GOLDEN AGE OF ITALIAN LITERATURE

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THE OREGONIAN'S HOME STUDY CIRCLE: DIRECTED BY PROF. SEYMOUR EATON

GOLDEN AGES OF LITERATURE

XII. DANTE AND HIS RELATION TO MODERN LITERATURE.

(Concluded.)

BY C. W. BENTON, PH. D.

Another of the principal elements of culture came from the Arabs. It is now recognized that scholastic philosophy was taken in great measure from their writings. They form the link in the chain which connects ancient philosophy to scholastics. The works of Aristotle as commented by the Arabian philosophers, were translated into Latin, and may be said to have contributed much to awaken the desire and the thirst for the original Greek sources, and thus prepared the way for the renaissance.

From the Caliph Almomonn Honain received a weight of gold equal to each of the Greek books he translated into Arabic. From the ninth century to the middle of the eleventh the Arabs were masters of Sicily, and even under the Emperor Frederick III. in the 13th, they still held the peninsula under their intellectual sway. Although Europe hated them for being Mohammedans, it was fascinated by their superior civilization, their rich fabrics, their ornaments of jewelry, their finely tempered blades of Damascus and Toledo, their elegant architecture, which, as Lamenais says, with its arches and wonder ul tracery of stone, resembles some bril iant dream, where the eye is lost in the pursuit of a symmetry which at every moment it hopes to seize, but which escapes it ever.

Many of the scholars of Europe flocked to the Arabian universities and brought back numerous sciences and inventions. The first clock known in Europe was sent to Charlemagne by Haroun al Raschid. Roger Bacon brought back chemistry, Gerbert the Arabic numerals. About 1200 Leonardo of Pisa composed a treat'se on algebra which he had learned among the Arabs. In the 13th century Campanus of Navarre translated and commented Eu:id. Vitellion Polonais translated the optics of Alhazen. Gerard de Gremone spreads astronomy by giving the "Almageste" of Ptolemy with the commentary of Geber. The sons of Averraces lived at the court of Fredeirck II of Sicily and taught him the natural history of plants and anima's, and it was probably from them that Frederick received the famous commentary of their father on Aristotle, which he s nt to the University of Bologna.

Dante did not dare to condemn Averrhoes, though a Mussulman, to the burning, but places him in that vast painless nimbo near the shades of Socrates and Aristotle.

The Arabs, says Humboldt, must be regarded as the real founders of the physical sciences.

Avicenna, born 980, wrote on many sciences, but was known in Europe only as a doctor. His canons or rules, in five books, served for centuries as the basis of medical studies in France and Italy. The Arabs added to the herbarium of Dioscorides 2000 plants. Under the tropics the organs are gifted with more vital force, the vegetable kingdom is richer in aromatic growths.

Caravans came from Arabia with the spices and incense of Yemen, the drugs and pearls of Hadramant, which were brought into the markets of Europe. The Arabs constituted chemical pharmacy. From them came the first learned prescriptions.

Dante himself was registered on the books of Florence among the pharmacists, and so was probably well acquainted with this branch of Arabian science. Astronomy and astrology find numerous allusions in his pages. That famous passage uttered by Pluto in the seventh canto, which most commentators have supposed to be Hebrew, is in all probability Arabic It is on the face of it more likely that the poet should put into the mouth of one of the princes of the infernal world an utterance in the language of the great enemies of Christendom than words in the Hebrew, which, according to common belief, was the sacred mother of all.

I have thus mentioned some of the chief literary elements which combine in the "Divine Comedy." The same may be done for several others, such as the politics of Florence and Italy, the religion, art and science of the Middle Ages, so that the "Divine Comedy" may justly be called the mediaeval epic. What makes it, however, a work of consummate art is in this, that these diverse elements are given not as simple facts of knowledge, but, like the chemical constituents of the living tree or flower, they all form an integral part of one body of culture, which is the soul life of the great poet himself.

I have compared Dante to Homer, but he differs from Homer by all the difference of the romantic and the classical ideals in art. Homer brought the gods down to earth and made them men. Dante takes men into the spiritual world and so connects them with the infinite.

