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Poetry.

From the Atlantic Monthly for April.

A Birthday Tribute.

BY THE "PROFESSOR."

We will not speak of years to-night;
For what have years to bring,
But larger floods of love and light
And sweeter songs to sing?

We will not drown in wordy praise
The kindly thoughts that rise;
If friendship owns one tender phrase,
He reads it in our eyes.

We need not waste our schoolboy art
To gild this notch of time;
Forgive me, if my wayward heart
Has throbbed in artless rhyme.

Enough for him the silent grasp
That knits us hand in hand,
And he the bracelet's radiant clasp
That locks our circling band.

Strength to his hours of manly toil!
Peace to his starlit dreams!
Who loves alike the furrowed soil,
The music-haunted streams!

Sweet smiles to keep forever bright
The sunshine on his lips,
And faith, that sees the ring of light
Round Nature's last eclipse!

Miscellaneous.

MANHATTAN, RILEY CO., KANSAS, May 27th, 1859.

GEO. W. BROWN, Esq.:—The local news in this neighborhood is rather plenty now, if we can believe all we hear, but I prefer waiting a week or so and have it authentic, rather than give every idle rumor which may be without foundation. The story of Mr. Holbroech, ferryman on the Big Blue, at Marysville, about fifty miles north of this place, killing four returned "Pike's Peakers," by shooting them with a revolver, in a quarrel originating in a refusal to pay toll, is all untrue.

Several horses were stolen on Mill and Wild Cat creeks, but they have nearly all been recovered. The thieves were dressed like Indians, and it is supposed they belong to the Iowa tribe. They were pursued up the Big Blue river and overtaken at a house where they had stopped. They were about forcing a woman to cook them a meal of victuals; when their pursuers came in sight, the Indian who had been detailed as guard immediately gave the alarm, when they mounted the stolen horses and rode for the fording of a creek which, fortunately, was too high for them to ford. They abandoned the stolen horses and, leaving some blankets and other Indian "fixings," swam the creek. One of the Indians, or those taken for Indians, was shot at, but it is not known whether the ball took effect or not. A messenger, it is said, will leave to-morrow for the reservation with the blankets, &c., to inform the Indian Agent. Complaint has also been made to the commanding officer at Fort Riley; what advantage will result therefrom I am unable to say.

A man by the name of Ligman, formerly of Illinois, whose family he left in Missouri until he could select a claim, was killed near Marysville, on the old Mormon road, last Friday. He was buried by some emigrants, but the cayote wolves desecrated the sanctity of the grave; he was afterwards re-interred by the citizens. It is supposed that he was murdered by those horse thieving Indians, but it is only a supposition, without any evidence of the truth of the assertion.

I promised in my last to give you the particulars of the late tornado at Manhattan. I learn from Gen. A. J. Mead that the aggregate damage to tenements alone is about $10,000. The house built by the Blue Mont Hotel Company, to be occupied as a boarding house for the hands engaged at work on the hotel, and formerly occupied by Samuel Willison, is a complete wreck. Also Willison's blacksmith shop, Frederick Marvins' house, occupied at the time by Cyrus Stevens and Frank Hye; Samuel G. Hoyt and Horace Eells' house was torn all to pieces. Mr. Hoyt was City Treasurer; $380 in money, belonging to the city, was lost, only $80 of which has yet been recovered. The cabinet shop of Messrs. H. & E. was removed about four rods from its foundation. There were five trunks in the house of H. & E.; four of them were destroyed; a part of one was picked up by the "Gus Linn," on the Kaw river, a day's sailing below Manhattan. Mr. Hymnes' house was destroyed. The office of Clarke & Pierce, attached to the "Aid Company's Mill," costing $175, was blown into the Blue river, and floated down some distance. The west end of the "Emigrant Aid Company's" steam saw mill was blown in and the smoke stack blown down. The roof of the "Pike's Peak Hotel" (John Pandaries') was blown off; the roof of Newell's hotel was damaged and the chimney blown down; the roof of a stone house owned by Dr. J. W. Robinson, was blown off, as well as the roof of the new Congregational church, (Rev. C. E. Blood's); the house of Mr. Reizenir is a wreck and must be torn down; Mr. Files' house was damaged; the frame of a new store house, owned by Messrs John Pipper & Son, was blown down.

On the Pittsburg side of the Big Blue there was a boy in the second story of a log house, the upper story of which was blown down and the boy carried some distance uninjured. A great many fences were blown down and much injury thereby sustained by the farmers, but, singular as it may appear, I cannot learn that any lives were lost.

Your compositor, or my bad writing, made me say that Mrs. Brown was formerly Mrs. Sarah Pipher, daughter of John Pipher, &c., it should have been Miss Sarah Pipher.

