The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER—Partly cloudy and occasionally threatening, with possibly light snow. North to east winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 24; minimum temperature, 15; precipitation, .18 inch.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, JANUARY 27.

COMMON SENSE ON THE RIVER PROBLEM.

It is not to be supposed that any newspaper of Puget Sound desires improvement of the navigation of the Columbia River, or of any part of it. For, though the Columbia, the second river of the United States, forms the whole southern boundary of the State of Washington, and bisects the entire state from northeast to south-southwest, yet navigation of the Columbia River, either in its upper or lower courses, will contribute nothing to the commerce of Puget Sound, but, on the contrary, will turn commerce from that direction. Aid, therefore, to the improvement of the Columbia River is not to be expected from that quarter. But the nature of the opposition ought not to deceive anybody. It consists just now in efforts to play one part of the great plan of improvement against another, so as to hinder all. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer does not misunderstand the problems of Columbia River improvement, but it persists in misrepresenting them. It persists in this course because it desires no improvement at all. Here is its latest screed, put forth under the title, "Portland Wins Again":

> The people living in the country east of the mountains drained by the Columbia River have had the opportunity afforded them to test the value of the professions made by the Portland Chamber of Commerce, that Portland was heartily in favor of the opening of the Columbia River to navigation. The test of the good faith of the Portland people in this matter came when the members of the House committee on rivers and harbors announced that the sum to be appropriated to the Columbia would be devoted to one of two purposes—either the improvement of the lower river, or the improvement of the upper river, but not to both projects. Forthwith, every influence which Portland could exert, and particularly the undivided support of the entire Oregon delegation in Congress, was enlisted on behalf of the lower river, and, it is reported, with complete success. It appears that a decision has been substantially reached to continue the old policy which has prevailed for the past generation, and to give all of the appropriation for the benefit of Portland, and nothing for the interior.
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> The Oregonian is modestly jubilant over this result, for which it is largely responsible; and hypocritically condoles with the people of the Inland Empire, assuring them that they really do not know what is good for them, and that as a matter of fact the improvement of the lower river is vastly more important to the people of the eastern part of Washington and Oregon than an open and free river from the farm to the sea.

This is intentional misrepresentation; it is positively dishonest, and every one sees the intention of it. The assumption is that Portland is insisting that improvement of the upper river be postponed, and that the appropriations be confined to the river below Portland, or between Portland and Astoria. This is not true; it is an invention directly opposite to truth, put forth for purpose as transparent as malicious and insincere. What Portland and The Oregonian say is this, namely, that a deeper channel at the mouth of the river is the first necessity. Money should be spent for improvement of the bar, first of all things; for, until the mouth of the river is supplied with a channel for passage of ships suited to the heavy trade of the Columbia Basin, river navigation from the farms to the bar will have little value. The first step for "a free and open river from the farms to the sea" is the extension of the jetty at the mouth of the river, and a deeper channel on the bar. We must have a channel for deep-sea ships at the bar before any improvements on the upper river, or on the river below Portland, will be serviceable to the country at large. But the Seattle paper, desiring to prevent or delay improvement of the channel at the mouth of the river, makes pretense of urging improvement of the upper river, in the hope of setting the people of the interior and their representatives against extension of the jetty at the mouth.

A rational view of the subject is taken by the committee of rivers and harbors. The committee is reported as holding the opinion that the first thing to be done is to open a deeper passage for vessels over the bar, to and from the sea. In this conclusion of the committee the City of Portland and The Oregonian fully concur. It is the only sensible and effective thing. We should be glad to see work begun at once, if possible, at all points of obstruction, on the upper river as well as at the bar; but it seems unlikely that Congress will appropriate the money necessary for work at all the places at once; and since it is absolutely indispensable to have a channel for ingress and egress of ships at the mouth of the river, as a means of getting the commerce of the country to the sea, we advise improvement of the bar, first of all things. The channel there must be deeper and fit for a heavier class of vessels; and it must be so improved that vessels can enter and depart without the detentions so commonly experienced there.

Common sense therefore directs that "until this improvement shall be made, or until it shall be put under way, other work on the river, whether above or below Portland, shall wait. To take the other course would be like beginning with the upper stories, instead of at the foundation, in the erection of a house.

One more remark, in reply to the assertion that Portland wants "all of the appropriation for the benefit of Portland and nothing for the interior." The appropriation for the ship channel at the mouth of the river is for the benefit of the whole Columbia Basin, not for the benefit of Portland alone. If there is not to be a deep ship channel at the mouth of the Columbia, no improvement on any part of the river can be necessary, for the railroads will do the business of the country in connection with ports north and south. Navigation of the river or of any part of it will be unnecessary without a deep ship channel at the place where it pours into the sea. First of all necessary improvements, therefore, is a deeper channel at the mouth.

