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Correspondence.

PORTLAND, Oct. 30, 1886.

ED. COURIER:—I propose to day to speak on the question of "prohibition" as the public mind through out our country seems greatly exercised over this question at the present time. Indeed, as a political question it has assumed a prominence second only to that of tariff (high protective) reforms, and, possibly, the labor question. I am not quite sure that I do the question justice when I place it secondary to the questions mentioned. That any question of vital importance to the public weal, may be settled at the polls without undue bias, and without doing violence to the "inalienable rights" of citizens, in a republic like ours, may not be expected unless the voters have the merits of the question plainly before them, and have been enabled to view it with calmness and consideration, not only a political, but a moral, religious, philosophic and social standpoint. Unfortunately for the success of real reform, it is too often the case that many of the advocates thereof become, or are from the first impracticable enthusiasts; and instead of presenting to the voting mass for consideration, the accumulated facts and experience of the past ages and of all peoples and nationalities, which have bearing upon the question under consideration they expend their time in platitudinizing, so to speak, or in making appeal to the baser passions of our mortal makeup, prejudice and unreasoning ambition. History, sacred and profane, is too often mutilated, misconstrued, and made to appear evidence in support of a position utterly at variance with facts in the case. Can such charges lie against any, or all of the advocates of "prohibition?" I answer, against many, yes. Now I hear all temperance readers say "Odylic is a whiskey man." Beg pardon, but whilst differing with the chimerical enthusiast for prohibition, as to the better way in which to bring about the much needed and devoutly desired reform in relation to the odious (as it exists in our midst to-day) whiskey traffic, I am as far from being a "whiskey man," as the term is usually applied, as the most ultra "prohibitionist."

In this and subsequent letters I shall point out a few of what I conceive to be errors and inconsistencies on the part of the advocates of "prohibition;" and in a future letter present my own convictions as to the powers and duties of our own state and federal governments in dealing with an interest of such magnitude as that of the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors. First then, I consider the motives actuating the advocates of prohibition, as by themselves enunciated, a desire to promote public morals by removing the greatest and most powerful tempter to immorality, to make men and women better as individuals than they are, to lessen taxation by lessening crime, and to provide greater security to life and property. In a word, the claim is that the world would be much happier and purer if the manufacture of alcoholic liquors of every kind were universally prohibited. Since there has never been a time from Noah to the present day that distilled and fermented liquors were not made and used by man, it cannot with any degree of certainty be stated just what the effect upon the world would be of the absolute striking out of existence of all such agents. I reply therefore to the first proposition, that to remove from the reach of a thief all your jewels will not prevent him from stealing other articles of value to you. If to this you reply, "remove all articles of value from his reach by putting him in prison," I say very well, but you do not secure yourself against the ravages of other thieves yet at liberty and to come up with every succeeding generation. To the second proposition I reply; the assumption here is to do, by legislation, that which no mortal power, or work of man can do, to wit: Make mankind better. Man, in his natural state is as prone to evil as the sparks are to fly upward and to remove from his reach one agent with which he may do evil, and yet leave him in the power of his natural propensities to evil, is but to force him to turn to some other agent with which to carry on his evil work. I think I may safely assume that the majority of active prohibitionists are christians, professedly, and claim to have the approval of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ in their work. I wish the friends of temperance, who are sincere in their desire to promote the same under the instructions of the great teacher, would give strict heed to those instructions, searching diligently the word before answering the following question: Isn't there danger that the servants have

gone beyond the instructions of the master?

Read John 13, 16. To make myself fully understood, I ask a careful consideration of all that the Lord Jesus said and done bearing upon the question under consideration whilst yet in the flesh and instructing his disciples. The first miracle performed by the Lord Jesus after he entered upon his ministry was to make wine; John 2, 7-9. To claim, as do many christians and so called temperance advocates, that this was not fermented wine and would not intoxicate if freely partaken of, is to intimate (to put it mildly) deception on the part of the master. That the wine made on this occasion by the Lord was not fermented after the methods of preparing wine in those days is certainly true; yet that the wine was not in all particulars absolutely the same as the very best wine of the times does not admit of a doubt. Such was the verdict of the governor of the feast, who was, no doubt, a connoisseur of wines. That wine in the time of our Lords earthly ministry was judged and pronounced good or bad according to age, body and life, very much as is done to day in wine producing countries seems clear when we give careful thought to the words of our Lord, Matthew 9, 17, in connection with the words of the governor of the feast at the marriage in Cana of Galilee. I find I cannot do more than just enter upon this part of the subject in this letter, so defer further consideration to a subsequent letter.

ODVLC. From a Polk County Farmer. McCoy, Or., Oct. 16, 1886.

To the Editor of the Oregonian: Please allow an aged farmer to express his opinion on various subjects engaging the attention of the people at the present time.

