

The Oregonian

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TODAY'S WEATHER—Showers and cooler; southerly shifting to northwesterly winds.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, MAY 27, 1901.

ANOTHER WHITMAN MYTH ES-SAYIST.

There are persons whose nature is such that they must have heroes to worship or to defy. It is this class of persons that address to the Whitman myth.

Whitman was a veritable, though merely ordinary, historical character. He was a pioneer of like quality with others.

Nothing could be more unfounded. Admit that the purpose of his journey, and its sole purpose, was to impress on the Administration at Washington a sense of the importance of Oregon and of the urgency of action for maintenance of the claims of the United States.

In fact, it was unnecessary, and the result would have been the same had he never made the Winter journey, and indeed had he never existed. No candid mind, without prepossessions, can study the history and reach any other conclusion.

There was an American settlement in Oregon which was strong enough to assert the sovereignty of the United States, and which, during Whitman's absence, organized the Provisional Government. The first large migration to Oregon—that of 1845—which had been coming on the Missouri frontier for a year or two, was first organized by Whitman, for he, in fact, had nothing to do with it, and could have had nothing to do with it, till he overtook it on the Upper Platte, after which time he was very servicable to it as an adviser and guide.

But it could have come through, and no one doubts that it would have come through, without him. This reinforcement confirmed the American second-ary, which already had been asserted in the country.

In the Homiletic Review for July a son of Rev. Samuel Parker, who came to Oregon the year before Whitman came, is to publish an article which will assert one more that Whitman saved Oregon. Advance sheets of the article are already available.

The effort is the fruit of the same fondness for myth, and of the same disposition for hero worship so often manifest heretofore. Nobody questions the historical value of Whitman among our pioneers. He did important service; but he didn't "save" Oregon. In fact, there never was actual danger of the loss of Oregon to the United States from the time of the restoration of the old status, after the War of 1812.

The only question was what the northern boundary should be. It was the murder of Whitman that furnishes the ground for the myth which attributes so great results to his work as a pioneer. There is a sort of people who worship the man whose life is a sacrifice to an effort or cause, and whose religious agitation supplies everything necessary to the apotheosis or deification.

MONEY IN SHIPS.

There is great profit in ships, and subsidies are not needed. The fact that money is rushing into ship-building is proof enough.

The great steamships are making large sums of money. Samuel A. Wood, in *Ainslie's Magazine* for June, discusses the ocean steamship as a type of modern business. He presents valuable statistics as to capital, expenses and profits.

The money-makers in the Atlantic trade are the large carriers of modern speed, such as the Hamburg-American liner Pennsylvania and the Cunard Ivernia. Vessels of this class cost from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 each.

Such vessel earns \$50,000 in a single voyage, at a cost of \$20,000. But it costs \$45,000 to run such a ship as the Deutschland across the sea, yet when the passenger traffic is heavy the voyage pays well.

Mr. Wood estimates that the cost of all the passenger and cargo carriers in service between Europe and the Atlantic ports of America is \$250,000,000. The wealth of the Hamburg-American Steamship Company is represented by ships and piers valued at \$50,000,000. It employs on its fleet 7000 persons and gives employment on land to nearly 6000.

The White Star Line pays New York City \$217,000 annual rental for pier; the Cunard Line, \$120,000; and the American Line, \$88,000. Of the ships docking at New York, the estimated value is as follows: The Hamburg-

American Line, \$15,000,000; North German Lloyd, \$15,000,000; White Star, \$12,000,000; Cunard, \$10,000,000; American Transport Red Star, \$10,000,000; Atlantic Transport, \$10,000,000; French, \$5,000,000; Holland-America, \$7,000,000. The Hamburg-American Line's fleet consists of 109 ocean-going craft, of about 600,000 tons. The North German Lloyd's tonnage is more than 500,000. The British line, the Peninsular Oriental, has 58 ships, of \$13,000,000. There are about 100 American steamships in the foreign trade, at the port of New York, some of them of high rank.

