

THE TELLER.

LEWISTON, NORTH IDAHO.

SATURDAY.....NOVEMBER 18. 1876

INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM.

At the present day the machinery of party is so intricate, complicated and manifold in its branches, as to seem to embrace within its folds almost every citizen within the Union. It is certain that at the polls the great mass array themselves on the one side or the other as Democrats or Republicans, in the support of the candidates nominated by their respective party conventions, while only comparatively few vote independently for other men. So much accustomed have the people become to this habit, that many are led to believe that fealty to party is paramount to fealty to country, or that the country can only be secure through the partisan machinery that is set in motion by the respective parties to which each is attached.

Imbued with the spirit of this false theory, many become censorious and proscriptive towards such as do not in all respects obey the behests of party, and oftentimes attempt to compel men to avow allegiance to party, whether they will or not. Such partisans are very dull of comprehension of what belongs to public journalism. They think that a newspaper is bound to declare its partisan preferences and fealty and when once it has so declared, it must uphold and support through its columns every principle, plan and measure which a district convention of that party or which some prominent members of that party might adopt and promulgate, regardless of its truth as a principle or good policy as a measure. If a party convention or the members of a party as such furnish all the means of support to a newspaper and can find the willing and subservient tool ready to contract to do their bidding, they then have some right to claim a fulfillment of the contract, however humiliating it may sometimes become to such a journalist. But until the above conditions take place, every editor and publisher of a newspaper is and should be supposed to be free to speak independently upon all questions, whether they relate to principles, measures or men, and every man who calls in question that right of a journalist thereby shows himself grossly ignorant of the laws which govern and protect the press of the country.

If a journal abuses its rights in this respect it will be quite sure to answer for that abuse at the bar of public opinion and receive the condemnation its temerity has won for its abuse.

We believe the country needs an independent press, that partisan journals are far too much to the extreme in their support of partisan principles, measures and men, and too blind in relation to the real welfare of the country. We have only to cite the declarations of the partisan press throughout the United States made during the late canvass for President, in support of our belief. But there is another great error which some have imbibed as to what constitutes an independent press. Some imagine that if a newspaper be not partisan, it must of necessity be silent on political questions, measures, and men. Nothing can be farther from the truth, there is not a question of partisan policy, nor a measure they may adopt, nor a man they may put forward for the suffrages of the people, about which or whom an independent paper may not speak freely without doing violence to its character as an independent journal. But in so doing it will not speak from a partisan standpoint. Its tests of worth, expediency, propriety and efficiency will not be partisan tests, but they will be such as the whole people may approve who have the weal of the country more at heart than party success. A newspaper ostensibly devoted to the general interests of the country which can remain silent when political evils and abuses are abundant and prevalent all around it, never can justly claim to be independent. It more properly belongs to the neuter gender and its progeny, like all other neutrals will be *nix*.

The independent press is the one above all others, that the people should maintain and uphold if they would avert the evils and corruption of parties in power or parties out of power and seeking to gain control of the government.

THAT NEW TREATY.

Up to this time of writing we are unable to learn that the Commissioners sent to treat with Joseph have made any successful arrangement with this outlaw of the Nez Perce nation. Joseph and some of his men came in from the Wallowa last week and camped on the Sweetwater a few miles above the Agency, and afterwards visited the Agency with his men mounted and caparisoned in good style riding eight abreast and paraded themselves before the office of the Agent, and manifested a degree of dignity and reserve comporting more with the character of a chief of some great nation than with that of a leader of a small band of outlaws. Several incidents have been narrated to us showing the defiant wanton and independent spirit of Joseph. On one occasion at a gathering in the church building for purposes of council, he and his men were directed to occupy a certain position in the building, and he objected, selecting another place instead. Again on being requested to meet the Commissioners on a certain day, he replied that he did not care to meet with them, if the weather was good he might come, but if it was rainy he should stay at home, that all the land about here was free and he chose to go wherever he pleased and do as he pleased. And on one occasion when Gen. Howard told him that he had come from the great father at Washington to have a talk with him, Joseph replied that he did not know about that and expressed his doubts about it.

