CURIOUS CLOCKS AND THEIR MAKERS

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

HISTORIC STUDIES IN HOME FURNISHING

BY MARGARET AINSLEE.

(Concluded.)

I.

A later French invention probably used in a private chapel was the crucifix clock. The ornamental parts of these timepieces were examples of beautiful modeling, especially the silver figure hanging upon the gilt cross. When the hour was sounded by the bell below the plinth the figure on the left raised its chalice. The time was indicated upon the revolving ball surmounting the structure by the pointer affixed to the cross.

Interesting historical examples of these 18th century revolving dials with the single indicator are still to be found in the South Kensington Museum. One of the most pleasing represents a large globe upheld by three beautiful bronze boys. A serpent with head erect points with his tongue to the time indicated upon the revolving equatorial bands, one of which chronicles the hour, another the minutes.

The porcelain vase clock, said to have belonged to Marie Antoinette, carries out the same idea, the tongue of the serpent coiled at the base of the urn forming the fixed indicator of the revolving hours upon the polygonal encircling bands.

It is difficult to ascertain just when the pocket watches came into vogue. That they were used in Shakespeare's day is

"Great Chamber Clock," 1623.

shown in "As You Like It," when Jaques says: "And then he drew a dial from his poke." Long afterward, however, watches were still made with a pointed projection, which would clearly demonstrate their unfitness for pocket use. A plausible theory has been advanced to the effect that fob watches (from the German "fuppe," a pocket), where introduced by the Puritans, whose aversion to undue display led them to conceal their timekeepers about their clothing. Certain it is that Oliver Cromwell's fob watch in the British Museum is the first small time-keeper found with fob-chain appendant.

While the Puritans were doing all they could to repress ostentation and ornament in England, the clockmakers of Holland, Germany and France were vying with one another in the production of extravagant ingenuities. Then were invented the salt-cellar clocks for state banquets,

Revolving Dial.

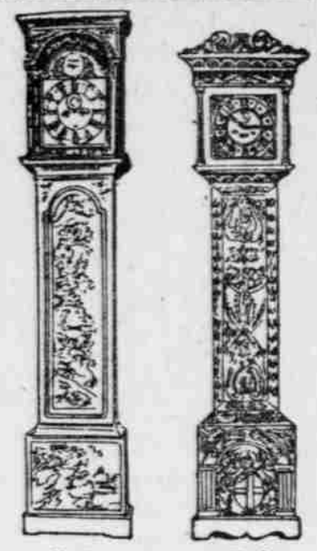
musical clocks which played a great variety of popular airs, tortoise-shell or egg-shaped watches suspended from the chatelaine, walking sticks with horologium in the knob for the bishop of Ely, mystery clocks with falling-ball attachments, perpetual-motion clocks, self-winding clocks, watches with pendulums, butterfly, acorn, sea-shell, trumpet-shaped and flower watches, all exquisitely enameled and frequently used to ornament hand-mirror, fan or bracelet.

One of the most curious of the mystery clocks was Grollier de Serviere's magnetic timekeeper fashioned in the form of a shallow bowl, whereon were marked the numerals. When the bowl was filled with

Marie Antoinette's Clock.

water a tortoise made of cork was placed therein, floating around until it pointed to the time, and crawling from one hour figure to another as the day advanced. His chronological bump was found to be the "keeper" of the horseshoe magnet which was concealed under the rim of the bowl, and caused to revolve once in 24 hours. By the same device a lizard was induced to make an hourly advance up a graduated column, and a mouse to creep along nibbling at the hour marks on a cornice.

