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The Statesman has been established for nearly fifty-two years, and it has some subscribers who have received it nearly that long, and many who have read it for generations. Some of these object to having the paper discontinued at the time of expiration of their subscriptions. For the sake of those, and for other reasons, we have concluded to discontinue subscriptions only when notified to do so. All persons paying for subscriptions, or paying in advance, will have the benefit of the dollar rate. But if they do not pay for six months, the rate will be \$1.10. Therefore we will discontinue the paper to all responsible persons who order it, though they may not pay for six months, the rate will be \$1.10. In order that there may be no misunderstanding, we will keep this notice standing at this place in the paper.

CIRCULATION (SWORN) OVER 4000



"ONLY MORTAL, AFTER ALL."

"Being only mortal, after all, I should have been a little mortified if I had been beaten in this canvass before the people; but that thing would have been more than compensated by the thought that the people had notified me that all my official responsibilities had been lifted off my back."—President Lincoln, Nov. 1864.

While standing on board the flag ship May, on the James river in front of Richmond, the day the city surrendered, President Lincoln said:

"Thank God, that I have lived to see this day! It seems to me that I have been dreaming a horrid dream for four years, and now the nightmare is gone. I want to see Richmond."

THE ELECTION OF UNITED STATES SENATORS.

Section 31 of the proposed Direct Nomination Law is said to "amend the present law regulating the election of United States Senators" and "imposes upon the Legislature the duty of selecting from the various candidates the one receiving a majority of the votes at the general election."

To be frank, this sounds farcical in the extreme. In the first place, the law which regulates the election of United States Senators is a national law and is, therefore, beyond the power of a state to "amend." In the second place, it would not be binding on the members of the Legislature in any event. The inherent right of members of the Legislature to trade everything in sight for a political pull in a Senatorial election is not one to be parted with as the result of a mere primary law.

In the proposed law, after the process of nominating a candidate for United States Senator is set out in detail, it is provided that:

"It shall be the duty of each House to count the votes and announce the candidate receiving the highest number of votes, and thereupon each House shall proceed to the election of a Senator as required by the act of Congress and the Constitution of the state, and it shall be their duty to then elect as each Senator the candidate having the highest number of valid votes."

This is almost the exact language of the Maye law under which the election of United States Senator was not held last winter, and yet that law was quite as binding as any law that the state can ever pass. In view of what happened at that session, the requirement that the Legislature shall "proceed to elect the man receiving the highest vote" from the people is a comforting witicism of fully three thousand can did power. Who can not recall the resounding voice of the eloquent Senator from Clackamas who vigorously supported the Maye law two years before, and whose county had just given a candidate for United States Senator 1,000 majority over the next highest man who had entered the lists before the people, declare that no such vote should "be emanated down his throat?" No, sir! Not while there was a beekoning

of a United States District Attorneyship promising to materialize in the enchantingly intoxicating future. No, sir!

The proposed law provides that after the popular vote has been counted the Legislature shall proceed to elect a Senator "as required by the state Constitution." But how is this to be enforced? The Constitution prohibits the election of any member of the Legislature to any office in the United States Senate, yet we know what observance that provision receives at the hands of that body. The editor of this paper does not refer to this phase of the question for any personal reason, whatever, but because it is necessary to remind the people that some of the proposed sticklers for the Constitution are demagogues of the highest and most accomplished caliber, who care nothing at all for that instrument whenever its provisions cross the pathway of their schemes.

In a somewhat extended analysis of the proposed law the Oregonian, in its local column, says that "under the provisions of this law the candidate receiving the highest vote in this manner is to be supported by the adherents of his party in the Legislature."

In view of recent history in Oregon this expectation suggests a figure of such fantastic grotesqueness that its like has not been seen since the official jesters held unrestrained sway in the courtly days of Shakespeare. There are a few graduated political bosses who will have to be despatched before a Senatorial election will be "conducted according to the state Constitution," or even as required by any law that has not a proviso made of steel and a straight jacket for an emergency clause.

Of course, the state Constitution is never to be violated—except in those particular cases where some erratic provision appears to have been inserted without that consideration which our fathers should have given it, in which event, it is subject to such legislative construction and emendation as the requirements of the combination may suggest.

DR. DRIVER.