We understand that Gen. Howard had become a little impatient with his insolence and intimated that he would compel him by force to come in upon the reservation, that one or two others of the Commission were more lenient towards the outlaw and disposed to indulge, if not justify his independent attitude.

If this Commission can by mild means induce him to come and reside upon the reservation, their mission may not be entirely lost, but for them to again treat for the purchase of the Wallowa country in order to appease this outlaw, it will only furnish a good precedent and pretext for every other head of a family of the Nez Perces now residing off the reservation to claim the land they reside upon and demand a separate treaty for its purchase by the Government. The Government has once bought this land of the Nez Perces and paid the purchase money. Joseph and his band nor their immediate ancestors were the owners of the Wallowa valley but another chief who signed the treaty. So we have been informed by one who is as well posted in the history of this nation as any man in the country, the members of the Commission not excepted, and Joseph should be urged to abandon it and come in upon the reservation and be subject to such regulations as others of the tribe.

WASHINGTON TERRITORY.—Returns of the election for Delegate to Congress from Washington Territory indicate the re-election of O. Jacobs the present delegate by about 275 majority over Jadson.

OREGON.—Richard Williams is elected representative from Oregon to Congress over Lafayette Lane, the present incumbent.

The steamer *Beaver* arrived at Victoria from Wrangel October 31st. The news from the mines is good. The finding of hill diggings on Thibert creek is confirmed; they are supposed to be very rich. Diggings are reported on Tarcou river by one of the prospecting parties, but the extent and locality are not known. The steamer *Isabel*, about due, will bring a large amount of gold and many passengers. The miners who arrived yesterday have from \$200 to \$800 each.—*Oregonian*.

They have struck it rich in the Belle Peck again and the owner of the mine is happy. The force has been recently increased, rich rock is being taken out and for the coming few months the Belle Peck will undoubtedly contribute largely to the bullion products of the camp.—*Avalanche*.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RETURNS.

The following are the States reported for Hayes, with their majorities and electoral votes:

State	MAJ.	ELEC.
Maine	14,000	7
New Hampshire	40,000	5
Vermont	30,000	5
Massachusetts	20,000	13
Rhode Island	4,500	4
Pennsylvania	15,000	29
Ohio	8,000	23
Illinois	7,500	21
Michigan	10,000	11
Wisconsin	5,000	10
Minnesota	18,000	5
Iowa	53,000	11
Nebraska	6,000	3
Kansas	20,000	5
Colorado	1,000	3
Nevada	1,000	3
California	3,000	6
Oregon	1,000	3
Total	266,000	166

FOR TILDEN:

State	MAJ.	ELEC.
New York	30,000	35
New Jersey	15,000	9
Delaware	2,000	3
Maryland	18,000	8
Virginia	30,000	11
West Virginia	12,000	5
Georgia	55,000	11
Alabama	35,000	10
Mississippi	50,000	8
Texas	75,000	8
Arkansas	30,000	6
Missouri	20,000	15
Kentucky	30,000	12
Tennessee	6,000	12
Indiana	6,000	15
Connecticut	2,000	5
North Carolina	12,000	10
Total	442,000	184

STILL DOUBTFUL:

State	ELECTORAL VOTES
South Carolina	7
Florida	4
Louisiana	8
Total	19

Private telegrams received at Portland, from Democratic sources, claim all these States for Tilden, which if true would give him 203 electoral votes, or a majority of 18. Similar telegrams from Republican sources claim the States for Hayes, which would give him, if true, 185 electoral votes or a majority of 1.

The above was the status of the returns at Portland on the morning of the 10th as per *Oregonian*.

Gov. Brayman has found upon examination of the law that the session of the legislature of Idaho has not been changed to January, as was supposed, but will be held in December as heretofore. By a law of Congress the session of the legislature was changed to January in Montana, but no such change has been made for Idaho.—*Oregonian*.

NOTICE!

ALL PARTIES KNOWING THEMSELVES to be indebted to the undersigned, are hereby notified that if payment is not made before the first day of December next, legal process will be commenced for the recovery of the same. "Three tips and out."
Oct. 30th 1876. D. H. HOWSER. 3-6w

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