THE OREGONIAN'S HOME STUDY CIRCLE: DIRECTED BY PROF. SEYMOUR EATCN the earth is constantly changing, growing

BY CHARLES HORSWELL, PH. D. The oldest known manuscript of the Hebrew Bible is in the British museum. It has no date upon it, but the original por-tion of it is supposed to have been written about \$20-850 A. D. It is written on vellum. The page measures 161/2 inches in Then, too, the blind hatred and persecution and 181/2 inches in breadth. As the MS. now is, it consists of 196 pages, of three columns each, and 21 lines in the column. Of the 186 pages, 129 exhibit the original portion. The remaining 57 leaves are a later addition, written on paper and dated 1540 A. D. The entire MS, contains the first five books of the Old Testament. The original portion begins with Genesis xxxix:20, and runs on continuously, with the exception of two pages, to Deuteronomy 1:32. The handwriting is the Sephardic, the Spanish-Portuguese school. It is written in a large, clear letter, and presents a beautiful page. The consonantal line is about one-half inch in breadth, and space between the lines about the same width. The consonants are supplied with vowel points and accents. At the top and bottom and on the right margin are smaller lines, which are the critical notes

GOLDEN AGES OF LITERATURE long to a period between the 12th and the 15th centuries. They are for the most part fragments. That they should be so late, so few and so fragmentary finds late, so few and so fragmentary finds ready explanation. The revival of learning in Italy, that secured and preserved for us the classic texts, was a revival outside of the Church, and at heart antagonistic By its discovery and acquisition originals of the Greek and Roman classics it reveals what might have been done for the Jewish literature as well. directly to the destruction of the Hebrew MSS.; the Jews were compelled to conceal them in order to keep them, and they preferred to burn them rather than see them in the hands of their deadly foes.

> Charles Horswell. Northwestern University.

### THE METRIC SYSTEM.

Protest Against the Pending Bill for Its Establishment.

PORTLAND, Feb. 20 .- (To the Editor.) -Some three weeks ago The Oregonian contained quite an extended note from Wachington to the effect that Congress of the scribes. In one of these notes there would probably enact, or attempt to en-as evidence that this Massoretic annotation act into law, the metric system of weights

TOTOYBACIAECOC TIPOCTATM ACYNH AI NYTIOXEIPATAI KAIHXOHECOHP MOCKATIONAY ANNATION LYNVIE KAIMPECENATTO TOKOPACIONIKA EXLENXYDINEUM ITIONAYTOYKAI ECHEYCEN ATTHAT

KAJOTEH KOYCOH CHAN CINKAJEN DICHH MACINKAITOTEEP TIOPEYETAITTOC TONKACIZEAKAI WEANEITHTIAPA AWCEINTHNEY. MEICETXECOLINI TWATIOTOTTYNG KONOCEWCTWN BACIZEIWNSEI YHCEICHOLELEIN KAITTOCHMEPAN ALTOTPEXELEIGIT

THOPACIATIONANTEICCOLLYN

THE SINAITIC MANUSCRIPT.

the oldest manuscripts of the Septuagint. Photographed from one of the sheets found by Dr. Tischendorf in 1844 in an old fuel basket at Mount Sinai.)

which has come to light. The page is not quite so large as the earlier codex, and there are but two columns to the page. There are Il lines in each column. The consonantal features are identical with those just considered. The peculiar forms of certain consonants are repeated here. There is less scribal annotation, and with the one column less the page looks freer and cleaner. This codex is also from the Sephardic school. Only one familiar with vowel points below, the other above the consonantal text. The supralinear is the Babylonian etyle. It is the more complex. and although it maintained itself until the 17th century it was destined to give way to the simpler infralinear system, which the printed Bible employs. This codex contains the latter prophets, i.e., Isalah, Jeremiah, Ezeklel and the 12 minor prophets. It is for the critical study of the prophets what the earlier codex is for the study of the Pentateuch. A glance at a third MS, will show what artistic skill the copyist sometimes displayed on the let-tering, and particularly in the arrangement of the marginal notes. This M8. bears the date 1300 A. D. The marginal notes are artistically arranged in the form conventional figures, of dragons and reptiles. The first word of each t

written in conspicuously large letters.