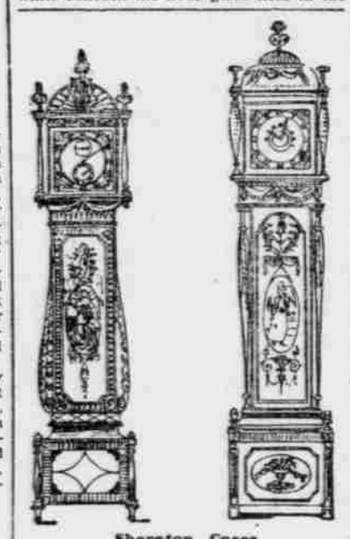
About 1600 efforts were made to adapt



No. 1. Oriental lacquer-work carved dark oak case.

No. 2. Carved dark oak.

these expensive, highly decorated timekeepers to domestic use. About the middle of the century pendulums were introduced, and the newly invented chamber clocks were in such demand that the sun-dial makers gave up their vocation and turned their attention to the making and improvement of clocks. As with the clock-watches, so with the chamber clocks was great effort made to enjoin upon the observer the generally overlooked fact that "Every hour is a step toward death." One of the most unique of these memento mori timekeepers was the great chamber clock of 1623. Upon one side door was engraved the conventional figure of Time with his sickle, and upon the other was a ghastly skeleton holding a torch, from which depended the warning, "The sting of death is sin," while beneath the hour glass held in the



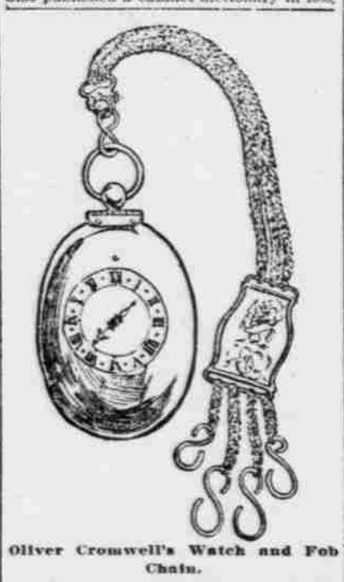
Sheraton Cases.

other hand were the following quaint lines:

Man is a glass, Life
Is as water weakly washed about,
Sinns brought in death.
Death breaks the glass,
So runs the water out.

These chamber clocks were generally hung upon the wall, and some had the upper part covered with wooden hoods to protect the works from the dust, while the weights and pendulum hung free.

By the close of the reign of Charles II these clocks had become entirely inclosed in wood, and were thus evolved into the long-case, eight-day timepieces popularly known as grandfather clocks. The introduction of the minute hand was slowly accepted by country makers, and these handsome clocks reached their perfection in the days of Chippendale, the noted cabinet-maker of St. Martin's Lane. His foreman, Sheraton, distinguished for his ornate style and beautiful inlaid work, also published a cabinet dictionary in 1808,



Oliver Cromwell's Watch and Fob Chain.

from which popular clockcases have been selected.

Some of the older long-case clocks were frequently embellished with oriental lacquer work or covered with marqueterie in fine geometrical designs. The taste for effective marqueterie became specially pronounced in the time of William of Orange, who brought in his train a band of Dutch inlayers.

Other beautiful variations of the clocks of the Chippendale period were the dark oak cases carved in high relief. Although some specimens of this handsome work have appeared at other periods, they all seem to have been the result of artistic experiment by enthusiastic woodcarvers, designed to reinclose existing clocks, rather than especially planned receptacles for new timekeepers.

It is melancholy to think that the introduction 50 years ago of cheap, machine-made American clocks proved so disastrous to the manufacture of old English timepieces that thousands of these long-case clocks were cut up for firewood, and their brazen interiors relegated to the melting pot.

The horological industry has, from time to time, been paralyzed by the imposition of obnoxious taxes upon clocks and watches. English duties upon the cases led to the manufacture of a remarkable number of silver gilt and pinchbeck cases. These latter were so named from an inventor of astronomico-musical clocks, whose fame became world-wide and whose name became an adjective in our language upon his discovery of an alloy of metals closely resembling gold.

