Mechanic's Institute

Oregon City Enterprise.

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THE ENTERPRISE.

A LOCAL DEMOCRATIC NEWSPAPER FOR THE Farmer, Business Man, & Family Circle.

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY.

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EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

OFFICIAL PAPER FOR CLACKAMAS CO.

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HAVING PURCHASED the above Brewery wishes to inform the public that he is now prepared to manufacture a No. 1 quality of
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as good as can be obtained anywhere in the State. Orders solicited and promptly filled.

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ONE STEP MORE.

What though before me it is dark,
Too dark for me too see?
I ask but light for one step more;
'Tis quite enough for me.

Each little humble step I take,
The gloom cheers from the next;
So, though 'tis very dark beyond,
I never am perplexed.

And if sometimes the mist hangs close,
So close I fear to stray,
Patient I wait a little while,
And soon it clears away.

I would not see my further path,
For mercy veils it so,
My present steps might harder be
Did I the future know.

It may be that my path is rough,
Thorny, and hard, and steep;
And, knowing this, my strength might fail
Through fear and terror deep.

It may be that it winds along
A smooth and flowery way!
But seeing this I might despise
The journey of to-day.

Perhaps my path is very short,
My journey nearly done,
And I might tremble at the thought
Of ending it so soon.

Or, if I saw a weary length
Of road that I must wend,
Fainting, I'd think, "My feeble powers
Will fail me ere the end."

And so I do not wish to see
My journey or its length,
Assured that, though my Father's love,
Each step will bring its strength.

Thus step by step I onward go,
Not looking far before;
Trusting that I shall always have
Light for "just one step more."

"God in the Constitution."

The question of amending the preamble of the Constitution of the United States so as to recognize the Deity in the wording of the same, which has been discussed by a certain class of religious enthusiasts for some time, has been at least temporarily settled by the report of the House Judciary Committee of Congress. The committee after duly deliberating on the subject, decided adversely to the claim of the petitioners as follows:

Upon examination of the meagre debates by the fathers of the republic in the Convention which framed the Constitution, we find that the subject of this memorial was most carefully and fully considered, and that the Convention decided, after grave deliberation to which the subject was entitled, that as this country, the foundation of whose Government they were then laying, was to be the home of the oppressed of all nations of the earth, whether Christian or pagan, and fully realizing the dangers which the union between church and state has imposed upon so many nations of the Old World, with great unanimity decided that it was inexpedient to put anything into the Constitution or frame of government which might be construed to be a reference to any religic us creeds or doctrines; and we further find that this decision was accepted by our Christian fathers with such great unanimity that in the amendments which were afterwards proposed in order to make the Constitution more acceptable to the nation, none has ever been proposed to the States by which this wise determination of the fathers has been attempted to be changed; wherefore your committee report that it is inexpedient to legislate upon the subject of the memorial, and ask that they be discharged from the further consideration thereof.

NICE FOR CHILDREN.—The Providence *Journal* says: "So far as the Rhode Island statutes are concerned, there is absolutely no limit of age at which parties may contract marriage. It is not unfrequent that children of fourteen or fifteen years of age are married in this State, and for all laws to the contrary, even more tender babes than that may be united in marriage without the knowledge or consent of their parents. In a State report or registration we find the marriages mentioned, in a single year, of couples of the following ages: Eighteen and fourteen, seventeen and fifteen, sixty-one and fifteen, seventy-six and thirteen. And yet such outrages upon common decency and public weal are strictly in accordance with the laws of this State. The defect in our marriage laws has had the effect to make Providence a Gretna Green for runaway matches of minors from all the surrounding States. Scarcely a week elapses that applications are not made for an examination of the records by distracted parents from this and from other States to ascertain if their minor sons or daughters have been married here. Much too often they find their worst fears realized.

Mr. Gough thinks that it is better for a woman to be laughed at for not being married than to be unable to laugh because she is married. The marriage that takes all the laugh out of a woman, like the sunshine that takes all the sweetness out of the grape, is an exceedingly suspicious commodity, and ought to give the divorce doctors something to do. But the idea of trying to reconcile a woman to an unpaired life because another woman found it uncomfortable, is as absurd as to try to keep her from eating apples because of mother Eve's unfortunate pomological experience.

