THE TERRORS OF CIVILIZATION.

The Injuns never teched him,
Nor the b'ars;
An' the rattlers never bit him,
An' the train robbers couldn't hit him
On the cars;
'Twas a frigid day an' drizzly
When the Rocky Mountain grizzly
Ever crep' within a yard of Jim the Scout;
An' the catamount an' bison
Never teched him more than p'ison—
Which they allus more prefer to do without.

But he moved into the city,
Just for fun;
And he sold his big six-shooter,
And he thought it wouldn't do ter
Keep his gun;
But a muscular garroter,
Who was not a legal voter,
Robbed him of his watch and wallet like a child;
Then a gas pipe overloaded
Bust, an' Jim he got exploded,
An' came down considerable permiscuous an' riled.

An' the bunco steerer's fleeced him
Left an' right;
An' the gamins uster hoot him,
An' the sluggers tried to shoot him
T'other night;
An a hoodlum tried to skin him,
And an engine run agin him
An' a herdic an' a hoss car an' a dray;
An' agin, a little later,
In a rotten elevator,
He fell down thirteen stories in one day.

An' his house, it caught afire
T'other night,
An' his gas meter exploded,
(Jim didn't know t'was loaded),
Awful sight!
An' his house was widely scattered,
O'er the country it was spattered
In a shower of chunks an' cinders, so they said
Jim was so completely shivered,
He ain't never been discovered,
But the coroner concluded he was dead.

FOURTH OF JULY ORATION.

BY T. V. B. EMBREE.

[Delivered at Burns, Grant county, Oregon, July 4, 1888.]

[Concluded.]

We do things generally on a different basis in these times: we move faster; the forces of nature have been captured; by science and art, fire and water, electricity, light and the secret elements have been put to work, and are made the tireless toilers for the race. Our facilities for general information are so superior to what they were one hundred years ago that we do not regard men and events with such reverence and wonder as of old.

We look upon things relatively, and, a people who are not willing to progress with the enterprises that characterize the enlightenment of our age, must be retired with the honors that cluster around the heads of old fogies and mossbacks.

With free speech, a free press and our public school system; with a ballot, with no church of state, with all this as so many factors of national strength, what can hinder this government from enduring until time is no more?

The press is earth's tongueless talker; it reaches millions whom no public speaker can ever address; it talks publicly and privately and can fashion and mould public sentiment in spite of tyrants and malcontents, and there is nothing they dread more.

Free speech is twin to a free press, offsprings of the same parentage, and, like the Siamese twins, the cord that unites one to the other cannot be severed without death to both.

We must encourage both. Yet always bear in mind that the best of soil with proper moisture, and favorable climate, may grow weeds of most poisonous nature, and their use be deadly to men. So, a free press and free speech, unrestrained by lawful limits, may become the most deadly weapons in the hands of a free people. The press should not encourage that liberty which culminates in vice and licentiousness, but should be made the means of extirpating noxious weeds of society.

Our free school system extends to all, poor and rich alike, the opportunity for attaining the highest distinction in educational aspirations possible for the individual—the portals of knowledge being open to all. Our sons and daughters share alike in the honors conferred by our institutions of learning, in district schools, seminaries, academies, and colleges, including every branch of general and special study.

Through the ballot system, which should be the most sacredly guarded of all our possessions, unstained by fraud and corruption, we select our law makers and those who execute them, from the walks of every calling of life—it is not necessary for a man to be able to trace his birth to royal blood or to be scion of noble ancestry in order to present himself as candidate for the humblest or highest office of political preferment within the gift of the people. The most of our statesmen and heroes were men of humble birth—"poor but honest."

Our colonial fathers were jealous of any attempt to establish any form of religion, or any religious test for official trust, so Christian, Jew, Pagan can worship according to his belief, and all are equally entitled to protection.

We regard these guarantees as pillars of wisdom, strength and beauty in the grand edifice of American Liberty: Political Liberty, Religious Liberty, and Personal Liberty—these three are ours.

We admire the grand structure of our government, and regard it as the handiwork of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, more than the result of man's wisdom.

The perpetuity of this grand structure, as laid down by the fathers of our country, depends on the virtue and intelligence of the people.

It is not true, that, because a man has his birth, his manhood, his old age and death, a nation will necessarily have its birth, its reign, its decay and death; neither is it true, that, because rivers have their origin, their course, and flow on continually, a nation has its origin, its course, add will exist on eternally. Nations are neither like men nor rivers. They are like nations and nothing else.