POWERLESS TO DECEIVE.

Mr. Harriman's specious pleading for "community interest" delivered to the Interstate Commerce Commission on the heels of similar pretenses on the part of Mr. Hill makes sickening reading, compared with the bold utterances of Governor McBride, of Washington, who shows in unanswerable terms the utter absurdity of expecting reduction of railroad rates through the merger method of stifling competition. "No self-respecting community," he says, "can accept as a favor what it is entitled to as a matter of right. Instead of the people being dependent for fair treatment upon the good will or the whim or the mere caprice of this combination, they should be in a position to regulate and control these railroads."

There is the rub of the whole business. These immense corporations assume superiority to the lawmaking power that made them, and that must find some way to keep and show—potentially, at least—the right and the power to unmake them. When a private concern gets so powerful that it defies Governors, buys Legislatures and laughs at the courts, it is drawing perilously near the point where the people will begin to ask themselves whether the law is longer adequate as means to the end of good government, or whether some other means must be found to compel obedience to the popular will.

Mr. Harriman says if he or Mr. Hill owned all the railroads, rates would be lower than they can be under competition. It is absurd. The man who makes such an assertion must be a fool himself or else thinks he can fool everybody else. Mr. Hill says that a monopoly is necessary in order to promote new railroad construction. This is equally absurd. Everybody knows what harmony between Hill and Harriman means as to rates. The rates will be all that the traffic will bear. The interests served will not be the interests of the country traversed by the roads, but the interests of the owners of the roads. They will reduce rates when they can make more money from larger traffic than from less. When they can't, they will keep them up. They will build lines, reduce rates, make betterments, when the interests of the owners and the interests of the tributary territory coincide. When they do not coincide, the owners will be favored and the country will suffer.

Everybody knows what Messrs. Hill and Harriman, in combination, would do regarding the building of new lines. They will not build any till they are forced to. When will they build into the Clearwater or the Nehalem? They will build there when somebody raises money independently and proposes to build in. Then they will get ready, promise, and, if they are forced to it, build. What has caused the railroad-building we have already? Nothing but the desire to get ahead of the other fellows, or to protect territory from the aggression of the other fellows. Put them all under one management, and this competitive reaching out for territory, this competitive reductions of rates to capture business, dies away.

Mr. Hill said that the law and the courts are the proper sources of remedy for railroad injustice; and when somebody called his attention to the miscarriage of justice that results from such appeals, he laughed. It seemed funny to him, and doubtless the joke was not without point. But this defiance of law and this sport at the efforts of sworn officials to enforce the law may result some day in the laugh being on the other side. If there is no other way to control these corporations, the Government will some day take their property, and it will not pay the prices or the promoter's commissions that make life for our Morgans and Harrimans today one glad, sweet song. It is better for the Government to own the railroads than for the railroads to own the Government.

THE SYSTEM'S GREATEST DEFECT.

Any thoughtful person who reads the comprehensive statement of the proposed new charter provisions, printed yesterday, must have reflected upon the grave injustice to the public welfare involved in the fact that at the time when so important a matter for the city's future is hanging in the balance the choice of men who are to pass upon it in the Legislature is apparently to be determined as usual by the struggles of certain candidates for the United States Senate. This charter is to be voted upon by the people at the coming June election; but its enabling act requires it to be enacted at the coming Legislative session.

A good deal depends upon the fate of the charter. It locates power and responsibility in the Mayor's hands. It conserves the city's rights in franchises. It takes the municipal elections out of the hands of the bosses by fixing them at different times from the general elections. It enables us to improve streets with less regard than hitherto for the wishes of unprogressive property-owners. It gives larger maximum of taxation for our growing fire and police needs. It establishes a civil service system in all departments of the city government, thus curtailing the power of partisan machines. These are important matters. They ought to be settled on their own merits.

We do not say this charter should be adopted. When it is completed, discussion will bring out its weak points. But we do say that if it proves satisfactory, and if it is adopted by an overwhelming popular vote, it will still be in the power of machine politics to defeat it through the selection of men chosen for fidelity to a Senatorial candidate, rather than for fidelity to the public welfare. Whoever is triumphant in this county in the June election will not want the patronage of city offices taken away. Others will want offices continued that are abolished by the new charter. All sorts of unworthy deals may be carried through, looking to aid to a Senatorial candidate on the one hand in return for betrayal of the city's good on the other hand.

