

OUR GOLD AND SILVER CROPS.

Increased demand for an article always causes an increased production of it. This is true of the commonest articles of daily use, but it is also true of the precious metals. There can be no doubt that the present high value of gold and silver, as compared with United States currency, has led to new enterprises in those parts of our country where those metals are found. The population has increased with great rapidity, and the numerous new gold and silver companies incorporated in the different States are proofs of the growing activity in the production of the precious metals.

But a more striking proof is furnished by the statistics of San Francisco. During the month of February last, the exports of treasure from that port reached the unprecedented amount of \$7,445,084. From January 1st to March 1st, the exports amounted to \$12,381,969. At this rate, the exports of gold and silver from San Francisco, during the year 1864, will amount to not less than seventy-five millions of dollars. A large portion of this will go to England, but thus far fully one-half of it has come to New York. We have no means of ascertaining the amount of gold and silver mined in Kansas, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and other parts of our country; but there can be no doubt that it is greatly in excess of the product of any former year.

While our Government is incurring an enormous debt, in the struggle to preserve itself, it has done nothing by which its unoccupied gold and silver lands may be made available in the future for paying off the debt, or at least for paying the interest upon it. There must be millions of acres of public lands in which gold, silver and other valuable metals may be found. In certain sections in every township were reserved for the Government, which would hold them till exploration should ascertain their value, there would be a large revenue derived from their sale at some future time. Or if in all sales of lands supposed to contain either of the precious metals, provision were made for the payment to the government of a moderate "royalty," at least for a term of years, a very handsome revenue would be derived from this source, in a short time. The time is not distant when, all our rich mineral regions being developed, the annual crops of gold and silver will amount to hundreds of millions of dollars. Nothing that our country produces could so well bear taxation as these two metals, and the sooner some wise and judicious method is devised by which such a tax may be imposed and collected, the better it will be for the future credit of the government.

MARYLAND. In another column will be found a copy of a correspondence between Major-General Lewis Wallace and Governor Bradford, of Maryland, in regard to disloyal persons being elected to the Constitutional Convention or voting at the election for delegates to that Convention, on next Wednesday. General Wallace addresses the Governor, and furnishes him with official copies of papers, a glance at which, he says, will doubtless satisfy him that persons disloyal to the Government of the United States are candidates for the Constitutional Convention, the election for which takes place on the 6th of April, and asks the Governor whether the Legislature, in prescribing an oath of loyalty to be administered to delegates before taking their seats, did not also intend to provide a method for the rejection at the polls of disloyal men, and that the power, amounting to judicial authority, with which the judges of the election are clothed was really the mode adopted by the law-makers for the accomplishment of that purpose; and he asks the Governor to give him his views as to the extent of authority possessed by the judges of the election, and especially as to whether they have power to reject a vote on account of the disloyalty of the persons offering it.

The reply of Governor Bradford consists mainly in a review of the State laws on the subject, which he considers comprehensive enough if they are faithfully carried out. He remarks that the duty of judges of election is clearly defined. By the convention act it is provided that any judge of election who shall refuse or neglect to perform any of the duties required of him by that act, shall be liable to indictment for such offense, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and be sentenced to a fine of not less than five hundred dollars, and to imprisonment in the jail of the city or county where such offense may have been committed, for a term of not less than six months. This provision Gov. Bradford considers sufficient to prevent disloyal men from being allowed either to vote or to be elected.

THE HEART OF THE PEOPLE.

The objects and aims of the Sanitary Commission commend themselves directly to the great heart of the people. This has been shown in other cities where Fairs in aid of its funds have been held, and where dearly-cherished objects have been cheerfully parted with by those who had no more intrinsically valuable sacrifices to lay upon the altar of patriotism and humanity. The publication of the receipts of contributions to our own great Sanitary Fair have already been commenced, and the record shows how the heart of the people has been touched and how it is throbbing responsive to the holy objects of the Commission. The large subscriptions of corporations and of wealthy citizens are creditable and satisfactory; but the most touching contributions are those of the widow who gives her mite in aid of the good cause, and of the poor over-worked and under-paid sewing girl who gladly appropriates the fruits of a day's toil to the same object.