For our nation to remain fixed and permanent among the revolutions of the world, we must be able to withstand the pressure of outside influences continually bearing in upon us, and we must be able to harmonize all disturbing elements within our borders, so as to keep up the social, political, religious, and commercial equilibrium of our governmental system. Our constitution must be amended, according to the provisions, so as to keep abreast with the mental and social status of the people as they advance in civilization; or in other words, our government must be such as not to impede or obstruct the people in their grand march of progressive civilization. The elements of our nationality must have an elective affinity for each other. We must be a unity with a complexity of aims and interests.

Let us always keep in mind that the republic of Rome could not exist as a republic without principles and virtues of a republic. The republic of Rome went down never to rise again, and is known on the pages of history only as a thing of the past. When the liberty of the people became extinct, the spirit of republican institutions departed. Then the republic of Rome was plunged into the awful gulf of red-handed anarchy, where scenes of horror marked the road with blood of the sons of heroes, and escaped from the unlicensed dominion of anarchy to the cruelty of a military despotism. Again the republic of Rome had drawn upon the wealth of the vast and remote nations until her treasury was running over with a great surplus, and, from that period bribery and corruption swayed the senate, the officials, the people.

These are possibilities, if not probabilities for us. It is a dangerous omen when you hear a great nation like ours in time of state or national elections, talking lightly of "the free use of the party sack." Let us look aloft and pray God to avert all dangers, and enable us to so man our ship of state as to outride all adverse forces calculated to wreck our nation.

I want your attention a moment. Let us plume our imagination for a flight up to some solitary peak of the Sierra Nevada or Rocky mountains, where it lifts its cold and dreary dome to the blue vaults of the heavens, and where winter's enternal snow crowns its summit, and from this mount of vision view our great American republic: the immense magnitude of the two rock-ribbed slopes that extend downward to where the two highways for the commerce of the world, the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, meet the shores. View the great forests spread out before your gaze, with tops adorned with perennial verdure, and like plumed knights wave and nod and bow to each other—from these man finds material for the necessities of life on land and sea; look upon the valleys and hills, carpeted over with flowers and grasses, which are not only beautifying, but furnish range for animals, wild and tame. Rich stores of all the precious metals are crammed and jammed into the bosom of this region; see the rivers, lakes and harbors, that bear steamers and ships, laden with the products of this great garden bed of the world, to exchange for commodities of every clime; we see millions of happy homes, with their firesides of content and their school houses; and we see churches with glittering spires pointing to the Throne of God, and with their tolling bells call men to the worship of their Maker.

We see the smoke of thousands of factories, with furnaces burning daily to supply us food, clothing, machinery, manufacturing and agricultural implements; and we gaze upon millions of toilers in fields of golden grain, in gardens of beauty and in orchards of fruits of every variety on the globe; we see railroads that bind the oceans and link states to states, these are our commercial arteries; we see telegraph lines in every direction, dispatching the news of a nation—messages of business, of love and of sorrow.

A few centuries ago this region was a deep solitude, disturbed only by the war or death song of the red man, or the roars, howls and screams of the wild beasts of the forest and plain. To-day we hear the tolling of bells, the roaring of cannons and the scream of locomotives, and the hum, rattle and clatter of agricultural machinery; we hear the songs of mirth, of devotion and of patriotism, and the music of thousands of instrumental bands, civil and military—this is the region gained by the undying patriotism of the thirteen colonies; this is "the land of the free and the home of the brave;" this is the jewel that was lost to the crown of England; this is the home of the Republic of America, "that asks nothing of the world, but peace, and is the emanciator of all and the oppressor of none." Thirty-eight states and ten territories, with sixty millions of free people.

Here in our own little spot of this mighty republic, in honor of the day of our national birth, we bring our fairest and dearest, the children of our homes, to illustrate our republic: we see the Goddess of Liberty, protected by our Army and Navy, as she presides over the Sisterhood of States, in whose midst dwells the gentle Angel of Peace, and is borne onward in her Chariot of Freedom under escort of its Guard of Honor—a beautiful picture! May all these young sons and daughters of America be found in the line of duty at our country's call, and, if need be, like the heroes of old, die at their posts.

Last, but not least, may the prosperity of Harney Valley, the "Gem of the Desert," be our pride and glory, and soon "be made to blossom as the rose," and to become "the fairest among ten thousand, and altogether lovely!"

Democratic Platform.

The democratic party of the United States in national convention assembled renews the pledges of its fidelity to the democratic faith and re-affirms the platform adopted by its representatives in the convention of 1884; endorses the views expressed by President Cleveland in his last earnest message to congress as a correct interpretation of that platform upon the question of tariff reduction; and also endorses the efforts of our democratic representatives in congress to secure the reduction of excessive taxation.

