

The Daily Morning Astorian.

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ASTORIA, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1886.

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ANDY JOHNSON'S FUN.

How He Pardoned Bob Johnson of Arkansas.

Andrew Johnson was a strange
 being, understood by few and incom-
 prehensible to the greater number of
 those in public and private life when
 he unexpectedly became President of
 the United States. The war had
 hardly been closed, telegraphic and
 postal communication had not been
 re-established between the sections,
 and the leaders of the great rebellion
 were in a state of great anxiety as to
 what would be done with them by
 the Federal authority for their partici-
 pation in the rebellion. The
 wildest rumors were circulated of
 Federal vengeance to be wreaked at
 short notice upon all who had been
 prominent in the Confederate cause,
 and naturally there was not a little
 trepidation among them as rumor
 followed rumor of drumheads, hang-
 ings, banishments and imprison-
 ment to be meted out to the main
 offenders without mercy. This feel-
 ing was enhanced in the contempla-
 tion of the fact that Andrew Johnson
 had succeeded to the Presidency. His
 well-known implacability, espe-
 cially towards those Southern men
 who had, by resigning their seats in
 Congress, made the rebellion possible
 was remembered with augmented ter-
 rors, and a great cry went up from
 the scores of quaking throats, of
 "What shall save us from the dire
 Nemesis?"

Prominent among those who ap-
 prehended they knew not what was
 the late Col. Robert W. Johnson, of
 Arkansas. It had fallen out that in
 the spring of 1861, on the very day
 Col. Johnson resigned his seat in the
 senate of the United States, that he
 and Andrew Johnson (who was then
 very bitter in his speeches against
 the Secessionists) had had a personal
 altercation on the floor a few mo-
 ments before the Senate was called to
 order, which was only prevented
 from becoming a serious fisticuff en-
 counter by the interference of by-
 standers, and so the two Johnsons
 had parted, exchanging mutual
 epithets of hostility. Remembering
 this, among other causes of disquiet,
 Col. Johnson, who, at the Lee sur-
 render, found himself in an unenvi-
 able situation, stripped of all his
 worldly possessions and practically
 without where to lay his head, be-
 thought himself that the only way to
 begin to rehabilitate himself so as to
 be able to resume his former profes-
 sion of a lawyer was through a
 Presidential pardon. Coupling in his
 mind the old personal quarrel with
 the wild stories he heard on all sides
 that the President of the United
 States had been empowered by Con-
 gress to hang or shoot the leading
 men who had surrendered, he re-
 flected that his chances with his old
 foe were slim indeed. But seeing no
 other course open he made up his
 mind to try the venture and take
 what fate should accord him.

Accordingly Col. Johnson applied
 for and obtained a pass from the
 commandant of a Federal military
 post and journeyed to Washington.
 Arriving there in the early evening,
 he proceeded to the Metropolitan
 Hotel, where he looked himself in his
 room, fearing to show his head to a
 chance of recognition, either by an
 accidental old acquaintance, or
 worse yet, a provost-marshal. Dur-
 ing the night he tried to consider
 what would be the outcome of his ex-
 pedition, and the conclusion was any-
 thing but hopeful. Arising from his
 sleepless bed in the morning, he
 thought over the situation again, and
 finally determined that he would
 "face the music" without further
 delay and end the suspense. So at an
 early hour as he could gain admittance
 to the White House he cor-
 nered himself out of the hotel and
 into a hack and proceeded to make
 his venture.

Arriving at the Executive Mansion
 he wrote his name on a card and sent
 it to the President. In a very few
 moments the usher returned and an-
 nounced, in a voice of fearful portent,
 that the President would see him at
 once. The door swung open, and he
 found himself in the presence of An-
 drew Johnson, Col. Johnson, in re-
 lating this incident to a friend years
 afterwards, said that the moment his
 eye fell upon the President, for the
 first and only time in his life he was
 afraid. He advanced to the end of
 the table nearest the door and placed
 his hand on it to steady himself. At
 the other end sat old Andrew, his
 face worked up to an apparent frenzy
 of passion, and his eyes fairly emit-
 ting sparks of fire. His glance
 struck through the Colonel like elec-
 tricity, and he began to tremble at
 the knees. This lasted a few mo-
 ments when Andrew broke out:

"You here! you infernal traitor,
 you know where you stand? Do you
 dare come here to the capital that
 you have tried to destroy? Why
 you wretched rebel! D—n you, I
 have a great mind to hang you to a
 lamp-post." The Colonel stammered
 out that he had come to the Presi-
 dent to plead for his life. "Come to
 plead for your life," sneered the
 President, "why, your life is for-
 feited a thousand times." Then fol-
 lowed a series of expressions of a
 most sulphurous nature, and which
 had such an effect on the Colonel
 that he said he had to hold on to the
 table with both hands to keep from
 sinking to the floor. Next came a
 pause of some duration, during which
 the President glared upon him with
 bloodshot eyes and a fiendish sneer.
 Finally he broke out again: "You
 miserable traitor! rebel! assassin of

your country! you deserve to be
 strung up without mercy, and I'll
 very soon settle your case for you."
 Reaching out he seized a pen and
 paper, and, with an implacable look
 on his face, dashed off a few lines, to
 which he affixed his signature, and
 pitching it across the table, ex-
 claimed: "There, take that, and
 make the most of it," and turned
 away.

Col. Johnson said he had just pre-
 sented of mind enough to reach out and
 take the paper, but was so confused
 and blinded by his emotions that it
 was a minute before he could make
 out the words on the page. It was
 an unconditional pardon! The poor
 Colonel said the revision in his feel-
 ings was so great that he was abso-
 lutely beside himself for a short time,
 and before he could collect his
 thoughts sufficiently to comprehend
 what had taken place, old Andrew
 suddenly came up behind him, hit
 him a sounding slap on the back, and
 roared out in his loudest voice:
 "Bob, old fellow, how are you?" and
 seizing him by the hand he shook it
 warmly, accompanied with many ex-
 pressions of good feeling.

Col. Johnson remarked that he had
 been in many a hot place in his life,
 and in plenty of situations of great
 danger, but never in so hot a skir-
 mish as that was while it lasted. "I
 tell you, said the Colonel, "Andrew
 Johnson was one of the bravest men
 that ever lived."—(Ben Perley Poore,
 in Boston Budget.

Church music is easy to a choir.
 Many live as if they were a snail
 and the world their shell.
 A fight among bosses is sure to
 produce bossism.

A pony of brandy at night will be-
 come a nightmare before morning.
 The dude is the connecting link be-
 tween the puppy and the monkey.
 Man never wins a greater victory
 than when he conquers his own be-
 setting sin.

In governing a body of men love is
 often incompetent where hate is all
 powerful.
 The man who kills two organ-
 grinders where one lived before is a
 public benefactor.

Many now occupying front seats in
 this world may occupy the front seats
 in the next.
 A religion that does not stick to a
 man during business hours is no
 good after business hours end.

"Woman is the Sunday of man,"
 says Erratic Enrique. Yes, and she
 is man's comforter on his weak days.
 If a praying machine were invented
 many would use it if it did not take
 too much time from their business to
 wind it up.—(Whitehall Times.

Indigestion Food
 In the stomach develops an acid which stings
 the upper part of the throat and palate, causing
 "heartburn." It also evolves a gas which
 produces "wind on the stomach," and a feel-
 ing of heaviness and distention in that or-
 gan after eating. For both this acidity and
 swelling Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is a
 much better remedy than alkali salts, lime
 hartshorn and carbonate of soda. A wine-
 glassful of the Bitters, after or before dinner,
 will be found to act as a reliable carminative
 or preventative. This fine specific for dys-
 pepsia, both in its acute and chronic form,
 also prevents and cures malarial fever, con-
 stipation, liver complaint, kidney troubles,
 nervousness and debility. Persons who ob-
 serve in themselves a decline of vigor should
 use this fine tonic without delay.

The Emperor William is 88 years of
 age, Bismarck is in his 70th year,
 Gladstone in his 76th and Queen Vic-
 toria in her 66th.

St. Jacobs Oil is a cure for rheuma-
 tism. Red Star Cough Cure makes
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 D. MILLER,
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