

BY D. W. CRAIG.

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For the Argus.

Friendship's Offering.

Lines suggested on reading the notice of the Death of SARAH FRANCES ATKINSON.

Sweet, gentle one! why hast thou gone, O, why so brief thy sojourn here! Had this green earth no charms for thee, No ties to keep thy spirit here!

The Nez Perce Gold Mines.

DES CHUTES, Oct. 28, 1860.

ED. ARGUS: Capt. Pierce and party, who started out more than two months ago to prospect for gold in the Nez Perce country, have returned. They report fine prospects and an extensive gold region lying on the headwaters of Clear Water beyond the Reserve, about 170 miles E.N.E. of Fort Walla Walla.

Mr. Basset, of Portland, who was one of the party, came down on the steamer from Walla Walla yesterday. He had about \$25 of the gold with him. The gold is found in dry diggings, as well as on the creeks. There are also abundance of gold-bearing quartz in that country. He says there is room for thousands of people to work—that there are paying diggings all over that section. They prospected near two months, and the average yield was about 7 cents to the pan—ranging from 2 cents to 15 cents. It is very fine gold, but of the placer kind—rough and craggy when closely viewed—very heavy.

Mr. Basset intends going back there to winter. He is on his way down after supplies and tools, and also to form a small company of a half dozen or more to winter there. He is confident he can make it pay all winter.

Like all new mines, many a man will go up there and get disappointed because he cannot pick up gold by the spoonful. I have no doubt that if a man should go there and work as Capt. Hatch did, he would make money. He will have to work for \$5 to \$10 a day, and take chances for any more. Look out for a great excitement in the spring. To those who go there to work, it will be no humbug—but a great humbug it will be to others. L.E.N.

For the Argus.

A Sketch.

With weary eyes and an aching head, I commenced my ramble. The breeze gently fanned the rippling sea, and its murmurs soothed me. The fragrant air, tuneful birds, and soft southern breeze wooed me onward. My footsteps sought "Ocean Glen," the city of the dead, that commanded a view of the broad Atlantic.

An aged man was seated beside a newly-made grave; at his feet sat a young golden-haired girl. Beautiful the contrast—perfect the picture. With reverence I drew near. The patriarch's voice was broken and tremulous—the blue eyes of the girl were red with weeping. The old man's words show me his heart. "Yes, child, it was a long journey I came to attend your grandmother's funeral. The telegraph brought news she was dying. In my young days" (he said musingly) "such things as telegraphs and steamboats were not thought of. 'Twas many a long day since we met; how strange we should meet at the grave, I the living, she the dead!"

"How well I remember the day cousin Hannah was married. How beautiful I thought her then (you are nothing like your grandmother, child), with her large dark eyes and bands of raven hair. I swam the lake that morning to gather lilies for her bridal. A strange passion was in my heart; I wanted to breathe the pure white lilies in Hannah's rich hair; I wanted the long cold stems to turn to water snakes, that I might strangle the proud man beside her.

"I was a boy and only sixteen, Hannah a girl and eighteen. She never knew how I worshipped her, how the passion of manhood was in the heart of the boy. We used to stand beneath the pomegranate trees in her father's orchard, and gather the ripened fruit. It is all over now, and my turn will soon come." And he repeated slowly, "In my father's house are many mansions." Again he said, "I go to prepare a place for you." His voice grew indistinct, and then ceased altogether.—The silence became painful—the child's face was full of awe. "Give me your hand," said the aged man; "my eyes are getting blind." He attempted to rise, but his strength failed, and he sank back.—One frightened cry, and little Hannah gathered the white-crowned head to her bosom. A few sighs, and the freed spirit was prepared for the crown immortal.—The next day another grave was made, and the cousins slept side by side. LIX LESTER.

PARKEERSVILLE, Sept., 1860.

AN ACT to set off a part of Yamhill county and annex the same to the county of Clackamas.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, That so much of the county of Yamhill as is embraced within township No. 3 south (of) range No. 1 west of the Willamette meridian, as described on the Government surveys, is hereby set off from said county of Yamhill and annexed to and made a part of the county of Clackamas. Approved, Oct. 17, 1860.

A man passing through a gateway in the dark, hit his nose against a post.—"I wish that post was in me," said he. "Better wish it somewhere else," said a bystander. "You might run against it again."