UNDER A PENALTY.—A country pedagogue in Henry county, Indiana, requested all of his scholars to "write a piece" under penalty of a thrashing. A rising genius got off the following:

Lord of love, look from above,
And pity us poor scholars,
They've hired a fool to teach our school,
And pay him fifty dollars.

Address to the Democracy.

ADOPTED BY A CONFERENCE OF LEADING DEMOCRATS ASSEMBLED AT SACRAMENTO, MARCH 31ST, 1874.

A Convention composed of Democratic members of the Legislature and other Democrats from different parts of the State, voluntarily assembled at the Capital at the close of the session of the Legislature, disavowing any right to speak authoratively for the Democratic party, yet in view of the grave condition of the political affairs of the country, they submit

THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

The history of the past twelve years has demonstrated the unfitness of the party in power to direct the administration of the public affairs. Whatever errors may have been committed by the various Administrations previous to 1861, or by individual members of such Administrations, or by any party which before that period held the reins of power, it must be evident to all that such errors sink into insignificance, when compared with the melancholy picture presented by the record of of the party which has held the ascendency in Congress since 1861.

Had any one asserted that such misrule would be possible, as has been experienced within that interval, or that the people of the country would manifest such apathy in view of it, the assertion would have found no credence whatever.

It is due, however, to candor and truth to admit that the impurity of the party now in power has been as much owing to the errors of those who have led or directed the various elements of opposition to it as to any fault on the part of the intelligent and patriotic voters, a large majority of whom have at times been hostile to its measures and policy.

We do not design to enter into any exposition of the causes which have enabled a party, whose history is an almost unbroken

RECORD OF ABUSES,

to retain in their hands the reins of power, or to refer to the unscrupulous means employed at every election to stifle the expression of popular condemnation through the ballot box.

Our object at present is to call attention to the increasing strength of the Democratic party is the States east of the mountains, as evidenced by its victorious progress east and west, to invite your renewed adhesion to its principles, which we know to be just and beneficent; to make a brief statement of its course and policy in the future, as we understand it, and to urge all good men, without regard to past party ties, to rally to the only standard which seems to offer any rational hope of the redemption of the country from the evils under which it is now suffering.

THE FISCAL AND REVENUE POLICY

of the Republican party has been injurious and corrupting to the last degree. It has hardly secured a majorty in the two Houses of Congress before it adopted a so called "protective system" which, ignoring the right of every freeman to elect his own market, has for twelve years past been plundering the mass of the people to enrich the privileged few, whose agents swarm in the lobby of Congress at every session.

It has flooded the country with a vitiated paper currency, which has enhanced the price of the necessaries of life, and crippled our material interests, turned all our legitimate business into a gambling speculation, and demoralized the people by inviting debtors to plunder their creditors in defiance of law, justice and common sense.

THE FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT

have been virtually placed in the hands of great corporations, to be used for their own selfish purposes; the Executive Department, abdicat- its legitimate office as the tribune of the people and the guardian of their rights, has become the unresisting instrument of monopolies; has been used in packing the Supreme Court with Judges committed to facilitate corporate plunder through an unconstitutional paper currency; has converted navy yards and Government offices into agencies for the purchase and manufacture of votes, and our revenue system into a means of robbing merchants through spies, informers and special agents, of whom the Jayne and Sanborn instances are the latest and most flagrant. With its occurence Congress has granted away to corporations and speculators nearly the entire public domain, which it held under a sacred trust for the people; and that body has been filled with the agents of the great railroad corporations, which have sought and are seeking nothing short of the control of the machinery of government.

THE OPERATION OF THE REVENUE SYSTEM,

which has been converted into an agency for enriching a few unscrupulons adventurers by defrauding and oppressing worthy and enterprising merchants, ought alone to destroy all title on the part of the present Administration to public confidence. The contempt for law exhibited by the highest Government officers in dealing with the currency has deserved and received the reprobation of the Press of both parties, and the same may be said of the treatment by the Administration of the people of Louisiana and other Southern States.

