

The Railroad Situation.

Up to this time Senator Mitchell has fought the combined monopolists in the Senate unaided, but we discover Grover is justly feeling coming to his aid and it is to be hoped that if he arises from his inertia and puts forth such efforts among his colleagues as he is capable of exerting, that Senator Mitchell's struggle will be crowned with success. It inspires our admiration of the man to see him battling the moneyed hosts arrayed against him, and insisting that the rights of Oregon as a State and Eastern Oregon as a people shall be respected and propitiated; and all this while the panderer of the Oregonians, aided by a few senile nincompoops and egotists of the Portland Board of Trade, are exerting themselves to defeat us, those much needed guarantees, which must stand as a muniment for the people, to resist the encroachments and avarice of the N. P. R. Co. Such a corporation needs to be bound in cords of "triple steel" to prevent it from betraying its fairest promises, and those bands, happily, Senator Mitchell has welded. To see the best efforts of the man sneered at by the snarling malcontents who cluster about the Oregonian is enough to disgust a seasoned philanthropist and turn the milk of human kindness into scum; but Senator Mitchell can well afford to "shoo fly" the whole pack knowing that nine persons out of ten in Oregon are on his side, and believe him to be working disinterestedly in behalf of the people he represents. If they discover merit in his endeavor, or better, if through his position and influence the prize of railroad connection is won, it is not in the pale of the Oregonian ring to prevent him wearing Senatorial laurels in the way of succession as a reward of merit. Because he may have cut off government support from a fawning sycophant who happens now to be in a position where he can bark, is not a crime to turn aside disinterested judgment, nor is it likely to resist the general benevolence of a people intent on rewarding a faithful, powerful and efficient public servant. For removing a certain Collector of Customs, nine-tenths of the people of Oregon respond amen. For fighting for the Portland, Dalles & South Pass R. R. and for guarantees from the N. P. R. Co. in the interest of Oregon, as great a proportion approvingly commend.

Threatened Indian Trouble.

News has reached Portland that the Indians on the upper Columbia threaten an outbreak. We scarcely credit the stories of their having yet committed any murders, as the wily savages usually wait for "grass" before sounding the war-whoop, but we think it would be advisable to have a small force of troops sent in the neighborhood of Priest Rapids—Moses' camping ground—to overawe any contemplated villainy in the Spring. It is rumored that certain unprincipled men in this region have hired "squad men" to go among Moses' band and foment trouble, urging them to kill off the whites who are robbing them of their lands. The motive of such a dastardly course is probably to have General Howard send a large force of men to the disaffected district, when the originators of the plot will be able to sell their hay, grain, beef and horses at high figures, and get lucrative employment themselves as scouts, guides, couriers, interpreters, etc. The poor Indians are made the cat's paw to snatch the hot chestnuts from the fire for these avaricious villains, and if there be any truth in these reports, we sincerely hope that the schemers against the public peace and human life may be brought to justice and made to suffer the penalty they so truly deserve.

Injustice from "Justice."

Our correspondent Justice in rushing to the defense of men well able to fight their own battles does us an injustice in intimating that we believe a man cannot be at once worthy of popular support and be a spiritualist or infidel. Good men have even been known to worship idols,—but then the majority of idolaters were not good men. Socrates was a good man and a heathen, as were Epaminondas, Cyrus and Cincinnatus. Our statement that certain law champions are free lovers, spiritualists and infidels was made in the same spirit that we might say Mr. So-and-so is a Canadian and Mr. Thingumabob a vegetarian—they are things unusual and we leave our readers to draw their own inferences. Life is too short and our space not intended for metaphysical disquisitions as to the right or wrong of being a free lover, a spiritualist or an infidel; we simply make the announcement, and those who like this kind of men will support them, those who do not will oppose.