These three MSS, illustrate fairly well the form and character which the vary-ing codices present. They are all repro-



(Date about 800 years before Christ. A speci-men of the ancient Hebrew characters in men of the ancient Hebrew characters in which the Old Testament books were written.)

ductions of a single text. They have all proceeded from one and the same original type. In the seventh and eighth centuries A. D. Jewish scholars, by a complete eys-tem of vowel points and accents, perfect-ed what they believed to be a definite and accurate edition of the text. Their additions to the consonantal text are called the Massorah, or traditions. The scribes themselves who made the text are called the Massorites and their text is known as the Massoretic text. All extant Hebrew MSS, are copies of this text. These reproductions have been collected from different countries and are in the handwriting of different schools of copylsts-Arabian, Sephardic. Italian, Franco-Italian and German; and they present, naturally, many minor differences. But they are, one and all, simply reproductions of the original Massoretic text. Some MSS, have the supralinear, others the infralinear system of vowel punctuation. Some MSS. have the Chaldee in alternate lines with the Hebrew text. There are peculiarrates in the shape of one or more of the conincident in the same standard of weights and measures, and the shape of the conincident in the same standard of weights and measures, and the shape of the conincident in the same standard of weights and measures, and the shape of the conincident in the same standard of weights and measures.

does not belong to the original MS., but and measures. It was thought that the was added about a century later, 900-940 hardships of it might be overcome by sub-A. D.

A brief consideration of the next oldest ficult terms employed in the metric system. A. D.

A brief consideration of the next oldest codex will help us to understand the similarity and minor references which Hebrew Miss. present. This Ms. is in the Imperial person in the nation will enter a vigorous, person in the nation will English. They are awkward, voluminous, difficult, but this is not the serious objection. The terms can be soon learned, but that is not the beginning. They do not represent any of our conceptions of

weights and measures. Children are born simply little animals. and if their environment were such as to the Hebrew text would discover any no-ticeable difference. Such a difference there is, however, for in this codex the supra-linear towel punctuation is employed. There were rival systems of punctuation There were rival systems of punctuation among the scribes, one school writing the the xalledness and effectiveness of his

> rounded. Not only were we taught all these terms, but the pictures of them, the dimensions, shaped, sizes, comparative reunded. Not only were we taught all these terms, but the pictures of them, the dimensions, shaped, sizes, comparative quantities and weights became indelibly imprinted upon the sensitive plates of our minds. We are in the midst, surrounded by all of Nature's objects and foreca; we have them all weighed and measured by a given standard, so that they have all become a part of us. They are us, plus the animal. To change any of these and stalltitute new standards is to begin at the bottom of the ladder and make the person over, so far as the thing sought to be changed is concerned.
>
> To attempt to substitute the metric system, therefore, for the one that has become a part of us, of our very being from time out of mind, is to attempt to tear down and rebuild humanity—the American people—in all matters affected by weights and measures, which are practically the entire temperal wants of men. This our people will never submit to. The blending of two standards of weights and measures are account fell to corries and measures.
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> THE IMPERIAL.
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> C. W. Knowice. Manager.
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> I M. Kaster, Knappa A. Adderson, Minn b. H. M. Kaster, Knappa A. Anderson, Minn b. H. M. Kaster, Knappa C. F. Casel.
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> C. H. H. M. Kasture, Anderson, Miss A. Peterso

ing of two standards of weights and measures cannot fall to confuse and impair an accurate knowledge of either or both, hence deterioration in manhood must fol-

low.

There is still another very serious objection to the introduction of the metric system in an economic way. All tools, implements, all measurements and weights, all goods are based upon the present English system. All scales and instruments for determining weights are adjusted to ounces, pounds, etc.; all things with which we have to do are measured by yards, feet, pints, etc. The change uld be practically impossible. Inextricable confusion must follow such an at-tempt. All our lands are stereoptyed in feet, rods, acres, sections, miles, which could not be changed. If our system is an evil, it must remain so. There is such a thing as an evil being so vast in magnitude that to change or attempt to change it into good would be worse than the evil itself. This fact today contains the darkest cloud that menaces the American peo

pie.