All the leading American shipyards are crowded with orders. Subsidies are not needed, and if subsidies are paid the money will go to men and to combinations already enormously rich. The great subsidy bill is a shameful graft. Yet it will be powerfully supported, and there is danger it may pass.

THE ENGLISH NATURE.

Of the charming essay which Professor Brander Matthews contributes to the June Harper's, the most damaging criticism that can be made is, perhaps, his curious choice of its name; for while it purports to be a discussion of the debt our English language owes to good King Alfred, it is in reality a thoughtful and illuminating study in British and American ethnology.

He traces the source of these allied characters, in their laws, language, political and literary achievement, and his conclusions are both interesting and instructive. Mr. Matthews takes his text from that chief exponent of English, Stopford Brook, thus: "The poetry of the English is the poetry of the English."

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\$350,000 has been paid thus far in 1901. Its policy is similar to that of the Standard Oil Company. It ruthlessly crushes competition in the transportation and reduction of ore, but encourages the producers of the ore—the raw material—and permits them to realize good profits. It has recently submitted to the miners of Colorado a schedule of payment for silver-lead ore. It is the Peninsular of the Northwest. It is now negotiating for the consolidation of the silver-lead producers of the Coeur d'Alenes, with a view to controlling them. The course it is pursuing looks like a hold-up of the mining interests of the Rocky Mountain States, though so excellent an authority as the Engineering and Mining Journal thinks not. The publication justifies the trust because the price of lead has been maintained "at a high level," resulting "in great profit to all the miners whose ore has contained lead." That is, the trust pays the miner a little more for his raw material as an excuse to maintain the New York price of lead at a "high level" and thus rob the consumer.

J. K. Clark, of Montana, brother to United States Senator Clark, came to Portland recently to look over the field with a view to building a smelter. The location satisfied him, as everything necessary for the building and maintaining of a smelter can be had laid down here on favorable terms. But the lead trust got him firm for thought. He found that a 200-ton smelter would produce from 20 to 40 tons of lead a day. Now, the trust owns all the principal refining plants in the country, and it would like to own all the smelters. It is the only purchaser of lead in considerable quantities. Obviously, Mr. Clark must make some deal with the trust if he is to build a smelter in Portland with assurance of making money out of it. The trust is preparing to build at Salt Lake a smelter of 2000 tons capacity, which will, doubtless, draw on the ores of Oregon, Washington and Idaho—Portland's field.

Portland is not asleep on the smelter enterprise. It is simply "up against" a gigantic trust, which is this year paying at the rate of 3 per cent on its \$50,000,000 of preferred stock.

VALUABLE IMMIGRANTS.

Italians are coming to this country by the hundred thousand, and are proving a most valuable addition to the population. They are hard workers, ambitious, strong, hardy and intelligent. For the greater part, they are peasants, thoroughly skilled in tillage. They have succeeded in winning a good living from the hill pastures and abandoned farms of New England. They are crowding to this country at the rate of 8000 a month, and intelligent American observers are glad that they are coming, because there is a place for them in the ranks of our agricultural workers, and our unskilled labor, fifty years ago our unskilled labor was chiefly represented by the Irish peasant immigration which poured into this country in a flood from 1846 to 1855.

There is no more athletic race in the world than the Irish peasantry, and their strong arms built all our railroads and dugged all our canals up to about 1860. But the Irish immigration is not nearly as large as it was in the years following the famine of 1845-47, and the Irish are an energetic race who soon get beyond the sphere of unskilled labor. They soon become small farmers, mechanics, tradesmen, and their vacant places have been taken largely in railroad labor by the Italians.

