

# The Daily Astorian.

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## CHINOOK JARGON.

"That miserable Chinook!" was the expression which I once heard, but I feel like defending it, for what would some of us, who are obliged to have constant intercourse with the Indians, do without it? True, it is not as elegant as the English, and, as a general thing, cannot express as fine shades of meaning. For instance, it is said that some one who was visiting British Columbia, and who wished to address the Indians in a somewhat flowing style, began his speech with the words, "Children of the forest," and was very much disgusted when he found it translated, "Hiyou tenas man kops stick." There is not much hifalutin in Chinook. When a person says a thing he must say it straight, and perhaps this may be of no great disadvantage, for possibly it might be well if in English we were to talk straight instead of roundabout so much.

The Chinook jargon is useful as an internal-tribe language, and for intercourse between the whites and Indians. For this purpose this miserable language is far better than the sign language of the plains. There a sign is used for every word or expression. Many whites and Indians understand them, and they have become a language used between the different tribes and between whites and Indians, yet Colonel Garrick Mallory, who has studied that language quite thoroughly, and has prepared a dictionary of it, uses forty quarto pages to define a hundred words. How much better the Chinook. It is said to be remarkable that a missionary has learned the sign language so as to preach a sermon in it and be understood. It is not a remarkable fact to do so in the Chinook jargon.

It is used from Northern California to Alaska, and east as far as the eastern line of Oregon and Washington, and a little in western Idaho. In this region are scores of tribes speaking different languages. On the same reservation there are often several, and what a time white people would have were there no Chinook language! They would either have to learn several native languages, which it would be almost impossible to do, or else talk in English and often be woefully misunderstood, or continually employ an interpreter. I once saw an exciting scene between a white man, who did not understand Chinook and talked English, and an Indian man and woman who did not understand English and talked Indian. There was a little trouble between them and both tried to explain it, and all talked loud and long, and they did not understand each other, and after several hours' talk they were more angry than at the beginning. That "miserable Chinook" obviates all this.

This language is among the most recent languages of the earth. It is now nearly a hundred years old. It is said to have been first used a little about Nootka sound, by some of the first traders on the coast, between 1780 and 1790. Naturally the whites picked up some of the Nootka words. At the beginning of the present century the trade was mainly transferred to the Columbia river, especially about Astoria, and the Nootka words went with it, and there the Chinook, Clatsop and Chehalis words were incorporated. English words came from the Hudson Bay company, while their servants from Canada introduced those of French origin. A few came from several different tribes, and a few from onomatopoeia, a kueh-kueh, a duck, from the noise it

makes; tum-tum, the heart, from its beating; tin-tin, a bell, from its sound; tik-tik, a watch, from its sound, and the like. After this the language spread all over the coast.

At least sixteen dictionaries of this language have been published by different individuals since 1838, some of which, however, are very partial. The best of these by far that I have seen is one by George Gibbs (1863), and published by the Smithsonian Institution. This gives the origin of all the words whose origin was known then, a history of the language and a list of all dictionaries which had been published. This dictionary gives nearly five hundred words, and about two hundred more phrases or combinations of two or more words which answer as single words. About four hundred and seventy of these words and phrases are used on the Sound. The rest belong to Oregon or British Columbia exclusively. Of the five hundred words (nearly) given, two hundred are derived from the Chinook, including the Clatsop; twenty-one from the Chinook which also have analogies with other languages; twenty-four from the Nootka; thirty-two from the Chehalis; ninety-four from the French and Canadian; sixty-seven from the English; seven from the Nisqually; two from the Klickitat and Klamath; three from the Cree and Chippewa, through the Canadians; six come direct onomatopoeia; eight are interjections common to several languages, and the derivation of eighteen is unknown. After about eight years of constant use of the language I have not found more than three of Indian origin which are not given in Gibbs' dictionary. The present use of the language on the Sound shows, however, that changes are now taking place. As the Indians have now little intercourse with the French, compared with what they did when the Hudson Bay company ruled the land, and more with Americans, so now many words of French origin are being dropped, and either those of English origin or phrases substituted in their places. About seventy-five words on the Sound vary from Gibbs' dictionary on this account. The origin of one word, pelton, a fool or foolish, is said to be on this wise: A man by the name of Archibald Pelton, who for a time was with Mr. W. P. Hunt, in the early days of Astoria, became deranged, a new incident to the Indians, and they, in speaking of other foolish persons, said they were like Pelton. Siwah comes from the French sauvage, considerably corrupted, and Passafooks, French, from Francois. In the Chinook jargon many of the words derived from Indian languages have become changed or softened from the hard or guttural sounds to suit the whites, or Kun-jih, how many, in the original Chinook is Kunseukh, Kumtiels, to understand, is in Nootka, Kommetak, and Koshe, good, is in Chinook, Tkloush. Likewise English and French words have been changed to suit the Indians, especially those which have f and r in them, which are unpronounceable to them, thus, coffee becomes kaupy and grease, glease. In general the English f, g, r, v, and z become p, k, l, w and s.