The advocates of the metric system can in the way. There are no real and adequate reasons for substituting the metric system for our own, other than univer-sality of expression and meaning, and a little more convenience in computing by tens. If universality is wanted, let all adopt the English system; it is now more widely in use than any other system, out-side of the Chinese, perhaps. The differ-ence in the standards of weights and measures is not what is weighing the world down and retarding its progress. It

of it—as a standard to measure the diam-eter of a hair with is apparent, especially when a greater part of it has to be ap-proximated, besides it ought to be known by scientists that the circumference of less from day to day. This is too much like the gold and silver standards we hear so much about-standards of value, but constantly changing according to the law of supply and demand. Our attempt to ape the greater part of Europe in this matter will prove a failure. We have al-ready overdone this aping business. Many of our schoolbooks are copied after the German and other nations in style and matter to the hurt of our children. Much

tion what seems to me to be an outrage in the introduction of this system into our schools through the use of a certain schoolbook on physics. It does not seem to be a publication of the American Book Company, to their credit be it said. It has adopted the metric system with the result that the scholars have to go back to babyhood to acquire the new standards of measurements that are entirely different from those which have become a part of their very being through is or if years of training. It is an imposition on the people, and especially on the students, who are forced to try to comprehend and adopt two parallel standards, entirely different from each other, at the hend and adopt two parallel standards, entirely different from each other, at the same time. One of the brightest young same time. One of the school declared that she laides of the school declared that she was confused and perplexed during the land laws of the United States, and that entire time she was using the book. She entire time she was using the book. She always had to compare the motric terms with our own weights and measures before she could even partially understand what was meant. In fact, it does not even define the terms so that this can be mineral lands and mining claims, which have been extended to Alaska, only mineral lands belonging to thee. United giri, who is just starting in physics, de-clared she was very much pleased with the study, but the new standards of weights two systems, before the new has any place in her mental storehouse, then it is confused. If I had a child thus handicapped I would sue out an injunction at once. Many of our scientific writers seem to think it smart to encumber their works with these metric terms and standards, making their thoughts and works practically closed books to all but a few who have taken the time to master the the system. Many of the most valuable productions of scientific research by the

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

W. HAMPTON SMITH.

THE PORTLAND.

government are so encumbered.

THE PORTLAND.

Frank N Place, N Y
Heary Doyle, Vancyr
Heary Doyle, do
Miss Doyle, do
Miss Corbould, do
Fred Lee, Seattle
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John Derrig, Grt Fails A H Winn, San Fran
J Valentine, New Yrk J O Cranston, City
A A McClanahan, Chg R C Stevens, Seattle
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A D Rickey, Phila
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C O Scott, San Fran
C O Scott, San Fran
A N Bush & wf, Salem
Mrs S C Hall, New Yrk F
H C Campbell, City
THE PERKINS

Children are born simply little animals, and if their environment were such as to keep all knowledge of things from them, they would continue mere animals to the end. Manhood, therefore, conciets of this animal nature, plus the acquisition of a knowledge of things, of quality, of quantity, of dimension, of color and, in short, all things knowable. Just in proportion in as all these things have been added to his animal nature or foundation, so are the exaltedness and effectiveness of hiz manhood. This applies not only to physical things, but intellectual, moral and immoral. If to the animal is added only rottenness, falsehood, hypocrisy, with the good and true, and all useful knowledge is left out, the animal is not a very attractive one. "As a man thinketh eo is he." This all might be enlarged upon, but what has been stated is sufficient for my purpose.

We Americans are composed of yards, feet, inches, miles, acres, etc.; of pounds, ounces, tsns; of pinis, quaris, gallons; bushels and so on through the list. When we were bables—little animals—the process of man-building began. We were taught and tangible things by which we were surrounded. Not only were we taught all these terms, but the pictures of them, the complete terms are formed and true, and all useful knowledge on the process of man-building began. We were taught and than the so much distance was an inch, foot, yard, mile; so much liquid or fragmentary matter was a pint, quaris, bushel and so on through the whole list of knowable and tangible things by which we were surrounded. Not only were we taught all these terms, but the pictures of them, the THE PERKINS. Mrs C H Koch, Hills- |C A Middinac, Worces

THE IMPERIAL. C. W. Knowles, Manager.