Something like old times are recalled by the fact that Dr. I. D. Driver is delivering a series of lectures in the Methodist church, at Albany, on the doctrinal differences between the churches. His subject Wednesday night was "Baptism and Its Mode." It is said that as the Doctor is a theologian of national reputation the church was crowded to its fullest capacity. Dr. Driver is at home on an occasion of this kind, and, especially, when delegated to handle that and similar subjects. He is not only a controversialist but a vigorous debater who, as such, is never outclassed in his own opinion and very seldom in the opinion of others. He never surrenders, but always emerges from an intellectual conflict with his fighting clothes indicating that his antagonist has been kept at a safe distance. Whatever may be said of Dr. Driver, he is one of Oregon's wonderful men in physical and intellectual vigor and, after four score years of active service he remains hale and in his witty, pugnacious manner, ready for all comers who manifest a disposition to dispute his position on any question under the sun. That is the kind of man who makes the world move and gives the people something to think about.

At the last general conference of the Methodist church at Salem, Dr. Driver furnished the tobacco source for the evening of the daily sessions and was the Moses who led his brethren out of several prospective perplexing difficulties. He is one of the old-time Oregon pioneers who will leave the impress of a strong personality on the age in which he lives and everybody wishes that the number of his days may be indefinitely lengthened.

But the last paragraph of the telegraphic account of the present meeting at Albany, to the effect that "just when the discussion will end is uncertain," was wholly superfluous.

SHOULD WAIT.

We understand that the Democrats are going to celebrate "Jackson Day." One of the most amusing things in political life is a modern Democratic Jackson celebration. Our Democratic friends are ever protesting against the doing of things "because it is unconstitutional." Jackson's motto was: "To hell with the constitution." The Democrats are anti-imperialists; Jackson robbed Spain of Florida. The Democrats are for cheap money and free trade; Jackson was a sound money man and a protectionist. The Democrats are for the masses as against the classes; but Jackson was the most autocratic and arbitrary boss who ever ruled a political party in any country. As a matter of fact, the Democrats of this day would be more consistent in glorifying Mark Hanna than in worshipping Andrew Jackson—Yakima Republican.

Sure enough. As the Statesman said a few days ago while referring to the intention of the Clackamas county Democrats to celebrate "Jackson day," both he and Jefferson would fail to recognize their company in a modern Democratic meeting. There is not a semblance of similarity between the career of Jackson or Jefferson and that of W. J. Bryan, for instance. To be consistent, why do not our Democratic friends wait until the 19th of March and celebrate "Bryan Day?" There's a Democrat for you.

A DREADLESS SUPERSTITION.

The man who is at all superstitious will avoid the American twenty-five cent piece. On the face of that ill-starred coin are thirteen stars, thirteen letters in the scroll held in the eagle's beak, thirteen feathers in each of the eagle's wings, thirteen tail feathers, thirteen parallel lines in the shield, thirteen horizontal bars, thirteen arrow heads, and thirteen letters in the words "quarter dollar," which appear on the coin. The popularity of the quarter as a "tip" may have influenced the man who designed it.—Sacramento Union.

Just the same, the American quarter dollar is a very popular coin. The instance is not yet cited where any man in his right mind has refused to accept one of them or thousand. It would be difficult to discover the man so far accumbent to the influences of superstition that he would decline a silver quarter, or any number of them, on the thirteenth day of the month, even. In fact, the silver quarter has been a very lucky denomination, since it escaped the baleful influences of the crime of '73 without a scratch or blemish.

WHAT WILL THE ISSUE BE?

Although there is no evidence in any direction that President Roosevelt will not be easily nominated and as easily elected President next year, public interest is centered in the effort of Democratic leaders to agree upon what ground they will attack the Republican party. It is not a partisan view of the situation to say that the Democrats themselves do not know what they will say in their next platform that might furnish them with good campaign material, for they practically admit their helplessness at every turn.

This fact was more than usually exemplified yesterday at the meeting in Omaha, where over 500 prominent Democrats celebrated what was called "Jackson Day." Representative De Armond, of Missouri, was the principal speaker and voiced the dilemma which confronts his party in the following words:

"Can the Democratic party win the coming National election? Will the victory be ours? That is not so easily answered, for that depends upon what the party will say and do when next it convenes in National convention. If it shall wisely address itself to the issues of the day, asserting nothing offensively, apologizing for nothing, and shall name for its nominees men who ought to be and therefore will be acceptable to its rank and file, it will win. But if in folly it repudiates its past—its recent past—or if it needlessly antagonizes and drives away elements which were not without it or which left it in its recent past, the promises of the times and of conditions will prove delusive, and we shall go down to defeat. I have no platform to suggest, no candidates to commend to the exclusion of others."