THE INCREASE OF SALARIES

of the President and back-pay members of Congress, indicating contempt alike for constitutional obligations and for public opinion, is but one of the many evidences of the corruption of the party in power.

The same misgovernment is visible in other directions. The diplomatic service has, with some honorable exceptions, been a subject of ridicule by foreigners and of mortification to Americans.

To point to a few of the notorious characters who are the exponents and leaders of the present Administration in Congress, would sufficiently indicate what policy would be probably favored by those who blindly follow such guides.

It is impossible to close our eyes to the abuses which exist, nor ought we to sit down in despair of a remedy. The people have been looking for relief for years, and would have secured it doubtless ere this, but for errors of judgment committed in the mode selected for obtaining reforms the necessity of which is admitted by all.

Those who have heretofore acted with the Democratic party in this State

DESIRE HARMONIOUS CO OPERATION

with all Republicans and others who are disgusted with the policy of the present Administration, and we respectfully submit on their behalf that the Democratic party here and in the Eastern States offers the best if not the only hope for the rescue of the country from the difficulties in which it has become involved. Names, it is true, are not essential, but parties must ultimately be arrayed upon principles and practical issues.

The principles of the party which was known under the original name of Democratic Republican in '32 and '36 and has been called Democratic, and in some localities Liberal Republican in latter days, are these:

ITS PERVADING SPIRIT

is expressed by the maxim that the best Government is one which, while it accomplishes its necessary purposes, does so with the least possible interference with individual rights and individual liberty of action. Drawing its main strength from the working-men of the country, its aim is to oppose special privileges and class legislation and to prevent labor from being weighed down by needless burdens.

IT ADVOCATES JEALOUS CARE

of rights of local self-government reserved to the people of the several States; a strict construction of the powers delegated to the Federal Government and of all powers delegated to public servants, whether State or Federal—steadfast opposition to monopolies and to corporate aggressions upon the rights and interests of the mass, economy and retrenchment in public expenditures and uncompromising opposition to the "protective system," so-called, and to bounties and subsidies as well as to inconvertible paper money.

It is not claimed that any magic influence resides in a name, or that personal integrity is the accompaniment of political opinions. It may be freely conceded that fidelity to public trusts is to be secured not so much by political doctrines as by personal character. Every voter has the right to apply this test to candidates, no matter with what indorsement they present themselves for his suffrage, and to exercise his own judgment as to whether they do or do not possess the requisite qualifications for the trust which they seek. Human nature is not changed by party designations, nor is there any superiority of the individual members of one party over those of the other in any respect. There are doubtless many who call themselves Democrats, who fail to act upon the principles above stated, and there are many who style themselves Republicans, who are essentially

DEMOCRATS IN CREED AND ACTION.

But it is none the less true that there is an increasing unanimity among those who adhere to the Democratic organization in reference to the principles above set forth, an increasing concord of action between all adherents to those principles, and a more rigid application of them as a test to all who avow them as a standard of political action; and it is also true that the Democratic is the only national party whose success gives promise of the ascendency of those principles in the Federal and State governments.

THE ONLY THING NEEDED

to secure such ascendency is the union of all who subscribe to them, without regard to past party affiliations, and the exclusion of all who are untrue to these principles from the confidence or support of the masses. There are few, even of the Republicans, who expect longer any redress of grievances, or any reformation of abuses from their own organization, which has become hopelessly debauched and corrupted by its continuance in power, as well as by the natural tendency of its measures.

THE DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION,

affiliating with itself all the elements of opposition to the present Administration, is looked to as the only practicable instrumentality to deliver the country from the incubus which has so long crippled its energies.

Such is the unmistakable tendency of popular sentiment at present on both sides of the mountains, and to aid in securing a result so desirable, we recommend to the voters of this State in the several counties to unite in perfecting a thorough organization in every election precinct, based upon an uncompromising avowal of the principles above set forth, and that all candidates who present themselves for Democratic support be required to pledge themselves to act upon and carry out these principles in the event of their election.

THE FAILURE OF THE LEGISLATURE

to pass a law for the regulation of fares and freights on railroads in this State is an event to be deely deplored. The power of the Legislature to regulate and control railroads in the matter of their charges for transportation of persons and property we most strongly assert; and the duty to exercise such power so as to secure the people of the State the transportation of the products of industry and labor at reasonal rates, is imperatively demanded.