Classic art is clear and well defined. Its most characteristic form was sculpture. It sprang from a simple and natural civilization, not overshadowed by a dread of the future coloring all its thoughts and movements with a sense of the invisible. The Greeks were children of the present, filled with the enthusiasm of actual enjoyment, and so their art attained the most exquisite perfection of material form. During the Middle Ages, on the other hand, devotion and theology had their eyes turned toward heaven. Earth was considered not as a place of enjoyment, but of expiation. To deliver the sepulcher of Christ from the infidel would bring salvation to the soul. Hermits went into the caves of the mountains to flee the world and to dream of the duties of eternity.

There was a sense of the infinite value of the human soul. All that was done should be with a view to avoid the penalties of hell and secure the mansions that fade not away.

It was the duty of the strong to protect the weak and oppressed. The institution of chivalry arose, which combined the love of woman with the adoration of the Virgin Mother of God. Ideal womanhood was made the intermediate of the divine. This spiritual worship of woman is very different from that which existed in Greece and gives rise to a different ideal in art. In Greek art the perfect woman is the form of the Venus de Milo. With Dante, Beatrice is something more than a perfect form. Herself he does not even describe. She is in the inner sanctuary and the whole poem is filled with her very presence. Absent from view, her spirit pervades and floats over the whole work, beckoning on to loftier and more spiritual scenes. Even when she was alive and appeared to him on the streets of Florence, there was such a sense of charity filled his soul that he could pardon all his enemies. When she died the earth was desolate and the tomb becomes the corner-stone of the Christian's song. As his love in its strength is revealed to him by the death of Beatrice, death has no power over it, and to his faith she becomes in truth immortal after she was dead. She had appeared as a messenger, but for a time to bring to earth a revelation of the divine and the eternal. This ideal was the passion of Italy in the Middle Ages, the worship of the Madonna.

In a similar manner, Raphael transfigures the face of her whom he loves into that of the Sistine Madonna. Italy failed to secure the dominion of the world to which she aspired in the restoration of the Roman Empire, but through her faith in this exalted ideal she did gain supremacy in the world of art.

It is this ardent personality of the poet which gives its chief interest to the "Divine Comedy." In classic art the individual was forgotten in the general. In romantic art the sense of personal worth so prevails and overflows as to give color and character to the smallest details. Perfection of form is often sacrificed to energy of soul. In classic art humanity was typified in the perfection of the godlike. The gods themselves were made men, and the point of contact where both met was the very highest culmination and only possible expression of perfect art. In romantic art that typical and ideal form was no longer enough to express the individual aspirations of immortal hope which the cold marble could no longer contain. The new life of the imprisoned soul must pierce into the realm of spirit where is its veritable home. This struggle for freedom will vary according to the character of the individual. This explains the infinite variety of romantic art. A consciousness that the perfect cannot be attained will produce that sense of the infinite mingled with sadness which is the mark of modern poetry. The sense of victory over difficulties, on the other hand, will give that buoyancy of hope that the future

DANTE.

may reveal. The uniformity of classic art has given place to the variety of individual taste. All objects become interesting when touched with human emotion. The objects of art become multiform as nature. Nature Dante calls the daughter of the infinite mind, and as art is the truthful reproduction of the daughter of nature, so art he defines as the grandchild of Deity. This lineage of art explains the religious fervor of the art of Italy. It becomes the highest good and the word which expresses the highest excellence of character is taken to designate the virtuoso, the skilled interpreter of art. The manger becomes sacred, because in it was rocked the Infant King. To it come the wise men of the East with their gifts of frankincense and gold. The genius of Christian art portrays the lowliest of scenes. The fishermen of Galilee become heroes for the painter's brush. The lilies of the field are more radiant than Solomon in all his glory. Every object in nature becomes interesting because touched by an immortal hand. Each blade of grass, each stone is precious because it brings to the eye the light of a distant star. This glow of sympathy Dante gives to the commonest things. When he speaks of looking at some object in the realm of shades it is with the intent look of a shoemaker trying to thread his needle after the twilight has gathered. When the spirits come around him in Paradise it is as when goldfishes in an aquarium flock around a crumb of bread. The music of the skylark is made real when he stops for a moment as if satisfied with his last note.

