The Daily Morning Astorian.

VOL. XXIV, NO. 126. ASTORIA, OREGON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1885. PRICE. FIVE CENTS.

WAR STORIES.

LINCOLN'S TERMS OF PEACE

Johnson's Determination to Arrest General Lee for Complicity in the Assassination.

When the late Mr. Garrett, President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, wished for a little rest or recreation, he was in the habit of causing his private car to be attached to one of the trains running west or south, and with his wife and perhaps another friend or two he made an excursion. At such times Mr. Garrett left his business behind him, and though deemed a man not given to much conversation, yet he then often narrated some of his experiences, especially of the time of the war and immediately subsequent thereto, in a manner that was absorbingly interesting.

Two years ago the writer met Mr. Garrett upon one of these occasions. The conversation turned upon the South, its risks and its losses entailed by inaugurating a civil war, and as some of Mr. Garrett's reminiscences have a special interest just at this time, I have written out from notes made soon after the conversation what he said. In speaking of Mr. Lincoln, President Garrett said:—

"I never travel through the South without thinking what a dreadful climax for the South President Lincoln's assassination was. During the war I often met Mr. Lincoln on business pertaining to our railroad, and in the latter part of his Administration he used sometimes to speak to me of what ought to follow the return of peace, which he saw could not long be delayed. Had Mr. Lincoln been able to carry out his policy, and I think that the man who proved equal to that would have been equal to all that followed, there would have been real peace, and an early revival of prosperity in the Southern States. It was a frightful retribution that followed the murder of Lincoln; but, after all, I think, as I look it all over, that it was in one sense the result of the short-sightedness of some of the leaders of the Confederacy. I mean that all that happened after Lee surrendered, including the assassination of Lincoln, could have been avoided had the Confederacy not failed to make terms at the peace conference at Fortress Monroe. Every man of capacity in the South knew at the time of that conference what the inevitable was to be, excepting Mr. Davis. Now, I know it to be a fact, that when Mr. Lincoln was asked respecting the terms of peace that would be demanded by the Federal Government, he just tore a sheet of paper in two, and wrote across the top of it just these words:

"'On the part of the United States:
The Union preserved.
Slavery abolished.'

"Then pointing to the blank space beneath, he said: 'There, let them write their own terms underneath that.'"

Mr. Garrett said that many of the Southern leaders felt that the Federal Government could properly ask no less than that, and that the Confederacy could ask no more for itself. Peace ought, they felt, to have been established then. General Lee, with whom Mr. Garrett was on terms of special intimacy after the war, grieved greatly because the peace conference was a failure, for he could only look forward to useless shedding of blood after that. "In fact," said Mr. Garrett, "General Lee, like Gen. Joe Johnston, realized, as a military man, that after the fall of Atlanta the end of the Confederacy was near at hand. Like Johnston and every other great General in the South, Lee understood that with the defeat at Gettysburg and the surrender of Vicksburg, the only military policy left for the South was that of defense long enough to obtain terms of peace that would not be humiliating. With the fall of Atlanta, it was plain to Lee that the terms of peace would be just what the Federal Government choose to make them, and, as a military man, General Lee told me that he often, though unofficially, protested to the civil authorities that further prolonging of the war meant only unnecessary loss of life and destruction of property. His pleas, however, were wholly without avail. Mr. Davis seemed to be convinced that the Confederacy would succeed in establishing itself. There was much of the highest importance of the inner history of the last year of the rebellion that has been lost by reason of General Lee's failure to write a history. In the very last interview I had with Lee he was a guest at my house in Baltimore. He had been telling me some of that inner history, showing, in his view, that the war had been unnecessarily prolonged. I told him that he ought not to allow those facts to be lost to history, and that he ought at once to begin the preparation of an account of the war from his understanding of it that should be complete, and should, without hesitation, tell the whole truth. He told me that he fully intended to write such a book, but he thought that it was too soon then to do so. He had, he said, much valuable matter, many documents that would throw light, taken in connection with other facts that he personally knew, but which did not appear of record, on the last year of the war. I urged him not to lose a moment, but to begin the work at once, and before he left me he promised to set about it as soon as possible. It was not long after that he was stricken with his last illness.

