#### The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON: JANUARY 29, 188 PROBLETTION IN POLITICS.

THE national prohibition move- loss of life, and the subsequent ment which was organized at acquisition of territory for the up-Pittsburg in '83, tended entirely holding of more slave states, out party's chances of success, and so struggle, the fugitive slave law, to the promotion of the Democratic of which came the Wilmot provireally made Cleveland's election the repeal of the Missouri compossible by depriving the Repub. promise, the Dred Scott decision, lican party of votes that it should and finally the war of the rebelhave had, not only on general lion. principles, but because of aid and comfort previously given to the benefit to the temperance cause temperance cause. The prohibi- throughout the country from the florists of the St. John variety election of a Democratic president chose, in other words, to "rebuke" and the restoration of Democratic the only party that had ever given practices and influences in the them favor or sympathy by help- management of the affairs of the ing to win a victory for the party government was preposterous. that never failed in any instance All the traditions and sentiments to denounce and resist their efforts of that party are opposed to the THIS GREAT PLAY to suppress the liquor traffic. Ac- ends which the prohibitionists cording to their peculiar logic, have in view. What the result of having gained all they could for such an experiment is morally Six Consecutive Weeks the present from the Republican certain to be may be seen, in a party, the best thing to do was to small way, in Maine, where a ventake away the power of said party ture of a similar kind has been to render them any assistance in carried to actual conclusion. At

It is not to be believed for a a third ticket was put into the moment that they had any hope of field by the prohibitionists with a electing their own candidate for professed desire to facilitate the president. They made no pre- enforcement of the siate tempertense of that sort. Neither did ance law. It received only 413 they prestend to be working sim- out of the 5,983 votes cast; but ply for virtue's sake, without any that small vote sufficed to prevent preference between the two great an election, and the Democratic furties of the country. St. John candidate for mayor lacked only openly proclaimed his hostility to 33 votes of a plurality. The rethe Republican cause, and his sup- sult, practically, was to give Portporters as a class were animated land free whisky by the action of by the same feeling. It was well the prohibition party; and since understood that the prohibitionists then the law has been a dead let- Liberty Hall! were in the main Republicans, and ter, and tippling prevails openly that the subtraction of their votes and to an extent never known befrom the Republican strength fore. One example of this kind meant just so much addition to is sufficient to indicate the genthe Democratic opportunity of car- eral tendency of third parties as rying the election. So fully was temperance agencies. There is this reglized, as the returns proved, no need of a third party in our that Democratic prohibitionists, politics to advance the great and while standing by the local nomi- beneficent reform to which the nations of their party, refused, as a prohibitionists claim to be so arrule, to vote for St. John, and cast | dently attached; but there is need their ballots directly for Cleveland. of influence and instruction to The object of chief importance in make effective laws already in extheir scheme was to beat the Re- istence. publican party; to that end, every other consideration was practically subordinated. There is nothing to be pleaded for them, therefore, on the score of ignorance or misapprehension. They knew exactly what they were doing, and rejoiced over it when it was done.

To say that this result was utterly unjustifiable is to state it mildly. In all our political history there has not been another such a flagrant instance of evil returned for good, and treachery for friendship and confidence. The complaint that the Republican party had not been sufficiently courageous and progressive in its treatment of the liquor question was without any warrant of fact. On the contrary, there was decided testimony to the effect that it had gone too boldly and too far in that respect. It had unquestionably passed temperance laws in different states of such radical and stringent form that they could not be enforced-laws which were in advance of public sentiment, that is to say, and therefore serving to One Night Only! show that more had really been attempted than the people were willing to indorse. It was clearly not for want of Republican sympathy with positive and adequate temperance methods that 'the dreams of the prohibitionists had not been realized before the opening of the last presidential contest; and certainly the Democratic party never manifested any such interest in the work of redeeming the land from drunkenness as entitled it to support for temperance purposes.

The familiar claim of the St. John people that they are imitating the tactics of the abolitionists, may be disposed of by showing that the two cases have little in common, and that the little they have in common forbodes disaster to prohibition partisanship. The old M liberty party did not nominate Fremont, elect Lincoln, or emancipate the slaves. It did precisely

what the prohibition party has To-Morrow Evening done-made a shy at everything and accomplished nothing, except to defeat Clay and elect Polk. and

thus bring on the Mexican war,

with its burden of expense and

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