While these small but precious gifts are pouring into the treasury of the Fair, the men who are swindling the government out of thousands, and who are damaging the efficiency of the army and the navy by their rascally practices—the gamblers in gold who are injuring the public credit that they may grow rich; and the whole tribe of public plunderers and Lords of Shoddy, keep their pockets tightly buttoned, and turn a deaf ear to the calls of patriotism, the voice of justice or the gentle pleadings of humanity. If the whole of this greedy huckstering pack were weighed in the balance, the mite of "a widow who has a son in the army," or "fifty cents," the dross earnings of a poor sewing girl," thrown into the opposite scale, would make Shoddy kick the beam.

A MONUMENT TO A BRAVE OFFICER. Among the gallant patriots who fell in front of Vicksburg, in May last, was Capt. Crawford Washington, a native of Virginia, but a citizen of Pennsylvania, and a brother-in-law of Gen. Crawford, of the Pennsylvania Reserves. He was one of the bravest officers of the 13th United States Infantry, and his brother officers of the 1st Battalion have determined to erect a handsome monument on the spot where he fell. Gen. Sherman has also borne testimony to his valor and worth by naming the hill upon which he received his mortal wound, Mount Washington. The 13th Infantry has been awarded a rare honor in the history of the war. At the close of Gen. Grant's operations in the Valley of the Mississippi, a board of officers was ordered to receive and examine all claims and award all honors won during the campaign; and it unanimously awarded to the 1st Battalion, of the 13th Infantry—the following inscription on its standard: "Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post, Champion Hills, First at Vicksburg, Jackson." In making this award, the Board says, in its report, "it finds the 13th United States Infantry entitled to the first honor at Vicksburg, having in a body planned and maintained its colors on the parapet with a loss of 43-10 per cent, including its gallant commander, Washington, who died at the parapet. Its conduct and loss, the Board, after a careful examination, believes, unequalled in the army, and respectfully asks the General Commanding the Department to allow it the inscription awarded."

DELAWARE AND THE SANITARY FAIR.—It has been settled that Delaware is to have her own department in the Fair Building, to be managed by committees appointed by Governor Cannon. Delawareans seem resolved to do something for their noble patriots that will be creditable to their "loyalty and liberality." They have now made a point of honor to contribute as largely to the general fund as the people of any other State in proportion to their population. Gov. Cannon encourages this generous spirit, by his able address to loyal Delawareans, and announces the appointment of Executive Committees at Philadelphia, to co-operate with home committees appointed by him. The effort is to be made to raise the Delaware fund to an amount equal to one dollar for every inhabitant of the State! This is a bold undertaking, and if accomplished, we fear that Delaware will take the lead of both Pennsylvania and New Jersey in a great work, which has been inspired by humanity and patriotism.

REGISTER OF FARMS, &c.—We are in receipt of a "Register of Farms, Country Seats, Mills," &c., for sale or rent in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and also a Register of the same description of property for sale in Delaware and Maryland. It is published by Geo. N. Townsend & Co., at their Real Estate and Conveyancing Office, No. 123 South Fourth street.

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THE KNICKERBOCKER KITCHEN.—One of the most interesting features of the coming fair in New York will be the Knickerbocker Kitchen, to be in the building on Union Square. It consists of a large hall 80x40, with a deep fireplace at one end, with the broad chimney-place of a century ago. Over which is the mantle shelf, on which are to be placed old delf-ware, brought over from Holland by our ancestors, and collected from the few old homesteads left along the Hudson, or relics furnished by their descendants left in New York. An old clock that belonged to Hon. Herman Knickerbocker, of Schaghticoke, has been sent down the river, for the occasion. Mrs. Judge Roosevelt is the chairman of a committee of ladies chosen for the purity of their Dutch blood, to arrange the affair. Mrs. A. S. Clayton, Mrs. Susan Benson, Miss Anna Van Buren, Mrs. Alfred Schenck, Mrs. F. Van Rensselaer, Miss Kate Beckman, Mrs. Egbert L. Viele, Mrs. Judge Roosevelt, constitute the committee. The kitchen is to provide the public during the Fair with home-made lunches and tea, and all kinds of old-fashioned home-made bread, cake and pies. The guests are to be waited on by old New York Knickerbocker negroes, with their aprons and bandana handkerchiefs. Uncle Tom, with whitened locks and his violin, will entertain the chimney corner, and the little dainties will sit on the ample hearth in the blaze of the burning logs as in the days gone by. The celebrated race horse "Highlander" died very suddenly near Nashville a few days since.

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