, holds out the olive branch to the South, and the next, at Springfield, relights the campfires of '61?

Again, would not Abraham Lincoln, if he were now president approve such a move? I believe he would, and if he did I further believe the G. A. R. would never raise a voice in protest. So, were Grant to do it, would it respond "Amen." It is because Cleveland assayed the act that the epithets of its wrath have become so violent.

If it be right that the Southern states were readmitted, so to speak, to the Union and allowed to take part in the administration of its affairs, as most rational men now agree is it not best that these flags be removed from the national capital? If it is right to have the Southern men there it is unwise to have the flags there and conversely. Apart from the tendency it must necessarily have to keep the states apart rather than to bring them together and minor considerations which naturally flow therefrom; how are foreigners to understand an incident which says this senator holds these flags over that one, and this representative over the other? Have these men, who the G. A. R. says should be continually held under stigma, shown any evidences of latent treason? In what respect have they failed in their allegiance to a common country? More to the point, have not they, Gordon, Hampton, Butler, Morgan, Ransom,—men "wounded by bayonet, shell and ball," with constituents no more fortunate and states poverty-stricken by the ravages of a devastating war—voted to support themselves and constituents in support of every proper measure that has been presented in congress to pension the troops that brought them to such condition, now represented by the G. A. R. and has that organization ever entered protest against such votes, or have its members in any instance failed to avail themselves of such bounty?

But if these Southern men have no right at the capital, can the G. A. R. complain thereof? The states in which it has its strongholds invited them to come, and its late chief-invest set the example by appointing many of them to positions of high trust and confidence. Longstreet, Mosby, Ackerman, Orr, because they were apostates, were none

the less Confederates—"rebels" if you please. Upon the second ground of objection that I have above indicated, the president was manifestly wrong. No disposition should be made of the flags without the consent of congress. This however is putting the question upon a pure party basis, and there is no more sentiment or significance to be attached to his act than if he should have attempted to dispose of a lot of captured cavalry horses or mule teams.

In conclusion, I will say, while again expressing my regret that the matter should have arisen, I admire the exhibition of moral courage which Grover Cleveland has given. I believe him to have been actuated by a true American spirit, and would bind together in greater harmony a reunited country; and, since the question has been raised I shall be disappointed in him if he does not show his earnestness of purpose by making such a recommendation to congress in his next message.

Upon this platform, you well said in your issue of the 18th inst., the South will be sold for him—he will have every vote from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, and those who cast them will only regret there are not more to give.

On principle I believe the flags should be returned, and this is what I would do with them. In Richmond the capital of the Confederate states within the shadow of the state house where its congress held its sessions, stands a statue of Robert E. Lee. Beneath the figure of him whom the world acknowledges to have been a great and good man, of him who held these colors aloft while they flouted defiance to the foe and who furled them with his own hand on Appomattox field, of him who most fitly could stand guard over them and all they represented, I would have them to an eternal rest.

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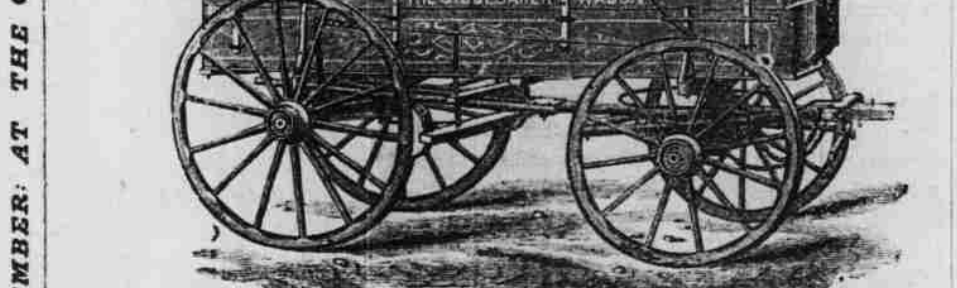
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