Then, according to Mr. De Armond, if the Democratic party repudiates its recent past, it will go down to defeat, but nothing is more certain than that if the Democratic party does not repudiate its recent past it will meet exactly the same fate which that recent past accorded it. When after two most disastrous campaigns a party determines to follow the same path which led to a complete rout each time, its principal need would seem to be a leadership that is capable of leading somewhere other than to a repetition of former mistakes.

Mr. De Armond is a type of Democrat that knows nothing but Mr. Bryan and him nominated. He admits that if his party adopts a policy that will drive away those who "left it in the recent past," nothing but certain defeat will follow, yet, in the same breath, he protests against repudiating that very policy which drove those away who "left it in the recent past." This would seem to be the very essence of blind party stupidity.

While Republicans are not worrying about Democratic policies any further than to show some interest in what kind of opposition is going to confront them next year, yet any average Republican could give the Democratic party better advice for itself, even than any that crept to the surface in that brilliant assemblage in Omaha.

The only man who has been able to lead that party to victory since Buchanan's election nearly fifty years ago, is the strongest man it could name today as a Presidential candidate. Grover Cleveland could today poll a stronger popular vote than any other Democrat who could be named for the Presidency, but a blind devotion to "the recent past" excludes him from the list and Roosevelt's election is thus made more certain than it otherwise would be.

TOO TRUE.

Troy O. Democrat: A number of Republican newspapers appear anxious about the welfare of the Democratic party and seem to think that it cannot stand constant defeat. This is a mistaken idea. It was its last victory that injured the Democratic party more than all of its defeats.

This is gospel truth, and is an admission from headquarters that the normal position of the Democratic party is in the minority. Nothing hurts our friends of the opposition so much as to be placed in a position where their policies are forced into actual trial. This, the Ohio paper frankly admits. But the admission that "the last victory of the Democratic party injured it more than all of its defeats," only tells half the story. The entire country suffered as well as the party whose troubles, our Democratic exchange na-

OREGON FIFTY TWO YEARS AGO.

From the Statesman of Aug. 5, 1851.—Published at Oregon City.

"The Oregon Statesman.—We have received the first four numbers of a paper published at Oregon City with the above title by Asahel Bush, formerly of the Westport Standard. Long life, prosperity, a good wife and a change of politics to its editor.—Springfield Republican.

"So mote it be; barring a change of politics."—Editor Statesman.

"Oregon Wheat.—Mr. R. C. Geer, of Marion county, left at our office last week a 'stool' of wheat, the product of one grain, comprising two hundred and fifty-seven stalks, averaging sixty grains of wheat to the stalk, making on the whole, 15,420 grains."

"We hope this man will never attempt to deliver three temperance addresses 'precisely alike.'—Oregonian.

"We would like to know how you would deliver three addresses precisely alike. It strikes us it would be one address delivered in three places—Portland, Oregon City and Milwaukee."

Aug. 12, 1851.

"We notice that the Statesman finds it very convenient to take items of news from our columns without giving us the customary credit.—Oregonian.

"When we can't obtain 'items of news' from more credible and creditable sources than the Oregonian, we will cease to have any. However, he is at liberty to borrow election returns and other intelligence from us, as heretofore, without giving us credit."

"The mail closes on Friday next."

"Penurioseness."—Under this head we notice that the foolish story of the Spectator that the members of the Legislature of 1848-9 refused to pay for the penknives furnished them is floating about in the papers of the States."

mits, were the worst in its history. Of sheer generosity and a repugnance for a condition which brings so much grief all along the line, the Republicans will endeavor to prevent a repetition of such an unfortunate calamity.

"STONEWALL" WILLIAMS.