The only remedy for this disheartening situation is the election of Senators by popular vote. Then the Legislature will stand some chance of being elected for fitness and fidelity toward the subjects of legislation, instead of being chosen as instruments of Senatorial ambitions, with local affairs in every city and county serving simply as trading stock for the bosses on each side. It is but just to Senator Mitchell to say that he has always favored and worked for the direct election of Senators. It might not be bad for the next Legislature to show some mark of appreciation of his efforts in this respect, and certainly it should memorialize Congress for such an amendment to the Constitution.

MYSTERIOUS OCEAN TRAGEDIES.

Shipping returns for 1901 show that a total of thirty-two vessels, carrying crews of 800 men, were posted as missing within the twelve months. The aggregate value of the vessels and cargoes which thus disappeared was nearly $5,000,000. As the number of mysterious disappearances which go to make up the underwriters' "missing" lists is small in comparison with the number of vessels that are lost but leave a record of their disappearance, complete returns of the ocean disasters will undoubtedly show a loss of life running into the thousands and a property loss of appalling proportions. All of the safeguards which the ingenuity of man has provided for the prevention of disaster at sea seem at times inadequate to prevent the destruction of even the stanchest ships afloat, and there is not much in the record of disaster for the year just closed to warrant the self-congratulation which seafaring men sometimes indulge in "because they are sailors."

The year just closed was undoubtedly very prolific of disasters on shore as well as sea, an epidemic of wrecks on the rail especially marking the closing days of the year with a fearful loss of life and property. No heart-rending account of loss of life in a railroad wreck, however, can cause the anguish for those who are left to mourn that is produced by the single word "missing" following the name of a ship on the maritime records. In the railroad wreck the intense shock caused by the sudden and terrible death of those who are near and dear is soon over. It may leave a lifelong sorrow for those who are left behind, but the grief is not intensified by the awful mystery that surrounds the fate of the ships that never return.

O'er the grave of the victims of disaster on land loving friends find a sorrowful pleasure in placing flowers, "though they smile in vain for what once was ours." Even this solace is denied the relatives and friends of the men who perished with the missing ships, and for months and years after the name of the ship has been eliminated from the records, with aching hearts they have waited and hoped in vain for tidings which never came. In recent years the North Pacific Ocean has been the scene of more of these ocean mysteries than have occurred in any other part of the world. This is partially due to the fact that the number of vessels plying in these waters is comparatively small, and the opportunities for rescue in case of disaster are accordingly lessened. Another factor is the laxity of regulations governing the loading of vessels at certain ports on the Pacific.

Over 150 men were lost on the three colliers Montserrat, Keeweenah and Matteawan, which mysteriously disappeared within the past seven years, and overloading at a time of year when severe storms were almost certain to be encountered is the only reason given for these three tragedies which left lifelong sorrow in many a home. With the Cadzow Forest, Andrada, Rathdown, Cape Wrath, Midas, Laurelbank, Dominion, Bertha and a number of other vessels which sailed into the North Pacific and were never afterward heard of, an insufficiency of ballast is blamed for the disaster. These tragedies, taken individually or collectively, are surrounded with an atmosphere of terrible mystery which will always be lacking in fatal disasters on shore, and for that reason all of the statistics that can be printed showing ocean travel to be safer than by rail will not change the sentiment which some people feel against it.

The active opposition to the Mitchell Chinese exclusion bill is due largely to the Chinese Government, which through Minister Wu Ting Fang is making a determined diplomatic fight against it and against the re-enactment even of the Geary exclusion law. When the delegation sent to Washington from California to work up sentiment in favor of the Mitchell exclusion bill called on Secretary Hay, they learned, according to the Washington correspondent of the New York Sun, that China has intimated that the re-enactment of the exclusion law would be regarded as an affront that would require retaliation, and that the Pekin government would decline to grant "most-favored-nation" treatment to the United States in the commercial treaties which are to be negotiated by China with this country. Should other nations secure tariff advantages which America will not possess, they would be able to send their goods into the interior of China, where a great market awaits them. California is vitally interested in the Chinese market, and the prospect of a considerable curtailment of her lucrative trade with the Orient naturally disturbs her delegation, which is working for the new exclusion law. It is believed that China will be willing to compromise on the basis of certain modifications in the exclusion law. The Eastern firms engaged in the China trade, and the railroad and steamship companies on this Coast, are strongly opposed to the Chinese exclusion law, and, while not strong at the ballot-box, they are always strong in the lobby at Washington when they have anything at stake. The success of the transcontinental railroads and the steamship companies in blocking the Nicaragua Canal bill for years shows how formidable is the opposition of a powerful Washington lobby energized by vast corporate interests. The whole struggle today over the choice of routes, whether by Nicaragua or Panama, is merely the work of an able lobby, which skillfully plays one project against the other in order to kill the canal. If there is a lobby of similar strength and skill behind the opposition to the Mitchell exclusion bill, it will have a hard fight to become a law. The Southern Democrats are not as amenable to the influence of organized white labor as are the Congressmen of the West and the Pacific Coast, and it is quite possible that the new exclusion bill has a long and hard battle before it to become a law.