We also assert, as a sound political axiom which is fully embodied in the Constitution, that taxation should be equal and uniform, and that all property, as well personal as real, should be taxed in proportion to its value, and we regard the startling proposition enunciated by the Governor in his last annual message, that lands should bear the exclusive burdens of taxation, as

REVOLUTIONARY AND DESTRUCTIVE.

We hold that, under the police power of the State, separate schools may be established for the education of the whites, negroes, Indians and Chinamen without in the least interfering with the rights guaranteed to either, and we are uncompromisingly in favor of exercising this power, and of providing such separate schools.

We are in favor of placing within the reach of every child born on our soil, or of citizens, or capable of becoming citizens themselves, a liberal common school education at the public expense, but we are utterly opposed to all compulsory educational laws.

We pledge ourselves to exert every possible power of government to the exclusion of Chinese immigration, and to so amend the Barlingame treaty as to secure Chinese commerce without the curse of their degrading hordes of immigrants. If, however, their trade cannot be had without the curse, we will forego the trade.

No Better Than Slaves.

The New Hampshire election having passed, nearly one thousand workmen have been discharged from the Portsmouth Navy Yard, some of whom had drawn pay for only two or three weeks. Many of these men, who had been set to work in order to secure their votes, had been promised that their pay should continue at least until May, and it was difficult to convince them that they were to be turned adrift. Of course these men having sold their votes for place, receive little sympathy; but the action of the Navy Department in ordering their discharge so soon after election confirms the assertions made before the election, that the extraordinary force of incompetent workmen put on the pay rolls between January and March was recruited simply for the purpose of carrying New Hampshire for the Administration party. The design failed of execution, but it is estimated that a needless expenditure of at least $250,000 has been incurred in the corrupt transaction, which is all the more infamous in view of the fact that there is a law of the United States which provides that any officer or person in the service of the United States who shall order or advise, directly or indirectly, by force, threat, menace, or intimidation, any interferance with the full exercise of the right of suffrage, or interference in any manner with any election, shall be liable to a fine of not more than $5,000 and imprisonment for not more than five years; yet in the face of this law the workmen in the Portsmouth Navy Yard were driven up to the polls in gangs under the supervision of overseers, where they were compelled to vote as they were directed for fear of being discharged. Having so voted, they were then set adrift in disregard of all the promises made to them. Under Robeson's administration of the Navy Department, says the *Sun*, American citizens who accept employment on public work are regarded as no better than slaves, and they are dealt with accordingly.

AN ENTERPRISING COUNTRY EDITOR. The Detroit Free *Press* contains the following:

He was once out on a jaunt in the township of White Oak, Ingham county, sticking to every farmer until he got his name and money, and so it happened that he came to a house where death had just called a few hours before. The farmer's wife was laid out, and the husbandman and children were grieving over her loss when the editor knocked at the door.

"What's up," inquired the editor, as he saw the farmer's solemn countenance before him.

"My wife is dead," replied the farmer.

"Is that so?" mused the editor a little disappointed. "Did she die easy?"

"Dropped off like a lamb."

"Did she say anything?"

"Not a word, just went right to sleep like."

"I didn't know," continued the editor, a sad look on his face, "but what she might have requested you to subscribe for the *Cascade*, which you know is the best paper in the county. If you want it I'll take your name right in, and under the circumstances I won't charge a cent for the obituary notice!"

The farmer hung off for a while, but before the editor went away he had two additional dollars in his pocket, and had written an obituary notice for publication in the next issue which the bereaved husband pronounced "a mighty smart piece."

When a Western member of Congress recently alluded so freely "to the hayseed in his hair" and the "oats in his throat," why didn't he complete the diagnosis of his case by speaking of the "rye in his stomach?"

Terrible Tragedy.

FEARFUL RESULT OF JEALOUSY—A GERMAN IN SMOKY VALLEY, NEVADA, KILLS HIS WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN —ETC.