The Italian has not so powerful a physique as the Irishman, and he is handicapped at first by his ignorance of the English language, but he soon "picks up" our tongue; he is hardy, patient, industrious and economical, because he comes from a land where these virtues are necessary to get a living. It is doubtful if any field laborers this side of India and China work so hard for so little pay as the Italian peasant. He is obliged to do in his native land. Italy is taxed to death to support a very large standing army, and the Italian peasantry of recent years have been taking to flight by thousands. During the last fifteen years the hardy, vigorous Italian immigrant has made all our railroad cuts and embankments. His superior quickness and intelligence will ultimately enable him to leave the field of unskilled manual labor to the Slav, even as the Irishman abandoned it to the Italian.

The capacity of the Italian immigrant for rapid improvement is shown in the Argentine Republic, where climate and social conditions have favored his development, and where he has attained the first rank in the list of the country. Italians are nearly half the commercial firms in Buenos Ayres, with a capital of \$150,000,000, and more than half its workshops. Italian architects have built the greater part of Buenos Ayres; Italians have all the river carrying trade and two-thirds of the coasting trade; Italian peasants and men of business own nearly all the corn farms. The production of corn and artificial grass has been created by the Italians, who own rural property to the value of \$50,000,000, and in every eight is a proprietor. The bulk of the engineering and milling, the paper and soap industries, almost all the hat and tobacco manufactures, most of the cement and marble works, a large part of the tanning and meat packing is in the hands of Italians. In wheat-growing they form the enormous majority of the population. A Piedmontese proprietor plants 67,000 acres in wheat; an Italian firm owns 12,000 acres of temporary grass; an Italian, the foremost wine producer of South America, has 3500 acres under vines. The Italian vinegrowers of Mendoza and San Juan and Buenos Ayres produce every year 33,000,000 gallons of wine. All this has been done by uneducated, poverty-stricken Italians in a few years. The Italian immigrants who have performed this mighty work in Argentina are identical in quality and capacity with the Italian immigrants that were formerly condemned in the United States as useless or dangerous paupers.

The popular prejudice against Italian immigration rests chiefly upon a confusion of a genuine Italian peasant immigration with the comparatively worthless, homicidal, mongrel, so-called Italian immigration from Sicily and Naples. Sicily has been ruled in succession by Greeks, Romans, Moors, Spaniards and Frenchmen. Calabria and Naples have much of the mongrel population. The difference in quality between these Italian mongrels of Sicily and the extreme south of Italy and the fine peasantry that people Middle and Northern Italy is shown by the fact that while Northern Italy shows no larger per cent of homicides than most civilized countries in Europe, Southern Italy shows a very high average for homicide. The highest average for homicide is found among the poor, brutalized miners of Sicily, who are absolutely illiterate. Popular education has almost eliminated homicide in the Ticino, the Italian canton of Switzerland, where fifty years ago homicides were frequent and ignorance abundant. Acculturating the reports from commanders of posts are those of volunteer investigators, clergymen for the most part, who since the cantons were abolished, have been invited to find out whether the new order of things is working for or against the common soldier.

In every case where a commanding officer has reported the kind of the War Department for advice concerning the practical working of the anti-cantons law, he has said with emphasis that the change has worked the most salutary and excess in the groceries that have sprung up like mushrooms on the borders of the new cantons, and that the maintaining proper discipline infinitely more difficult than it was before. In practically every instance of careful and intelligent investigation, the reports of the commanders of the post commanders have been endorsed.

A notable illustration of this harmony between the reports of the commanders of the anti-cantons bill was pending, were as far apart as the poles, is found in recent public utterances of Chicago clergymen who formed part of the joint committee which visited Fort Sheridan for the avowed purpose of finding out and publishing to the world that the off-repeated tales of moral degeneracy and licentiousness of the warring out of the cantons were not true.

Against their will these gentlemen have become convinced that the Army of the West was right last Winter when they brought Congress to permit the cantons to remain, and that the reports of the committee were as valueless as the notions of mere theorists are nearly always apt to be.

