

SENATOR FULTON IS CONSCIOUSLESS.

Is The Opinion of Hon. T. W. Davenport of Silverton.

Silverton, August 10th '08
EDITOR OF SANTIAM NEWS:—

Don't you laugh, but have you observed that the Editor of the Portland Journal, for nearly a year, has been giving unsolicited advice to senator Fulton, evidently upon the assumption that the Senator has a conscience which might be touched and quickened into sympathy with the general interests, and the mistake of the kindly Editor reminds me of the job put up on Mark Twain. Mark, you will recollect, had an overweening confidence in his powers as a story teller and offered to wager that he could make a person laugh or weep, at his pleasure. The wager was accepted and the subject brought before him to test his skill. The humorist began by telling a funny story, but the subject never cracked a smile. Mark then essayed another funny yarn—still the subject was unmoved. Mark was astounded and as a last resort, produced the Jumping Frog of Calaveras County, which also fell flat. Then he resorted to pathos, but there was not the remotest sign of a tear upon that immovable face. Mark was beginning to lose confidence in himself when he accidentally discovered that he had been playing upon a deaf and dumb man. Mark was rightly indignant, for he had been ill used.

The Journal Editor has as signally failed to find a conscience in the Oregon senator as Mark Twain did to bring smiles and tears from the deaf mute; but the Editor has no excuse for his failure; he chose the subject himself and must stand the laugh, for his simplicity in supposing that Charlie has a conscience, that is, such a one as is defined in the dictionary.

The Editor, after all his well intended efforts, must feel cheap now that Charlie says there are 50 reasons why the legislature should go back on the people and refuse to elect Chamberlain. The Journal man should catch on pretty soon and begin to suspect that there is something wrong with Charlie's brain; that perhaps during the old time scramble for office, some of the convolutions in the region of conscientiousness, got badly mixed and jumbled. I know of no other way of accounting for his insensibility to moral and civil obligations. When Charlie says there are 50 reasons why the legislature should elect a Republican to the U. S. Senate instead of the man chosen by the people, he evidently has himself in mind or he would name Mr. Cake who has at least one more reason for claiming an election than Charlie—say 51, for the Republicans preferred him to Charlie. But Mr. Cake is an honorable man and lays no claims to the office. He insists as an honorable man should that the people have spoken and should be obeyed. He declared his espousal of the popular scheme for electing U. S. senators, at the beginning of the canvass, and notwithstanding the criticism of political opponents, I maintain that he has at no time departed from it. When pitted against the Governor in the June race he was at great disadvantage, for while he could still affirm his allegiance to the popular scheme, he could not make war upon anti-statement No. 1 Republicans, for he must have their support. To get it he did not recant his original declaration, indeed, he did not smother it or occupy a dubious position; he

merely did what any other Republican would have done, abstain from making personal enemies of Fulton's friends.

The difficulty was unavoidable; the schism was in his party, was radical and incurable, and Mr. Cake besides suffering defeat at the polls, became subject to the sneers of those who profited by his misfortune. There is no great magnanimity or ingenuousness in asserting that he went back upon his principles. It is said by Fulton and the other malcontents that only Republicans should count, and if this be so, and the popular verdict is to be set aside, then surely Mr. Cake is the heir apparent to the senatorship.

But as before said, Mr. Cake is not one of the conspirators and would undoubtedly spurn such a proposition. I venture the prediction that there is not a man in the state, who if fit for a Justice of the Peace, that would under the present conditions accept an election by the legislature in reversal of the popular verdict. I mean excepting Charlie Fulton, there is no man of common sense and common honor, who is willing to go so low in the social scale, even for the sake of the U. S. senatorship. There are, no doubt, some discomfited conspirators who are shooting their mouths off rather recklessly, but there is not one of them who after a sober second thought, would like the plunge into such slim.

No U. S. senator, except Charlie, could settle himself low enough to advise the members of the Oregon legislature to be false to their pledges. And if those members elected in opposition to statement No. 1 are wise, they will see the propriety, yea the necessity of the change the Oregon people have made, and with one voice, affirm the people's verdict in June. The popular election of U. S. senators has been gaining ground for 25 years; for the reason that the old way was corrupting, both in the states and in the Nation. It interfered with state legislation and filled the Federal senate with the agents of great corporations and the beneficiaries of special privilege. At no time while John H. Mitchell occupied a seat in the Senate, was he an independent or free representative of the state of Oregon. The money of the Southern Pacific Railroad elected him, supported and controlled him, nearly the whole time of his senatorship.

Mr. Bourne was elected by the people and will stand for the people.

Governor Chamberlain will owe no allegiance to interfere with his duties and he can be depended upon to resist all encroachments upon the general interests. Is it supposable that there are any considerable number of Oregonians who think this reform is of the crawfish variety?

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