About the 16th or 17th inst. a dispute arose on Chapman's creek, between Michael Lennon and wife and some persons, as I am informed, who came to their house to dispossess them of their claim. Mrs. Margaret Lennon, wife of Michael, was shot in the breast by a pistol, which resulted in her death about two hours after she was shot. The following persons are now in custody, charged with the offence:

Mr. Adam Shane, Mrs. Elizabeth Shane, (formerly Miss Lennon,) Daniel Lennon, Michael Branick, Patrick Lennon and Andrew Watson.

Since the above was written I have seen Wm. J. Bassett, of Manhattan, Sheriff of Riley county, and officer Robert Tilsley, of Ogden, who inform me that the pistol was fired by Daniel Lennon, against whom the Grand Jury of this Judicial District, found a true bill for horse stealing. Daniel brought the above parties down to Ogden from Chapman's Creek, a distance of fifty miles, for the purpose of *proving his innocence*. District Attorney Barry being present at the examination, was of the opinion that in their testimony they implicated *themselves*, and caused all of the above named parties to be arrested. They are, at the time of writing, (May 30th, at 2 o'clock P. M.) in the custody of Sheriff Bassett and officer Tilsley. The County Board meets this evening, and will determine what disposition will be made of the prisoners. I may be able to send you a postscript before you go to press, informing you of the result of the decision of the Board.

I am truly yours, A. M. BURNS.

Land Reform.

At a Floral Fete recently held at Palace Garden, New York city, the Hon. G. A. Grow, M. C., spoke as follows on Land Reform:—

He commenced with the discovery of the New World by Columbus, and traced the history of the policy pursued since that time in relation to the public lands of America. He characterized the present system of dealing with the public domain by our Government as a relic of feudalism. We had at present 1,000,000-000 acres of public land undisposed of, and the question was what should be done with it. The whole cost to the Government of all the lands it had ever owned, including those at present undisposed of, had been in round numbers $129,000,000. It had already received from sales of public lands $168,000,000. Leaving a balance in favor of Government of $29,000,000. So that if the government were to give away the remainder, it could not be said they had lost anything in their land speculations. On the contrary, they had already realized a large profit, and this profit was the result of the hard earnings of the pioneer settlers. He thought that the Government should now abandon a system that was contrary to the spirit of our institutions, and contrary to the best interests of the people. It was time to return to the good policy adopted by our Puritan fathers when they landed at Plymouth, and distribute the land equally among the actual settlers. Again, under the present system, the settler rarely got the land even at the Government price, but speculators intervened between him and the Government. This was the worst feature of the present system; it opened the door to grasping and extravagant land monopoly—a gigantic evil, whose blighting influence was plainly apparent in the present condition and past history of Great Britain. It was often urged that the principles of the land reformers were leveling and agrarian. So are all new principles in the eyes of conservatives when they are first announced. So were the principles of Christ to the Jews, and the principles of the Declaration of Independence to the monarchists of Europe. The history of this country, ever since that Declaration, had been one of continued social leveling. Again, there were others who opposed land reform because it deprived the Government of $1.25 per acre for its land. But what was gained to the Government in this way was a loss to the people, and in this country the interests of the people are to be consulted first of all. The wealth of a country consisted, not in the amount of money received into its coffers, but in the prosperity and happiness of its people. The greatest and the richest country was that which presented the greatest number of happy firesides; and the best way to make a contented, virtuous, and moral people, was to give them homes. Give a man a hearthstone and he will soon surround it with household gods. A contented and prosperous rural population was the bulwark of a nation. It was the source of virtue in time of peace, and the surest and most reliable defence in the time of war. The decay of Italian liberty, and the decline of its prosperity, was due to its mistaken policy with regard to the agricultural interests. Had the laws of the Gracchi been adopted, its star of empire would still shine where the ivy entwines its broken columns, and its blooming campana would yet blossom where fester its Pontine Marshes. Let us then favor a policy that shall increase the number, and dignify the character of the tillers of the soil.

Mr. Grow continued at length to urge the importance of providing the landless with a home, as being the wisest policy the Government can pursue, besides being an act of justice to the pioneers of the soil.

Industry.

Toil is the price of sleep and appetite, of health and enjoyment. The very necessity which overcomes our natural sloth, is a blessing. The world does not contain a briar or a thorn that divine mercy could have spared. We are happier with the sterility which we can overcome by industry, than we could be with the most spontaneous and unbounded profusion. The body and mind are improved by the toil that fatigues them; that toil is a thousand times rewarded by the pleasure which it bestows. Its enjoyments are peculiar; no wealth can purchase them, no insolence touch them.—They only flow from the exertion which they repay.