The Discovery of the Columbia River.

JUDGE THORNTON'S MEMORIAL.

The following memorial, detailing interesting events in the early history of Oregon, was submitted to the Legislature at its late session:

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

J. Quinn Thornton would respectfully represent that in the year 1848, while in Washington City, Hall J. Kelly, A. M., of the State of Massachusetts, confided to his trust a silver medal which had been struck for the purpose of commemorating the great historical fact of the discovery of the mouth of the Columbia river, by Captain Gray, on the 11th of May, 1792.—Your memorialist received it in trust, that at a fitting time he would "make a suitable disposition of it." Your memorialist knows not how, in executing the sacred trust confided to him, he could make a more appropriate disposition of it than by presenting it to the State, one of the most prominent geographical features of which is the river, the discovery of which it was designed to commemorate. He therefore prays your honorable body, as the representatives of the people of the State of Oregon, to accept it in their name.

Your memorialist hopes that it will not be deemed inappropriate, if at this time and in this presence, he present in a condensed form the principal historical facts which stand more or less nearly connected with this medal.

In the year 1787, a company of merchants in the city of Boston, consisting of J. Barrell, S. Brown, C. Bullen, J. Darby, C. Hatch, and J. M. Pintard, with a sagacious liberality and enlightened enterprise, fitted out the Columbia and Washington for trade and exploration on the North-west coast of America. The former vessel was under command of Capt. Kendrick, and the latter under that of Capt. Gray. Three gentlemen sailed from Boston on the 30th of September, of the same year, with letters from the Government of the United States, and passports from that of Massachusetts. Both vessels arrived at Nootka Sound in September 1788—the Washington a few days before the Columbia—where they spent the winter, taking furs of the natives in exchange for commodities brought out for that purpose.—In the following spring, Capt. Gray took command of the Columbia and sailed for Canton, from which place he sailed in the autumn of 1789, and returned to Boston harbor in 1790. In 1791, Capt. Gray in command of the Columbia, and Joseph Ingraham in command of the brig Hope, sailed for the North Pacific. In the spring of 1792, Capt. Gray arrived on the North-west coast, and while sailing Northward, discovered an open place in latitude 46 deg. 16 min., from which a current flowed with a force sufficient to prevent him from entering, though he spent nine days in his efforts to do it. In April, 1792, he hailed the British ship Discovery, and informed her commander, Capt. Vancouver, that between the 46th and 47th degrees of north latitude, he had discovered the mouth of a river which he was unable to enter in consequence of the force of the current setting out to sea. Capt. Vancouver, in his journal, speaks of this latitude as having been passed by him two days before.—He says, "the whole coast formed one compact, solid, and nearly straight barrier to the sea." He also further added that he could not possibly have passed any safe navigable opening, harbor, or place of safety for shipping, on the coast, from Cape Mendocino to Cape Flattery in 48 deg., nor had he any reason to alter his opinion, notwithstanding theoretical geographers had thought proper to assert the existence of large inlets, communicating with a mediterranean sea, and extensive rivers with safe and convenient ports.—Capt. Gray feeling sure that he had discovered the mouth of a large river, on the 11th of May, 1792, renewed his efforts to enter it with his vessel. With some difficulty he succeeded, and sailed up to the place now known as Tongue Point, where he dropped his anchor, took in a supply of fresh water, and remained until the 20th, trading with the natives. Upon leaving the river, Capt. Gray gave to it the name of his ship—Columbia. The land immediately at the north side of the entrance of the river, he called Cape Hancock; that on the south side, Point Adams. Heetta, in 1775, had seen this opening in the coast. Meares had seen it in 1788, but left it, believing that no river flowed into what he regarded as only a bay; and the strength of his convictions upon this subject he testified by naming this opening Deception Bay, and by bestowing the name of Cape Disappointment upon the high point of land on the northern side.

In October, 1792, Vancouver having learned from Quadra, the Spanish officer in command at Nootka, the discovery which Capt. Gray reported that he had made, sent the Chatham, in command of Capt. Broughton, to explore it. On the arrival of this officer at the mouth of the river, he found the brig Jenny, from Boston, lying at anchor. The Jenny had sailed from Nootka a few days previous. Capt. Broughton left his vessel at the mouth of the river, proceeded up in his cutter to a point somewhere near the mouth of the Willamette. On the 10th of November, the Chatham and the Jenny weighed anchor, and sailed in company for the bay of San Francisco.