It was a constant last Winter between the theorists and the practical men. As frequently happens, the former presented what seemed to be a perfect case, and the experience and practical knowledge of the latter for nothing against it. But the inevitable reaction has set in and appears to be making rapid headway.

Just what official form the matter will assume has not yet been determined. The War Department is receiving frequent reports from post commanders regarding the working of the new law, and is filing away for future use the reports. It should be said, are being made in accordance with the usual custom in order that the Secretary of War may have the information in regard to the condition of the Army, and are not being called for as the result of any preconceived programs in the department to attack the new law. Obviously, however, the reports seem to justify such a step, the Secretary, when he communicates with Congress, through the President, in December, whether he believes that the information he has, based upon it such suggestions and recommendations as at that time may seem proper.

Whether the Secretary will in terms recommend the repeal of the law, or will content himself with a mere statement of the facts, leaving Congress to make its own deduction, is not known, but that report, should the facts as a whole agree with those already at hand, will in effect amount to a severe condemnation of the law, no matter which method he may adopt, generally admitted.

It is believed that the work of the volunteer investigators, all of whom are intense temperance and prohibitionists, will say in saying a great deal when one remembers "Shore Acres," "Margaret Fleming" and "Griffith Davenport." The sale of seats will open tomorrow (Tuesday) morning at 10 o'clock.

"Sag Harbor."

Portland theater-goers are manifesting an unusual interest in the engagement of Horne's play, "Sag Harbor," which commences at the Marquam Grand Theatre, May 30, for a three night's engagement. The fame of this play in the East preceded it here and as it will be the last engagement of the season, it is not surprising that a succession of fashionable audiences will be in evidence throughout the engagement.

"Sag Harbor" is said to be the most distinctly American play now before the public. Eminent critics in the East pronounced it the best of all the dramas played in New York last season. It is a good piece of character work as Hamilton Grimes, and the remainder of the cast was fair.

Notes of the Stage.

George L. Baker, of the Baker City Theater, has returned to his Eastern Oregon home after a brief visit in Portland.

Manager John L. Cordray has returned from a business trip to Salem. Mr. Cordray's portrait recently printed in the Oregonian, was reprinted in the last issue of the New York Dramatic News.

H. R. Roberts, who last year played a short engagement at Cordray's, has made a hit in New York, and has been engaged by Jacob Litt to play Mr. Litt Carter's new drama, "I, Du Barry."

CLEVELAND, MCKINLEY AND SILVER

Heavy Responsibility of Certain Republican Leaders.

Boston Herald, Ind. Apropos of what has recently been said concerning Messrs. Cleveland, McKinley and the silver issue, a correspondent asks if it is true that Mr. McKinley, when in Congress, made a set speech denouncing President Cleveland's attitude on the silver question. We are not aware that Mr. McKinley ever delivered a speech of this kind in Congress, for, if our memory does not deceive us, the present executive head of our Government was very careful to refrain from any personal campaign to commit himself too strongly one way or the other on the currency question.

But it is a matter of record that in 1887 Mr. McKinley, as chairman of the committee on resolutions of the National Republican Convention, which nominated Benjamin Harrison as its Presidential candidate, and as chairman of this committee, had thrown upon him, to an unusual degree, the duty of drafting the platform of his party. The currency plank thus prepared and read by him to the assembled convention, pronounced President Cleveland in the strongest terms silver in our National currency system, and had endorsed by the delegates a trust to place our country upon the basis of the gold standard.

That the Republicans assembled for the purpose of endorsing Cleveland enthusiastically indorsed this sentiment, and that their subservience to silver was one of the leading causes for the terrible defeat of Cleveland in 1896, is logical.

The East has been amazing wealth for centuries. For it to seek money in the young and poor West, which has only begun rearing its institutions, is selfish. The standard of education of the West is uniformly higher and more authoritative than that which characterized the East in the corresponding period of growth of the industrial and social. It is not only relatively and uniformly higher.

New Zealand Census.