Speech of Eli Thayer, on the Admission of Oregon

MR. SPEAKER:—My colleague [Mr. DAWES] who has just addressed the House, is unable to see how an honest Representative of the State of Massachusetts can vote for the admission of Oregon. Well, in the exercise of charity, I can see how a Massachusetts Representative, both honest and patriotic, can vote *against* the admission of Oregon. He can do it by not comprehending the question, or he may do it in obedience to party dictation. I will now show my colleague how an honest Representative can vote *for* the admission, if he will listen to my argument and the reasons which I shall give in defence of my position.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a strange necessity that compels the Northern Representatives upon this floor to give the reasons for their votes for the admission of another Free State into this Confederacy. Sir, I shall vote for the admission of the State of Oregon without hesitation, without reluctance and without reserve. So far as my vote and my voice can go, I would extend to her such a welcome as becomes her history, as becomes our own high renown for justice and magnaminity—a welcome not based on contemptible political calculation, or still more contemptible partisan expediency; but such a welcome as sympathy and friendship and patriotism should extend to another new State; such, sir, as becomes the birthday of a nation.

This people comes before us in accordance with the forms of law, and upon the invitation of this House; and it is too late to apply a party test upon this question. On the 19th of May last, a vote was taken in the Senate upon the admission of Oregon, and eleven Republican Senators voted for her admission, while six Republican Senators only voted against her admission; and, sir, I have not heard of any attempt on the part of the six Senators, who voted for the rejection of Oregon, to read out of the Republican party the eleven Senators who voted for her admission; and if that attempt is now to be made, we will see whether it is in the power of a minority of the people to read a majority out of the party.

But, sir, who are these people of Oregon, who come here now, asking admission? They are the pilgrims of the Pacific coast. If they are fanatics upon some subjects, we can refer to the pilgrims of the Atlantic coast, who also were fanatics upon some subjects. But, sir, if the pilgrims of the Atlantic coast finally became examples to the world in all that exalts our race, may we not hope that the pilgrims of the Pacific coast may yet become worthy of our esteem?

Nearly one-quarter of a century ago, in my boyhood, I studied the adventures of those men, who founded upon the western shore of the American continent what are now the cities of Oregon and Astoria. These men, who were then in the vigor of their lives, are now old men—gray-haired and trembling with age. Their work of life is nearly completed; and this day they are sitting by their hearthstones, waiting to know what is to be the result of our deliberations; waiting to know whether the proud consummation to which they have aspired for the last twenty years is now reached; and whether Oregon, which, in toil and trial, in defiance of danger and of death, and with persistence and endurance such as belong only to our race, they have brought to her present proud and prosperous condition, is now to be placed upon an equality with the original States of this Confederacy.

These are the men who have carried our institutions to the remotest boundaries of our Republic. These are the veterans of the art of peace. American valor with conquering arms has carried our flag by Monterey and Chepultepec, until it was planted upon the halls of the Montezumas. But far beyond those halls have these heroes borne the victorious arts of peace. In the Territory of Oregon, they have established our free institutions. There, sir, strong and deep, they have laid the foundations of a free State, and they come here, like the wise man of the East, not *asking* gifts, but *bringing* gifts; in that respect unlike our military men, who expect and receive honors and rewards for their services.—What do they bring? Why, sir, the trophies of their own labor, the evidences of their own worth. They present before us the cities and towns which they have founded. They present schools, churches, and workshops. They bring all, all the products of their labor, and place them upon the altar of the Union, a pledge for the common welfare and the common defence. And what are we doing here? Why, sir, quibbling about things which are comparatively unessential, and which pertain exclusively to the people of Oregon, and not to us or our duties here; quibbling about points which, if New York or Massachusetts were in the place of Oregon, would secure some votes on this side of the House against their admission. Massachusetts, which you know, sir, I never defend anywhere, even Massachusetts does not allow the negro to be enrolled in the militia of the State. These, then, are the men who come here; and what if they have some ideas and sentiments with which we do not agree—is that a reason why we should excommunicate them; that we should have nothing hereafter to do with them?

What law of reformation is this? It is the pharisaical law of distance, distrust, and derision. It is not the Christian law of contact, confidence, and communion. The Pharisees denounced the Founder of Christianity as "the friend of publicans and sinners." That class would repel all who do not agree with them to the fullest extent. Shall we pursue a similar course in relation to the people of Oregon? Is it wise to do so? Is it expedient to reject their application on such grounds?

What objections do Republicans present to this application? They say there is not sufficient population, and they claim that it is their mission to see that the Democratic party shall recover its consistency. At whose expense? At the expense of the consistency of the Republican party. I submit that it is better for the Republican party to preserve for itself the consistency which it possesses, rather than attempt to recover for the Democrats the consistency which they have lost.

Then, sir, in relation to this qualification of population, what is the position of the Republican party, and what has it been? This party, by its Representatives, voted for the admission of Kansas under the Topeka Constitution, with less than one-half of the present population of Oregon. The Republican party in the House, without one exception, so far as I know, voted for the Enabling Act, inviting Oregon to come here, with a Constitution, to be admitted as a State. I have no disposition, and there is no need, to inquire here what is the population of Oregon; for, as a Republican, I am pledged to no rule on the subject. I opposed, as did my colleague, and my friends on this side of the House, the restriction which was put upon the Territory of Kansas.—We protested against it then, and protest against it now. We have no sympathy whatever with that restriction, and are ready, at any time, to gve an honest vote for its repeal.