The discontinuance of the woman's college of medicine of the Northwestern University of Evanston, near Chicago, finds no just explanation in the statement of the president that women are not equal to medicine and cannot be taught it. Women are taught medicine successfully elsewhere in America and Europe. Elizabeth and Emily Blackwell, Charlotte Lozier and Mary Putnam Jacobi were physicians conspicuous for scientific medical learning and skill many years ago, and the University of Zurich, Switzerland, gives diplomas annually to women whose medical and surgical scholarship is quite up to the highest masculine standard among the graduates. The woman graduates from medical schools in New York and Philadelphia are numerous and of good quality of scholarship. The Springfield Republican says that in that city a woman has held rank among the first three or four physicians in the extent of her practice and the quality of her work. Of course, there are worthless, incompetent physicians among women as there are among men, but there is really no intellectual deficiency peculiar to women that should make them more incapable of mastering medicine and surgery than men, provided they are equally well taught. In capital surgical operations a woman might not have as much nerve as a man, but there is no good reason why a woman could not master anatomy, physiology, materia medica, chemistry and microscopy as well as a man, and if she could she ought to be able to practice medicine with intelligence and success. She could at least keep her practice within the bounds defined by the witty doctor who said the chief thing essential to the successful practice of medicine "was to find out what would kill the patient, and then be sure not to give it to him."

The Oregonian is asked to decide the question, "What is the oldest newspaper in the United States?" It is hard to answer with certainty. The Massachusetts Spy, published in Boston before the Revolution, was removed at the outbreak of the Revolution to Worcester, Mass., where it is still published as the Worcester Spy. The Newport (R. I.) Mercury has an ancestry that runs back to ante-Revolutionary times. So has the Saturday Evening Post, of Philadelphia, which is the successor of the Pennsylvania Gazette. The Baltimore American, likewise, is the descendant in direct line of a newspaper of another name that dates into "the far backward and abysm of time." There is dispute as to what is the oldest newspaper in the United States. The Worcester (Mass.) Spy is probably entitled to the honor. Though removed from Boston to Worcester, it retains the original name, and is no descendant or successor of another paper.

Governor Geer's answer to the petition for commutation of the sentence of Dalton, one of the murderers of James Morrow, was excellent. No statement could be more clear and cogent. We reprint this part of it, viz:

> When these young brigands started out on this midnight raid for the earnings of others, and their blood, if necessary, they agreed to keep faith with each other, no matter what happened. When it resulted in murder they were equally guilty before the law, and when Dalton confessed, with the hope of getting at least a part of the reward and salvation from the gallows, he merely added to his former guilt that of perfidy to his fellow criminal. That it was Wade's pistol that went off "accidentally" instead of Dalton's was the result of mere chance as to which one was at the moment doing the thing they had both agreed to do. This class of hobos should not be encouraged to believe that when an "accident" of this kind occurs, clemency is held out to him who can make the quickest time to the District Attorney's office.

A discourse delivered recently by Bishop Potter, of New York, on the opportunities and duties of wealth was a very practical sort of sermon. This was one of his illustrations:

> A lady with an income of $500,000 wrote me recently that she was bored to death and very restless. "You tell me to look after my children," she said, "but the nurses and governesses can do it all much better than I can. You tell me to visit the poor, but I am afraid of microbes. You tell me to study. I have studied Italian till I am dizzy."
>
> I wrote back to her for God's sake to let the children see her once in a while, and to remember that they were her children, and not the nurses' children. I also spoke to her of a class of people who have seen better days.

It is now asserted that Byron did not have a clubfoot. Byron's lameness was so slight that Lady Blessington said that she could not tell except by very careful observation when he walked which was the lame foot. Another of his friends records that across the street nobody could tell that Byron was lame at all. Byron was a skillful pugilist, an excellent fencer, a bold horseman, a good shot and a famous fighter at school. It is probable, therefore, that his youthful lameness had been cured largely by the time he reached manhood.

Senator Allison, of Iowa, has the distinction of being the second man to be elected six consecutive full terms in the United States Senate. Senator Morrill, of Vermont, was the first. But no man of great brains and strong personality ever served or could serve so long without starting opposition fatal to his continuance in the office. Such "success" as this belongs to mediocre, colorless, commonplace and "merely respectable" characters.