We extend our sympathy to Sister Dunway in her bereavement. That promising, founding, the pet of the ladies, the 16th Amendment, has been killed by harsh treatment at the hands of our Senators and Congressmen. All those rhetorical flourishes of the New Northwest, all those logical lectures, that famous trip East, all wasted as it were on the desert air. Too bad, too bad. De mortuis nil nisi bonum.

"You Pays Your Money, You Takes Your Choice."

The question just now agitating the pulpit and the press seems to be one which should not at this late date awaken any unusual excitement and solicitude. Either hell existed or not a year ago, as now, and those poor fellows who died before hearing all the learned opinions on this vexed question (if they have not found out already) have missed a very important matter, and in dying so soon have perhaps missed the path that Beecher and others would like to have pointed out to them. If Henry Ward Beecher really believes that there is no future punishment, why has he kept so great an affair bottled up, letting us poor ignoramuses go plodding along with the constant fear of "the weeping and wailing and gnashing of the dead by and bye, continually haunting us? People who had determined not to die yet awhile will have no hesitancy now, and the mere "walking around to save funeral expenses" will be a thing as much out of fashion as Hades itself. Another great advantage in this piece of Beecherism is that no matter how good or how bad we are, there will be no St. Peter to stop us at the gates of Paradise—we all pass up, like members of the press as a circus, "good, bad, indifferent." This belief is encouraging, it gives us hope to a fellow, and is equivalent to saying "we're all going to Heaven anyhow, so let's have a good time here on earth, whether we commit sin in the pursuit of it or not." A doctrine of this kind is delightful, and we seriously wonder why Beecher has not preached it before, for it is bound to be immensely popular, and will take like the diphtheria, among Oregonians. But a truce to nonsense.

We believe an earnest discussion of a cardinal doctrine will lead to good. It will act like a powerful wind winnowing the chaff of error from the grain of truth; and will also fan the dying spark of religious interest into a blaze. There is one point in connection with this subject in which we differ radically from many of the correspondents in different papers, many of whom seem to speak from authority of special revelation. Undoubtedly the one who signs himself "A Believer in Hell," knows more of the true inwardness of this section than even his non de plume implies. He would apparently insist that whoever does not believe in the doctrine and preach an eternity in a lake of literal fire has no business in the orthodox pulpit, and is dishonest if he stays there. This is confounding the substance of the doctrine with the formal statement of it, the truth with its verbal presentation and rhetorical embellishment. The great underlying fact covered by the doctrine is that sin will be endlessly punished. The statement of it has varied in every age and taken a different form from the lips of every great teacher from St. Augustine down to Hopkins and Peabody. Pictures are not principles. The truth must be distinguished from the tropes in which it is exhibited, as man from his clothes. The imagery of ignorant ages which seemed appropriate to the unscientific minds of even the ablest scholars, must not be confounded with the soul of reason it was borrowed to embody. And the studious and conscientious endeavor on the part of the Christians of all denominations to strip the husks of verbiage from the gran of fact should not be branded as dishonest or infidel. This is a breaking up time in the theological as in the social and political world. Men are modifying their opinions on physical and psychological, political and sociological themes. Everywhere there is an effort making to re-adjust the living faith of the mind to the known facts of life, and the laws and realities of the universe. It is impossible in an age like this for men of studious habits and earnest inquiry to accept the statements of five or ten centuries ago, as to wear and work in the armor of the Crusaders. To denounce them as dishonest on account of their fidelity to the higher laws of mind and conscience is not only unjust but injurious to religion. There is an evolution of thought as well as of life. Men may not be good logicians, but the world is not governed by logic. Sentiments are more powerful than syllogisms. When leading scholars in a great church like the Established Church of England express their solemn convictions on a topic of momentous import, as Maurice and Frederic W. Robertson did, and as Canon Farrar has now done, holding still to the substance of doctrine while dropping its antiquated drapery, they certainly should not be denounced as dishonest and called upon to square their phraseology with the traditional terms of belief or leave the sacred desk. The Catholic Church is truer to the truth than this, as has been shown by the eloquent Bishop of St. Louis,—Ryan we believe. Thomas Starr King, whom many of our readers may have heard in early days in San Francisco, declared that the old doctrine of hell does not so much overrate as misstate the penalties of a guilty love and life. A thorough good tempered discussion of this would very likely show that all Christians very nearly agree on the substance of the doctrine, however they may differ as to its formal statement. Verbal differences will abound so long as minds are cast in different molds, educated in different schools, and left free to think and study on different lines, without the least dishonesty. The subject is open to discussion, and "as you pays your money, you takes your choice."