Another objection is urged against the clause in the Constitution of Oregon which excludes negroes and mulattoes from that Territory; and, in addition, provides that they shall not bring any suit therein. It is said that this is in contravention of the Constitution of the United States. This I do not admit.—But what if it is? The Constitution presented by the people of Oregon is not submitted to our vote. We cannot amend it; all we have to do about it is to see that it is republican in form. If it is unconstitutional, it is not in the power of Congress to impart to it the least vitality, and it will fall by its own weight. But gentlemen argue here, as if we could by our votes give life and power to an instrument in violation of the Constitution of the United State. Sir, this argument is weak and futile. Congress itself derives its own vitality from the Constitution, and how can it impart a greater vital force than it has received? The stream cannot rise above its source.

But should the Constitution of Oregon be proved unconstitutional before the proper tribunal, then, sir, will it follow that we have violated our oaths, by admitting Oregon into the Union with that organic law? By no means. We have not sworn that the people of Oregon shall support the Constitution of the United States. We have sworn to support it ourselves, not that anybody else shall do so.

But, sir, this provision is no more hostile to the United States Constitution than are the laws of Indiana and Illinois which exclude free negroes and mulattoes from their boundaries. Certainly not. It is no more to exclude the suit of the negro man, than to exclude the man himself. Is the negro less than his suit? I contend that he is greater than his suit. The greater contains the less, and the statutes of Illinois and Indiana are as unconstitutional as is the provision of the Oregon Constitution. But it does seem, at the first view, that it was a wanton and unprovoked outrage upon the rights of these men who are excluded from that State. I think there is a real apology for the action of the States of Illinois and Indiana. They are in close proximity to the institution of slavery. They are under the shadow of the dying tree of slavery, and its decaying limbs are constantly threatening to fall upon their heads; and I cannot censure them for taking such means as they see fit, to protect themselves from such imminent peril. I am not disposed to call into question the right or constitutionality of their action.

Is there *no apology*, then, for the people of Oregon? Have they committed a wanton and unprovoked outrage upon the rights of negroes and mulattoes, in excluding them from that Territory? I say that there *is* an apology, and that it consists in this: they believed that they were obliged to choose between a free State Constitution with this provision, and a slave State Constitution without it. There were three parties in the Territory at the time this Constitution was made and adopted. There was the Free State party, which was composed of Free State Democrats and Republicans. There was the Pro-slavery party, in favor of a slave State. There was, between these two, a very considerable party, supposed to hold the balance of power, and that party I may characterize as the anti-negro party. They said that they would sooner vote for a slave State than for a free State with a Constitution admitting free negroes and mulattoes. They preferred to have slaves in Oregon rather than free negroes; and it was for the purpose of securing their vote for a free State that the Republicans and Free State Democrats inserted and advocated this provision. The leading Republicans of that Territory advocated the adoption of the Constitution containing this provision. Mr. Logan, who received every Republican vote for United States Senator, advocated, on the stump, the adoption of the Constitution with this clause.

What was the vote? Why, sir, this clause of the Constitution had a majority of seven thousand five hundred and fifty nine votes; while the Constitution itself had a majority of only four thousand votes. The Democratic majority in the Territory, as shown in the election of a Representative to this House, was only one thousand six hundred and thirteen votes. Then it is proved by the official record, that the Republican party combined with the Free State Democratic party to sanction and ratify this provision of the Constitution which is here called in question. There is also abundant evidence, outside of the record, to satisfy any one that such is the fact. This, then, is the apology for the action of the people of Oregon on this question. What Republican, or what friend of free States, is justified, under these circumstances, in voting to exclude the people of Oregon from this Confederacy on account of this provision, which is only an expedient, and not a thing for practical use? It is very easy, at this distance, to censure the people of Oregon, and to pronounce judgment against them; but such judgment may be neither wise nor just.

"Then at the balance let's be mute,
We never can adjust it;
What's done we partly may compute,
But know not what's resisted."

But, sir, there is another objection urged from certain quarters, with great pertinacity. I mean the objection to the suffrage of aliens. The Constitution of Oregon, in respect to alien suffrage, is certainly more stringent than the law in some of the States of the Union, and less stringent than that of others. It is the same as the Territorial law has been during the last ten years. It requires a residence of twelve months in the United States, or six months in Oregon. It requires that the sworn declaration of an intention to become a citizen of the United States shall have been on file at least one year. What was the inducement for that encouragement of aliens? The wages of labor are now, and have been, in Oregon, double what they are on the Atlantic coast; and I ask, would it be expedient or wise for Oregon to drive away from her borders the emigration from Europe, on which she has to rely for developing the resources of the country? Certainly not. Such a policy would have been disastrous in the extreme to the young State. It was wise and prudent, therefore, for Oregon to invite and encourage that immigration which she so much needs, to develop her great resources, and to secure for her the products of her natural wealth.

