

West Shore

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PORTLAND, OREGON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1889.

DR. McCOSH has added new laurels to his honors as an original discoverer. Not content with discovering a covert insult to Princeton college, of which institution he was then the president, embodied in Dr. Holmes's poem read at the Harvard banquet, he now comes forward at the meeting of the Presbytery and announces a more startling "discovery"—nothing less than that the Bible does not teach the good old Presbyterian doctrine of foreordination. Now if the good Doctor will again adjust his theological telescope, or grasp his dogmatic divining rod, and tell us where are located the souls of those who in times past have been condemned to eternal punishment because of a refusal to believe in this obsolete dogma, he will achieve a reputation as a discoverer that will send his name "thundering down the ages." Millions of people would like to know this, and whether a formal dropping of this article from the church creed will have an *ex post facto* effect and release all previously unjustly condemned, and whether an action for false imprisonment would not lie against those who arbitrarily consigned them to the bottomless pit without due authority of scripture.

It was a great day at West Point, when, on the third of October, the portraits of Grant, Sherman and Sheridan were unveiled in the presence of the visiting statesmen from all the nations of North and South America. The presentation speech of General Horace Porter was eulogistic, manly and patriotic, and elicited a storm of applause from the listening cadets, who are composed of the flower of our youth from every state in the union. The effect of this scene upon the visitors must have been to impress them with the fact that the material from which our army is being made is enthusiastically loyal to our reunited country, and that the cadets from the section once in rebellion are will-

ing to unite in doing honor to the great captains who commanded the armies against whom their fathers fought. We have not enough occasions of this character in America. We need more of these opportunities for instilling into the youth of the land martial ardor and patriotic fervor, for upon them the nation must rely for the protection of its honor and the maintenance of its rights. A nation prospers in peace, but what it gains by the arts of peace must often be defended by the arts of war, and we should always be ready for such an emergency, not only with guns and ships, but with the equally essential factors of war, martial ardor and patriotic enthusiasm.

From reports of the recent election in Montana it seems that the Australian ballot system worked most satisfactorily. There were, to be sure, some in nearly every precinct who lost their votes by reason of carelessness or heedless ignorance of the plain and simple provisions of the law; but that has always been the case under any system. The chief advantages claimed for the system, such as freedom of the voter from restraining influences at the polls and the impossibility of imposing upon him sham and "doctored" ballots, seem to have been reaped in a full measure. Under it there is, of course, no way of preventing the bribery of the voter before he approaches the polls, but there the power of the corruptionist ceases, and he has no means of being certain that the voter actually casts the ballot he promised to. Montana is to be congratulated upon adopting this radical reform, and to the republican party there belongs the credit of carrying this and the registration law for the purification of elections against the opposition of the democratic speakers and press.

So far as law is concerned the seizures made by the *Rush* in Behring sea this season will be sustained. A decision by Judge Sabin, of San Francisco, confirms the legality of the seizures made in 1887 and the sale of confiscated skins. It settles the point that a seizure once made and a prize crew placed aboard, is complete and legal, even if the vessel be forcibly taken to another port than the one to which it was ordered. Under this decision any American vessel can be again taken in any port to which she may go, but the means of taking foreign vessels that have escaped to foreign ports is yet to be determined.

No better method could be devised of impressing the representatives to the pan-American congress with the great wealth, population, power and commanding importance of the United States than that of taking them on an extended tour of our country. When they return to Washington it will be with a knowledge of this country they never had before.