I have of late seen several articles in the papers of the state about the Oregon state fair. If the state fair was originally designed as an exhibition of the various productions of the soil, then it's certain of being at present a misnomer; yes, worse, a burlesque, on the farmers of the state. It is at present nothing but a gambling and racing establishment, and the man or woman who does not delight in such entertainments can see nothing but a lot of disappointed people, like themselves.

It will be a very cold day for one Polk county farmer when he spends another week at the state fair, as at present conducted.

Let the race gamblers have the grounds, but please don't call it hereafter "The Oregon Agricultural State Fair."

In concluding this subject, let me say to our representatives elected that if they vote another dollar for the benefit of the "State Fair," so-called, out of the state treasury, they may expect a good airing hereafter. The people of Polk county decline to be taxed for the benefit of horse racing.

In a recent number of the Oregonian the editor asks the pertinent question, "If our merchants and manufacturers can and do sell goods and wares abroad, where they have no protection, why should they favor protection at home. The answer is obvious; they desire to make a great profit at home, and are satisfied with a reasonable profit abroad. They ship their goods to Mexico and sell them at 25 to 35 per cent. less than at home, because there they meet the German and the Englishman as competitors. But our protective tariff is doomed and is bound to meet its fatal blow before long, because the people have their eyes on it and it cannot bear close inspection. And if the republican party should follow Mr. Blaine's advice on that question and advocate a protective tariff for the sake of protection, then the republican party is sure to land where the old whig party landed before the White house with "Protection for the sake of protection" inscribed on his banners. The farmer's bushel of wheat to-day would have a purchasing capacity of 87 to 90 cents, were it not for our tariff laws. They are the greatest curse that hangs to-day over the heads of the American people.

Following is a summary of the public debt statement made Nov. 1: Interest bearing debt, principal and interest, \$1,162,436,675; debt on which interest has ceased since maturity, principal and interest, \$12,548,927; debt bearing no interest, principal, \$540,433,862; total debt, principal, \$1,715,419,464; interest \$9,226,053; total, \$1,724,645,517; total debt, less available cash items, \$1,407,131,147; net cash in treasury, \$52,783,199. Decrease of debt during the month of October, \$13,201,516. Total available for reduction of debt, \$217,283,315. Total cash in treasury, as shown by the treasurer's general account, \$451,068,033.

To Abolish Poverty.

If the speech made by Powderly at a George meeting in New York on Monday night was correctly reported the chief of the Knights of Labor talked with much less sense than he has been given credit for hitherto. "George and I," he is reported to have said, "agree that poverty should be abolished." The idea, of course, was that poverty was to be abolished through the action of government; and, as a means to this end, Mr. George and Mr. Powderly were pushing a political campaign.

Now it may be a good thing for a man to conclude for himself that poverty should be abolished; since thereby he may be induced to make special effort to abolish it in his own case; but if the dictum should lead him to the conclusion that government can abolish poverty, or should cause him to depend on this notion and to set up as an agitator for it, why then it would be bad, because utterly fallacious.

There is no way to abolish poverty in general. Earnest personal effort often abolishes poverty in individual cases; and never can poverty be abolished in any other way. It would be a matter of real curiosity to learn what specific Mr. Powderly and Mr. George have for abolition of poverty in the case of those who are intemperate and indolent; of those who are inefficient either in their natural or acquired powers; of those who are not vigilant in making the most of opportunities; of those who are not provident, economical and self-denying; of those who have increased their families beyond all the limits of prudence and beyond all means of support that could reasonably be expected.

These are the general sources of poverty, and when the philosophers have succeeded in abolishing poverty in such cases they will have succeeded also in suspending the law of cause and effect, of overthrowing the principle of gravitation, and of reversing the law which declares that whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap.

The man who really succeeds in abolishing poverty will be found in every case to have accomplished it by pursuing the methods of provident industry and letting those of charity severely alone.

Our Resources.

Our county is full of the latent elements of wealth, and when one of these elements becomes developed so as to show what its real value is it gives encouragement to other industries, and leads to new developments in other channels. This is particularly true as applied to the working of the limestone quarry at Gold Hill. Started as it was, in a small way, merely as an experiment, it has gradually grown and assumed a magnitude sufficient to drive foreign lime from the market. The owners of the Gold Hill quarry now intend to prepare to burn all their lime on the ground where fuel can be obtained in endless quantities at reasonable prices, and when connection is made by rail with California the company will have a market both north and south. The store of limestone is practically inexhaustible, and so situated that the owners say that the stone or the burned lime can be placed aboard the cars at less expense than from any quarry in the United States.

What has been done in the lime trade may also be accomplished in the iron industry. For, like the lime, there is mountains of it, and that too within easy reach. Let us hope that the iron and many other resources that now lie dormant may spring into life and infuse new courage into our citizens. Much may be done to further these enterprises of public importance by giving aid and sympathy to those who are willing to undertake such works.

Oregon vs. Illinois.