These, sir, are among the plausible and ostensible objections that have been urged on this side of the House against the admission of Oregon. There is yet another argument: that Kansas has been excluded from the Union by the action of the Democratic party; and that, therefore, Republicans ought to exclude Oregon.—The argument amounts to this: that we should abuse Oregon because the Democratic party have abused Kansas. Now I, for one, am quite content that the record of the Republicans, in respect to Oregon, should be better than the record of the Democratic party in respect to Kansas. I am quite content that the record of the Democratic party, in respect to Kansas, should be just what it is; and I do not think it is possible very much to improve the Republican record, or to impair the Democratic record. Are we to sacrifice our own political principles and advantages, for the sake of compelling the Democratic party to consistency of action? Are we bound, as a party, to sacrifice our own consistency in doing so? Certainly not. I think the Republican party has another, and, to my mind, a less difficult mission to perform; and that is, to preserve its own consistency.

These are some of the palpable objections that have been urged on this floor. I come now to some for which I thank the gentleman from Indiana, [MR. HUGHES.] He has presented to the House some *secret* objections which the Republicans are said to have to the admission of Oregon. The first is, that the Republicans are opposed to the admission of Oregon because it is a Democratic State. Now, sir, does not the gentleman from Indiana understand that the Republican party is not so devoid of sagacity as to fail to see that to reject a young State for the reason that it is Democratic would make it Democratic forever? Does the gentleman from Indiana find anything in the history of the Republican party which justifies such conviction of its stupidity, as would lead him to say that the Republican party, as a party, is opposed to the admission of a Free State because her people had chosen such politics as seemed to them best? Does he not see that sagacious Republicans, finding that the Republican party in Oregon is now in a minority of only a few hundred votes, understand that if Oregon be admitted by their action, and were thus set free from the influence of Executive patronage, she would very soon become a Republican State?

But further than that: the gentleman brings up another secret reason why the Republicans would oppose the admission of Oregon. That secret reason is, that, in case of the failure of the people to elect a President, and in case of that election coming to this House, there will be a vote from Oregon against the Republican candidate, which may procure his defeat. Now, does not the gentleman from Indiana understand that any such position of the Republican party would secure its defeat? That if it were stupid enough to take a position against the admission of free States, because their Constitutions were not universally approved, it would require more than the vote of one State, either in Congress or out of Congress, to help or harm the prospects of the party? I thank the gentleman from Indiana for the secret reasons which he has given, and which I have thus far been enabled to prove too absurd and impolitic to influence the action of the Republican party.

There are certain principles which, in my opinion, should govern the House on a question of the admission of a State.—First, the Constitution must be republican in form. Second, there must be sufficient population; what number may be sufficient, must be left to the discretion of Congress. Third, the proposed admission must be shown to be for the benefit of the contracting parties; to be best for the State applying, to be best for the Confederacy. Let us look at these principles, and see how they should affect the vote on the admission of Oregon. First, then, is the Constitution, presented by Oregon, republican in form?

I will here send to the Clerk's desk a quotation from an authority which is justly and generally respected by Republicans—an extract from a speech of Senator Seward, made in the Senate of the United States last May, upon this very question.

The Clerk read, as follows:

"I think there is nobody who doubts that the people of Oregon are to-day ready, desirous, willing to come in. They have made a Constitution which is acceptable to themselves, and a Constitution which, however it may be criticised here, after all, complies substantially with every requirement which the Congress of the United States, or any considerable portion of either House of Congress, has ever insisted on in regard to any State.

"It seems to me, therefore, to be trifling with the people of that community, and to be unnecessary, and calculated to produce an unfavorable impression on the public mind, in regard to the consistency of the policy which we pursue in admitting States into the Union, to delay or deny this application. For one, sir, I think that the sooner a Territory emerges from its provincial condition, the better; the sooner the people are left to manage their own affairs, and are admitted to participation in the responsibilities of the Government, the stronger and the more vigorous the States, which those people form, will be. I trust, therefore, that the question will be taken, and that the State may be admitted without further delay."

MR. THAYER. So much, then, in relation to the first principle which should govern our action in the admission of States. And what, sir, concerning the other? How will it affect this present Confederacy of States, to admit the Territory of Oregon? Why, gentlemen talk here as if we were discussing the question of admitting some new and unheard-of race of monsters and cannibals into the Union! Sir, is not this injustice to the people of Oregon? Will they contaminate this Confederacy? Just as much as their mountain streams will contaminate the Pacific ocean. I tell you, they may be inferior to us in education, in refinement, and in etiquette; they may not appear as well in the drawing-room as some of our Eastern exquisites; but in the sturdy virtues of honesty, of fidelity, of industry, and of endurance, they are above the average of the people of this Confederacy. I regret that the gentleman from Maine [Mr. Washburn] the other day deemed it expedient to call the pioneers of our national progress "interlopers, runaways and outlaws." I affirm, concerning American citizens in any Territory of the United States, and in any new State of this Confederacy, that they are above the average of the population of the old States, in all that makes up manly and virtuous character. They have my sympathy; and never will I oppress them by my vote or my voice.