It is worthy of observation that Capt. Vancouver in remarking in his journal upon Capt. Gray's statement that he had been "off the mouth of a river where the outlet or reflux was so strong as to prevent his entering for nine days," adds: "This was probably the opening passed by us on the 27th, and was apparently inaccessible, not from the current, but from the breakers that extended across it." Capt. Vancouver admits that Capt. Gray discovered the river. After leaving

Nootka, in October 1792, he says the serenity of the weather encouraged him to hope that he might be enabled on his way south, to "re-examine the coast of New Albion, and particularly a river and harbor discovered by Mr. Gray, of the Columbia, between the 46th and 47th degrees of north latitude."

Capt. Gray's pretensions to the honor and right of the discovery have been disputed with much warmth by some English writers, who claimed that distinction for Alexander Mackenzie, a British subject, who, it was affirmed, discovered the northern branch of the river. That this claim is not well founded, we have the testimony of Mackenzie himself, who admits that he did not touch the river until June, 1793.

Upon the final return of the expedition, which, as your memorialist has already stated, was fitted out by the sagacious liberality and enlightened enterprise of the gentlemen already named, a few silver medals were struck for the purpose of commemorating Capt. Gray's discovery.—It was at once seen that this would become an important fact as constituting one of the great elements of title to the country drained by the river, because priority of discovery, followed within a reasonable time by occupancy, gives, under the law of nations, the domain, in virtue of which the nation alone may use the country for the supply of its necessities, and the premier, or right of sovereign command.

One of these medals was deposited in the State Department at Washington, and is now in the Library of Congress. One was retained by Capt. Gray. It is believed that these are the only ones now in existence. Upon Capt. Gray's having ended the voyage of life, and gone "where all the ship's company met," his widow became the possessor of the one he had retained. After keeping it several years, she gave it to Hall J. Kelly, A. M., in trust that he would make "some appropriate disposition of it." She confided it to this gentleman because he had long been known to be fully impressed with a sense of the value and importance of the country west of the Rocky Mountains, and because she regarded him as having conceived of the plan of colonizing the territory, having for the object and end of such labor the founding of a new republic of civil and religious freedom on the shores of the Pacific. Your memorialist, being at the seat of General Government in 1848, laboring as best he could to promote the common interests of an infant community which had already planted under a Provisional Government, the vine of christianity and the germ of civil freedom, he received the accompanying medal, promising to make "some appropriate disposition of it." He therefore asks your acceptance of it, and he prays that you may be made the honored instruments, at the hands of the Great Ruler of Nations, for establishing on broad and comprehensive principles, the institutions of civilization and liberty, in "The contiguous woods where falls the Oregon, And hears no sound save his own dashings." J. QUINN THORNTON.

Report of the Committee on Commerce.

The standing committee on commerce, to whom the accompanying memorial of Hon. J. Q. Thornton, presenting to the State of Oregon a medal, the history of which is therein set forth, was referred, respectfully report:

That the facts narrated in the memorial of Judge Thornton, are and always will be full of historical interest to the people of Oregon and of the United States. They constitute in part the monuments of title to a great and valuable portion of our national domain, by virtue of which the American people to claim and hold the same when doubted and denied was justly declared to be "clear and unquestionable." In this view, the medal possesses great value aside from the interest attached to it as a reminiscence of the days of early enterprise, when in the infancy of our nation the sagacious and energetic merchants of Boston were seeking on the far distant and then unknown shores of the North Pacific sea, new fields for commercial exploration and trade.

The medal is made of silver, and bears the following inscriptions: On one side, in the centre, two vessels under sail, the circle surrounding them—the words, Columbia and Washington—commanded by J. Kendrick. On the reverse—Fitted at Boston, N. America, for the Pacific ocean, by J. Barrell, S. Brown, C. Bullen, J. Darby, C. Hatch, and J. M. Pintard—1787.

The committee recommend that the memorial be printed, and also that the following joint resolution be adopted:

Resolved, That the Legislative Assembly of Oregon accept with thanks to Hon. J. Q. Thornton, the medal presented by him to the State of Oregon, and that it be deposited with the archives of State in the hands of the Secretary, to be kept as a perpetual memorial of the first discovery and early history of the State. S. E. MORTON, Clk.

