

# The Daily Astorian.

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## LONGEVITY AS A MEASURE OF HAPPINESS.

During his last expedition in central Asia, Prof. Vambéry managed to interview the Emir of Samarcand—a sort of Mohammedan prince-cardinal and prime of the eastern sunnities. As Imam of the local lyceum the Emir appeared to take a natural interest in the progress of European science, but, when his guest expatiated on the material prosperity of the western ghaours, he interrupted him with a less expected question.

"The happiest people on earth, you call them? What age do they generally attain to?" Vambéry seems to have returned an evasive reply, though he admits the query was not altogether irrelevant, at least from the standpoint of an Oriental who values existence for its own sake. But, even in the less unpretending west, longevity is not a bad criterion of happiness. Misfortune kills; Nature takes care to shorten a life of misery—for reasons of her own, too, for in a somewhat recondite (but here essential) sense, the survival of the fittest is also the survival of the fittest. The progress of knowledge tends to circumscribe the realm of accident, and with it the belief in existence of unmerited evils. In spite of prenatal influences and uncalculable mishaps, the management of the individual is the most important factor in the sum total of weal or woe. If we could see ourselves as Omniscience sees us, we would probably recognize our worst troubles as the work of our own hands, and thus recognize them now with sufficient clearness to be ashamed of them. Most men now-a-days dislike to confess their bad luck. We cease to ascribe diseases to the malice of capricious demons, and even in Spain the commander of a beaten army would hesitate to plead astrological excuses. Poly-crates held that a plucky man can bias the stars, and the popular worship of success may be founded on an instinctive preception of a similar truth. Sultan Achmed went too far in strangling his defeated pashas, but the world in general agrees with him that there must be something wrong about a generally unsuccessful man. After two or three decided defeats the partisans of an unpopular leader will give him up for lost, and after a series of disasters the damaged man himself generally begins to share the opinion and loses heart, or, as the ancients expressed it, admits the decree of fate—i. e., his own inability to prevail in the struggle for existence; and it is curious how swiftly physical collapse often follows upon such giving away of the moral supports. The storms of every political, social and financial crisis extinguishes hundreds of life flames; lost hope is a fatal (though a silent and sometimes an unconfessed and unsuspected) disease. Good luck, on the other hand, tends to prolong life; the longevity of pensioners and sinecurists is almost proverbial, and there are men who continue to live in defiance of all biological probabilities, merely because existence, somehow or other has become desirable, as a liberal supply of external oxygen will nourish a lamp in default of inner oil. At the beginning of the Franco-Prussian war, King William and his chancellor and staff-officers were already gray-headed veterans, and it is no accident that they are all alive yet; while nearly all the ministers and marshals of the exploded empire have followed their leader—"weary of life and tired of the continual buttoning and unbuttoning," as a captain of H. M. S., explained his suicide. Dr. Felix L. Oswald, in *Popular Science Monthly*.

An exchange hits the nail on the head, thus: "When the press of this country will do one-half of the gratuitous advertising for a widowed seamstress, that it will for an immortal actress, a great start will be made toward burnishing up the jewel of consistency.

## Defoe Outdone.

A Japanese Robinson Crusoe story throws that of Defoe's into the shade. The story was told at Hakodati by one of the three survivors, and presents a view of Japanese character not at all flattering to that people. The story in brief was that he, with ten others, had hired an old, leaky schooner, and had gone up into the northern Pacific ocean seal hunting. They had good luck, and on the return voyage to Hakodati the captain pretended that the vessel was short of fresh water and sent eight of the crew to an islet in search of a spring. Having found what they wanted, two of the men returned to the vessel with filled casks, and soon after the schooner set sail and left the six men behind. The old fellow who told the story said it was a very common thing to happen and that it was done in order that those remaining on the vessel might have larger shares to divide on the skins and cargo. The only food that the abandoned men had consisted of such fish as they could pick up dead along the shore or a few shellfish they could find on the rocks, and once in a while a stray seal lion or seal would come drifting in, which they managed to steal upon and kill with stones and clubs. It was but rarely that any drift wood would come ashore, and they were thus compelled to eat their food raw most of the time. During twelve years of misery several fishing vessels called at the island for water, but none of them would take the men aboard until the brother of the narrator came that way as he returned in a junk from a fishing cruise and took the three survivors away. When the old man was asked about the time and manner of death of the other three men, he shook his head and remained silent. It is claimed that the inhabitants of the northerly islands of Japan are very much inferior in character to those further south and west, and that civilization will be much slower in taking root there and spreading than in other parts of the country.