AUSTIN, April 1.—The *Reveille* of this evening contains the following:

From Dietrich Osterhaus, who came in this evening from Smoky Valley, we get the particulars of a dreadful tragedy which occurred in that locality on Sunday. Osterhaus' nearest neighbor, a German named Chris. Eckstein, has lived in the valley for the past two years, occupying with his wife and two children, aged respectively two and three years, a small stone cabin on a patch of hay land. Of late

ECKSTEIN AND HIS WIFE HAVE QUARRELED FREQUENTLY,

owing to the husband's jealousy of a young man named Norton, who was herding a few cattle in the neighborhood. The neighbors paid no attention to the quarrels of the pair, as they had become of too frequent occurrence to be noticeable. Eckstein was known to be naturally of a quarrelsome disposition, and has made frequent threats that he would kill both Norton and his wife; but none of the people in the vicinity entertained a suspicion that he would carry his threats into execution

ON SUNDAY LAST

Osterhaus had occasion to pass Eckstein's cabin with his team. Noticing that an unusual air of stiliness hung about the place, he halted his team and knocked at the door of the cabin. His summons meeting no response, he was about to remount his wagon, thinking the family had gone to town. By an impulse for which he cannot account, he took a second thought, and pushed open the door,

WHEN A HORRIBLE SIGHT MET HIS GAZE,

chilling the very blood in his veins. On the floor lay the half nude body of Mrs. Eckstein, covered with blood, her features hacked beyond recognition. and the skull being cut almost in twain. At her feet lay her two little girls, with their heads nearly severed from their bodies. Across the bed lay the bodies of two men, clasped in the embrace of death. They were the bodies of Norton and Eckstein. In the hand of the latter was clutched with the vice-like grip of death a large bowie-knife, covered with blood, and by the side of Norton lay a large-sized dragoon revolver, four chambers of which had been discharged. The dreadful sight nearly paralyzed Osterhaus, who, for a short time, was almost incapable of action. As soon as he came to himself, he aroused the neighbors, among whom the wildest excitement prevailed over the affair.

INQUEST.

A Justice of the Peace was summoned from Ophir Canon, but up to the time our informant left no verdict had been rendered. He gave his testimony at the inquest, but urgent business in this city necessitated his immediate departure. He promises us further particulars on his return home. Eckstein was a man about 45 years of age, a native of Germany. His wife was about 23, and is represented as having been quite handsome. Norton was a young man, aged about 25, a native of Missouri.

A Lover of Liberty.

'TIS SWEET FOR ONE'S COUNTRY TO, ETC.

From the New Orleans Picayune.

Happening one day in his travels to be belated, Senator Callamer stopped at a substantial and comfortable farm-house, and was entertained and hospitably invited to make himself comfortable for the night. He accepted the invitation had a good supper and very luxurious lodgings. The next morning Mr. Collamer made a survey of the farm of his host, and was much surprised with the comfort and substantial thrift and prosperity of everything around. He could not but congratulate him on his apparently happy lot. His fields were well fenced, his barns were filled, and his crops most promising. Besides, too, the farmer, had an industrious and amiable wife and several bright and healthy children. "A farmer's life," remarked Mr. Collamer, "is certainly the happiest of all human lots, and I must say, my friend, that you are as happily fixed as any farmer I ever knew."

"Wall," remarked his host, "that's your notion, but 'tain't mine; I intend to sell out and move next week."

"Whither are you going?" inquired the inquisitive Yankee.

"Down into Texas!"

"What, into that wild and disturbed country, menaced by the whole Mexican army and by roving bands of Comanches, and marauding Greasers; leave this peaceful and happy home for such a savage country, where you would have to sleep every night on your arms, and carry your rifle strapped across your shoulder whilst plowing in the field!"

"Yaas sir-ree," was the eager reply, "who would give a cuss to live in a country where he couldn't fight for his liberty?"

An exchange says: "Compare the publisher of a newspaper who has to go round the country to collect his pay, to a farmer who sells his wheat on credit, and not more than a bushel to any person. If any farmer will try this experiment of distributing the proceeds of his labor over two or three counties, with an additional one of two or three States, for one year, we will guarantee that he will never, after that year's experience, ask a publisher to supply him with a paper a year or two without the pay for it."