Brother Parkhurst, of New York, though a type of the one-sided reformer, is not without humor or sense of humor, or sense and humor. He says: "I am very frequently called upon by people who tell me they are contemplating suicide. I tell them not to contemplate it, but to go and do it—jump into the water—for as soon as they feel the wet they will want to pull out."

A "by-product" of cotton, cotton-seed oil, is worth to our Southern States not less than $50,000,000 a year. Production in these states—cotton, tobacco, rice, lumber, fruits, coal, iron and steel, and dozens of other commodities—has grown to enormous proportions, and will yet grow beyond calculation.

If a poor beggar defies arrest, we read him a lecture on the sacredness of the law. If a railroad president does it, he looks around for applause. Anarchy is the same, in high places or low.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has emitted its annual tale of woe—and that is about the extent of its service, through all its history.

DR. ABBOTT ON THE PHILIPPINES

A new book which has just been published by Dr. Lyman Abbott, entitled "The Rights of Man," advances arguments justifying the American occupation of the Philippines, which are of particular interest just now, when Senator Hoar and others are reviving the agitation against our conduct of affairs there. Dr. Abbott takes what may be regarded as an extreme position in his insistence upon the moral right of our supremacy over the Filipinos. He holds that the Anglo-Saxon race is the chosen instrument to confer the gifts of civilization, through law, commerce and education on uncivilized peoples. He admits that there is some unavoidable injustice and hardship to the few, but that the greatest number will be the gainers. Wherever Anglo-Saxon government is established, persons, property and the family are safer than they ever were before. As to the Americans as colonizers, Dr. Abbott says: "On all the pages of human history there is not to be found the record of any other nation which has come so near fulfilling the Christ-ideal in dealing with subject races as this American people." He insists that it is not only a right, but a duty for the United States to continue in the dependencies placed in our hands. He continues:

> It is said that we have not the form of government which fits us for this work. If that were true, we should change the form of government. Forms of government are but tools; let us adapt our tool to our work, not our work to our tool. But our Government is admirably adapted for the work God has given us to do. For our work is not to subjugate a people; it is not to govern a people; it is to develop in a people, through law, through commerce, through education, through religion, the power of self-government. And no nation is better fitted, by the structure of its government, by the noble traditions of its past, by the splendid opportunities of the present, by the aspirations and desires of its prophets and poets, to take the lead in this great work of the world's civilization, and make of a barbaric community, first, a law-abiding people, then an industrious people, then an educated people; finally, a self-governing people, than this our Republic. Our Government, by its structure and in its spirit, more than any other government, embodies the three essential elements of true democracy—the spirit of good will to man, of hope for man, of faith in man. The nation which in its institutions embodies this threefold spirit is pre-eminently the nation to rule, to teach, to inspire, so that, through rule, through inspiration, through teaching, other nations may become free as we are free.

Dr. Abbott makes no concessions to Senator Hoar, who insists that barbarians have the same absolute rights to self-government as civilized people. Barbarism itself has no rights which civilization is bound to respect. The barbarian himself has rights which civilization is bound to respect. He has the natural rights of life, liberty and property, and civilization must protect these, but it should also help him to better conditions. It is under no obligation, he says, to maintain him in his darkness. Dr. Abbott goes on to say:

> The question which confronts self-governing countries in this beginning of the twentieth century is, Shall we leave races just emerging from childhood to acquire capacity for self-government through long and dismal processes which have been necessary in our case, or shall we serve as their guardians and tutors, protecting their rights and educating their judgment and their consciences until they are able to frame their own mutual protective associations; that is, to constitute and administer without aid their own governments?

Dr. Abbott calls attention to the difference between independence and liberty, which are so often confused. "Those who believe that the Philippines ought not to be independent," he says, "believe that if they become independent they will not be free, and that if they become dependent on the United States, their freedom will be assured."

Dr. Abbott's arguments have a similarity to those which justified the Greeks and Romans in their conquest of the barbarians, but there can be no question that civilization was the gainer. That the same will be true of the American occupation of the Philippines there can be no doubt at all. We have the Philippines with us for good, as a matter of fact, and nothing that Mr. Hoar and all the others who challenge our occupation of the islands can do will alter that essential position. Nor can any question the good that has been done wherever Anglo-Saxon civilization has extended.

NOAH WEBSTER FARM SOLD.

Dictionary Maker Procured It From the Government in 1836.