The preliminary returns of the census of New Zealand give the white population of that colony as 733,440. This is an increase for the decade of 16,730, or at the rate of 2.32 per cent. Thirty years ago, in 1871, the population was 566,710, exclusive of 40,000 Maoris, and these figures have been more than trebled. In the recent census more particular attention was paid to the growth of the Maori population. It was generally supposed that they were gradually dying out, but the return of the native population is now given as 410,778, an actual increase of 828 over the 409,950 of 1871. This brings the total population of the colony up to 1,144,218. New Zealand has an area larger than that of the United States, but its population is only a little more than that of the City of Glasgow.

Many Italians.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Italians are coming to America by the thousands every month, the population of that country has increased 4,000,000 since 1881. It looks as if there would be stereotyped passengers this way for some time to come.

From Lands Afar.

Love cannot see his hanging heart to say. If skies are dim or blue, Nor wait one prayer from lips you taught to pray. Sweetheart, to you. I look with longing over the hills and plains— I cry to the cold skies— Far dashing down their desolate white rains— Over your dreaming eyes.

Relations With Great Britain.

Philadelphia Record. Great Britain is our greatest customer for provisions and raw materials. It is our largest market. The United States last year exceeded \$900,000,000. Her trade is worth more to us than that of all Europe combined. We are vitally interested in the maintenance of our ability to buy, and this ability, however great her earnings from her shipping interests and foreign investments may be, must be preserved by the enlargement of her market for manufactured products.

Washington special to Chicago Journal. Reports which already have been received by a big one at Cordray's last night in his new comedy "What Did Tomkins Do?" which has undergone a good many changes for the better since its presentation here last winter. Clarke is always funny, but something in the silver hair and sunny temperament of old Colonel Tomkins seems to fit him exactly, and for three acts of a rather loosely jointed comedy laughter that ripples from ear to gallery and back to parquet again showed how glad the old friends of the comedian were to see him again. His easy stage presence, the perfectly natural manner with which he completed his gestures is given, and the winning personality of the actor enlist sympathy and interest as soon as he appears, and after that there is nothing to do but laugh. The comedy does not lose its force in the least, and does not afford an opportunity for the introduction of a number of brand new jokes which were hailed with surprise and delight, for new jokes are worth going a good way to hear in these little plays that show that start from New York with a last year's outfit and get here when their stock has been used and discarded by a new owner. But bright dialogue is not needed to keep up the amusement, for Colonel Tomkins' facility in getting out of one scrape is only matched by the ease with which he gets into another, and the comedy people forget that they are not any one but Tomkins, and that the troubles of that old reprobate are not just as real to him as they are funny to the outsider.

Ann Hathaway, a graceful and charming actress, who played the part of the girl who was given her to do as Daisy Plant in a fashion which made her the star of the support. Miss Hathaway is easy and natural, and her scene with her lover in the second act betrays a talent which will one day win a name for her. Max Steinhilber, a German role which he made highly amusing, and sang a couple of songs, the other way for future use the reports. It should be said, are being made in accordance with the usual custom in order that the Secretary of War may have the information in regard to the condition of the Army, and are not being called for as the result of any preconceived programs in the department to attack the new law. Obviously, however, the reports seem to justify such a step, the Secretary, when he communicates with Congress, through the President, in December, whether he believes that the information he has, based upon it such suggestions and recommendations as at that time may seem proper.

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Notes of the Stage.

George L. Baker, of the Baker City Theater, has returned to his Eastern Oregon home after a brief visit in Portland.

Manager John L. Cordray has returned from a business trip to Salem. Mr. Cordray's portrait recently printed in the Oregonian, was reprinted in the last issue of the New York Dramatic News.

H. R. Roberts, who last year played a short engagement at Cordray's, has made a hit in New York, and has been engaged by Jacob Litt to play Mr. Litt Carter's new drama, "I, Du Barry."

CLEVELAND, MCKINLEY AND SILVER