Not content with taxes upon the cases of timepieces, Pitt proceeded to impose a tax upon possessors and users of watches and clocks. As a result of this unjust impost, many clock manufacturers were ruined, hundreds of men were thrown out of employment, and only half the number of timpieces were made. In order to meet the impending scarcity of clocks, tavernkeepers unanimously adopted, for the convenience of their patrons, a conspicuous but inexpensive wall clock, named after the necessity which caused its invention, the "Act of Parliament" clock. Although these painted black-wood dials, with their large gilt figures, may occasionally be seen in country inns, the best place in which to find these rare and fine specimens of other venerable timepieces is London; for the modern curio-hunter has scoured with such diligence the most remote rustic quarters that almost all the genuine antiques have wended their way to the large cities.

HELP FOR STARVING INDIA.

Plan Adopted in New York and Boston for Relief Work.

BOSTON, June 20.—(To the Editor.)—Today there are some 60,000,000 of our fellow-beings in India suffering acutely for lack of food. Of this number 10,000,000 are already face to face with starvation, and not hundreds, but thousands, are dying daily.

Government aid, just enough to sustain life, is being given through the agency of relief works to large numbers. Private aid is also doing much to relieve these terrible conditions, but still there ought to be, there must be done, many times over what is already being done. The famine is one of the most severe and far-reaching of any during the past 100 years, and the worst is not yet.

Were these conditions existing in any part of our own country, there is scarcely a man, woman or child who would not rush forward with his or her aid, however small it might be. But the mere fact of distance can surely make no difference to us as a people. The fact of this crying need and our knowledge of it, is the call to us for service, each according to his or her ability.

There is today stored up in India grain sufficient to feed every person, as well as animal, in all the affected districts, but the people have become so impoverished, in great measure through the overtaxation of the British Government and other causes of a kindred nature, that they haven't even the pitiably small means required on the part of each to unlock it. Through the agency of the cable, any amounts sent to the treasurers of the relief funds today can tomorrow be unlocking and distributing grain among those who but for its merciful coming would not be alive on the third day.

There are many thousands of people in all parts of our country who would gladly, I am confident, contribute their portion, were the matter properly presented to them, and a safe channel for their aid brought to their attention. May I, therefore, make the following suggestions to the readers of The Morning Oregonian:

During the past few days in Boston a committee of 100 prominent citizens, known as the "Boston Committe of One Hundred on India Famine Relief," has been organized to take in hand the collection of funds from Boston and vicinity. This committee has selected a chairman, a secretary and a treasurer. It is already circulating literature setting forth the facts in connection with the famine, and putting forth whatever efforts are required for the speedy collection and transmittal to the affected districts of as large a fund as is possible for it to collect. Through its agency alone many thousands of lives will be saved from the pain and agony of slow starvation.

This same plan—and this is my point—can be adopted in every city and town in the country, and I trust that it will be adopted in very large numbers. Any person of known integrity and honesty of purpose, who feels moved to turn an ear to the pitiable cry for bread that is at this moment going up from hundreds of thousands of our suffering fellow-beings, in a country which has given to the world some of its most valuable treasures in learning, in music, in science, in art, in thought, in religion, in life, can be instrumental in putting into operation the above plan in the community in which he or she is living. Special care should be exercised in selecting a treasurer to receive the funds—either some well-known individual of unquestionable integrity, or, better still, perhaps, some well-known banking-house.

An organization of a similar nature was formed a few days earlier in New York City, and within 12 days after its formation the sum of $20,000 had been cabled to the starving ones.

The secretary of the Boston committee, who can be addressed "Boston Committee of One Hundred on India Famine Relief," 14 Beacon street, room 204, or the secretary of the New York committee, who can be addressed "Committee of One Hundred on India Famine Relief," 73 Bible House, New York, will be glad, I am sure, to give suggestions to any one who may interest themselves in organizing a committee in their own city or village, and also to send printed information regarding the existing conditions in the famine-stricken districts of India, as also the needs, methods of distribution there, etc., which can be reproduced by the various committees through their local press, in letter and leaflet form, etc., as they may deem best.

