

In a free government a popular leader can never acquire too much power, or use it permanently to the injury of his country. The world grows better instead of worse. A demagogue is quickly detected, and sent into retirement. Good leaders are not merely a benefit to a government, but they are essential to its steady progress. Possibly these assertions sound dogmatic, but they are justified by all human experience. If they are true, it is a duty to agitate for such constitutional reform as will lead to the development of party and national leaders.

And here, as elsewhere in the series of discussions, we find the constitution of the United States and the customs which have grown up under and been fostered by it to be the chief obstacles to reasonable reform. Suppose a young man with the ambition to distinguish himself in public affairs, and with the capacity to become distinguished. After an apprenticeship in the state legislature, which only serves to confirm his self-confidence and to convince his friends that he will succeed, he seeks an election to congress. First, he has no choice of a district, but he must appeal to that one wherein he legally resides. Next, he must secure the party nomination. Thirdly, he must obtain a plurality of votes. Behold him elected at last. He goes to Washington an unknown man. If he chances to be one of the majority, and is lucky enough to secure the favor of the speaker, he may be appointed to an obscure place on an obscure committee. Otherwise not. Thrown into a body of 325 men, of whom one-third or more are old members, forced to conform to a set of rules which are the most perversely intricate and contradictory of any parliamentary rules in the world, it is almost impossible for a member to make his mark in the first session. But under our system this new member must submit himself to a re-election after the test of a single session. Every two years he must run the gauntlet again, and it is only by the rarest good luck, the shrewdest tact, and too often, it must be said, by resorting to dubious methods, that he can remain in life long enough to prove his capacity to be a real leader, and to acquire the experience necessary to make him a safe leader.

In order to reform all this, the people must have educated out of them the ideas that a man whose residence is among them is the only fit person to represent them in congress, and that it is the sole, or the chief duty of a member to look out for their local interests. That is the first step in clearing the way for adequate leadership, because, when it has been taken, no man need feel that his advancement, even his continuance in public life, depends upon the skill with which he conforms his opinions and conduct to the liking of a limited number of his neighbors. Then the frequency of his return to his constituents for a new commission should be diminished, in order that he may not waste too much time in personal effort to retain his place. When so much has been secured, he should have always before him the possibility of rising by his own merits to a place where he can speak for the whole country. No doubt it is to an absence of this opportunity that we owe it that those who approach most nearly to the true conception of party leaders are rarely or never selected as candidates for the presidency. Look over the recent list. Lincoln had but a local reputation when he was elected. Breckinridge and Douglas were leaders of factions. Bell represented an abstraction. McClellan stood only for opposition to the war, and was not a political leader at all. No more was Grant. Seymour had a great strength in New York, but elsewhere he was only a name. Greeley was in some sort a popular leader, but not of the party which voted for him. Hayes was an accident. Tilden was unknown as a politician four years before he was nominated for president. Hancock was no politician. Garfield might have been a great leader under favoring circumstances. The truth is that our system does not attract and secure the highest statesmanship of every party, as it ought, and it does not give free scope either to the chance specimens of the first quality, or to the larger through which is drawn from the ranks of mediocrity. But at present the evil is not recognized. When it is fairly discovered, and when it becomes an effort of high politics to give room for great men to work in, it will be found that the root of the existing evil is deep down in the constitution, and deeper still in popular prejudices which are born of the constitution.

EX-SPEAKER GALUSHA A. GROW, of Pennsylvania, declines to express any opinions on public topics. He says when a man has a contract to furnish 100,000 tons of coal annually to the Grand Trunk Railway he has no time to study politics.

The Woodland, Cal., daily Democrat boasts that it is the only paper in America published on Sunday evening. The cause of this singular time of issue is that the publisher is an Adventist.

IMMIGRATION.