Evening is the time when the mariner's thought turns fondly toward those whom he left at home or when the pilgrim's eyes turn heavenward on hearing the distant bell weeping for departing day. When the giant Antaeus stooped to lift the travelers over one of the subterranean chasms he is likened to the leaning tower of Carisenda at Bologna, when a cloud has gathered upon it. There is scarcely a city of Italy which does not retain reminiscences of him. He used to sit on that stone to look at the cathedral. Along that path outside the city he used to walk in deep thought during his exile.

Florence has done all she could to atone for her ingratitude to her greatest citizen. She has erected monuments in his honor, and in the Church of Santa Croce a cenotaph near the tombs of Michael Angelo and Galileo, but Ravenna, where he died, refuses to surrender his ashes.

This power of mingling human feeling with the ordinary scenes of nature and of life, possessed in a supreme degree by Dante, has become one of the chief features of modern literature, the gift of finding "sermons in stones, books in the running brooks, and good in everything."

C. W. Benton

ARGUMENT FOR PROHIBITION

Followed by a Short Statement of Its Fundamental Errors.

EUGENE, Or., April 3.—(To the Editor.)—I trust you will allow me, in your columns, the opportunity of presenting opposing views to your editorial of yesterday upon "Manufacturing Morality by Statute."

1. You repeat the old misstatement that Prohibitionists attempt to "make men moral by law." You entirely misunderstand what they have stated for years. They have no such hope or plan. License advocates alone make such a plea, i. e., that license will decrease drunkenness. Prohibitionists aim intelligently at obvious public evils resulting from a law-established traffic, and we seek to prevent men, by law, from becoming immoral. Surely the fact ought to be well known (it has been stated by our jurists) that the saloon not only supplies the existing demand for liquors, but that it continually creates new sources of demand. Law can prevent men from becoming immoral by determining environment, and it can thereby remove the chief cause of crime, pauperism and disorder. Is not the Prohibitionist sane in this contention?

2. The editorial stated: "The leading Generals of the Army who have lived with the soldiers for 40 years, founded the canteen and testify," etc. Who are the Generals, and where is the testimony? General Eagan alone has approved of the canteen. Generals Miles, Shafter, Corbin, Wheeler, Lawton and a dozen others have publicly made known their decided disapproval of it. The English armies run successfully without carrying a saloon with each regiment. The records show that these canteens sell all kinds of drinks and produce all kinds of drunkenness. Why do we select the finest physical young men and then teach them to degrade their manhood and wreck their bodies by guzzling beer? These man-wreckers must be suppressed, and many regiments have done so successfully. Tippling places outside of Army posts are preferable to tippling places within Army posts, and a drunken soldiery cannot remain a strong or a good soldiery.

3. You brand as "false philosophy" the teaching that demands the abolishment of self-propagating evils, like the liquor traffic. All these drinks are luxuries and follow the true rule of political economy that in the case of created luxuries the supply brings into existence the demand. Your argument concerning "unwilling angels," and your fear of weakening of character under prohibition, are hoary with age. Forsooth, let us license the social evil and make it permanent and prominent that our young men may be pure, and let us license the libertines that our young women may become virtuous. Let us license gambling hells that our sons may become honest citizens. Ridiculous! Do we not know that "like produces like"? Have we not heard of environment? Personal contact with evil never has been an educator of moral forces and never will be.

Finally, as James Bryce has written (page 687): "That (new issue) which most keenly interests the people, though, of course, not all the people, is the regulation or extinction of the liquor traffic." It will not be laughed down, jeered down, sneered down or bought off. It must be settled, and it must be settled right.

STUART B. HANNA.

This is illogical. It misses the whole case. Liquor-selling or liquor-dealing, in itself, is not evil or immoral. It is only the excess or abuse. But gambling, the social evil, etc., are immoral per se. It is as natural a right to sell whisky as it is to sell corn. What is called license to sell liquor is a misleading term. It does not facilitate the sale of liquor, which is a natural right; but burdens it. So, if a tax were put on gambling or other vice, and called a license, it would be misleading; but we do not give vice the sanction of law, upon payment of tax—that is, in familiar terms, do not license it. Alcoholic liquors may be rightly or rightfully, and harmlessly used; but there is no rightful or harmless gambling or sexual irregularity. Things harmless per se should not be confounded with things harmful and wrong per se. Nine-tenths of all the wines and liquors consumed in the world are consumed by those who do notabuse them, or who abuse them but slightly; and these great numbers are not going in leading strings to government because a small minority—mostly those who are of no account, any way—have no proper control over themselves. Hence prohibition is impractiable.

