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not in the faculty that attended it. A calamity of this kind is not greater than that frequently witnessed in the wreck of a railway train, but the horror of it all—the darkness, except as the blazing steamer "burned a hole in the night," the rudely awakened passengers compelled to choose between being burned to death or drowned, the screams and struggles and vain attempts to reach a place of safety, and, mingling with all other sounds, the crackling and roaring of the flames, sufficed to paint a picture of human extremity from which the dullest imagination shrinks and turns away. The sounds borne under such conditions upon the "hot, black breath of the burning boat" has been well designated an "infernal roar." Of necessity it soon ceased, and the record of another great tragedy was written.

SUBMANS FROM CUCUMBERS.

It is silly, the way some are talking, that the Republican vote of the state going to Chamberlain. It is talk merely, from Democratic sources. Inquire among Republicans and you will find there is nothing in it. That the Simon Junta in Portland will help Chamberlain to the extent of its power is not questioned. It will give him a squad of bunch of votes, but the number cannot be sufficient to make an impression on the general result.

When Democrats and Simonites talk as if the Republican party had been disrupted and was about to dissolve, that its voters were turning to the Democratic party, and that Chamberlain and his associates were to have a walkover, they merely chatter among themselves. They ask those who hear them to suppose that Republicans have ceased to be Republicans. The leaders of the Simon gang here undoubtedly are for Chamberlain and the Democratic ticket. Of them, more hereafter. Here and throughout the state they may muster a few hundred votes on election day; but to Democratic ears their croak is as if there were ten thousand frogs in a pond, which yields but two dozen when the pond is drained.

Republicans adhere to their party because they see reason to be Republicans—and to adhere to it. They see nothing in the recent history or conduct of the Democratic party that is attractive to them. They see how fortunate the country was and is to have escaped the pit of Bryanism. They want business, commerce, sound money and industry. They do not want "scuttles." Stories are told that Republicans are going to vote the Democratic ticket; but they are told by Democrats—and by the handful of members of the Simon inner clique, who, for revenge, would like to defeat the Republican party since they can't control it. "Which, if not victory, is yet revenge." It was not a gentleman of admirable character who said that. We shall see whether the Republicans of Oregon have suddenly become Democrats. The Oregonian must be excused for its incredulity.

DEARER BREAD IN ENGLAND.

Our dispatches announced yesterday that the trades unions will protest to the British Parliament against the proposed imposition of a revenue tax on corn. This protest was to be expected, for the original purpose of the repeal of the corn laws in 1846 was to make cheap bread possible to the workman, since without cheaper bread the manufacturer would have to face a demand for higher wages from his employees. The manufacturer was able in 1846 to force the repeal of the corn laws, and thus through cheaper bread was able to escape the relatively high wages that would have been inevitable had bread imports continued to be taxed in the interest of the English agriculturists. The London and Liverpool bakers have already announced the increase of half a penny in the price of a two-pound loaf of bread, and as apples, rice, lentils and manufactured articles like macaroni will pay a duty under the class of grain and flour, the working classes are face to face with an increased price of living, which prompts the trades unions to protest to Parliament against this imposition of a tax on imported foodstuffs. The protest will not be heeded, and then there will be a demand for increased wages from the manufacturer, which will be followed by strikes. Political disturbances will be sure to follow, for the Liberals have promptly given notice of their strenuous opposition to the grain tax, upon the ground that it will press ultimately and with the greatest severity upon those least able to afford it; that it imposes a burden on the masses while it aids landowners; that it abates the price of food and irritates labor because it is sure to distress and displace the poor. The Chancellor of Great Britain has been brought to this decision to tax grain imports largely through the stress of military expenditures for the South African War. The present yearly British expenditure is \$870,000,000, twice the outlay of five years ago. This outlay is \$130,000,000 over and above the present revenue for a year to come, and the deficit for the past year has been \$90,000,000. The Chancellor of Exchequer proposes to raise about \$15,000,000 of the new revenue by taxation of grain, flour and meal. This bread tax is not technically a return to protection, for it is laid for revenue only, and it is freely predicted that it will be repealed at the first opportunity. At the same time, it must be recognized that in order to effect its repeal expenditures must be reduced, and present burdens must be dispensed with or replaced by new ones. Thus, while the pressure of the Boer War sooner or later will be relaxed, Great Britain is doomed to a vastly increased annual expenditure to keep up her navy to its present point of supremacy over the united navies of France and Russia, or those of France and Germany. These powers are steadily increasing their fleets, and Great Britain, to maintain her present advantage, must spend a great deal of money even if no new war overtakes her. The political situation in Ireland promises to make the government of that country expensive. The situation in China and Japan may breed war at any moment. There is small prospect that Great Britain will at any near date be able to repeal the new taxes on grain, meal and other food imports. The radical Liberals, backed by the labor vote, will, of course, oppose the imposition of these new food taxes, but they cannot hope to unseat the present Salisbury government, because a good many influential Liberals, like Lord Rosebery, will support these war taxes on grain because they are in full sympathy with the idea of "strengthening the bonds of the empire," as Mr. Chamberlain puts it.

A DELIGHTFUL HUMORIST.