## Our Great Resources.

The St. Louis Railway Register of Sept. 30, says: The Northern Pacific will be completed next summer, and a new transcontinental line thereby be opened between Portland, Oregon and St. Paul and Lake Superior. The route is a tolerably direct one from the Lakes to Portland, on Willamette river, and the inquiry naturally arises as to what share, if any, of the present through traffic the new line will have. Oregon is a state rapidly increasing in wealth and population, possesses vast amounts of rich agricultural lands and extensive forests. Large towns have sprung up, which buy largely in Europe their supplies of drugs, hardware and other merchandise. The only communication this important section of our country has with the east is by the steamers of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company which ply between Portland and San Francisco. The vast local business of Oregon and Washington Territory must seek the east, and though much will go by the southern routes, and especially by the Union Pacific when its Oregon line is opened, the bulk of it must always be controlled by the Northern Pacific. The traffic from this source must increase in value until it alone will furnish sufficient to occupy the line. Few have any idea of the natural richness of the extreme northwestern corner of the national domain and its great extent. The Northern Pacific will open this all up for settlement and bring it in direct communication with the east.

The minerals of Mounts Hood, Shasta and Rainier, with many volcanic rocks of tributary, have lately been tested in the government laboratory. The annual lumber product of Oregon is estimated at 250,000,000 feet.

## An American Ship Lost.

The wreck on the West coast of Vancouver Island proves to be that of the American bark Melville, 224 tons, Hadlow master and owner, of Freeport, Maine. All hands are lost. The bodies of four men and that of the captain's wife were picked up and buried by Father Brafeut, the Catholic missionary stationed there. The boat went on the rocks in a dense fog on the 10th ult., and broke up almost immediately, the reef on which she struck being a dangerous one. The Melville was from Shanghai about fifty days ago, in ballast, for Puget Sound, seeking. On Saturday, the gunboat Kingfisher, returned to Victoria from the wreck. The wreck had entirely disappeared when she reached there. The Indians who picked up the dead bodies say the lady was elegantly dressed and wore a wedding ring with the date of her marriage. Two children and probably about fifteen others were on board the bark when she sailed from Shanghai. A photograph of the dead woman, another of an elderly lady, and another of a German military officer, were found on the wreck. The ship's clock had stopped at one o'clock. The first sign of the wreck was the coming ashore of the bodies and wreckage. The night of the 10th of October was thick and stormy. No boats or goods of any kind have come to hand. The log book is in the hands of the captain of a schooner and will be brought to Victoria.

"The longer I live," said Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, "the more I am certain that the great difference between men, between the great and insignificant, is energy, invincible determination, an honest purpose once fixed, and then death or victory. This quality will do anything in the world; and no talents, no circumstances, will make a two-legged creature a man without it," and I might add that the reputation of being strong-willed, plucky, and indefatigable, is of priceless value. Morton ran for governor of Massachusetts sixteen times in vain, when some of his opponents, admiring his pluck and adherence to principle, voted for him in 1840, and he was chosen by one majority. That is the element which gives a man place, and it has always been.

Unavailing were the efforts of Mr. W. M. F. Quinlan, superintendent of Glass Works, Crystal City, Mo., to cure himself of a most troublesome sore on his knee. One week's faithful use of St. Jacobs Oil cured him completely, much to his great comfort.

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1 Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with the excruciating pain of cutting teeth? If so, go at once and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, it will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately—depend upon it; there is no mistake about it. There is not a mother on earth who has ever used it, who will not tell you at once that it will regulate the bowels, and give rest to the mother, and relief and health to the child, operating like magic. It is perfectly safe to use in all cases, and pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States. Sold everywhere. 25 cents a bottle.

Mothers should know it.  
Fretful babies cannot help disturbing everybody, and mothers should know how soothing Parker's Ginger Tonic is. It stops babies' pains, makes them healthy, relieves their own anxiety and is safe to use.—*Journal*.  
—For Dyspepsia and Liver Complaint, you have a printed guarantee on every bottle of Shiloh's Vitalizer. It never fails to cure. Sold by W. E. Demant.  
Have Wistar's balsam of wild cherry always at hand. It cures coughs, colds, bronchitis, whooping cough, croup, influenza, consumption, and all throat and lung complaints. 50 cents and \$1 a bottle.

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## A LETTER FROM GERMANY.

Very esteemed Sir,  
The praise your Liver Pills have called forth here is wonderful. After taking one and a half boxes of your genuine DR. C. McLANE'S LIVER PILLS, I have entirely recovered from my four years' suffering. All who know me wonder how I, who, for so many years, had no appetite, and could not sleep for backache, which in my side, and general stomach complaint, could have recovered.

An old lady in our city, who has suffered for many years from kidney disease, and the doctors had given her up, took two of your Pills, and got more relief than she has from all the doctors. Yours truly,  
J. VON DER BERG.  
**BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.**  
The genuine is never sugar-coated. Every box has a red wax seal on the lid, with the impression: McLANE'S Liver Pills.  
The genuine McLANE'S LIVER PILLS bear the signature of Dr. C. McLANE, and are sold by all druggists. Insist upon having the genuine DR. C. McLANE'S LIVER PILLS, prepared by Fleming Bros., of Pittsburgh, Pa., the market being full of imitations of the name McLANE, spelled differently, but of some pronunciation. If your storekeeper does not have the genuine DR. C. McLANE'S LIVER PILLS, we will send you a box by mail, and a set of our advertising cards.  
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