NOTWITHSTANDING the assertion of Malthusians, the earth has still more than enough room for all her children. The land area of the globe is not less than fifty-one millions of square miles, of which two-thirds, at a very conservative estimate, is capable of yielding richly at the invitation of the husbandman. The improvements in agriculture are such that it is possible to bring up all the land on its surface to average per acre fifty bushels of wheat and much more of many other products. The equivalent of ten bushels per head will supply all the food needed by the average man, so that every acre may be made to sustain five men in plenty, and with other productive life-sustaining products, more. That is to say that the land on the earth's surface can support as a minimum not less than 3200 persons to the square mile, or one hundred and eight billion four hundred millions of people. This may seem incredible, but we have stated the bare facts. If one acre only produced enough food for the support of one person, there would still be enough to supply with food nearly twenty-two billions of people.

It is evident, therefore, that it is the distribution of the world's population, not its numbers, that is productive of so much misery. That, combined with landlordism and the system of entail, converts fertile countries into so many hells out of which so many of its helpless population seek in vain to escape—out of their hell there is apparently no redemption. The only way to improve their positions is to take them to the lands where there is still abundant room for millions and to transfer their labor to where it may be productive, where it will make the wilderness blossom as a rose, and where they may enjoy prosperity themselves and transfer an unnumbered inheritance to their children.

There are many such smiling lands on the broad surface of the earth, but none more attractive under the magic wand of labor, none more productive than the fertile lands of Oregon. It has a surface of sixty million acres, of which at least two-thirds is arable or may be made so by the labor of willing hands. On the basis of one per acre we have here broad acres enough to supply forty millions of people with food, homes and comfort. That is to say that three-fourths the present population of the United States could find subsistence in Oregon.

ANOTHER ironclad for the Chinese navy has been launched at Kiel. We need have no fear, on account of this increase in the Chinese navy; the American man-of-war *Pinta* is on her way to this coast, and it is confidently expected that she will arrive in safety if she encounters no rough weather. Her armament will soon leave, by sailing vessel, for San Francisco, as it was desired not to try the man-of-war too severely in her passage around the Horn. The *Pinta*, on her arrival, will of course require the usual \$100,000 worth of repairs and will then proceed to Alaska, whither her guns will be sent by another steamer. It is hoped that by these precautions she will be able to reach her station in safety, and will be able to act as an effectual barrier against the increasing Chinese fleet, or any other.

JOAQUIN MILLER is now aiming for profitable notoriety. He will not ride about city streets in a barouche drawn by four white horses and sell quack medicines to the credulous multitude. He aims higher. He is having a log cabin built at Washington, in a grove of trees on the brow of a hill, just a convenient distance from the "madding crowd," and all who call on him will be kindly received and permitted to do him homage, etc. The walls of the cabin will be heavy with trophies of the chase, its floors will be covered with skin rugs and Joaquin himself will pose as the one great, wild son of the golden west. There is a million in this log cabin enterprise if its projector confines himself strictly to business.

THE government of France owns one-sixth of the railways of that country, and is considering the propriety of selling this immense property. The fact will attract wide attention in this country, where the government ownership of railways has many earnest advocates.

SOMEbody, whom southern papers describe as a prominent gentleman of Athens, Ga., has preserved a record of all the slaves his family owned, 1,000 in number, confident that some day he or his descendants will receive pay for them from the national government.

THE Mennonites in Nebraska build dams across the ravines on their farms, and in that way provide an abundance of stock water. They stock many of their ponds with fish and utilize others by raising large numbers of water fowls.

THAT is a truly edifying spectacle now presented in Washington where ex-Senator Mitchell appears before a congressional committee in argument that the Astoria land grant be not forfeited.

IT costs this country \$26,830 to get a report of the bureau of education, \$26,612 for printing General Hazen's report, and it will require \$220,000 to print Dr. Loring's report.

THE railway foreclosures in 1883 covered eighteen lines, with a total of 1,354 miles of track, \$18,825,000 capital stock, and approximately, \$28,505,000 bonds and debt.

PROF. NEWTON says about 3,000,000,000 meteors fell to the earth in a year, and that they increase the size of the earth about one inch in 100,000,000 years.