Telegraphic News.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—The House committee on Pacific railroads met today to hear the arguments on the Northern Pacific railroad. Arguments were made by Col. Gray for the company in advocacy of the proposed extension of time for the completion of the main line and branches. Delegate Jacobs and J. J. McGilvra, of Washington Territory, were heard in opposition to the extension so far as it relates to the branch across the Cascade mountains. The Oregon delegation were all present. Mitchell stated that he could not agree to the bill as offered by the Northern Pacific company for the reasons, first, that it did not give proper protection to the rights of settlers; second, it did not compel commencement of work on the Pacific coast for the next nine years, and third, because it wholly ignored the Salt Lake railroad enterprise. The chairman of the committee stated that no bill or amendment had yet been introduced in the House or Senate, but the House making provision for the local interests thus indicated and he requested Mitchell to offer an amendment to give his views. Mitchell replied that he expected his colleague Williams, to offer such amendment, but as Williams did not do so the committee adjourned until Thursday next, for further hearing. The committee also notified Representative Williams, that any amendment he might offer would be most readily considered, and ordered to be printed.

During the session of the committee Mitchell took occasion to refer to certain newspaper reports, attributing to him the authorship of the joint resolution concerning the Northern Pacific land grant, introduced in the House by Representative Thompson, of Pennsylvania, some time ago, and stated that Thompson had never spoken to him on the subject, nor he to Thompson, nor had he any knowledge that such resolution was contemplated. Furthermore, he, Mitchell, was opposed to it.

New York, Jan. 19.—The paper which is prominently the workingman's paper here, calls attention to what is characterized as the significant feature of the silver controversy, viz: That the party in favor of the silver dollar conceals its real motives by making it appear as if it were a question of resumption of specie payments. They clamor for the coinage of silver, but a large portion of them do not intend that the metal shall be currency. They want to pay in specie, and to lower the standard according to which paper money circulates, and thus still further depreciate it. Knowing that the effect of the first greenback issue was to raise prices, they are sure that a further issue will have the same effect, and seeing that approach to specie payments has been accompanied by a fall in prices they conclude that the only way to arrest that fall is not to pay in specie. They have neither eyes nor ears for any interest but their own. The people who have bought property with borrowed money. The man who holds land or merchandise which does not belong to him is a suffering angel, but the laborer who has saved his money, and lent him their savings, are entitled to no consideration whatever. The editor thinks the silver bill will pass the Senate, he voted, then fail to receive the two-thirds vote necessary to make it a law. If, however, the result should be otherwise, we may look to see Voorhees and his friends come to the front with their inflation schemes. The question will then arise, whether the silver bill shall be carried or whether it shall be considered a dead letter.

The Gazette, Baltimore's Democratic organ, designates the Bland bill project as the real enemy of the laboring man, and proposes to pay for the construction of a railroad from Oregon to Salt Lake City. He said the people of Oregon would not lay a straw in the way of extending the time for the completion of the Northern Pacific railroad, but he thought they should have something to say concerning railroad legislation for the northwest. They were deeply interested in the Salt Lake and Portland railroad project, because it would bring them more speedily in connection with existing roads. He also showed that the land grant proposed for this project would not exceed the number of acres, about 5,000,000, which the Northern Pacific Co. proposes voluntarily to relinquish by charter of route. The Chairman, of Oregon, was also heard in advocacy of Mitchell's bill. Representative Williams was not present.