THE ST. CHARLES.

W B Hatton, Astoria R E Steele, Roseburg H W Linhart, Lattile File A S Graham, Astoria Mrs J Duniap, Chinook Jas Thorne, Marshind H G Nelson, City B Goodwin, City J T Taibert, Wheatind Lor Haddie, Wheatind H I Case. Wheatland J W Todd, City C W McFariani, May Gurney, Astoria L Johnson, Cornelius L Johnson

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A Correction.

PORTLAND, Feb. 28 .- (To the Editor.)-Since my letter, "Herbert Spencer's Views," in today's issue of your paper. sonants that have their significance to the scholar. The marginal notes present a great variety of minor differences, but these variations afford but little help in the correction of errors and throw but little help in great variety of the correction of errors and throw but little help in the correction of errors and throw but little help in the correction of the Hebrew scriptives as they were in the zeventh and eighth centuries A. D. To get back of this text it is necessary to make use of the efficiency of the editions of the Greek version. This gives translation was completed about 152 greek translation was completed about 153 greek translation was completed about 154 greek translation was completed about 155 greek translations and throw but the same terms, it is also despressed in the same terms, it is also despressed in the same terms it is also despressed in was written, I learn that the subject of

THE REACH DIGGINGS AT CAPE NOME, ALASKA.

Only Mineral Lands Belonging to United States Are Open to Exploration, Occupation and Purchase.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—It is now protty well understood that in the eyes of our school system is borrowed from moribund civilizations.

Before I close this protest I must mention what seems to me to be an outrage in the introduction of this system into our whatever with respect to such lands can whatever with respect to such lands can

expressed the opinion that these lands could not be considered public lands of the character subject to disposal under the land laws of the United States, and that

mineral lands belonging to thee United understood without referring to our own States are open to exploration, occupation, measurements. Thus the meter is 29.37 location and purchase. In the case of measurements. Thus the meter is seed inches, a supposed 40-millionth part of that portion of the claims which lie above the earth's circumference. It is a criminal waste of time to thus occupy the student's hours in school. Another bright States, and, if mineral in character, as are girl, who is just starting in physics, determined and part ball. location and purchase. In the case of try, could be located, occupied and held under the mining laws as extended to Alasstudy, but the new standards of weights and measures bothered and perplexed her. I have as any other public minutes. I have a study but the new standards of weights with the same as any other public minutes. I have a standards of weights with the same as any other public minutes. I have a standards of weights with the same as any other public minutes. She has to experiment and compare the lands in the territory, if it were not for the provision in the act of 1898, which described a "roadway" 60 feet in width ka, the same as any other public mineral parallel to the shore line as near as may be practicable, shall be reserved for the use of the public as a highway." The Department confesses that this provision has not been sufficiently considered to justify an expression of any opinion at this time. The remaining question presented is: Are the tide lands in the District of Alas-

ka, public lands belonging to the United States, within the meaning of the mining laws? In the case of Shively vs. Bowlby the Supreme Court had under consideration the question of the title to certain tide lands in the State of Oregon. In its decision of the case, the court, after an elaborate and exhaustive review and discus-sion of the whole general subject of the wnership and control of the tide lands in

the various States and Territories of the United States, summed up its conclusions as follows: Lands under tide waters are incapable of cullivation or improvement in the marner of lands above high-water mark. They are of great value to the public for the purposes of com-merce, navigation and fishery. Their improve-ment by individuals, when permitted, is incliental or subordinate to the public use and right. Therefore the title and the control of

them are vested in the sovereign for the benef of the whole people.