THE sect which believe that Englishmen are the descendants of the lost tribes of Israel is so large that it supports a monthly and two weekly periodicals.

THE average price of locomotives is \$9,000, dining cars \$10,500, first-class passenger coaches \$5,250, baggage and mail cars \$2,200, freight cars \$520.

IT is said that more than a third of all the people in Minnesota and Dakota are Scandinavian by birth or parentage and nearly all are Republicans.

THE Ohio liquor dealers demand a repeal of the liquor law of the state, and the Democratic legislature is likely to heed the demand.

THERE is talk of a narrow gauge from Rathdrum to Cour d'Alene City, I. T.

THE Dominion government has failed to float a loan of \$4,000,000 in Canada.

ONE printing press of to-day does the work of 1,600 presses eighty years ago.

DIED.

At Astoria, Oregon, at 3 P.M., January 18, 1884, of heart disease, John Hume, aged 51 years. Funeral will take place from the residence of his son, Hon. J. W. Hume, on Sunday, January 20, 1884, at 9 A. M.

Steamer *Clara Parker* will leave Wilson & Fisher's dock at 9:30 A. M. to convey the body to Clatsop cemetery for interment. Friends and acquaintances are cordially invited to attend the funeral.

NEW TO-DAY.

Stockholders' Meeting.

A MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS of the Cape Fox Packing company will be held at the company's office in Astoria, January 28th, 1884.

By order of the Board of Directors,
W. F. MORGAN, Secretary.

Notice.

OFFICE OF THE OREGON RAILWAY and Navigation Co., Astoria, Oregon.

All parties interested in the salvage of goods picked up from the Steamer *Queen of the Pacific*, in September last, are hereby notified that settlement will be made on or about Feb. 15th, at this office. No claims will be paid without surrender of the receipts given by this company. The amounts to be paid will be 50 per cent. of the net proceeds, as per bill of sale.

E. A. NOYES, Agent.

Notice.

PARTIES HAVING BILLS AGAINST School District No. 1 are requested to hand the same to the undersigned at once. By order of the Board.

J. O. BOZORTH, Clerk.

NOTICE TO PILOTS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL whom it may concern that there will be a meeting of the Washington Territory Board of Pilot Commissioners for Columbia River and Bar, held at Ilwaco, W. T., on the 15th day of January, A. D. 1884, at 10 o'clock A. M.

Done by order of the Board.
C. A. REED, Secretary.

December 25th, 1883.

The above meeting is postponed to Saturday, the 26th inst., at the same time and place.

OCCIDENTAL HALL.

COMMENCING
THIS EVENING, JAN. 19, '84.

NELLIE BOYD.

Supported by
17 FIRST-CLASS ARTISTS 17
In all the latest and most popular Dramas of the day.

This Evening, January 19th, '84.
The Greatest of All Comedies, entitled
THE TWO ORPHANS.

Entirely new and appropriate scenery for each play. Entire change of programme each evening. Our own Silver Cornet Band and superb Orchestra.

Popular Prices. Reserved Seats \$1.00 each, now on sale at New York Novelty Store.

Grand Matinee, This Afternoon, at 2 o'clock.
A CELEBRATED CASE.

WM. EDGAR,
Dealer in
Cigars, Tobacco and Cigarettes

Meerschaum and Brier Pipes,
GENUINE ENGLISH CUTLERY
Revolvers and Cartridges.

JORDAN & BOZORTH,
A FULL LINE OF
Crockery and Glassware.

FURNISHED ROOMS TO LET.
AT MRS. GEO. HILLER'S, NEXT DOOR to Weston Hotel.

Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE BRITISH AMERICA PACKING COMPANY, SKENE, will be held at the residence of G. Holmes, in Upper Astoria, January 20th, 1884.

By order of the board of directors,
GUST HOLMES, President.

You Are Sure to be Suited
AT THE
Leading Furniture House
OF ASTORIA.
CHAS. HEILBORN.