Foreign.—LONDON, Jan. 21.—A Vienna correspondent telegraphs the following: It is reported from Constantinople that in consequence of the decision taken at the great council on the 17th, Izzed Bey has been sent to the Russian headquarters with fresh instructions to the Turkish plenipotentiaries giving them full power to sign, wherever they at first were instructed to refer the conditions to the Porte. It is said this resolve was taken in consequence of the pacific tone of English and American plenipotentiaries in parliament, and also because Russia has given notice that she shall insist on the immediate acceptance or rejection of the terms.

In consequence of the new instructions to the plenipotentiaries suspended. A Pera special also says Izzed Pasha will convey the plenipotentiaries full power, and he will inform them that England is not likely to go to war. Another correspondent at Pera says the negotiations have commenced. It is stated that the Turkish plenipotentiaries have been instructed that they may offer to make Batoua a free port, cede territory on the Asian frontier as far as Kars, and dismantle the fortifications of Kars and Erzeroum. They may also propose the following programme for discussion by the European conference: The Balkans to be restored to the southern limit of Bulgaria; Roumania to be independent; the Dardanelles to be open to men-of-war of all nations, and the settlement of the Montenegrin and Servian question to be temporarily deferred. Difficulties have already arisen, and also the cession of Batoum and opening of the Dardanelles to Russian and Turkish men-of-war only.

Prince Humbert was crowned King of Italy at Rome on the 19th. He will uphold Italian unity, and conform to the measures inaugurated by his father. Amnesty will be granted political offenders. LONDON, Jan. 21.—A Constantinople dispatch dated the 18th inst. via Syria, says the Porte, at the instance of the Sultan, ordered all valavats at a distance from the seat of war to stand, pending the result of armistice negotiations. The result of armistice negotiations will be decided by the quickest possible route. The same dispatch says it has been decided that the government and Sultan quit Constantinople as soon as the Russian army reaches the Bosphorus, and the Adrianople railway 25 miles from Constantinople.

A Gallipoli dispatch says: A panic prevails here in consequence of a report that the Russians are between Unklerg and Keshan, ten hours' march hence. Orders have been received from Stambul to resist any advance. Troops are expected from Smyrna and the Dardanelles.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 21.—The opinion daily gains that in consequence of the threatening aspect of internal affairs, especially in the capital, the Porte will be compelled to purchase a cessation of hostilities. The Russian army, consisting of 100,000 men, are flexing to this city. LONDON, Jan. 22.—A dispatch from Constantinople announces the entry of Russians into Adrianople. The Austrian consul here telegraphed last night that the town was tranquil. No news of armistice negotiations.

"Justice" to the Front. EDITOR ENTERPRISE.—Sir: In your issue of the 17th inst., in advising workmen of Oregon, you seem to imply that, because Mr. Lawson, of Salem, President of the workmen's club at that place, is an erratic lawyer, free-trader, and spiritualist, he is unworthy the confidence of a free people. Now, as to Mr. Lawson's legal ability, I leave others to judge; and the accusation that he is a free lover is yet to be proven. That Mr. Lawson is a spiritualist, I am willing to admit; but suppose he is a spiritualist, what of it? Are men, in free America, to be proscribed for their religious belief, and does the Oregon City Enterprise mean to take the first step in that direction? No, you wish to imply that spiritualists everywhere are unworthy people. But I can assure you that in their ranks are found some of the most worthy people on earth. Will you admit, sir, that the late John Pierpont, Wm. C. Bryant, Judge Cooper, Robert Har, the chemist, Judge Edmonds, Rev. Samuel Watson, Wm. and Mary Howett, the Brownings, Phoebe Abigail Child, and many others, were men and women I could mention in this country; while in Europe it is claimed that several of the crowned heads there are of this faith, together with many lords and ladies, and others of high standing in society. So, if Mr. Lawson is a spiritualist, he should not be ashamed of it, seeing he has such good company and so many of them; it being reckoned that there are eleven million spiritualists in the United States alone.