The treasurers of the Boston committee, Messrs. Brown Bros. & Co., bankers, 50 State street, Boston, or of the New York committe, Messrs. Brown Bros. & Co., bankers, 59 Wall street, New York will be glad to receive, acknowledge and forward by cable any amounts that may be intrusted to them by the treasurers of any organization not so closely in touch with the cable and the distributing agencies in India, or to receive, acknowledge and forward in like manner any sums directly from contributors where no local committee exists.

Certainly from this land of plenty large sums will go to that land of famine. It is within the power of each one here to be the means of saving a life of many lives. Two cents a day will feed one person; $2 will save a life until the coming harvest. Surely upon us all, even to the extent of some little sacrifice, if necessary, a deep responsibility rests. Very faithfully yours,

RALPH WALDO TRINE.

AS TO SUMMER READING.

Suggestion to School Children About Collecting Magazines.

PORTLAND, June 27.—(To the Editor.)—I would like to make a suggestion to the school children of this city through the columns of your paper. A working woman (though she need not work, nor plead the poverty which she does) has a son to whom many, many magazines—The Quaker, Munsey, Leslie's Weekly, Youth's Companion, Bookman, Century, Harper's and many others—are given by well-known people for whom his mother works. I happened to live next door to his mother, and many an afternoon last Summer I saw him sitting in the yard cutting the pictures from the magazines. I am told that since last August three or four clothes-baskets full of magazines have been used to start the fire with at that house. The other day the lad sold five or six gunny-sacks full to a junk man for 50 cents.

Now, boys and girls, this seems to me to be a great waste, and you whose school has no library, why not ask your friends, or, through the columns of some newspaper, ask for old magazines with which to start a library for your school.

The magazines could be sorted and the covers strengthened with cardboard and a piece of heavy muslin, or, better still, leather pasted down to the back. You say, "Too much trouble?" Why, no. Few pupils would refuse to fix one magazine, and each class could in turn cover and arrange the magazines as they are received.

Now, if you have no school library, why not try to have one on the above plan. And, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." CAHILL MACGUIRE.

N. B.—Should your school receive more than one copy of a certain date, why not exchange with another school? During the Summer many people give away the magazines collected during the Winter. Would this not be a good time to begin soliciting?

As to Professor Washburn's Paper.

PORTLAND, June 27.—(To the Editor.)—According to the report in today's issue of The Oregonian, Professor W. L. Washburn, of the State University, at Eugene, read a paper before the State Medical Society, in which he said that "no man could study natural science without being impressed by the evident truth that an omnipotent and omniscient mind, a creator, was in it and through it all." Think, then, of the vast army of modern scientists who have never studied natural science, at the head of which we must put the names of Thomas H. Huxley and John Tyndall; for since these men have never been impressed by the evident truth that there is any kind of "mind" manifested in the universe, according to Professor Washburn, natural science could not have been among their studies.

Permit me to quote, for the purpose of comparison with the statement of Professor Washburn, the following from Professor Tyndall:

"When I attempt to give the power which I see manifested in the universe an objective form, personal or otherwise, it slips away from me, declining all intellectual manipulation. I dare not, save poetically, use the pronoun 'He' regarding it; I dare not call it a 'mind'; I refuse to call it a 'cause.' Its mystery overshadows me; but it remains a mystery, while the objective frames which some of my neighbors try to make it fit seem to me to distort and discredit it." (Fragments of Science, Vol. 2, p. 230.)

With all respect for the learned professor from Eugene, I am compelled to admit that I find more modest reverence in the statement from "Fragments of Science" than in the paper read before the State Medical Society.

H. K. SARGENT.

Letter for J. Quinn Thornton.