A study of this language gives some ideas. It shows us how languages originate, grow and change. One of our college studies is the English language, its origin growth and change. In order to learn this we have to go back several hundred years. But here we gain some of the same ideas almost under our eyes. It shows us, also, with how few words we can get along, and also with how little grammar. Of the five hundred words in the Chinook jargon, only about two hundred and fifty or three hundred different words are used in one locality, and there is almost no grammar. I see now, I see yesterday or long ago, I see to-morrow or soon, are the tenses of the verb; one tree, three trees, many trees are the number; man chicken and woman chicken are the gender, and there are no rules of syntax.—*Correspondence Seattle Post-Intelligencer.*

## Retaliation.

It is easy to break a man of being a nuisance if you go at it right. There was a case over on Sixth street not long ago which shows that as soon as you beat a man at his own game that settles him. Fred Dahlman, an eccentric character, lived in the upper story of a small house, with his family, and in the story below lived a man who was quite a hunter. He had a couple of pups that he was breaking, and he would sit up half the night snapping caps on his gun and throwing boots across the room for his dogs to retrieve. The noise became annoying to the family up stairs, as the dogs would run and bark and make as great a racket as possible. Mr. Dahlman tried to reason with his neighbor and induce him to quit the dog-breaking down stairs, but he was ugly and said he paid rent for the place and would do as he pleased. Dahlman said that it was all right, and he went up stairs and got four wash-tubs of water and a fish-pole and line. About ten o'clock at night, when the dog kindergarten was at its full height, Dahlman pushed the tubs of water down stairs, and the water ran all over the house. The dog-breaker came out into the hall and waded through the water and looked up stairs and wanted to know what in thunder was the matter. Dahlman was sitting on the top stair, smoking his pipe and holding the fish-pole with the line down in the hall, as though he didn't care if he never had a bite. "What does this mean?" said the excited hunter, as he fell over a dog that was paddling round in the water. "O, nothing," said Dahlman, as he lit a match on the shoulder of his pants. "Nothing. Only I thought while you was hunting I would yooost catch a few fish for my breakfast." That settled it. The hunter broke his dogs after that with a club in the back yard, and Dahlman swore off on fishing.—*Peck's Sun.*

A ball, one foot in diameter, just conceals the moon's face when held before it at a distance of one hundred and twenty-five feet from the eye. Consequently, a ball, one mile in diameter, would do the same thing at one hundred and twenty miles, a ball of one thousand miles at one hundred and twenty thousand miles; and a ball two thousand miles across, at one hundred and twenty times two thousand, or two hundred and forty thousand miles. But this is about the moon's distance, consequently, the moon's breadth must be about two thousand miles.

Thus far 1882 has been an extraordinary year for fires. The estimated losses in the United States for the eight months foot up more than \$61,000,000, or \$7,000,000 more than the average for four years.

"Nothing gives me so much relief for the rheumatism, which has troubled me for years, as St. Jacobs Oil," says Mr. F. W. Brown, Glen Rock, Pa.