Miscellaneous Items.

The largest moth ever known—the Behemoth.

A legal tender—A lawyer minding his baby.

A country without fair women would simply be stag-nation.

Very, very blonde hair is now called the "light fantastic tow."

Felt slippers—Those felt by children in their rude young days.

Spain is a nice place to raise chickens, they have so many coups there.

Miss Anthony always concludes her prayers with "Amen and women."

The hornet is beautifully defined to be the red-hot child of nature.

A baby was born on a street car in St. Louis. If it's a boy, it ought to be called H'oscar.

"Mine Gott! vat yill the Frenchman make next?" said the Duchman the first time he saw a monkey.

Cooing is well enough before marriage, but the billing doesn't come till after; and then from the tradesman.

A wag, on being asked for an appropriate inscription to a foundling asylum, proposed: "Thus far—but no father."

A female student of medicine wants $20 to buy a man to cut up. Most women can cut up a man cheaper than that.

Young married people who have their house built should have it built round so that discontent can find no corner in it.

'Tis true that 2,000,000 bushels of peanuts are each year devoured in the United States, most of them by pale, heart-broken young ladies.

A Mississippi paper says: Give a negro a spavined mule. a single barrel pistol and a brass watch, and you make him supremely happy.

Two pair of stairs are necessary to every newspaper office in North Carolina: one for the editor to go down as the caller comes up the other.

An editor in Michigan, talking of corn, professes to have a couple of ears fifteen inches long. Some folks are remarkable for the length of their ears.

At a late conference session, a clergyman gave a reason why the Baptist Church is like a beaver's hut, "There is only one entrance to it, and that under the water."

To certain non-paying subscribers, who want to stop the paper, the Columbia *Herald* says, very pointedly but rather rudely, "pay up and then stop and be damned."

A housekeeper, writing of poor servants, says if women would study housekeeping as their husbands study law, medicine and book-keeping, there would be less complaint of bad servants.

The editor of the Fredricksburg, Va., *News* was asked by a stranger "if it was possible that little town kept up four newspapers," and reply was "No, it takes four newspapers to keep up the town."

Peter Van Dyke, an old chap, who died the in New Hampshire the other day, worth $140,000 in cash, requested in his will that no one should "snuffle and shed crocodile tears at his funeral, but cover him over and hurry home to fight over his money.

Boy—Mamma, papa is getting very rich isn't he? Mamma—I don't know; why, child? Boy—'Cause he gives me so much. Almost every morning after breakfast, when Sallie is sweeping the parlor, he gives me a six pence to go out and play. Sallie received short notice to quit.

The Rev. Charles Thompson of Chicago, declined a call to Louisville with a salary of $5,000, acknowledging that the offer was a generous one, and that the feeling which inspired it was very grateful to him; but adding: "None of these things move me!" Promptly came back the telegraphic response; "We have voted $500 to move you and your furniture."

HOW TO GET PASSES.—There is a newspaper man in the eastern part of Michigan, who is being bantered as the champion railway pass beggar. "Passing" him by, we want to tell a little story about an old acquaintance who once published a paper on the line of the Detroit and Milwaukee Road. He was a mighty poor compositor to begin with, and the first issue of the paper was a sight to see. He had borrowed old Bucha and Bitters' stereotypes to fill up with, and his "salutoray," as he called it, contained about two hundred typographical errors, and half that number of grammatical blunders. But it was a foundation, and he went to receiving subscriptions and sending for railroad passes. He "went for" superintendents until he had a pass over every road in the State, but these were not enough. He sent abroad, and finally he addressed the superintendent of an Ohio road. No answer. The editor wrote again. No answer. He wrote a third letter, and an answer came back: "Go to h—l!" The editor turned the letter over and wrote: "Send me a pass on your road, and I will!" The pass came, and he was made kappy.

"Mark my words," said United States Senator Wardleigh, "if Simmons is confirmed the Republicans will lose New Hampshire." Prophetic language! Simmons was confirmed—New Hampshire is lost; and upon whom but President Grant can the Republican party shoulder the chief responsibility for it?

COURTESY OF BANCROFT LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,