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HOFER BROTHERS, - - - Editors.

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SATURDAY NIGHT SOLILOQUY.

What is the most important thing for an individual to achieve? From a material standpoint, let us say once for all, his personal independence and freedom. Intelligence and contentment are absurdities if the soul of the individual is not free, if his actions as a man are subservient to external influences, if his movements, ambitions and desires are subjugated to the will of another.

It is perhaps in our pecuniary and political relationships we are least free and most slavish to control of others, and most completely under the thralldom of prejudice. In these days of growth of personal equality few are dependent upon others for existence. The laws of society place no man beneath another's heel, unless it be thro' financial imprudence of the individual, or as a result of seeking or accepting political favor. Financially it is the individual's first and highest duty to be solvent—to owe no man anything, if possible, or in other words to enjoy the fruits only of his own labor. If he live within his income, he is never so little, he is independent. Live he beyond never so little he is a slave to exigency.

The most frugal meal, the barest room, the plainest or most patched garments that are paid for, are more becoming to the royalty of true manhood and womanhood than anything better that is obtained by incurring debt. Debt fetters the soul, limits growth of individuality and in the end unchains the victim of the habit. Instead of a proud self-reliant human creature, we have as a result an enfeebled, irresolute, trembling slave, whose soul no body can truly be called his own. The first essential of true personal independence is freedom from the debtor's chains. Be a man. Owe nothing but good-will to all. Debt not only enfeebles human effort but leads to knavery and destitution, in the end. Talking with an old warehouseman the other day he said: "I have run a grain warehouse twenty years and in all that time I never saw the time when the barrel could not have his grain or his coin. In that time nearly every warehouseman in this valley has failed for not observing this simple rule." There is a close kinship between debts, frauds and insolvencies. A firm recently failed in this city because they had too much standing out on their books. Who should take the moral responsibility of the assignment? The merchant or those who owed him? Surely the latter connived at his downfall. There is the other great obstacle to freedom of the individual growing out of this political conduct. Strange that in giving others the blessing of a free government, he should achieve serfdom! That in securing the rest of mankind political liberty, he should be chained to partisan prejudice! That the result of universal suffrage should result in individual disfranchisement! That equal rights for all at the polls should bring about nullification of the rights of one! Yet, this is to a certain extent true as a result of our political machinery. Is it not a fact? Is it not the highest duty of the patriot not to allow himself to be labeled in advance by the managers of party machinery, his vote tabulated on a memorandum placed in the hands of the party chairman, and on election day a prepared ticket is given him and he is voted by the machine along with other dumb political chattels, whose ballots are counted before they are cast? Should not the ballot of an intelligent man be directed by his own God-given intelligence rather than by the dictates of a political machine?

It will be said this is an argument for disloyalty to party? Far from it. It is an argument in favor of highest loyalty to party, and the party that allows the individual greatest individual freedom will secure the loyalty of the greatest number of intelligent voters.

Next to owing no man pecuniarily it is each man's highest duty to achieve his political freedom. The thinking and reading man need not the noise of trumpet or the roar of a stump speaker to set him right. He needs not to advertise his opinions and preferences. His silent ballot carries his best thought for the welfare and healing of the state. It counts as much, eye ten-fold more, if cast as the firm resolution of an upright manhood, unknown to the bull-dog bears of the most politics, where the money-changers of office-seeking must do congressate.

Let it be emphasized a thousand times, that the achievement of personal independence, resting upon perfect freedom from pecuniary and political restraint is the only insignia of an honorable manhood.

RECOGNITION OF ONE MAN POWER IN OREGON.

It is imagined by some that bossism is on the wane and that with popular political institutions, the Caesar and Napoleon become impossible. The autocrat is however not of the retiring order. The political boss is still in his glory in some states of the Union. In Oregon he has achieved singular triumphs, and received his apotheosis at the hands of representatives of the people. One-man power is in the ascendant. Twice has bossism been enthroned the past week in the Oregon legislature.

The state has exerted its power in politics at all times. The cloven foot has often exerted a greater force than moral principle. The mighty propinquity of selfishness has dispensed favors to its favorites until the heavenly ideals of democracy have wept and hidden away in shame.

Mr. Joseph Simon, who was repudiated at the primaries and polls of Multnomah county at the late elections, has been virtually placed in charge of one branch of legislation for the people. It was by a most cowardly and abject surrender of their franchises, by supposed representatives of political power residing in the people, that a boss repudiated in his own county was saddled upon the state. Does anyone pretend that Mr. Joseph Simon is popular with the people of this state? Is it imagined that his political associations and influences would serve as an oriflamme of victory with the voters of Oregon? No one believes these things. It is mockery of a people's government that a dictatorship, which is always repudiated by free voters at the earliest opportunity, should be placed in charge of their legislation.

In the democratic camp the situation is not more flattering for the people. Clean-handed and honest-hearted democrats were passed by and ignored in the democratic joint convention caucus and the party honors in this state placed upon the brow of an irresponsible and unmerited boss. It was in many senses an empty compliment, that "Barney" Goldsmith had been voted for as democratic candidate for United States senator. What became for the moment of all their boasted love of the farmer and laboring man, that they should thus lay their trophies at the feet of a Portland boss?