At common law, the title and the dominio in lands flowed by the tide were in the king for the benefit of the Nation. Upon the settle-ment of the colonies, like right passed to the grantees in the reyal charters, in trust for the communities to be established. Upon the American Revolution, these rights, charged with a like trust, were vested in the original States within their respective borders, subject to the rights surrendered by the Constitution to the Inited States.

Upon the acquisition of a territory by the Juled States, whether by exession from one of the States, or by treaty with a foreign coun-try, or by discovery and settlement, the same title and dominion passed to the United States, for the benefit of the whole people, and in trust for the several States, to be ultimately

created out of the territory.

The new States admitted into the Union since the adoption of the Constitution have the same rights as the original States in the tide waters. and in the lands under them, within their respective jurisdictions. The title and rights of riparian or littoral proprietors in the soil below high-water mark, therefore, are governed by the laws of the several States subject to the lights granted to the United States by the Con

The United States, while they hold the country as a territory, having all the powers both of national and of municipal government, may grant, for appropriate purposes, titles or rights in the soil below high-water mark of tide waters. But they have never done so by general laws; and, unless in some case of international duty or public exigency, have acted upon the policy, as most in accordance with the interest of the people and with the object for which the territories were acquired, of leaving the admin-istration and disposition of the covereign rights in navigable waters, and in the soil under them, to the control of the States, respectively, when organized and admitted into the Union. Grants by Congress of portions of the public

lands within a territory to settlers thereon though bordering on or bounded by navigable waters, convey, of their own force, no title or right below high-water mark, and do not mpair the title and deminion of the future State when created; but leave the question of the use of the shores by the owners of uplands to the sovereign control of each State, subject only to the rights vected by the Constitution is the United States.

"In view of the law as thus declared, say's the Secretary, "and of the stated policy theretofore prevailing with respect to tide lands, in the absence of specific leg Islation by the Congress in relation to the tide lands of the District of Alaska at variance with said policy, there can be no doubt that such tide lands are not public lands belonging to the United States, withn the meaning of the mining laws, and that no rights whatever can be acquired with respect thereto by exploration, lo-cation, or otherwise, under said laws. "It is proper in this connection to also refer to the act of May 14, 1898, entitled 'An act extending the homestead laws and providing for right of way for railroads in the District of Alaska, and for other purposes,' where in it is provided:

That nothing in this act contained shall be construed as impairing in any degree the title of any State that may bereafter be erected out of said district, or any part thereof, to tile lands and beds of any of its navigable waters, or the right of such State to regulate the use thereof, nor the right of the United States to resume possection of such lands, it being de-clared that all such rights shall continue to be held by the United States in trust for the peo-ple of any State or States which may bere-after be erected out of said district. The term 'navigable water,' as herein used, shall be held to include all tidal waters up to the line of ordinary high tide and all non-tidal waters navigable in fact up to the line of ordinary high-water mark.

"This legislative declaration is in entire harmony with the law as it had been previously announced by the Supreme Court in the case above recited, and is indicative of a purpose on the part of Congress, in dealing with the D'strict of Alaska, to adhere to the policy theretofore existing with respect to the tide

"In view of all the foregoing it is perfectly clear that the mining locations in question, so far as it is attempted by them to embrace lands lying below the



man's care for his health was marked by the completeness of the armor in ed himself up. It was very unhealthy in those "merr days" of jovial robber ba to be outside of the steel case of knigthood. It was steel vs. steal every hour of the day. In our times a man needs to be armed inside

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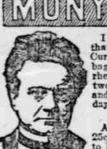
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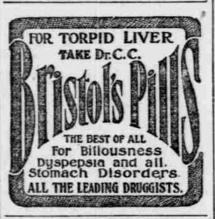
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From San Francisco-State of California sull-Friday, Feb. 2: Monday, Feb. 12: Thursday, Feb. 22. Columbia salis Wednesday, Feb. 7. Saturday, Feb. 17: Tuesday, Feb. 27.

COLUMBIA RIVER DIVISION. PORTLAND AND ASTORIA. Steamer Hassa'o leaves Portland daily, exce unday, at 8.00 P. M ; on Saturday at 10:00 L. Heturning, leaves Astoria daily, except Su my, at 7:00 A. M.

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