Prohibitionists are fond of saying that liquor-making and liquor-selling is "a law-established traffic." It is not. It is a natural right of commerce, not established by law, but usually taxed by law, both for revenue and for regulation, since it is a traffic very liable to abuse, in irresponsible hands.

The Army canteen is a problem of its own kind. Efforts at prohibition, under military discipline, may not be so absurd as for the whole body of citizens in civil society; still, it is a serious question whether an attempt to deal with the liquor problem under military regulations, with the responsibilities they enforce, is not more conducive to decency and order than the attempt to enforce severe prohibition, attended as the attempt always is, by lapses of the worst kind.

Bryan.

William Jennings Bryan,
Coming West, they say,
To spout about "free silver,"
Just to pass the time away;
Travels in the height of style,
Has a heap of fun,
Because he tickles up the jays
Who want "sixteen to one."

William Jennings Bryan
Hasn't the least of show,
He will go out of business
With the falling of the snow.
His "cross of gold," and "crown of thorns"
Will then be buried deep,
And Willie J. can have a rest,
Or take a long, long sleep.

William Jennings Bryan,
We sent our boys to fight,
With Otis at Manila,
We deemed it just and right;
We never yet, dear Willie,
Have seen our flag retreat;
We'll hold onto the Philippines,
As a memento of the feat.

William Jennings Bryan,
The trip will do you good;
You can see our big red apples,
Or climb our pride, "Mount Hood."
Your windy talks, dear Willie,
We cannot quite put down,
Nor the platform made at Lincoln,
Your own delightful town.

William Jennings Bryan,
We're glad you're coming West,
For we want to see you, Willie,
While your lungs are at their best.
We know the mighty falleth,
All things must sure decay,
And we wish to gaze upon you
Before you fade away.
March 27, 1900. —Lue Vernon.

GOT A FAVORABLE REPORT

MOODY'S SUCCESS WITH DOUBLE MINIMUM REFUNDING BILL.

It Has Been Long Before Congress, But Now Has an Excellent Prospect of Getting Through.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Representative Moody has gained a victory in securing from the House committee on public lands a favorable report on the double minimum refunding bill, which has so long been pending before Congress, ever since the days of Senator Dolph, in fact. On several occasions this bill has been favorably reported, and passed by the Senate; but it has always met its fate in the House committee. Mr. Moody has carried the bill one step further than any of his predecessors in the House, and after a long, persistent and incessant fight has secured a favorable report on the bill. Even then he could not secure the unanimous indorsement of the committee, as one Democrat opposed the measure, and threatens to file an adverse report, which will probably result in opposition to the bill in the House when it is reached on the calendar.

The public lands committee, as constituted this year, is reporting only such bills as are really deemed meritorious, and which the members of the committee will endeavor to pass. Representative Jonas, of Washington, whose state is largely interested in this bill, was very active in working with Representative Moody, and to him belongs a portion of the credit. When the bill is reached it is safe to say that the members of the committee who favor the bill, which includes all except one, will endeavor to secure its passage, co-operating with Representative Moody. This Congress the bill was put through the Senate early by Senator McBride, and was immediately taken up in the House committee. If it could go through the House with as little opposition as it encountered in the Senate, there would soon be cause for great rejoicing in both Oregon and Washington. The bill, as reported to the House committee, and as passed by the Senate, is as follows:

What the Bill Is.

"That section 2, of an act entitled 'An act for the relief of certain settlers on the public lands, and to provide for the repayment of certain fees, purchase money and commissions paid on void entries of public lands,' approved June 16, 1880, be amended, so as to read as follows:

"Section 2. That in all cases where homestead or timber-culture or desert-land entries or other entries of public lands have heretofore or shall hereafter be canceled or relinquished on account of conflict, or where, from any cause, the entry has been erroneously allowed and cannot be confirmed, the Secretary of the Interior shall cause to be repaid to the person who made such entry, or to his legal representatives, the fees and commissions, amount of purchase money, and excesses paid upon the same upon the surrender of the duplicate receipt and the execution of a proper relinquishment of all claims to said land, whenever such entry shall have been duly canceled by the Commissioner of the General Land Office; and in all cases where parties, as pre-emptors or homestead claimants, have paid double-minimum price for land which has afterward been found not to be within the limits of a railroad land grant, or which is within the limits of any portion of a grant which has been heretofore or which shall hereafter be forfeited by reason of any failure upon the part of the grantee to construct that portion of the railroad in aid of which such grant was made, which is adjacent to and coterminous with such lands, the excess of $1 25 per acre shall in like manner be repaid, but only to the entryman who made the excess payment or to his executor or administrator, for the benefit of the estate; provided, that no claim for any money under this act shall be allowed unless the same is duly made and presented to the Department of the Interior of the United States within the period of three years from the date when such claim shall accrue, or from the date of the approval of this act. And, provided, further, that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to affect any land lying within the primary limits of any railroad land grant where the road to which said grant was made has been constructed."

Congressman Jones' Report.

The House report, made by Mr. Jones, is substantially along the lines of the report of the Senate committee. It is as follows:

"This bill amends section 2 of the act of June 16, 1880, in several particulars, but the most important amendment herein proposed is that extending to homestead and pre-emption settlers who paid double minimum price for lands within the limits of railroad land grants that have been forfeited since such payment, the relief hitherto granted by said section 2 of the act of June 16, 1880, to purchasers who paid such double minimum price for land afterward found not to be within the limits of railroad land grants.

"The relief proposed by this amendment is limited to homestead and pre-emption settlers, while the present law affords relief to all purchasers who paid double minimum price for lands not within railroad limits.

"The proposed amendment is clearly in accord with the principle upon which the act of 1880 is based, namely, that it is unjust for the Government to retain double minimum price for lands not benefited by the construction of a railroad within the prescribed distance of the lands for which such enhanced price was required and paid. If the act of 1880 (the present law) is just and equitable, the pending bill is equally so, and the Government should not further delay repayment of money for which the consideration contemplated by all parties at the time of purchase has not been given.

"The enhanced price, $2 50 per acre, was charged for lands in railroad-grant limits, partly to compensate the Government for land granted to the railroad, and because of the expected enhancement of the value of the lands by reason of the construction of a railroad near such lands. No other reason existed for requiring settlers to pay the advanced price; but the Government, by withdrawing the land grants from the railroad companies through acts declaring forfeiture, prevented construction of the roads and thereby deprived settlers of the benefits for which they paid such increased price. This fact has received legislative recognition in the laws reducing the price of unsold lands in such forfeited grants to the former price of $1 25 per acre. A like reduction should be made in behalf of those who settled on lands within such limits prior to the declaration of forfeiture. This can only be done by repayment of the excess paid by such settlers, for which repayment provision is made in the pending bill.

"It should be noted that this bill provides a limitation upon all claims arising under section 2 of the act of 1889, requiring all claims under said section as amended to be presented within three years from the time the same shall have accrued, or within three years after the passage of the bill herewith reported."

Commissioner Hermann's Letter.

Appended to the report is a letter from Commissioner Hermann, in which he says:

"The policy of charging double minimum for lands within the limits of a railway land grant was undoubtedly entered upon and carried out on the theory that the building of the road would enhance the value of the adjacent lands above that of lands not so situated, and that the purchaser and entryman, by reason of proximity to a line of railway, would derive benefits therefrom such as would justify the Government in charging him the increased price for the land. The advance from minimum to double minimum also reimbursed the Government for the land donated to the railroad company, so far as the sections reserved from the donation were disposed of for cash.

"By act of Congress, approved September 29, 1890, the forfeiture to the United States of all lands theretofore granted to any state or corporation to aid in the construction of a railroad opposite to and coterminous with the portion of any such road not completed was declared; and such lands were declared to be a part of the public domain, except the right of way and station grounds theretofore granted.

"Prior to such forfeiture, however, the lands within the limits of those grants adjacent and coterminous to the portions not constructed were disposed of at the double minimum price.