Those are fine things to put in the democratic platform, to catch farmer and labor voters with. With such platforms, even, they cannot get votes unless they back up their pretensions by nominating men of the people, like Governor Penoyer, Robt. A. Miller, Judge Bonham and others in whom the people have confidence. But those men and the platform they stood on are strangely forgotten, when the metropolitan boss demands the recognition of one-man power and a feather of glory in his cap, to control federal patronage with at the hands of some future democratic administration.

THE REPUBLICAN HOUSE CAUCUS FOR OPEN RIVERS.

The first house Republican caucus was held for the purpose of uniting the party on a plan concerning the proposed legislation for opening the Columbia river, and removing obstructions to river navigation. The house caucus agreed to have all such propositions referred to the committee on Federal Relations. It is a noteworthy fact that the party was moved to hold its first caucus on the subject of free and open rivers. It remains to be seen whether this party action will achieve any practical results. It is one thing to consider. It is another to do something. Legislatures do more of the former than of the latter. The iron grip of the corporations upon Oregon is such that they will not allow these rivers to be opened without a great struggle. Any propositions that look to preventing the railroads from taking millions out of the pockets of the producers and putting them into their own, are apt to meet with stern opposition in a senate that has made the receiver of one corporation its president and placed its committee on railroads in charge of the receiver of another. Receivers of wrecked railroads are not to be blamed for resisting measures that will make their business less profitable. The chances are that the action of the house is attaching so much importance to open rivers will be regarded as ridiculous by Mr. Joseph Irongrip Simon and the other corporation receivers and attorneys in the senate. If they consider the attitude of the house for open rivers at all serious, it will only be to repudiate its expressions.

The greatest obstruction to open rivers is the treacherous desertion, by alleged representatives of the people in the state and national legislatures, and pandering to the political tools of the corporations. That is an obstruction that the people themselves must remove by developing a greater sense of responsibility to their wishes.

But the situation is not confined to Oregon. Every few months the

telegraph tells of a new steel-armored cruiser being put afloat at a cost of from one to three millions. The American navy is being rehabilitated at a cost of from ten to twenty millions a year. Bills are before the senate of the United States, and actively pushed by Senator Dolph of Oregon, for an expenditure of \$50,000,000 for coast defenses. All this is being carried on while the people of great sections of Oregon and Washington are left with their crops to rot on their hands, while the only railroads that could help them are being crippled to help the grain speculators or used to enrich speculators of Portland landsharks. While the people are kept from freedom of markets and natural rights to use of rivers in transporting produce, as in no other country in the world, these corporations are wrecked and plundered and put in the hands of receivers to be further gutted. All this is done in the name of law. The government not only expends its millions for navies and war-defenses and neglects its rivers, but it allows the corporations which should serve the people to be used by individuals for individual ends. So far as a government of the people is distorted from its original purpose, that not only are the public transportation companies not free to be used by the people, but they are used against them. The people will say at every coming election, "to Hades with such legislation and the men who propose it."

FROM CHEMAWA.

Dr. Farley of Chemawa, has been up to Salem. He attended Mr. Longworthy, whose leg was broken at Labish disaster, and in three weeks the man could go home.

Prof. Robb—"Mr. Beatty, I want to buy some milk. Mr. Beatty—"All right, the I presume you are aware of the fact that the McKinley tariff has so affected the cattle trade and labor, that milk cannot be had for a "song."

Prof. R.—"I am not aware of anything of the kind." Mr. B.—"But it has, and thirty cents per gallon is cheap, considering the high tariff on wool and beef."

Prof. R.—"Well, I must have the milk." Mr. B.—"All right, I raise both wool and woolsens and manufacture milk, so you can have it."

The Prof. thinks that this is democracy "gone to seed." The woods are full of workers, wood cutting, plowing, sowing and a general waking up is being experienced. Large tracts of land are being divided and sub-divided, thus making homes for the many instead of the few.

A hopeful year is before us and an immense crop is expected this season. Thousands of acres are being planted in fruit trees and many thousands more are being planted in grain.

Every body is pleased in choice of the United States senator. Imitated The Queen. Juliet asks Romeo, "What's in a name?" apparently deeming one designation as good as another in a warm climate. But there are Juliets in dear old England who have their own opinion on the subject. At a recent provincial exhibition a sumptuously bound visitors' book was placed in the lobby and the great show was opened by her Majesty, who was accompanied by the Princess Henry of Battenburg. The local Mayor, a highly respected tradesman (gas fitter and plumber, I believe), accompanied by his wife, was of the royal party. As usual, the Queen placed her name in the visitors' book as "Victoria," the princess following with "Beatrice"; then came the Mayor's wife, who, seeing what had gone before, wrote with a bold, steady hand "Jane." The official who had charge of the book has not been seen since. He is believed to have exploded in an ante-room.—Dumbarton (Scotland) Lenox Herald.

A Serious Joke.

In Oregon they are proposing Governor Penoyer for the presidency, as a joke. Many a joke of that sort turns out serious. Ten years ago in California it would have been considered a joke to propose Stanford for the senate. Fifteen years ago in Buffalo it would have been a joke to suggest Cleveland for the presidency. What a howling joke at one time it would have been to name Grant as president. Why should not Penoyer aim at the White House when Harry White ventures to think of the senate? —Seattle Telegraph.

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