But, sir, what if the people of Oregon were really as bad as the most unfavorable construction of their Constitution, and the speech of my colleague [Mr. Dawes] would represent them to be, then what should we gain by refusing them admission into the Union? If the objectionable features in their Constitution are their true sentiments, and are placed in the organic law for use, and not for expediency, then surely the evil is deeper than the ink and parchment of their Constitution. It is in the hearts of the people, and will not be eradicated by any harsh treatment that gentlemen on this floor may recommend. I doubt whether you will effect the salvation of the people of Oregon by heaping curses on their heads, or by excluding them for unworthiness. You may send them away from the door of the Capitol, but they will go thinking less of you, and less subject thereafter to your influence. They may come again with a hypcritical Constitution, trusting to effect by statute law what you would not allow in organic law. They may not come at all, or they may come with a Constitution tolerating Slavery. Discouraged and repulsed by Northern votes—finding no sympathy where they had most right to expect it, they might not be able longer to resist the Slave State party in the Territory, acting under the Dred Scott decision. Is it not right, therefore, for the lovers of freedom to advocate the immediate transition of Oregon from the condition of a Territory in which slavery is lawful, to the condition of a State in which it is forbidden? Which do we choose, a *slave Territory* or a FREE STATE?

But, sir, there is another argument which may influence some members who doubt the security of this Union of State. By this act which I now advocate, we shall bind firmly to the old States, by indissoluble bonds, the remotest portions of our possessions. This will make secure all intermediate parts of the national domain.

This, then, may be grateful assurance to such as want assurance about the permanency of the Union. For myself, I have not much respect for any such assurance, but I do have an utter contempt for any doubts on the subject. This Union, Mr. Speaker, is not a thing to be argued for and advocated: it is a thing settled, fixed, and determined. Far transcending in importance the temporary convenience of any one State or of all the States, it is in our hands, a trust, not for our posterity only, but for the world.—We are bound to deliver it unimpaired to succeeding generations, and WILL so deliver it. THE UNION IS AND WILL BE.

If, then, there is a great gain to the Confederacy, is it not also better for the people of Oregon themselves that she should be admitted into the Union? Is it better that they should remain under the tuition of this Federal Government—a non-resident Government—or that they should govern themselves? Why, sir, to contend against the advantages of self-government, would seem to me unsuited to this place, and not to comport well with the history of this republic; for the origin of this nation was a protest against a non-resident Government, and our history should be. For one, sir, I have no faith in that kind of government being exercised over Anglo-Saxons anywhere, and least of all have I faith in that kind of government being exercised by republics anywhere; and therefore, to relieve a portion of our people from what I consider a curse—the curse of a non-resident domination—I will cheerfully vote for the admission of Oregon.

Sir, this non-resident control is a relic as it was an invention of ancient tyranny. It has come down from the history of the old Romans, who had proconsuls in Judea, in Spain, in Gaul, in Germany and in Britain; and England has copied their example, and sent Governors and Governor Generals to India, and to this continent also. But we protested successfully against that kind of government by the war of the Revolution; and I look forward to the time when every portion of our national domain shall be free from it; when we shall have no provincial dependencies whatever; when we shall have nothing but a combination of equal and sovereign republics. Then, sir, we may bring the duties of this Government to a position where they will be, as was well said last session by the gentleman from Alabama, [Mr. Curry,] "few and simple," as they should be.

It is in accordance with this view that I shall oppose anything that leads to complications—that shall multiply or extend our provincial dependencies.

I shall oppose all protectorates over foreign countries; all military occupations and military usurpations; all annexation of territory, except as independent sovereignties acquired and at the same time admitted into the Union by treaty stipulations as States equal to any in this Confederacy. It will never do for us to imitate the despotisms of Europe. We must adhere to the original, simple plan of this Confederacy, which did not contemplate provincial dependencies, or armies and navies, necessary for their acquisition and control.

So far as we deviate from the simplicity of the plan of the fathers, just so far shall we advance towards danger, disaster and destruction.

But, Mr. Chairman, I did wish to review the action of the minority of the Committee on Territories in relation to this question, but my time has nearly expired, and I can only refer to it.

They have reported the bill of the majority with an additional provision repealing the clause of the English bill restricting the right of Kansas to come into the Union with a less population than ninety-three thousand. Now, sir, I had supposed that the gentlemen of the minority of the committee would have voted for the bill which they have reported, but speeches have been made by two of the gentlemen who signed that report, [Mr. Grow and Mr. Granger,] in which they went off on an altogether different line of reasoning.—They have talked about the unconstitutionality of the Constitution of Oregon, and about its invasions of human rights, without confining themselves at all to the argument of their minority report. They argue that whoever may vote for the admission of the State, will properly be held responsible for all these outrages. And now I wish to know for what consideration the signers of that report are willing to ignore all these revered human rights, invaded and ruined by the Constitution of Oregon? I have their reply in this report. On one condition they are willing to sanction all these outrages; and that condition is, that a certain act concerning Kansas shall be repealed. If the report is in good faith, there can be no other conclusion.