In addition to his well earned title of "Grand Old Man" Mayor Williams, of Portland, is entitled to the sobriquet of "Stonewall." Few men would withstand the pressure which has been brought to bear to induce him to remove Chief Hunt from the head of the Portland police department. Of course, Mayor Williams has not lived eighty years, most of them having been spent in public life, and many times being under the most severe fire himself, frequently of the most dirty character, without learning that, contrary to a well-worn maxim, there can often be a great deal of smoke without any fire whatever. If a crowd of politicians, pulling together for an agreed purpose, decide that some man is in their way, it is no trouble to start an immense amount of smoke without the formality of kindling any fire. If smoke is what is wanted, smoke will be forthcoming in quantities galore.

From this distance it is not easy to know the real condition of affairs in Portland, but the firmness of Mayor Williams in the matter of standing by his friends is to be commended. He believes the Chief to be honest, capable, and, unless he can be made to know to the contrary, he could not be expected to summarily remove him from the position he holds.

A communication published elsewhere concerning a proposition to ferret out

Women as Well as Men Are Made Miserable by Kidney Trouble.

Kidney trouble preys upon the mind, discourages and lessens ambition; beauty, vigor and cheerfulness soon disappear when the kidneys are out of order or diseased.

Kidney trouble has become so prevalent that it is not uncommon for a child to be born afflicted with weak kidneys. If the child urinates too often, if the urine scalds the flesh or if, when the child reaches an age when it should be able to control the passage, it is not uncommon for bed-wetting, depend upon it, the cause of the difficulty is kidney trouble, and the first step should be towards the treatment of these important organs. This unpleasant trouble is due to a diseased condition of the kidneys and bladder and not to a habit as most people suppose.

Women as well as men are made miserable with kidney and bladder trouble, and both need the same great remedy. The mild and the immediate effect of Swamp-Root is soon realized. It is sold by druggists, in fifty-cent and one dollar sizes. You may have a sample bottle by filling out a free-also pamphlet telling of Swamp-Root, and all about it, including many of the thousands of testimonial letters received from sufferers cured. In writing Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., be sure and mention this paper.

Don't make any mistake, but remember the name, Swamp-Root, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address, Binghamton, N. Y., on every bottle.

the means employed, and by whom, to suppress the anti-gambling bill, is worth reading. In fact, the attention of our readers is specifically directed to it. As the Statesman has heretofore said, it is not so much a question whether gamblers shall gamble as whether such a conspiracy shall be permitted to accomplish its unlawful object and escape punishment. Certainly there is not a newspaper in the state that would not gladly aid in discovering the means employed to thus interfere with the regular process of legislation. It was a proceeding that cannot be defended, and that forebodes no good to the history of future legislation in Oregon. To let the matter pass with no more than a passing notice and, as seems to be the case in some quarters, as a good joke that some man was shrewd enough to successfully "swipe" a bill from the lawmakers, is really one of the worst features of the entire circumstance. It should be the self-constituted duty of the officers of the Legislature to investigate the matter fully, especially that of the President of the Senate, instead of assuming an air of surprise that, since the Senate has adjourned, and can't now pass the bill, "what are they making all this fuss about, anyway?" Several men have publicly said they saw the bill after adjournment in the hands of an Eastern Oregon member of the House. Has the President of the Senate made any effort to ascertain if this is true? And if not, why not? The Spring Valley man is on the right track, for every good citizen of Oregon would like to know who stole that bill and how it was done, and who employed him to do it.

In many respects the New Year's number of the Oregonian is the most complete it has ever issued. It certainly covers the field in a magnificent manner, as, indeed, it always does. Without waiting to decide from personal perusal we are willing to declare that no better paper was issued in the United States on that day! And yet its very immensity, in the form in which it was printed, is a defect. Once opened out, not one reader in a hundred will ever get it together again and ninety per cent of its value is lost. This regrettable imperfection would be avoided if its publishers would use the Statesman as a model and print its large editions in bound form with smaller pages, the result being that a reader can occupy himself with its perusal at several different sittings, and, in the course of time, get it all. The New Year's edition of the Statesman can be had at ten cents a copy. Buy one and send it East.

Referring to the great fire in the troquise theatre in Chicago, the Pendleton Tribune very naturally recalls the terrible disaster which occurred at Heppner on the 14th of last June, but while one will suggest the other there is really no comparison between the two as to the percentage of loss of life or property according to the population of the two places. The loss of life in the Chicago fire is but one out of every three thousand of its people. If the great Heppner flood had killed but one person the per cent of loss would have been as great as that at Chicago. The Chicago disaster was a most horrible affliction, but the enormity of the Heppner calamity has never yet been fully appreciated by those who were not directly connected with the sufferers or who did not witness the scene immediately after its occurrence.