During the week we met J. H. Stewart, of Medford, Oregon. Two years ago Mr. S. came out from Illinois, and in selecting a home visited about every section of the Pacific. He determined to settle in Southern Oregon, and among other things he has done he has now 10,000 fruit trees out, and will soon have out 5,000 more. But for some of the other things: This season he raised six watermelons that aggregated 196 pounds. He has an exhibition in the office of the Board of Intemperance 12 ears of corn that weigh 17 pounds. Two ears of corn raised by him weighed 3 1/2 pounds, which knocks out Illinois' record. Mr. Stewart is pleased with Oregon, and believes his section will be the finest fruit country in time, on this coast.

Paint applied to buildings, in autumn after rains have washed dust out of the atmosphere and frosts have driven winged insects to secure retreats will be cleaner and brighter than when applied in summer.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Grant's Pass, so named after General Grant, is a county seat centrally located in Southern Oregon. It is a progressive railroad town of 600 inhabitants, and is the main supply point for a large portion of country devoted to mining, lumbering agriculture and fruit-raising. Climate unexcelled.

The COURIER being the only paper published in Josephine county, with a good circulation in Jackson county, enables it to be one of the best advertising mediums in Southern Oregon. For rates, address THE COURIER, Grant's Pass, Oregon.

"Some Pumpkins."

W. F. Songer takes the premium for big pumpkins this season. From one hill, having only two vines, he raised 707 pounds of pumpkins in his garden in Ashland, and one large one on the vine was injured and decayed before the others were picked and weighed. The largest one weighed 142 lbs., and is now on exhibition in the window of Billings' real estate office. The seed was received from the East last spring. Mr. Songer says he did not know the vines were going to yield so well, or he would have given them more attention earlier in the season. He is confident that he could have made a large increase in the yield if he had undertaken the forcing process.

Why You Shouldn't Snub a Boy.

Don't snub a boy because he wears shabby clothes. When Edison, the inventor of the telephone, first entered Boston, he wore a pair of yellow linen breeches in the depth of winter.

Don't snub a boy because his home is plain and unpretending. Abraham Lincoln's early home was a log cabin.

Don't snub a boy because of the ignorance of his parents. Shakespeare, the world's poet, was the son of a man who was unable to write his own name.

Don't snub a boy because he chooses a humble trade. The author of the Pilgrim's Progress was a tinker.

Don't snub a boy because of physical disability. Milton was blind.

Don't snub a boy because of dullness in his lessons. Hogarth, the celebrated painter and engraver, was a stupid boy at his books.

Don't snub a boy because he stutters. Demosthenes, the great orator of Greece, overcame a harsh and stammering voice.

Don't snub any one. Not alone because some day they may far outstrip you in the race of life, but because it is neither kind, nor right, nor Christian.

Stray Sunbeams.

Some things are more valuable when they are upside down. A figure 6, for instance. The eagle is a tough bird, but when it is put on the back of a dollar it is legal tender.

"Are cigars offensive to you, madam?" he asked. "Them five cent kind is," she replied, with her nose in the air.

He—"You are the only college girl I ever liked." She—"Why, how so?" He—"Oh, the others all know so much."

After much research and investigation we are convinced that boarding-house chickens are hatched from hard-boiled eggs.

Kentucky will raise 4,800,000 bushels more of corn this year than she did last. Kentucky will manage to distil a good deal of conformation from this.

"Why do you drink that vile stuff?" said a temperance man to a toper. "Because, my dear sir," was the crushing reply, "it isn't thick enough to cat."

"Well," said one Chicago anarchist to another, with a sigh, "it might have been worse." "Yes indeed," was the reply, "it might have been imprisonment with hard labor."

The conductor exclaimed angrily: "Here, don't do that. You're ringing the bell at both ends of the car." "That is all right. Bedad, an' I want both ends of the car to sitop."

Mr. Litewait—"You must excuse me if I am a little dull. I am always stupid when I have a headache." Miss Keene—"Dear me! It must be dreadful for you have a headache so much of the time."

There is a woman in Camden, Ohio, from whose body, at different points, there have been taken gold bars, or, rather, needles. These pieces have varied in length from a half-inch to four or five inches, and in thickness, little larger than a dining needle. The only solution offered is that in early years she swallowed a gold coin, or piece of gold, which, by some action of the gastric juice of the stomach, was dissolved and circulated through the system, then, by some action of the blood, precipitated.

This is a valuable woman. She should at once be brought to some of the Southern Oregon counties and fed on our rich black sand. The chances are that she would prove a veritable gold-saving machine. In case her supply of gastric juice should give out, a supply of Coos county bug juice would answer the purpose as well or better. By a little improvement she might be transformed into a mint, and yield the bullion already coined. Who knows but what this is the proper solution of the black sand problem. It would doubtless be an improvement on the machine lately introduced by the Corvallis boys. (Coquille Herald.)