Chief among the principles of party faith are the maintenance of an indissoluble union of the free and indistructible states, now about to enter upon its second century of unexampled progress; the known devotion to a plan of government regulated by a written constitution strictly specifying every granted power, and expressly reserving to the states or people the entire ungranted residue of power; and the encouragement of jealous popular vigilance, directed to all who have been chosen for brief terms to enact and execute laws, and charged with the duty of preserving peace, insuring equality and establishing justice.

The democratic party welcomes an exacting scrutiny of the administration of executive power, which four years ago was committed to its trust in the election of Grover Cleveland, president of the United States; but it challenges the most searching inquiry concerning its fidelity and devotion to the pledges which then invited the suffrage of the people, during a most critical period of financial affairs, resulting from over taxation, the anomalous condition of our currency and the public debt unmatured.

It has by the adoption of a wise and conservative course not only avoided disaster, but greatly promoted the prosperity of our people.

It has reversed the improvident and unwise policy of the republican party touching the public domain and has reclaimed from corporations and syndicates, alien and domestic, and restored to the people nearly 100,000,000 acres of valuable land which will be sacredly held as homesteads for our people.

While carefully guarding the interests and principles of justice and equity, it has paid out more for pensions and bounties to the soldiers and sailors of the republic than was ever paid before during an equal period.

It has adopted and consistently pursued a firm and prudent foreign policy, preserving peace with all nations while scrupulously maintaining all the rights and interests of our government and people at home and abroad. The exclusion from our shores of Chinese laborers has been effectually secured under the provisions of a treaty, the operation of which had been postponed by the action of a republican majority in the senate.

Honest reform in civil service has been inaugurated and maintained by President Cleveland and he has brought the public service to the highest standard of efficiency, not only by rule and precept, but by the example of his own untiring and unselfish administration of public affairs.

In every branch and department of the government under democratic control, the rights and welfare of all the people have been guarded and defended. Every public interest has been protected and the equality of all our citizens before the law without regard to race or color has been steadfastly maintained.

Upon its record thus exhibited and upon a pledge of a continuance to the people of the benefits of democracy, it invokes a renewal of the popular trust by the re-election of a chief magistrate who has been faithful, able and prudent. It invokes an addition to the trust, the transfer also to the democracy of the entire legislative power. The republican party controlling the senate and existing in both houses of congress, prevents the reformation of the unjust and unequal tax laws which have outlasted the necessities of war and are now undermining the abundance of a long peace, and denies to the people equality before the law, and the fairness and justice which are their rights.

The cry of American labor for a better share in the rewards of industry is still stifled with false pretenses. Enterprise is fettered and bound down to the same markets, and the capitalist is discouraged with doubt.

The democratic party will continue, with all the power confirmed to it, the struggle to reform these laws, in accordance with the pledges of its last platform endorsed at the ballot box by the suffrage of the people. Of all the industrious free men of our land, the immense majority, including every letter in the scale, gain no advantage from the excessive tax laws, but the price of nearly everything they buy is increased by favoritism of an unequal system of tax legislation.

All unnecessary taxation is unjust taxation. It is repugnant to the creed of democracy that by such taxation the cost of the necessaries of life should be already unjustly increased to all our people. Judged by democratic principles, the interests of the people are buried when, by unnecessary taxation, trusts and combinations are permitted to exist, which, while unduly enriching a few, combine to rob the body of our citizens, by depriving them of the benefits of competition.

Every democratic rule of governmental action is violated when, through unnecessary taxation, a vast sum of money, far beyond the needs of an economical administration, is drawn from the people and the channels of trade, and the wealth accumulated as a demoralizing surplus in the national treasury. The money now lying idle in the federal treasury resulting from superfluous taxation amounts to more than one hundred and twenty five millions, and the surplus collected is reaching the sum of sixty million annually.

Debauched by this immense temptation, the remedy of the republican party is to meet and exhaust by extravagant appropriations and expenses, whether constitutional or not, the accumulation of extravagant taxation.

The democratic policy is to enforce frugality in public expense and abolish unnecessary taxation.

Our established domestic industries and enterprises should not and need not be endangered by the reduction and correction of the burdens of taxation.

On the contrary, a fair and careful revision of our tax laws, with due allowance for the difference between the wages of American and foreign labor, must promote and encourage every branch of such industries and enterprise by giving them the assurance of an extended market and the steady and continued operations and interests of American labor, which should in no event be neglected.

The revision of our tax laws contemplated by the democratic party should promote the advantage of labor by cheapening the cost of the necessaries of life in the home of every workingman, at the same time securing to him steady and remunerative employment.

Upon this question of tariff reform, so closely concerning every phase of our national life, and upon every question involved in the problem of good government, the democratic party submits its principles and professions to the intelligent suffrages of the American people.