An investment in Vermilion County, Illinois, land, made 65 years ago by Noah Webster, of dictionary and spelling-book fame, came to light recently by a sale made by W. H. Allen, the grandson of Noah Webster, to N. C. Hill, of Henning, Vermilion County. Allen, who lives in Farmington, Conn., disposed of his share of the land—80 acres—for $87 50 per acre. Noah Webster entered the land from the Government in 1836, getting 320 acres lying two miles north of Henning. He died in 1868, leaving four children, among whom the Vermilion County estate was partitioned. A daughter got the 80 acres which were sold. She left the land to her son, W. B. Allen, who went to Danville to close the deal.

The grandson of the dictionary author did not know much about the land until recently, when he received a letter from a farmer offering him $40 an acre for it. He made an investigation which resulted in a trip to Danville, and the sale of the farm to another man for more than double the first offer. The land is virgin soil. It lies covered with prairie grass just as it did 100 years ago. While land all about it has been brought to the highest state of cultivation, the land of old Noah Webster has never known the touch of a plow. There is no doubt about its being good land, and even in lying uncultivated it has earned a large sum on the original investment of $1 25 per acre.

The Trade of the Philippines.

San Francisco Chronicle.

"Glory" is not a satisfactory return for what we are doing in the Philippines. The pleasure of policing the islands for all nations of the earth except ourselves to trade there is equally unsatisfactory. The consciousness of doing good to mankind may soothe the declining years of men and nations, but the lusty American people want cash. If we pay the Philippine bills we want the Philippine market. We have no use for an "open door," especially if Americans cannot get through the opening. To put it bluntly, we want a door wide open to us and partially closed to other people. We pay for it and we want it. If any American official has ever intimated that we would maintain any other kind of a door in the Philippines he exceeded his authority and will alone be dishonored if his promise is repudiated.

How It May Have Started.

Chicago Tribune.

"I think," said the old Army man who was detailing his Mexican war experiences, "General Winfield Scott was the biggest man I ever saw. He was nearly 6 feet and a half high, well proportioned, and weighed 250 pounds."

"Great Scott!" exclaimed the listener.

Compensation.

Mabel Whitmore.

As life slips by me, all I hoped to be
Grows fainter, dimmer, and I reach no goal
Among the many that my youthful soul
Dreamed of attaining sure and speedily.
Ambitions fade, and aspirations flee,
And Youth, who showered blossoms at my feet,
With covered face now leads on Age discreet,
And, treading on my flowers, turns from me.
Yet have the years been kind; one blossom rare
Is given me to grace these later days,
Whose tendrils twine my brow with greener bays
Than those my young ambitions longed to wear.
In one dear life I live my youth once more,
And dream again, and hope—as once before.

AMUSEMENTS.

"At Valley Forge," a melodrama of the time of the Revolution, and consequently full of interest for an American audience, opened a week's engagement at Cordray's last night to a house that was surprisingly large, in view of the unusually severe weather. The play is presented by a well-balanced company, is full of well-constructed situations and highly dramatic climaxes, and as the hero is an American officer and the villian a British major, the sympathy of the house is easily gained, and as easily held to the end. Most of the war is waged off the stage, but its atmosphere is transferred to the footlights by the uniforms of the Colonial and British troops, and there are plentiful allusions to what is going on outside to keep the audience in that pleasurable condition known as "breathless suspense." The Hessian troops are also much in evidence, and are kept in that joyous state of conviviality which led to their rude awakening when General Washington landed on their side of the Delaware.

The star of the company is Clare Gale, a pretty and winsome young actress, who gives much zest to the love scenes in which she and her American lover are the chief actors. B. A. Lamar enacts the role of Wilfred Fairfax, a Captain in the Continental army, with considerable skill, and William Monroe is sufficient as Major Carleton, British officer and all-round villian. The remainder of the cast meets the requirements of the drama. The play is well staged, and very handsomely costumed. It will run all the week.

"QUEEN OF HAYTI."

Colored Entertainers Play to Two Good Houses at the Baker.

"The Queen of Hayti," a musical hodge-podge, composed of a large number of colored entertainers of varying ability, returned to the Baker yesterday afternoon, and played to two good audiences before the day was out. The many songs, dances and lively specialties which compose the entertainment are all well put on, following one another rapidly, and judging from the applause they received they gave very general satisfaction.

The show is divided into three parts, the first and last acts being a comedy sketch into which the whole company enters with much interest, and out of which they extract considerable merriment. The star of the vaudeville programme is Kraton, the hoop juggler, whose feats are really remarkable. The Grundys and Vaughner contribute some interesting knockabout work. Kirk, as the musical tramp, does some eccentric comedy eccentricially, and the Sherrah quartette sings some good songs. A number of the songs are new, and there are many good voices in the company, beside plenty of passably good-looking girls and light-footed dancers of both sexes. The costuming is attractive, and in good taste. The show will run all the week.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

Cantata at the Marquam Tuesday.