FOR THE
Hall, Office, Library, Parlor, Chamber
and DINING ROOM, in
WALNUT, CHERRY, ASH, AND MAPLE.

We are without a doubt showing the Largest and Most Complete line of CHAMBER SUITS in this city, unequalled in Design, Workmanship and Finish.

CARPETS.

We Carry an IMMENSE STOCK OF CARPETS of All Designs and Colors in
Body, Roxbury, and Tapestry Brussels, Three Plys, Extra Supers and Ingrains.

FOSTER'S EXCHANGE.

THE
Billiard Parlors and Club Rooms

Are not excelled by any north of San Francisco. Nothing but the best dispensed, and every convenience for the comfort of guests.

Imported Wines, Liquors and Cigars.
The Most Complete Establishment in Astoria.
AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE O. R. & N. DOCK.

SAINT MARY'S HOSPITAL,
ASTORIA, OREGON

THIS INSTITUTION, UNDER CARE OF the Sisters of Charity, is now ready for the reception of patients.

Private rooms for the accommodation of any desiring them.

Patients admitted at all hours, day or night. No physician has exclusive right, every patient is free to and has the privilege of employing any physician they prefer.

United States Marine
Seamen who pay Hospital Dues, are entitled to Free care and attendance at this Hospital during sickness. Permits must be obtained for United States Marines at the Custom House.

SISTERS OF CHARITY.

PERUVIAN BITTERS!

Wilmerding & Co., San Francisco.
Loeb & Co., Agents, Astoria.

Executors' Notice.

THE COUNTY COURT OF CLATSOP County, Oregon, having appointed the undersigned executors of the last will and testament of Truman P. Powers, deceased, all persons having claims against said estate are requested to present the same with the proper vouchers, at the office of C. Leinenweber, Upper Astoria, within six months from this date.

C. LEINENWEBER,
WM. WADHAMS,
Astoria, December 14, 1883.

FRANK L. PARKER.
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
FANCY GROCERIES.

STEAMER
CLARA PARKER
Eben P. Parker, Master.
For TOWING, FREIGHT or CHARTER apply to the Captain, or to
H. S. PARKER.

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RE-OPENING!
Fine Goods AT Reduced Prices

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IN THE
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A General Assortment of
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Magee Stoves and Ranges
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Plumbing goods of all kinds on hand. Job work done in a workmanlike manner.
PLUMBING, GAS FITTING, AND CANNERY WORK
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E. R. HAWES,
AGENT
CALL AND EXAMINE IT, YOU WILL BE PLEASED.
E. R. HAWES is also agent for the
Buck patent Cooking Stove
And other first-class stoves.
Furnace Work, Steam Fitting, etc., a specialty.

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E. R. HAWES,
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MARTIN OLSEN & CO.
DEALERS IN
FURNITURE AND BEDDING.
Corner Main and Squemoqua Streets, Astoria, Oregon.
WINDOW SHADES AND TRIMMINGS; WALL PAPER, ETC
A Complete Stock.
PRICES AS CHEAP AS QUALITY WILL AFFORD.
ALL KINDS OF FURNITURE REPAIRED AND VARNISHED.

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And by Buying it at
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SEASIDE BAKERY
You will be sure that it is worth taking. Every Variety of
Fine Cakes and Confectionery
Special Inducements
For the Holiday Trade.
Candies, Christmas Tree Trimmings, Etc.
The Best Quality of
Fine Bread
Delivered every Morning
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F. B. ELBERSON, Proprietor.

California Exchange
The best of California and Foreign
Wines and Liquors
Kept Constantly on Hand
Domestic and Foreign Cigars of the best Brands.
NATIONAL BREWERY BEER.
On Consignment between Benton and Lafayette streets.
im GEORGE GOELIER

I. W. CASE,
IMPORTER AND WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN
GENERAL MERCHANDISE
Corner Chenamus and Cass streets.
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