[Here the hammer fell.]

Rhubarb Wine—How to Make It.

Some time since we published a notice of wine made from pie-plant or rhubarb. It had been tasted by a number of good judges, who did not know its source, and pronounced a very fair sample of pale sherry. It certainly did resemble that wine both in appearance and taste. It not only deceived wine-drinkers here, but a sample sent to Cincinnati, was tasted by men skilled in the art of tasting wines and detecting adulterations, and called a good sample of American sherry, only wanting age to be excellent. Basing an opinion upon our own judgment, we have and do pronounce it as much superior, as a beverage, to half the costly wines sold in this city, as pure otard brandy is superior to "fighting rum," such as is manufactured in New York, and which, in its turn, manufactures demons out of human beings. Now since mankind will have something stimulating, and since it is fashionable for all who can afford it, to drink wine, and since a very abundant quantity of something that, at least will serve as a good substitute, can be made from rhubarb stalks, we repeat our recommendation of that kind of juice.

HOW RHUBARB WINE IS MADE.—Since our first notice, our letters of inquiry, "How is it made?" have been too numerous to answer, if we had known how, but as we did not, we wrote to B. P. Cahoon of Kenosha, Wis., who, so far as we are informed, originated the rhubarb wine manufacture, from his remarkable seedling pie-plant, which grows larger than any other known variety.

The following is Mr. Cahoon's reply:

"Herewith I send you a sample of 'pie-plant wine,' made last September, by mixing equal quantities of water with the juice of the stalks, and to each gallon, 3½ lbs fair quality of New Orleans sugar, put in barrels, filled full, and fined with isinglass, and allowed to remain in the barrels till spring, and then bottled. By adding or diminishing the quantity of sugar it will vary the strength of the wine in the same proportion. The pure juice, without water, makes a very strong wine, by using 4 lbs of sugar to each gallon."

It appears that the process is exactly that with currant-juice, blackbery-juice, elderberry-juice, gooseberry-juice, or any other juice, such as has long been used in families all over the country, for the manufacture of beverages called wine.

The advantage of the rhubarb, particularly such a rank growth as Cahoon's seedling gives, is that it affords a greater quantity of juice than any other plant; and so far as it appears to us, it is a better quality than any but grape-juice for the manufacture of domestic wine. Of course it will afford, also, an abundance of cheap and good vinegar. The acid of the plant, as all pie-makers are aware, is decidedly sharp.

THE QUANTITY OF RHUBARB WINE PER ACRE.—In our former notice, we gave the product of rhubarb wine per acre, as 800 gallons. Mr. Cahoon says:

"This estimate is very much below the matter of fact as tested here. Mr. G. Lewis, the purchaser of my plantation of pie-plant, made last season from one-eighth of an acre, 400 gallons like the sample I send you. It is a fair estimate that 2,500 gallons can be made from an acre of well-cultivated roots of my seedling. The wine costs here about 40 cents per gallon to the manufacturer."

According to this statement, instead of 800 gallons per acre, the product is over 800 barrels, and almost the entire cost of the article would be the price paid for the sugar. Probably, upon a large scale, five cents a gallon would pay all the expense of labor of cutting the plants, grinding, pressing and and bottling. With sorghum sugar for sweetening, we don't see anything to prevent the country from having wine cheap enough, if that will make men more temperate than cheap whisky. *N. Y. Tribune.*

☞ A wag has made up the following summary of what he calls the "Inalienable Rights of Americans," and which are not enumerated in the Declaration of Independence:

To know any trade or business without apprenticeship or experience.

To marry without regard to fortune, state of health, position, or opinion of parents or friends.

To have wife and children dependent on contingencies of business, and, in case of sudden death, leave them wholly unprovided for.

To put off upon hireling strangers the literary, moral and religious education of children.

To teach children no good trade, hoping they will have, when grown up, wit enough to live on the industry of other people.

To enjoy the general sympathy, when made bankrupt by reckless speculations.

To cheat the government, if possible.

To hold office without being competent to discharge its duties.

To build houses with nine and six inch wall, and go to the funerals of tenants, firemen and others, killed by their fall, weeping over the mysterious dispensation of Providence.

To build up cities and towns without parks, public squares, broad streets, or ventilated blocks, and call pestilence a visitation of God.

From the Cincinnati Gazette.

Desperate Fight with a Villain on a Railroad Train.