You also warn the workmen's party of Portland against Mr. A. C. Edmonds as a political leader, because he is an infidel. Suppose Mr. Edmonds is an infidel. I mean ask the question, what of it? Are infidels to be classed as unworthy people, either morally or politically? Were not Franklin, Payne, Jefferson, Ethan Allen, Humbolt and Agassiz infidels? Are not Tyndal, Huxley, Darwin and many other eminent men of science infidels? Are not infidels, generally, the pioneers of thought? And wherein does infidelity incapacitate a man for being a good citizen? But the "unkindest cut of all" is the insinuation against Mr. Robert Dale Owen, and our honored minister at the Court of Naples, whom to have been acquainted with was to admire as a gentleman and scholar of high standing. Justice.

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The following is a recent ruling of the Secretary of the Interior in regard to adjoining farm homesteads: There is another class of homesteads designated as "adjoining farm homesteads." In these cases the law allows an applicant owning and residing on an original farm to enter other land lying contiguous thereto, which shall not, with such land, exceed in the aggregate 160 acres. Thus, for example, a party owning or occupying 80 acres, may enter 80 additional, without regard to price, whether held at \$1 25 per acre or \$2 50 per acre; or owning 40 acres, he may enter 120 acres additional, and hold at \$1 25 per acre, but cannot exceed the maximum of 80 acres, where the land proposed to be entered is held at \$2 50 per acre. In making final proof, it is not required that he should prove actual residence on the separate tract entered, but it must appear that he has resided upon and cultivated the original farm tract, and has bona fide made use of the entered tract as a part of the homestead, including, cultivating, or otherwise improving the same.

If the overworked labor champions can spare the time from their daily toil (of trying to get political preference), we would cordially recommend to their perusal that chapter in ancient history that treats of the Agrarian law and the fate of one Spurius Cassius who jumped into the breach for the pretended defense of the poor classes only to further in reality his own ambitious ends.

The report is gaining strength in Washington that Senator Patterson contemplates resigning his seat. Should he do so, and should Senator David Davis vote with the Democrats, and Sharon stay at home, the Senate will be evenly divided between the two parties.

Mr. Reuben Pig, a prominent citizen of Polk county, died on the 17th.

Postmaster-General Key is talked of as the candidate for Governor of a new party in Tennessee which will oppose the repudiation of the State debt and will include most of the Republicans.

NEW TO-DAY. Sheriff's Sale. BY VIRTUE OF A DECREE AND EXECUTION issued out of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for the county of Marion, and dated on the 28th day of December, A. D. 1877, in favor of the State of Oregon, and against E. F. Dowell, and to me directed as Sheriff of Clackamas county, State of Oregon, for the sum of Nine Thousand Three Hundred and Eighty-six 1/2 Dollars on the 30th day of August, 1877, with interest thereon from said 30th day of August, 1877, at ten per cent per annum, and Twenty-seven Dollars costs. Upon said writ there is a credit of \$1,187.00 of Three Hundred and Ninety-eight (398) Dollars, and also a credit of \$25,187.00 of Two Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars. I will therefore, for want of personal property out of which to satisfy the above named judgment, costs and accruing cost, I have on this 1st day of January, A. D. 1878, levied upon the following described real estate situated in Clackamas county, Oregon, to-wit: All that part of Henry Miller donation land claim situated in Clackamas county, being parts of section 24 and 27, T. 3 S., R. 2 E., forty-five acres more or less, and on Monday, the 21st day of February, A. D. 1878, at 10 o'clock A. M. of said day at the Court House door in Oregon City, Clackamas county, Oregon, I will sell all the right, title and interest therein owned by E. F. Dowell in and to all the above named donation land claim situated in Clackamas county, being parts of section 24 and 27, T. 3 S., R. 2 E., forty-five acres more or less, and on Monday, the 21st day of February, 1878, at the Court House door in Oregon City, Clackamas county, Oregon, I will sell all the right, title and interest therein owned by E. F. 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