"There seems to be no good reason why entrymen who paid the double minimum price under such conditions should not be reimbursed for the excess of payment and commissions. They entered and purchased these lands with the expectation that the railway would be constructed, and that therefore the lands would be worth the enhanced price paid, and the Government demanded the enhanced price on the theory that the lands would be more valuable by reason of railway construction, and that the Government would be to that extent reimbursed for the lands granted to the railways.

"The roads were not constructed, therefore the entryman received no benefit by reason of his settlement within land-grant limits, and a forfeiture having been declared of the lands granted to the railway, the Government received back the granted lands, and therefore could not reasonably demand the enhanced price on the theory of reimbursement for the granting of the alternate sections.

"It is true that these entries are in the nature of completed contracts but they are contracts which the entryman entered into with the understanding that there was to be a railway constructed, and that he was to be benefited thereby."

The report also embraces reports that have been made in former Congresses, showing that the bill has all along had the indorsement of the Land Office and the Interior Department.

EAST SIDE AFFAIRS.

Brooklyn School Pupils Interested in Birds—Other Matters.

Since Rev. William R. Lord's lecture on "Birds," delivered to the pupils of Brooklyn school, there has been a marked increase in interest in the subject in this school. Miss Dimick, the principal, has introduced an extensive study of the habits and nature of the feathered tribe, with great success. The week previous to the lecture was largely devoted to instruction along this line in the first grade, the object being to teach the children to make personal observation of bird life, and then to give those observations orally. They have been taught to learn something of the native birds. As the children advance they are instructed by reading on the subject, gathering information from the fields around the schoolhouse, and then committing their observations to writing. The next time Mr. Lord visits Brooklyn school he will find that the pupils have made good progress in learning about Oregon birds, concerning which he said there is little known. It is the intention of Miss Dimick, the principal, to make birds the subject of Arbor day, which is on the 12th of the month. Some one in love with the birds and in sympathy with the effort to learn about the native birds will be invited to address the pupils and encourage them. At the Stephens school a somewhat similar movement has been started under the charge of Miss Eugenia Kern. A band called "Friends of Dumb Animals," has been organized among the pupils, which has 150 members. Every Wednesday afternoon the organization meets in Grunor's Hall, across the street from Stephens schoolhouse, where a programme of song and recitations is given. These have direct bearing on kindness to dumb animals. Through these exercises it is hoped to instill in the pupils a love for birds and a feeling of kindness for all dumb creatures. A collection was recently taken up from the pupils, amounting to $5, which was sent to the starving people in India.

Through these efforts there will no doubt be fewer boys going about on the East Side with air guns and toy rifles, maiming and killing the beautiful feathered songsters that get up so early these mornings and fill the air with their melody.

Bicycle Path Construction.

The path along the east side of Prettyman avenue, between Hawthorne avenue and the Section Line road, has been completed, and may be used by wheelmen. It is along the east side of the road, and is the connecting link with the Base Line path. On East Twenty-sixth street the path has been graded from the Section Line road south across the Powell's Valley road to Oatman road, and then eastward to the Kelly road. Here it has been graded south for some distance. This path has been graveled nearly to the Oatman road. The people of Woodstock had been asking for this path for several months. That portion which swings around the lake at the corner of the Oatman and Kelly roads was rather difficult of construction. The water had to be drained off and the bed of the path built up. On this section of the path the heavy roller could not be operated, but after the dirt has dried out the roller may be used. Before the season is out Woodstock and the southeast district will be provided with a cycle path.

Death of John Busby.

John Busby, who died at his home on East Oak street Monday, was 61 years old, and had lived in Portland for the past 13 years. He came to the United States from Ireland when a boy. For the past year and a half he had been in failing health, and his death was caused by paralysis. A wife and a large family of children survive him. The latter are as follows: Mrs. Anna Barker, Mrs. C. O. Morgan, Mrs. Charles Mercer, John, James, Florence, Frank, Leslie Busby, Portland; William Busby, Chicago. The funeral will take place this afternoon at 2 o'clock from Dunning's undertaking parlors, East Sixth and East Alder streets. Lone Fir cemetery will be the place of interment.

Awaiting Acceptance.

