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HONOR, ALONE, SHOULD RULE.

IT SHOULD NOT require argument to cause men to do right, or to be consistent and comply with the terms of pledges or agreements honestly made. Nor is it necessary, when men are controlled by principles of common honesty and decency. It is only with men who are ruled by ignoble instincts and dishonesty, who require to be held up before them the dishonor and disgrace of a violated pledge—the ignominy which will be visited, not only upon themselves, but upon those that are near and dear to them. Every man, who even dares to think of doing a dishonorable deed, or to violate a sacred obligation voluntarily incurred, should spend a short time in reading the histories of Benedict Arnold and Aaron Burr.

Of the legislature to meet next January, at Salem, 51 members signed a written obligation, if the people would give them their votes. This obligation simply pledged these legislators, to make the people's choice for United States senator, their choice, when the vote for that high office was called for in accordance with law, when the legislature was in session. This agreement is plain and simple. It became binding only when the people complied with their part of it, by electing these 51 members who had voluntarily pledged themselves. Could a contract be less plain or less capable of being misunderstood? Just a simple "If you will do this I will do that." No thing difficult to understand. Not even a possible loop hole nor technicality by which the shrewd and sharper of attorneys could find an excuse for violation.

Well, the people complied with their end of the contract. It then became as binding as it is possible to make an agreement. It matters not that the contract is not assured by the property of the various members by being behind their pledges; nor that a term of imprisonment awaits its violation. Not at all. But the far greater security of the honor, manhood and character of each of these members, does rest upon their action as legislators.

By moving forward as MEN should, and complying with their end of the agreement, these 51 members will place their names upon the Roll of Honor in the archives of Oregon history, as men who are worthy; as men who are heroes; that though subjected to all manner of temptation in the way of official recognition or of plain dirty, filthy dollars, they stood unflinchingly in the forefront of the contest and, as honorable men, did as they agreed to do.

There are two kinds of courage that make men sublime in the eyes of their fellows. The physical courage with which men win battles during times of war and moral courage which wins battles in time of peace. The pages of American history are filled with accounts of heroes in both of these fields. We love to honor their memories. We are proud to belong to a nation which has given birth to such men. While only those have gained prominence, who have been developed in times of great public stress, there are thousands of deeds and acts of men which occur in the less prominent positions and in the private walks of life, which are equally worthy. The fireman who risks his life, almost daily, to save the life of another, or the intrepid sentinel, whose watchfulness prevents a surprise by the stealthy enemy, are equally entitled to be placed on the roll of honor. So, also, are the men who give their services, in civil life, to the correction of wrong; or to the teaching of correct forms and methods of government.

On last Friday evening the people were shocked by hearing of the attempted assassination of Francis J. Heney. Why is Mr. Heney more prominent before the people, to-day, than other lawyers of equal ability? Simply because he has dared to champion the cause of right and civic decency. The fact is that a vast majority of men are so handicapped by their own selfish desires and aims that rogues, grafters and scoundrels in general, have almost a fair field and without molestation, in which to conduct their nefarious designs. And when a man, as in the case of Mr. Heney, undertakes to fight the battle of justice and right, and of the correction of political rascal-

ity, he stands out prominently and alone. In these days when the methods of dishonesty and graft seems to be much more remunerative than honesty, the wonder is that any one should undertake to champion the right. But when any one does undertake to uphold the right and punish the wrong, he is rewarded with the plaudits of all right thinking people. And so will these pledged legislators be rewarded. In addition they will have the satisfaction of having done their duty as men.

But what shall the world think of newspapers and men, who for mere partisan advantage, will advise these legislators to commit moral perjury? Among the large number of criminals which Mr. Heney caused to be indicted and then convicted in the land fraud trials, the crime of subornation to commit perjury figures the ofttest. Now are these convicted felons any greater enemies to society than the men and newspapers who are endeavoring by every possible argument and threat, to cause these pledged legislators to commit moral perjury? All honorable men cannot help but regard the Oregonian and the gang of disgruntled Republicans as being morally as guilty as are those men who were convicted of the crime of subornation, by Mr. Heney. The attempt to make the voluntary pledge of these 51 legislators, a violation of the Federal constitution, is the merest nonsense. There is no construction of this venerable document possible which will prohibit the legislator from making a pledge, if he sees proper to do so. It is most seldom, indeed, that an United States senator is elected in Oregon, or any other state for that matter, who does not receive votes which were pledged to him before the meeting of the legislature. Indeed, many legislators owe their election to having made a pledge of this kind.