"I don't think," continued Mr. Garrett, "that it was ever known how near Lee came to being arrested as one of the conspirators in the plot to assassinate President Lincoln and his Cabinet. I know that Andy Johnson in some unaccountable way got the idea in his head that Lee was in that conspiracy. Somebody had told Johnson something, I have some reasons for believing, that led him to think so. Johnson wanted Lee arrested at once, and I know that he proposed, if Lee was found guilty, to have him beheaded. Johnson told me that Lee couldn't be hanged, shouldn't be shot, and he would order him beheaded. A warm friend of mine and of Mr. Johnson, who knew what was going on, came to me in great haste, knowing that I had long been a personal friend of General Lee, and was also a warm friend of General Grant. This gentleman said that Lee was in great danger of arrest, and that in the then excited state of the country it was hard to say what might happen. I at once telegraphed to General Grant to meet me and started for Washington. I met General Grant a few moments after my arrival there. I told him what was in Johnson's mind. I have seen men black with anger, but I never saw such anger as Grant then showed. He was not passionate; but he was terribly angry. Said he: 'This is infamous—infamous! I will throw up my commission if there is the slightest attempt to do it, and if there be the shadow of a circumstance to justify even the faintest suspicion against Lee, I will throw up my commission, too. It's as impossible for Lee as for me.'

"I said, 'Can't you see President Johnson and his Cabinet and tell them what you have told me.' He said he would, and he lost no time in doing so. He was very stern with Johnson. He said that if Lee was insulted by threat of arrest he would throw up his commission at a moment notice. 'Lee has given me his parole, sir,' said he to Johnson. 'You can trust every West Point officer who gives his parole.' Grant was so earnest and angry that Johnson was impressed, and he was a little frightened, too, by Grant's threat to throw up his commission. The matter was dropped, but there is no doubt but for Grant's action Lee might have been at serious peril. I myself told Lee about it afterward. He was deeply touched by Grant's conduct. Afterward, when Grant was President, Lee called on him at the White House, and was received with great consideration and courtesy by Grant.

"General Lee had many flattering and highly remunerative offers after the war, that I personally know about; but he told me that he believed that he still owed a duty to the South. He believed that education was the great need there—an education, too, which should teach the young the duty of loyalty and love for the Federal Union, and he determined to devote the rest of his days to the simple work of a teacher. We had very great difficulty in inducing him to take the Presidency of the branch road of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad built down into Virginia, for he feared that its duties might impair his usefulness at the college."—[N. Y. Sun.

The European muddle is, after all, merely a stock broker's battle between a Bull and a Bear.—[Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

A man has been arrested in San Jose, Cal., for practicing medicine without a license. The authorities discovered that there was something wrong with the man when he cured five patients in one week, and an investigation proved that they were right.

Primary Education.

The emphasis laid upon primary education, and the preparation of teachers for primary schools, is beginning to have a noteworthy effect in the school systems of our large cities. Primary work is discovered to have many attractions. For in a school of small children, government is easy and accomplished mainly by gentle means. There is, moreover, something very attractive to a bright and intelligent young woman in the modern methods of teaching young children. She is to be entertaining, lively, fertile in new devices, to win the love and admiration of a company of docile little children. Her work is almost entirely confined to the school-room. There are no tiresome exercises to be looked over out of school hours, no piles of dry examination papers to be read on Saturdays and in the evenings. In the intermediate and grammar grades, on the other hand, there are intractable pupils to manage; the forces of evil in the child are gathering strength and must be met with firmness, patience, and wisdom. It will be essential, before long, to give more attention to the methods of teaching and management in intermediate and grammar grades.—[Wisconsin Journal of Education.

A merciful man is merciful to his beast. When he finds it stiff and lame he at once applies St. Jacobs Oil.

MARKETS.