The state tax levy for next year provides for raising something over one million two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars for all purposes. This is the largest sum ever raised for the support of the state government, and other expenses, but is no more than the growth of the state will warrant. We have perhaps the cheapest state government in the Union and all its departments are conducted upon a very economical basis. The fact that a fourteen-year-old boy requires a pair of trousers five sizes larger than when he was a ten-year-old is no just ground for complaint against the boy, if he is ever to amount to anything.

At the delinquent tax sales for Marion county yesterday every piece of property was sold and nothing was bid in by the county. There was a buyer for every piece of land to be sold, while last year the county was forced to bid in more than fifteen hundred dollars worth for want of buyers. People came from everywhere to attend the sale yesterday, because they had heard of it. It had been advertised in papers that had a circulation. It is cheaper to advertise in some papers and pay well for it than to advertise in others for nothing, for it is business.

Up to date The Dalles Chronicle is the most enterprising paper in the state, its issue of January 2 having arrived here on New Year's day. It certainly scooped all its rivals in the matter of rapid delivery.

The English House of Lords has again decided that women shall not appear in the English courts as advocates. Miss Bertha Cave applied for admission as a student at Gray's Inn to attend a course of lectures and it was decided that there was no precedent for such action nor any need for making one.

HAS CHANGED BACK.
ASTORIA, Jan. 1.—The Morning Astorian, which consolidated with the Daily News four weeks ago and issued as an afternoon paper, will resume the morning flag tomorrow. The change is due to the general demand for a morning paper.

Orthopathy is a new but not an untried doctrine of health restoration. SCHOTTLE, BARR AND BARR, Orthopaths.

J. A. Shafer, of Turner, was a Salem visitor Saturday.

Editorial Sidelights

FOR LADIES ONLY.

The custom of removing their hats in theaters, which the ladies now uniformly follow, is one of quite recent origin, but it should be supplemented by a request, rigidly insisted upon, that they keep them removed to the very close of the play. Everybody has noticed that nine-tenths of the dear creatures who attend the theater will, as soon as the "curtain" of the play is reached, and conditions seem to indicate that the curtain will drop within two or three minutes, make a dive for their hats and just as the interested and anxious, but helpless man would give half his life to see the finish, a pair of hats goes skywards—accompanied by his patience—and the different angles of elbows as nimble fingers are endeavoring to locate hat pins in their proper places, form a network between him and the stage that makes him wish he had gone to the club in the first place.

And a careful and protracted investigation of the question fails to yield any rational solution of the habit. As a rule, the value of the entire play rests on what happens in the very last minute when some people would like to know how it ends. What is the use of sitting through two solid hours, being bored by the silly and always uncertain antics of Reginald and Etheline, only to be deprived at the last moment of finding out whether they finally married or whether the villain, after all, thwarted their hopes and left you a sadder and disappointed man?

And sometimes you would actually get the value of your entrance fee but for the incomprehensible determination of the average woman to see that no other woman gets ahead of her in the matter of getting that hat on. You would think it was a matter of life or death with them—that a message had just been handed in announcing the sudden sickness of baby at home or that the theater was on fire, that—perhaps, it was a matter of the very utmost importance whether the overgrown infatuation called a hat is placed before the public gaze two minutes before the curtain drops or whether that pressing function should be delayed until other people may have an opportunity to see all they paid for.

For instance, the other night when the Shirley Company was here, it was announced that at the very end of the play there would be a tableaux representing the execution of Madame DuBarry in the guillotine. Most of us had hoped to see that very deserving termination of a very discredit life. And it may have taken place on that very stage as announced, but just as the infuriated populace rushed in sight with the resisting prisoner, a perfect hail of hats went sailingward and to this hour no one can certainly say whether the promise was kept. The man who would not be driven to drink over such mistreatment is made of the stuff that is used to construct martyrs.

Of course, the average woman of today is herself but an Etheline with her experience somewhat in the past, and, therefore, thinks she can anticipate the outcome of these little love affairs on the stage, and doesn't care to see the conclusion, but the average man, on the other hand, wants, of course, to actually live it all over again. And when he wants to, he should be allowed to, especially since he has paid for it. So let him.