Ex-Senator Mulkey and Senator Bourne were elected by a legislature a majority of which had been pledged by Statement No. 1. Did the Oregonian and the Republican bosses say anything about a violated constitution at that time? Not a word; despite the fact that Senator Bourne is more objectionable, personally, to the Oregonian, than is Governor Chamberlain. But Senator Bourne is a Republican and Governor Chamberlain is a Democrat; which probably accounts for the present intense activity of the Oregonian to defeat the election of the people's choice. One is almost forced to conclude, from the Oregonian's viewpoint, that it is unconstitutional to elect a Democrat United States senator in a Republican state.

If the legislature elect is composed of honorable men, which the NEWS believes to be true, no one needs to borrow trouble about its action when the time comes to elect the senator. There will be 51 or more votes recorded for Governor Chamberlain, on the first ballot. No other honorable course is open to our law makers. But if it should happen that seven scoundrels have been elected legislators who subscribed to Statement No. 1, in which case, only, will the Oregonian be successful in its efforts at subornation. The people of Oregon expect their wishes to be carried out. If defeated, there will be something doing hereafter.

Our County Court should not allow the good roads spirit, which has been generated among the people, to subside. The plan adopted under Judge Stewart's administration to encourage volunteer work, is a good one. If the Court will appropriate from the general fund an amount, in each road district, equal to the amount volunteered by the taxpayers of a district, it will be but a few years until Linn county will have as good roads as may be wished for. Even at the present time, in most localities our roads are in fair condition and in some places they are excellent. The Court should not allow the good work to stop. Select good experienced road men for supervisors, wherever possible and give them liberal support and encouragement. It should be remembered that farmers pay that portion of the tax devoted to road building, the most willingly.

Senator Fulton has stated in a public address at Corvallis before the primary election last spring, that if he should be defeated for the nomination of U. S. senator at the primaries, his name would not be placed before the legislature as a candidate for that office. Well the Senator was defeated at the primaries, good and hard; but, if we are to credit reports, he is now figuring about with the purpose of defeating Governor Chamberlain, the people's nominee for that office and the re-election of himself. The office of U. S. senator should be occupied by men of a high sense of honor and integrity only. The man who secures his election at the expense of integrity, would disgrace himself and the state which selects him. Oregon has no use for a senator of that character.

City election is now close at hand. It should be the purpose of our citizens to select a live energetic board of officers—men who will look well after the affairs of the city. They should be governed by motives of economy, yet not be laggards in keeping the city in touch with a spirit of progress. The future of Scio is dependent upon the acts and methods of her citizens. We need transportation facilities, manufacturing plants and any and all enterprises that will build up our town. An energetic, progressive board of city officers can and will do much towards bringing the desired results about.

HENEY AND HIS WORK.

That Heney has done, on the whole, a good and great work, The Oregonian fully believes. That in some of his methods he was not judicious and wise, it concedes. Yet it remains that Heney has done a great work.

One principle of human nature he has antagonized, which has rendered his work unpopular. He has used certain malefactors for conviction of others. Now it is a common thought that this is wrong. It is said that Heney has pushed certain men to extremity, who were worse than those whose acts and crimes he has condoned.

Therefore it is argued that, since all can't be punished, none should be. The Oregonian does not agree with this reasoning or with its conclusion.

Heney, we have thought, has not always done his work judiciously, but society has a right to use all possible means for conviction and punishment of those who rob and oppress it. It has a right to grant immunity to some, for their testimony against others, and to get at the proof against those who are robbing it, now it can.

Heney, then, has simply been a public servant, pursuing public thieves. The resistance he has met, even from those who should want public thieves punished, is amazing. The general ground of the opposition is expressed in the inquiry, "Why should this man be let off and that man punished?" Because legal testimony must be had or nobody will be punished, and the inquiry will go on forever; and besides, society must always use, as it has a right to use, the lesser criminals for conviction of the greater, so as to break up the system.

Whether anybody has liked Heney is not a matter to be argued. He has been breaking up rings of thieves in California and in Oregon, and has done some mighty good work. The personality of Heney is no more than an incidental factor. He has put a stop to a mighty deal of wrong-doing. Only by indefatigable pursuit of the principals in it could this be done. Their satellites have been likely to murder him, at any time. No man could stand in his place without taking that risk. In the case of Heney, during years past, many have thought of it.—Oregonian.

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