COSTLY SMOKE-PIPE.—A farmer, in Scott Valley, recently lost \$4,000 worth of grain, in consequence of some one having knocked the ashes from his pipe in the straw-yard. The farmer "cussed the pipe" and said no more about it.

Orestes A. Brownson, originally a radical Democrat, and always a profound thinker and able writer, has given in his address to the Republican party. In a speech at Elizabeth, New Jersey, last week, he came out in favor of Lincoln and Hamlin.

Washington City contains 61,400 inhabitants, which is an increase since 1850 of 21,399. The whole of the District of Columbia contains a population of 75,365, against 51,567 in 1850. The number of slaves is 3231, against 3567 in 1850—a decrease of 456.

THE CORAL INSECT.—Sometimes God accomplishes the mightiest ends by the feeblest instruments. For example, many of the lovely islands of the Pacific are formed entirely of coral, while others are protected from the violence of the waves by a circular rampart of the same material. Founded in the depths of ocean, this coral wall rises to the surface, where it indicates its presence by a long white line of breakers. The giant rollers that come in from the sea, and threaten with their foaming crests to sweep that island from its base, spend their strength and dash their waters into snowy foam against this protection-wall; and thus, as within a charmed circle, while all without is a tumbling ocean, the narrow strip of water that lies between this bulwark and the shore is as calm as peace, reflecting as a liquid mirror the boats that sleep upon its surface, and the stately palms that fringe the beach. These stupendous breakwaters, that so greatly surpass in stability and strength any which our art and science have erected, are the work—of what? They are the masonry of an insect—an insect so small that the human eye can hardly detect it, and so feeble that an infant's finger would crush it.

Monsieur Dumont, the celebrated juriscout of Geneva, has left an interesting sketch of Paine, the author of "The Age of Reason," etc. "His egreious conceit and presumptuous self-sufficiency quite disgusted me. He was drunk with vanity. If you believed him, it was he who had done everything in America.—He was an absolute caricature of the vainest of Frenchmen. He fancied that his book upon the 'Rights of Man' ought to replace every other book in the world;—and he told me, roundly, that if it were in his power to exterminate every library in existence, he would do so without hesitation, in order to eradicate the errors they contained, and begin with the 'Rights of Man' a new chain of ideas and principles. He knew all his own writing by heart, but he knew nothing else."

BACHELORS, ATTENTION!—The attention of bachelors is invited to the following "wall" from the Springfield Republican:—"There are some sad sights in this world—a city sacked and burned—a battle field after a great slaughter—a London in the midst of a great plague—a ship burning at sea—a family pining in starvation—a jug of molasses wrecked upon the pavement—but to us the saddest sight of all is an old bachelor walking towards his end, his great duties undone, his shirt buttons off, his stockings out at the toes, and nobody to leave his money to. Were we such a man, the mild, reproving eye of a widow or maiden lady would drive us mad. But there is still hope. Uglyer and older men than any of our friends have married beautiful wives, who trained them admirably, and spent their money elegantly."

CHINA.—The last census, in 1858, made the population over four hundred millions. In 1757, the census gave only 190,348,328; in 1780, it gave 277,548,431; in 1812, 331,693,179; and in 1841, the second last census accessible, 413,457,311. If any reliance can be placed upon the accuracy of these returns, the population of that empire has rapidly increased during the last century. It is not easy to reconcile these facts with the notion so often expressed, that China is in a state of decadence, and requires to have its life renewed by an infusion of foreign elements.

A DEFORMED BODY BUT A SOUND INTELLECT.—In Lexington, Ky., there lives a singularly deformed negro, twenty-one years of age, three feet six inches high, who drags himself on crutches, but whose majesty of intellect is really marvelous. A letter from an intelligent neighbor says he is a living miracle of intelligence; he has taught himself to read, write and cipher, and has thoroughly learned algebra by himself. A kind friend assisted him in trigonometry and calculation of eclipses, and now he thirsts after knowledge. He now desires to study Brewster's Optics, to make himself a telescope, and know how to grind his own glasses, and no doubt will succeed, if perseverance will accomplish anything.