We were yesterday made acquainted with the details of a most desperate act of villainy which was perpetrated upon the New York and Erie Railroad on Wednesday night, and which doubtless had for its object the robbery of the United States Mail or the United States Express. The particulars are about as follows, as related by Mr. Adam Keck, the through Mail Agent between this city and New York, who arrived here on yesterday morning's train.

It is well known to those who have passed over the New York and Erie Railroad, that along the high embankments near Port Jarvis, the trains run much slower than at any other point on the road, averaging only some eight or ten miles an hour. The Mail Agent and the Agent of the Express occupy the same car. Just before reaching the point designated, the former invited the latter to go to another part of the train to smoke a cigar. Mr. Keck declined the invitation, and soon after threw himself upon a pile of mail bags, and fell into a partial sleep. How long he remained so he cannot tell, but probably but a few minutes only, when he was awakened by something falling upon his face, and upon arousing himself, he found a man standing over him with a sponge in his hand, saturated with chloroform, and although partially stupefied, Mr. Keck made a spring to his feet, and grasped the villain in a desperate struggle. The fellow drew a pistol and exclaimed with an oath that he would shoot him; but the Agent fortunately got hold of the weapon before the threat could be executed. A struggle then ensued, which, to Mr. Keck, seemed to last for half an hour, though probably not exceeding five minutes. Both were powerful men, and both fighting for their lives. Every particle of strength was put forth for the mastery, until by a fortunate accident, the contest turned in favor of the Agent. In the struggle the villain was forced upon a pile of boxes, the uppermost of which gave way, and the parties fell to the floor of the car together, Mr. Keck being uppermost. To add that he made good use of his vantage ground, would perhaps be unnecessary. Mr. Keck, although much exhausted, beat him until he begged for mercy, and apparently became partially insensible.

Thinking he had given him the quietus for the present, Mr. Keck turned to seek assistance, and was in the act of pulling the bell-cord to stop the train, when the villain made a rush to the side door of the car and jumped out, and must have gone down a rocky precipice of 75 to 100 feet, at the foot of which runs the Delaware river. Whether or not he escaped with his life is not known, as the train was not stopped until it reached the next station, when Mr. Keck related his adventure with the desperado. When he arrived in this city yesterday morning, where he resides, his face presented abundant evidence of the use which the villain had made of his hands.

The design was, undoubtedly, to rob the mail or the express. The messenger of the latter had in his possession $98,000 in money. In the forward part of the car is a water closet, and a small office, with a door in the latter opening, directly into the body of the car occupied by the agent and the messenger. The desperado had worked the mail bags aside, so as to give a view of the operations of the two men, and after the express messenger left the car, and the agent was supposed to be asleep, the fellow made the unsuccessful attempt upon his life. The head of Mr. Keck was pretty well chloroformed, and the probability is that in applying the sponge to his nose, the unsteady movement of the car caused it to touch his face and awaken him. A slung shot, which the rascal had placed upon a box near the agent, was undoubtedly designed for use, when opportunity offered, but fortunately did not come in play.

During the scuffle, the bottle of chloroform with which the robber had prepared himself, was thrown to the floor and broken, and was diffused through the car.—In the desperate struggle, boxes of artificial flowers, and various other articles were broken, and the contents trampled under foot. The brakesman upon the train saw the man as he went down the embankment, but had no suspicion of what had so recently transpired in the mail car. That the villain had accomplices on board, there is probably no doubt.—Two men who purchased tickets in New York for Dunkirk, and who came up on that train, left it at some point above the attempted robbery, and returned to New York by the next train.

Mr. Keck, who is now at his residence in the Seventeenth Ward in this city, retained as trophies of his victory, a few yards of oil silk, a quantity of gutta percha, an overcoat, and a pistol, which he has forwarded to New York. He yesterday received a dispatch to return to New York immediately, but is not yet in a condition to travel. The oil silk and gutta percha were no doubt intended to wrap the spoils in, had the attempt been successful, and bury them until it should be safe to bring the money forth for use.

The villain had no doubt got upon the train before leaving New York, and secreted himself in the office of the car, but who he was is not known or conjectured. It is certainly the most desperate act of villainy and outrage that has been attempted in a long time.

Burmese Sayings.

Riches are less wealth than learning; for wisdom cannot be stolen or lost; it is, therefore, thy best friend, and benefits in life, nay, even after death. The riches of priests are moral precepts. Soft words make friends; bitter words make many enemies. Be thankful for the least, after partaking of it. One may have youth, beauty, rank and wealth; but without wisdom a man is like a beautiful flower that hath no fragrance. The rose imparteth fragrance to the leaf in which it is folded. Associate with the wise, and their wisdom will cling to thee. The foolish one can discern a fault in another as small as the least of seeds; but he cannot discover a fault in himself as large as a cocoa-nut. Lay not a sin upon a child, but upon its parent. When a pupil takes to evil ways, blame the teacher. When a nation degenerates into unseemly courses, blame the ruler; and when the ruler does wrong, blame his ministers.—*From the "Nedhi Kyan," a Burmese public work.*