Rehearsals are now in progress for the cantata, "The Four-Leaf Clover," which is to be given at the Marquam Tuesday night, for the benefit of the free bath fund. The children who will take part are said to be doing unusually good work, and their instructors promise that the performance will be little like the ordinary amateur cantata. The costuming and staging will be given careful attention.

Woodmen of the World Entertainment.

Thursday night, January 30, the Marquam Grand will be turned over to the Woodmen of the World and their friends, and "The Senator's Wife," a society drama in four acts, will be presented by a specially selected company, under the stage direction of Percy H. Levin. The play deals with life in the National Capital, and the story is woven about a plot of political intrigue, and the old, yet ever new, story that has been told by brave men to fair maids since the first sun dawned.

Murray and Mack.

Murray and Mack, in the second edition of their latest farce, "Shooting the Chutes," are announced as the attraction at the Marquam Grand Theater next Friday and Saturday nights, with a matinee Saturday. "Shooting the Chutes" has no serious intent either in dialogue or music. The piece was constructed to amuse for an evening. Murray and Mack are, of course, the principal fun-makers, and they have in their support Messrs. Gus Pixley, James T. Fanson, Edward West, E. D. Jolly, Robert F. Graham, Edward Powers, Frank Siddell, the Misses Kittie Beck, Lillian Durham, Blanche Creago, Kathryn B. Roberts, Adeline Mann, Francis Gilroy, Etta Francis and a chorus of 25.

Manager Baker's Announcement.

George L. Baker, of the Baker Theater, announces that he inaugurate next Sunday afternoon, February 2, the season of vaudeville he has long promised his patrons. Mr. Baker says he will offer a bill that has never been equalled in the city, and feels confident that his efforts in securing it will be approved by local playgoers.

Cause of Queer Legislation.

Boston Herald.

They are telling a story of William H. Crane to the effect that when he was last in London he was invited to dine at the House of Commons restaurant, and his host ordered a bottle of Irish whisky, from which he poured frequently and copiously.

"Say," said Mr. Crane, "do all you English statesmen partake as liberally and as frequently of that liquid as this?"

"We do," said the host.

"Well, all I've got to remark is that I'm not surprised that the Boer war continues," said Mr. Crane.

It Seemed a Pity.

Puck

Cassidy—Phere are yez going in thot new suit?

Casey—Ol'm going to ask old man Flanigan for his daughter's hand.

Cassidy—Th' divil! Ut seems a pity to ruin a new suit that way.

FOREIGN NOTES OF INTEREST.

Every year 20,000 Spaniards emigrate to South America.

Rome is to be electrically lighted with power from the Marmore Falls, 70 miles distant.

Mount Rewenzori, in equatorial Africa, is about 20,000 feet high, has 20 miles of glaciers and is nearly always cloud covered.

The increase in Germany's customs receipts from Kiaochau last year was 28 per cent. The total sum, however, was only $70,000.

Belgium has a place where alcoholic drinks are sold for every 36 persons; Prussia one for 180; Austria for 220; Russia for 91; Norway for 52,000.

Since the middle of November last Paris has a Russian high school, at which most of the university branches are taught, some of them by eminent Russian fugitives or residents.

Shopkeepers in Kabul have been warned by the Amir that during the cold weather the prices of necessities, such as foodstuffs, wood and charcoal, must not be raised by more than 5 per cent.

A native of Basel, Switzerland, has donated to the local university 300,000 francs for the founding of chairs of critical theology, philosophy and biology, which are to be free from all interference by church or state.

Ouhong Tahan, the highest mountain in the Malay Peninsula, has been ascended by John Watersiradt, who states that its height is 5000 feet. Hitherto all attempts to attain the summit have been unsuccessful.

Emperor William's sudden warm friendship for the United States may be due to a belated regret for the German unfriendliness manifested when we were at war with Spain. Let us give him the benefit of the doubt. If he is playing selfish politics we'll discover the truth in time to prevent injury.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

C-ld en-gh f-r y-u?

Look out for plumbers in politics this year.

Why doesn't some one go out and look for a chinook?

This is certainly an excellent imitation of strenuous weather.

Our old friends Tom and Jerry are again enjoying much popularity.

The new year is nearly a month old, and very bright for its age.

This is one time of year when asphalt streets are avoided like the plague.

Every one who was up at 7 o'clock with a snow shovel please hold up his right hand.

Lucky is the householder whose furnace doesn't take an afternoon out whenever the servant girl does.

All the terms of Miss Stone's release have been agreed upon, but the term of her detention remains indefinite.