ALBANY, Or., June 27.—A letter received at the Albany postoffice and advertised today is addressed to J. Quinn Thornton. As Mr. Thornton has been dead a quarter of a century, it will not reach him. It brings up the career of one of the prominent men of Oregon's early days. Mr. Thornton was the Supreme Judge of the provisional government, and was one of the delegation to go to Washington to present the memorial to Congress in 1846, when Thomas H. Benton did such effective work for this Northwest country. He was prominent in the law business of the state for many years, and has a small lake in Benton County named after him.

Roosevelt a Big Man.

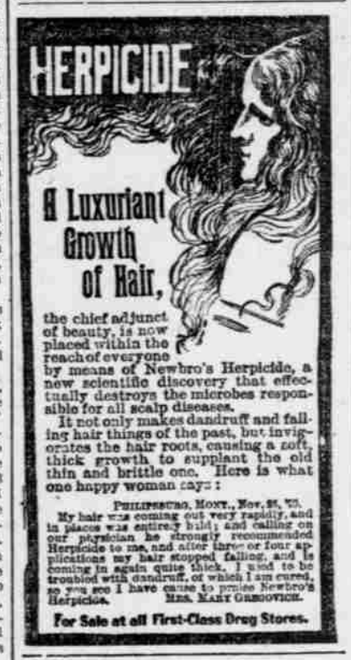
Kansas City Star.

The closer you look at Roosevelt the bigger he grows. He is a man of finished education, a strong civil officer, a fine soldier and a successful writer of books. While he is thoroughly accomplished, and is a man of the most undeniable breeding, nobody could be more accessible or better fitted to inspire popular favor. It is not often that such a rare combination of qualities is rolled up in the cuticle of a candidate for Vice-President.

Losing Favor With Democrats.

Minneapolis Tribune.

Even the cause of the Boers is losing favor with the Democratic campaign managers, who have evidently become impressed with the fact that the American people are not overanxious for a war with England.



the chief adjunct of beauty, is now placed within the reach of everyone by means of Newbro's Herpicide, a new scientific discovery that effectually destroys the microbes responsible for all scalp diseases.
It not only makes dandruff and falling hair things of the past, but invigorates the hair roots, causing a soft, thick growth to supplant the old thin and brittle one. Here is what one happy woman says:
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My hair was coming out very rapidly, and in places was entirely bald; and calling on our physician he strongly recommended Herpicide to me, and after three or four applications my hair stopped falling, and is coming in again quite thick. I used to be troubled with dandruff, of which I am cured, so you see I have cause to praise Newbro's Herpicide. MRS. MARY GRGOVICH.
For Sale at all First-Class Drug Stores.

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HIRES Rootbeer
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OCEAN DIVISION — Steamships sail from Ainsworth dock at 8 P. M. Leave Portland—Columbia, Friday, June 1; Monday, June 11; Thursday, June 21; Sunday, July 1; Wednesday, July 11. State of California, Wednesday, June 6; Saturday, June 16; Tuesday, June 26; Friday, July 6.
From San Francisco—Leaving Spear-St. Pier No. 24, San Francisco, at 11 A. M., as follows: State of California, Saturday, June 2; Tuesday, June 12; Friday, June 22; Monday, July 2; Thursday, July 12. Columbia, Thursday, June 7; Sunday, June 17; Wednesday, June 27; Saturday, July 7.
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Steamer Hassalo leaves Portland daily, except Sunday, at 8:00 P. M.; on Saturday at 10:00 P. M. Returning, leaves Astoria daily, except Sunday, at 7:00 A. M.
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Steamer Modoc, for Salem and way points, leaves Portland Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6:00 A. M. Returning, leaves Salem Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 6:00 A. M.
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Leave for Dallas daily, except Sunday, 3:05 P. M. Arrive at Portland at 9:30 A. M.
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9:00 P. M....		...8:40 A. M.

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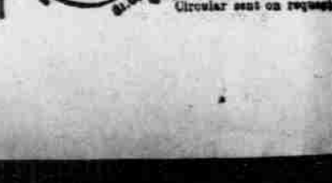

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