## THE GREAT GERMAN REMEDY.

**RHEUMATISM,**  
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## SHORT BITS.

A southern editor takes cuts in lieu of pay for his paper, and then tells his bookkeeper to make a note of it.

An exchange has an article on "Religion in New York." The next we presume will be a needle in a haystack.

One of the old-time stage coach drivers, who had been on the road over half a century, says that life is put together considerably like a set of harness. There are traces of care, lines of trouble, bits of good fortune, breaches of good manners, bridled tongues, and everybody has to tug to pull together.

## SYMPTOMS OF WORMS.

The countenance is pale and leaden-colored, with occasional flushes of a circumscribed spot on one or both cheeks; the eyes become dull; the pupils dilate; an azure semicircle runs along the lower eyelid; the nose is irritated, swells, and sometimes bleeds; a swelling of the upper lip; occasional headache, with humming or throbbing of the ears; an unusual secretion of saliva; slimy or burning tongue; breath very foul, particularly in the morning; appetite variable, sometimes voracious, with a gnawing sensation of the stomach; at others, entirely averse; fretting pains in the stomach; occasional nausea and vomiting; violent pains throughout the abdomen; bowels irregular at times constive; stools slimy, not infrequently tinged with blood; belly swollen and hard; disturbed sleep, with grinding of the teeth; temper variable, but generally irritable. Whenever the above symptoms are found to exist.

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In buying Vermifuge be sure you get the genuine DR. C. McLANE'S VERMIFUGE, manufactured by Fleming Bros., 21 West Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. The market is full of counterfeits. You will be right if it has the signature of Fleming Bros. and McLANE. If your storekeeper does not have the genuine, please report to us. Send us a three-cent stamp for 1 hand-some advertising card.

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Please give me a call.  
ROScoe DIXON, Proprietor.

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Mermaid Twines; Canvas, all No's; Copper Tipped Oars.

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The Best COFFEES and TEAS.

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THE CORPS OF TEACHERS LONG engaged in St. Helen's Hall has just been reinforced by the addition of six new teachers, five of them from prominent educational institutions of the Eastern States. Two of these are engaged in the Musical Department, three in the English and one (MISS FULFICK) in the Art Department. MISS FULFICK is a lady of English birth, but educated in this country. She was graduated at Vassar College, and has since spent much time in the best private Studios in the Eastern States. She comes with the highest recommendations for her attainments and skill as a teacher of Painting and Drawing. These cover the whole ground of instruction in the best Art Schools, embracing Oil Painting in Landscape, Flower and Still-life Studies; Crayon, Chalk, Water Colors, Pen and Ink, and Decorative Art in all its branches. MISS FULFICK is a lady of liberal education and superior culture, and the Rector and Principal of St. Helen's Hall recommend this department of their school to its patrons with entire confidence, being well assured that it was never under a more competent instructor, or one of more varied acquirements.

**Equalization of County Assessment.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Assessment roll of property liable to be taxed in Clatsop County for the year 1882, will be completed by the first Monday in October, 1882; and the County Court pursuant to law has fixed that day as the time for all persons interested to examine the same at the County Clerk's office in the Court house in Astoria, in said county, and to note objections thereto if any there shall be.

Witness my hand and the Seal of said County Assessor for Clatsop Co., Or. Astoria, Oregon, September 28th, 1882.

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JOHNSTON, SCOTLAND.  
**J. REESON & CO.**  
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**THE FLAX MILLS.**  
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Assortment of fine SPECTACLES and EYE GLASSES.

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Wines and Liquors

Of Superior Brand.

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**Delinquent City Taxes.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I,  
the undersigned, Chief of Police, have  
been furnished with a warrant from the city  
council requiring me to collect the taxes as-  
sessed for the year 1882, and now delinquent  
upon the list, and make return of the same  
within sixty days. All parties so indebted  
will therefore please take notice and govern  
themselves accordingly.

C. W. LAUGHERY,  
Chief of Police.

Astoria, Oregon, September 19, 1882.

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