Chicago has gone as wild over Schley as she did over Dewey. A sailor never lacks for a breezy day in Chicago.

Chicago's Council threatens to put a limit on the height of her sky-scrapers. Eighty-seven stories ought to be reasonable.

Perhaps John L. Sullivan is playing Legree in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" because in that way he can find some one he can whip.

It is to be hoped that no steps will be taken to keep the Indian women from painting their faces. There is no need of provoking a war unnecessarily.

The Boston Transcript says that this is what happens to Ophelia when Hamlet is done into French for Thomas' opera, and then turned back into English:

> My husband Hamlet is, and as for me, I'm Ophelia.
> If he betrays his faith, I my reason shall lose.

Conan Doyle's pamphlet, "The War—Its Cause and Conduct," was published, its author admits, for the explicit purpose of meeting the accusations which have been circulated on the Continent regarding the British conduct of the Boer war. To this end Dr. Doyle's full statement of facts—and he has collected much evidence—is to be translated into various languages. He means to have this done anyhow, but has announced that funds sent to him for the propaganda will enable it to be done more thoroughly.

The tenacity with which German soldiers adhere to the practice of dueling as a custom of the service is surprising, in view of the strenuous attempts made at various times to suppress it. The present Emperor of Germany established the court of honor to restrict dueling within as narrow limits as possible, but this court appears to have accomplished little. Frederick the Great of Prussia was a bitter opponent of dueling, and he found a means of suppressing it. Finding that the practice was increasing in his army, Frederick issued an order directing the summary punishment of any officer engaging in a duel without his consent. Soon after, consent was asked by an officer of rank, and graciously granted, on condition that His Majesty should be notified of the time and place of the meeting. When the belligerents arrived on the ground they found the Emperor there before them and seated near a newly-erected gibbet. When the challenger asked the meaning of this, he was answered: "It means, sir, that I intend to witness your battle until one of you has killed the other and then I will hang the survivor." This duel was off at once.

An English publication gives the following answers taken from school examination papers:

"Of whom was it said: 'He never smiled again'?" "William Rufus did this after he was shot by the arrow."

"Henry VIII was a very good King. He liked plenty of money, he had plenty of wives and died of ulcers in the legs."

"Edward III would have been King of France if his mother had been a man."

"Alexander the Great was born in the absence of his parents."

"What is a watershed?" "A shed for keeping water in."

"A watershed is a house between two rivers so that a drop of water falling on one side of the roof runs into one river and a drop on the other side goes into the other river."

"The battle of Waterloo was fought off Cape Trafalgar. Nelson led up one squadron and Collingwood the other. When it was over Wellington rode over the field by moonlight and met Blucher, the French General, and they shook hands and were friends ever after."

"The principal products of Kent are archbishops of Canterbury."

"The chief clause in Magna Charta was that no free man should be put to death or imprisoned without his own consent."

"Where were the Kings of England crowned?" "On their heads."

"What do you know of Dryden and Buckingham?" "Dryden and Buckingham were at first friends, but soon became contemporaries."

"What is Milton's chief work?" "Milton wrote a sensible poem called 'The Canterbury Tails.'"

"The gamut is a musical scale. The name is derived from gamut or catgut, the material from which the strings of musical instruments used to be made."

"A palimpsest is a disease among cattle in South Africa."

GOSSIP FOR READERS OF BOOKS.

The poetry of Arthur Symonds, in two volumes, is among the publishers' announcements for February.

Frances Hodgson Burnett is writing a sequel to "The Making of a Marchioness." It is to be three times as long as the original, and is entitled "The Methods of Lady Walderhurst."

"The Riddle of the Universe," by Professor Ernst Haeckel, of the University of Jena, has sold 14,000 copies in Germany alone. In America also the book has proved a popular success.

"David Harum" has kept one press busy almost continuously since its first publication; in all 537,000 copies have been printed, including three different orders during December, two for 5000 each, and a supplementary one for 2000.

Mme. de Sevigne is to have a monument, the little town of Grignan having commissioned the sculptor Coutan to execute a bust of the charming Frenchwoman, to be set in front of what remains of her son-in-law's chateau at Grignan.

A pocket edition of the novels of George Meredith is in process of publication; six volumes are now ready, including "The Egoist" and "The Ordeal of Richard Feverel." There are to be 15 volumes in the complete edition; the Scribners are the publishers.

General Sheridan's autobiography did not include the closing years of his life, stopping as it did in 1871; his brother, Michael V. Sheridan, has brought the work down to the General's death, in 1888, and the new enlarged edition is now ready; the title is "Personal Memoirs of Philip Henry Sheridan"; D. Appleton & Co., the publishers.