The Board of Directors have not yet accepted the Holladay schoolhouse from the contractors, but will probably do so very soon. The building is practically completed, and the grounds are being cleaned up and debris burned. Some of the rooms have been occupied since the opening of the second term, as it was necessary to provide for more pupils. The rooms were hardly ready for the pupils, as the floors were not thoroughly dried out. Now there is no emergency calling for the remaining portion of the building to be occupied at once, and it will not be occupied until the floors of the halls and classrooms have thoroughly dried. It will take some time for the oiled floors to get in proper condition.

To Go to Colorado.

Rev. T. C. Moffet, who has been acting pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, corner East Tenth and Weidler streets, for the past year and a half, will shortly leave for Colorado. While the church extended Mr. Moffet a call, he did not definitely accept it. However, he will not leave Westminster Church until the congregation has united on another pastor. Under his direction the work has greatly prospered, and the members will part with him with great reluctance. Since he has been in Portland Mr. Moffet has taken high rank as a preacher.

To Hold Big Ratification.

Already the Sunnyside Republican Club has begun preparations for holding a big ratification meeting on Saturday night, April 14. The club, through its executive committee, yesterday decided on this gathering. Wallace McCamant will be the principal speaker, and besides him there will be several other addresses. Good music has been engaged for that occasion. Invitations will be extended to all the Republican clubs in the Ninth and Eighth Wards.

Building a Switch.

By this evening the railway switch will be completed from the main line of the Southern Pacific Railway to the place where the new carshops are to be erected on the carshops tract. It will be about 600 feet long, and taps the main line at the north end of the tract. On completion of this spur the contractor will be enabled to get building material to the site of the first building, and actual construction will be commenced. Material will be at once taken to the grounds.

Saloon Robbed.

The saloon of Peter Kuhn, on the corner of Williams avenue and Weidler street, was broken into a few nights ago and $2 50 in silver taken from the till, besides some cigars. Entrance into the saloon was effected through a rear window. The window was securely fastened with the usual catch in the sash. A hole was drilled through the sash and the bolt deftly removed. The burglar made no noise, and had everything his own way.

Moved to the Hospital.

George Breslin, of the Second Oregon, who returned from the Philippine Islands very sick, has again been moved to St. Vincent's Hospital. For a long time he had been in the care of his parents, corner Union avenue and East Morrison street. At times he seemed improved, but there would come a relapse and he would be worse. He has dysentery of a very tenacious type. He can take no solid food, but subsists mostly on a milk diet.

Lecture Postponed.

The lecture of D. P. Thompson, which was to be delivered before Washington Lodge, No. 46, A. F. & A. M., this evening, has been postponed for two weeks. It was thought best to postpone his address owing to other attractions.

East Side Notes.

At a meeting of General Summers Post, No. 1, Monday evening, it was decided to have a smoker in the hall April 16. A short programme will be prepared for the occasion.

There will be a meeting of the Albina Republican Club this evening in Gomez Hall. At this meeting nominations for delegates to be voted for at the primaries will be made, and a lively time is expected.

Thomas Legge yesterday received word that his only brother, Robert Legge, of San Francisco, died last Friday. The latter had been in the employ of the Government, and his brother received a letter from him recently. He was well at that time.

The funeral of B. O. Paddock, who died at his home on Columbia Slough, took place yesterday forenoon. Services were held in the Christian Church, at Woodlawn, at the close of which the burial took place in Love's cemetery. There was a large attendance of the friends of the family.

Peace Impossible Under the Spanish Friars.

Albert Gardner Robinson, in New York Independent, March 29:

I am convinced that the vital question, the most serious to the great mass of the Filipino people, is that of religion. They do not want a new religion. They are satisfied with the old, that of Roman Catholicism. Just now Protestantism might take some hold upon many, if tactfully presented. But I should look for a secession from such ranks upon the establishment of that form of Roman Catholicism which they demand and which formed the basis of the insurrection of 1896. I believe it almost hopeless to look for peace and content in these islands so long as the Friars remain in the discharge of parochial functions. I am convinced that widespread peace and order would at once follow the establishment of the Roman Catholic Church.

Fight Against the Match Trust.

NEW YORK, April 3.—According to the Herald, the newly organized American Match Machine Company, a New Jersey corporation, is about to enter into competition with the Diamond Match Company, known as the match trust. The new company does not intend to confine its attention to the trade of the United States, but will make a vigorous fight for European trade, through the sale of rights.

In Tablet Form. Pleasant to Take.

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