

West Shore

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PORTLAND, OREGON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1889.

THE death of William H. Gray, of Astoria, removed from earth one more of the little band who carried Christianity and civilization into the wilds of Oregon. Of the missionaries who labored as associates of the martyred Whitman there are now living but two, the venerable Cushing Eells and Mrs. Elkanah Walker, and Mr. Gray was the last of those who came with Whitman himself, the others mentioned not arriving until two years later. Whatever one may think of the conduct of the representatives of opposing religious sects in their missionary work in the northwest, he can not but recognize the fact that they laid the foundation of the present greatness of this region, and that to them, of whatever sect or creed, the country owes a debt of gratitude that the neglected grave of Whitman and his noble wife shows has never been paid.

The accident to Her Majesty's steamship *Amphion*, in which that vessel, while conveying the governor-general and party from Victoria to Vancouver, ran on a rock in Haro channel and came near sinking with her precious cargo, serves to "point a moral and adorn a tale" for the papers of both the island and the mainland. The Victoria papers point to this instance as illustrative of the folly of locating the naval station in English bay, which was attempted a few years ago. "If the station were in English bay," say they, "foreign war ships would have uninterrupted play on the island cities if a fog happened to prevail in the channel." The mainland papers say this shows the vital necessity for establishing a naval station on the mainland coast, because it is now entirely exposed to the ravages of foreign war ships during fogs, which would prevent interference from Esquimalt. A fair inference would be that a Georgian gulf fog is too formidable an enemy for the royal navy to cope with.

A federal union is in process of formation in Central America embracing the states of Guatamala, San Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The agreement has been signed by representatives of those powers and only awaits ratification by the various national legislatures. This has the appearance of being the foundation of a large and strong Central American republic, one that will be able to resist the encroachments of Mexico better than its individual members have done.

The "National Reform party" just organized in Chicago lacks several of the component elements of the "Crazy Quilt Party" recently formed in Salem. In this matter Oregon leads the world, and can feel compensated for her wormy apples and other failures of the year. When something decidedly unique is wanted Oregon crankologists respond promptly to the fall of the nickel.

The heavy rains have so damaged the international boundary line on Puget sound that Canadian fishermen are unable to see it and are catching fish in American waters. The line has never been renewed since 1846, and seems to be in so dilapidated a condition that even steamboats get through it. It is to be hoped that Uncle Sam will have a new one laid before another fishy newspaper war breaks out.

Now that Vice President Morton has shocked the worthy members of the W. C. T. U. and their long-haired male St. Johns by permitting the lessee of his hotel to maintain the usual hotel bar, and the president himself has aroused the ire of the anti-Catholic fanatics, we may expect the country to go to the dogs so fast that it will get there before the canines have had time to sharpen their teeth.

If those enthusiasts who want to invest other people's money in a scheme to dig gold from the bed of Snake river at the base of Shoshone falls, will interview Dr. Pierce, of Buffalo, they will probably learn a thing or two about mining river channels that will save some one some money.

About as strong a chain of purely circumstantial evidence as ever was forged has been fastened to the men now on trial for the murder of Dr. Cronin, but it will, no doubt, be broken by some pretty strong swearing in the direction of an alibi or two for each man.

No matter how much the people of Washington may dislike the idea, they will have to take in their "Wn." and put out their "Wash." The clothing department of the post office insists upon it.