Humboldt, in his "Aspects of Nature," states that the highest peak of this earth's surface is Dawalagira. It is 26,900 feet above the level of the sea. A higher one has since been discovered; the Annuaire for 1860. It is Kenichingaya, on the western range of the Himalayas. It reaches the enormous altitude of 28,200 feet.

Miss Harriet G. Hooper has been selected by a committee appointed by the Missouri Legislature to superintend the erection of a bronze monument to Thos. H. Benton, to execute the work. This is a tribute to genius well deserved.

The famous "Bo-tree" in the island of Ceylon, was planted 288 years B. C., and is now 2148 years old.

MORAL CONDITION OF IRELAND.—An Irish journal states that the assesses, now nearly over throughout Ireland, had been remarkable for the number of prisoners to be tried. In the county of Antrim, there were of the largest in Ireland, there were only three persons in custody. In Monaghan there were but two prisoners, and these were charged with petty larceny. At Roscommon there were seven cases, the most serious being a case of manslaughter, arising out of a drunken fray. In Clare there was one serious case, but only four prisoners. In Meath, no cases. In Limerick, seven. In the city of Limerick, no prisoners for trial. In Wexford, two manslaughter cases. In Down, three cases, and Wicklow and Leitrim only furnished four prisoners between them. The Globe says that this good state of things points the moral that the great body of the Irish people is engaged in peaceful industry.

ROME AND SARDINIA.—A summary of Pope's allocution of the Consistory, of the 28th, is published. He reproves and condemns in stringent terms the detestable attack on the Church and Government by Piedmont. He protests and would not cease to protest against their acts, which he declared null and of no effect; eulogized and blessed his defenders, and called on the European powers for assistance. He deplored the disastrous policy of non-intervention, and called on the powers to examine seriously into the dangerous effects, and concluded by expressing his conviction that the Catholic Princes and people would yet come to the assistance of the faithful, who is attacked by the parrioidal arms of a degenerate son.

It is reported that Napoleon in reply to the Pope, maintains the non-intervention principle, and while promising to maintain order in the Holy See, his desire was to consign Rome to the protection of a genuine Italian power.

BURNING GLASS EXTRAORDINARY.—An Islington artisan has contrived a burning glass of such extraordinary power that it has not only served to concentrate the rays of the sun, but the attention of the learned societies in England. Its diameter is three feet, and the hardest and most solid substances, such as steel, flint, and even platinum, are melted by it in a few seconds.—Nor is the diamond able to resist it. One weighing ten grains, after being exposed to the lens for half an hour, was reduced to six grains. During this time it opened and foliated like the leaves of a flower, and emitted whitish fumes. When closed again, it retained its form and polish.

INDEPENDENT AMERICAN CATHOLICS.—The Richmond Whig says there has recently been organized in that city a religious society or congregation styled as above, the object of which is to discover all connection with the Pope of Rome and his Bishops; and in fact, to repudiate and protest against the Rome Hierarchy in every form. It is composed chiefly of French and German citizens. This is the first move to establish an Independent Catholic Church in America, and bids fair to increase in strength and importance, as a large number of adopted and native citizens in every State of the Union are expected to organize similar congregations.

THE NEGROES GOING.—The grain, hemp, lead, hay, and other products of our State, are not the only things raised on or taken from the soil of Missouri, which find a ready market in the South. It is well known that a steady stream of slaves is flowing straight to the marts of New Orleans and the plantations of the South. Nearly every steamboat from Missouri has more or less of the darkies on board. The Chambers, on Wednesday, brought down thirty or forty. By the West Wind, yesterday, arrived Col. Adams with thirty-five, and the Planet starts for the South this morning, with about fifty. The exodus is setting in early.—St. Joseph Democrat.

On the Fourth of July, at Buenos Ayres, the U. S. brig Dolphin fired a salute in honor of the day, the shore batteries replied, and the vessels of the state squadron in port hoisted the stars and stripes at the main. At Montevideo H. M. S. Oberon "dressed ship" during the day, and the merchant ships in port hoisted their flags.

A Douglas paper in New York returns thanks for a copy of "Covodie's Life and Times of James Buchanan"—alias the report of the famous investigating committee. It says that there are very few public men so fortunate as to have their biographies compiled from official reports and sworn statements.