Ladies, please allow your pretty hats to remain in your laps until the end of the play. Remember that they, like yourselves, have a wide-spread influence that is absolutely appalling when given full sway in public assemblages. (The latter part of this expression has reference exclusively to the hats.)

The present custom, against which this is a polite protest, really dispenses with the necessity for a drop curtain altogether at the end of a play, since the women won't see what is going on anyway, and the poor men are as completely effaced from being any part of the audience as though they actually were not.

Rev. P. Minot Savage, of Boston, says "it is foolish to talk of elevating the stage," but if he had ever attended some of the performances at the Grand Opera House in Salem with about twenty-five chorus girls engaged in a bewildering piquette, he would complain that our stage is already elevated about a foot too high. Especially, if he sat in the front row of seats.

Nance O'Neill vehemently denies that she was hypnotized by her stage manager. We believe it. It was the stage manager who was in danger.

A "Sack Social" lately given at Eugene is said to have raised quite a sum for the Soldiers' Home at Roseburg. In heaven's name, is that institution becoming Jerry Simpsont?

Between a frantic effort to see that the Governor has all the credit for the session of the Legislature being a short one and abusing the Republican members because it was short, some active critics are kept quite busy.

The ladies of La Grande have an organization which they call the "Taka Club." If any of its members have drunken husbands they should put the advice which is suggested by the name of their local club into daily practice.

Since the outbreak at the Polson prison last summer Warden Wilkinson has been forced to resign his position and his successor is Mr. Archibald Yell. He is not acquainted with the new warden but can at once understand why he was selected over all other applicants for the position. In case any kind of disturbance arises it will go a long way toward insuring its ineffectual suppression if the officers can be inspired to immediate action by hearing Mr. Archibald Yell. It always has been a mistake to suppose there was nothing in a name.

The papers are just now printing an alarming array of statistics which go to prove that a very heavy preponderance of married men commit suicide as compared with those who are single, and the inference is freely indulged that, therefore, marriage is a glaring, gloomy and undoubted failure. The man who thus perverts the true lesson to be drawn from the figures as printed is a pitiable object of inexcusable stupidity. All this means is, merely, that the married man, having had a foretaste of heaven, becomes impatient to wander permanently in the realms of perpetual bliss, and concludes to hurry things along. That's all. On the other hand, the single man, living in perdition here, naturally manifests no haste to meet the fate which he, no doubt, suspects awaits him hereafter. The figures are all right if intelligently interpreted.

It is reported that Senator Smoot, of Utah, rather than have his domestic affairs investigated to ascertain whether he has two wives or more, will resign, after which he can exultantly point to the facts and say he is simply "resigned to his fate." But there is nothing unusual about his situation in this respect. Many a man with only one wife has, with Christian fortitude, become resigned to his fate, and, as safety pointed to no other course, has said nothing about it. There's nothing new in the Smoot case.

For Trade

OR

Will Sell

AT A BARGAIN.

A modern 8 room house, corner lot, 15x165, located three blocks from the business center; renting for \$12 per month.

Five room house, barn, lot 47x150, good location; renting for \$6 per month.

A modern 8 room house, barn, lot 46x160; renting for \$10 per month. Inside property.

A new 5 room house, lot 50x150, on car-line, in a good residence part of the city. Will exchange of sell on the installment plan.

A good farm to exchange for Eastern property—cheap lots, from \$60 to \$100.

I have a bargain in a small tract near the city. A good buy in a house and lot a few blocks from the Capitol. Anything you may want in real estate. Call.

House for rent.

H. S. RADCLIFF

Room 3, over Phone Office

Legal blanks at Statesman Job Office

Hair Falls

"I tried Ayer's Hair Vigor to stop my hair from falling. One-half a bottle cured me."

J. C. Saxter, Braidwood, Ill.

Ayer's Hair Vigor is certainly the most economical preparation of its kind on the market. A little of it goes a long way.

It doesn't take much of it to stop falling of the hair, make the hair grow, and restore color to gray hair.

\$1.00 a bottle. All druggists.

If your druggist doesn't supply you, send us one dollar and we will express you a bottle. Be sure and give the name of your nearest express office. Address J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.