The late Frank R. Stockton was a most delightful humorist of very rare quality in our American literature. The great majority of our American humorists are depictees chiefly of what is transiient rather than what is permanent in our National life. Irving is a gentle humorist, whose best books are written in the spirit of Addison and Goldsmith, and because of this they still hold a place in the libraries of men of good taste and good feeling. Mark Twain, a man of original genius both as a coarse-humorist and a vigorous satirist, has written some books that will survive his generation, but a good deal of his earlier work was thrown off as mere "pot-boilers" and is so charged with transient local color and atmosphere that it will not long survive him. John Phoenix, Artemus Ward, Nasby, Orin, and a great many others, as playwrights, but their work stood for the transient rather than the permanent in American life, even as the diverting utterances of "Dr. Dooley" do today. The humor of Dr. Holmes in his "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," with its successors, "The Professor" and "The Post," will always be good reading, and so will his humorous poems, "The Last Leaf," "The Comet," "The One-Horned Horse," "Rip Van Winkle, M. D.," and "How the Old Horse Won the Bet," but when we remember that Holmes' literary career extended over half a century, his humorous verses of permanent quality are few and far between. Lowell's Yankee dialect poetry belongs to the list of humor of permanent quality. To this short record it is safe to add the name of Frank R. Stockton. The man was a great artist. He did not try to say funny things, but he created a fine, humorous atmosphere. He made the situation gradually unfold itself from start to finish, and did it so skillfully that you commenced to smile gently in the first chapter, and never stopped smiling to the last. There was no coarseness or rankness in his work, no broad farce, no "meat-and-potatoes" humor, as gentle and well bred in his humor as Charles Lamb, whom he resembles in his capacity for gradual creation of a humorous atmosphere by taking hu-

mor from every side and giving it forth on every side. Mr. Stockton was a man of original genius. This conclusion forces itself upon you when you try to think of some celebrated humorist to whom he was indebted for the manner, if not the matter, of his humor, and you find that he has no closely related prototype. He is not the echo of any famous humorist in England or America; he is his own general. The time will come, if it has not already arrived, when Stockton will be recognized as belonging to the first rank of American humorists of permanent rather than mere transient excellence. His stories and sketches will always be humorous, for the same reason that Saeco Panza is as diverting today as he was to the Span of Cervantes; for the same reason that Falstaff is as hilariously mirth-provoking today as he was to the England of Elizabeth.

EGREGIOUS INGRATITUDE.

A baseless and unjust attack is made upon Representative Tongue by a Marshallfield paper because of his efforts on behalf of the mouth of the Columbia River. The Marshallfield Mail understands that "Mr. Tongue is too closely in sympathy with Portland to do the best for Coos Bay." Nothing could be farther from the truth than is the implication that Mr. Tongue's activity in behalf of the Columbia River affects adversely his capacity to secure appropriations for Coos Bay. The fact that Coos Bay, in common with all other waters whatsoever, has to stand on its own merits, not only with Congress, but with the Engineering Corps, is a fact which the Marshallfield Mail is guided.

The fact regarding Mr. Tongue is that he has always put the interests of his own district first, and further, no district or county. It is for the Republic consistent and persistent advocate in Congress than the Second Oregon District has in the person of Mr. Tongue. He has done all for Coos Bay, and for Yaquina Bay, that anybody could do, and more than most could do. And if he has exerted himself on behalf of the Columbia River, it is much more because he realizes that its improvement is of great importance to the Pacific Northwest, and that the western Oregon, than it is because of any desire he has of creating political sentiment in his favor in Portland, which has nothing to do either with his nomination or his election.

The needs of the Columbia River rest upon too broad a basis to be menaced either by an indifferent Congressman or the demands of Coos Bay. Carrying the commerce of the Columbia River, amounting some \$12,000,000 a year, this great waterway is certain to be recognized in Congress so long as any other projects are recognized. The cheapening of transportation by this improvement, moreover, affects the values of products and land of all Oregon, including Coos Bay. The expenditures carried by the present river and harbor bill average \$1 per acre for the Columbia's commerce, while the amount carried for Coos Bay in the last bill is \$1.50 per acre of Coos Bay's commerce.

It is unfortunate for Coos Bay that its public sentiment is out of harmony with the rest of the state, enough so to justify one of its newspapers in making this attack upon Portland and the Columbia River. Strenuous efforts have been made here to enlist the co-operation of the people of Coos Bay, amounting that region more closely to the people and the commerce of the state to which it belongs. But without appreciable success. The affiliation of the Bay is mostly with San Francisco, and the apparent desire is to continue it. Portland is proud of the rich country drained by Coos Bay, and wishes that its overtures there were more kindly received.

Doubtless the operation of a railroad connecting Marshallfield with Portland is the only thing that will make Coos Bay actually as it is nominally a part of Oregon. The efforts which Oregon men have put forth and which have resulted in the Jetty there and the present channel, have only served to facilitate trade between Coos Bay and San Francisco. These efforts will doubtless be continued unabated, and the result, as it thanks he gets any such emeralds as we have reprinted from the Mail.

THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE HAS BEEN "SUMMONED BY DIVINE PROVIDENCE TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD THE FRIENDLY INTERCOURSE BETWEEN THE ORIENT AND THE OCCIDENT."

This is its present in Manchuria explained; thus the cause of the constant increasing number of Russian soldiers in that province is made plain; thus the fact that it has taken possession of one of the finest deep-water harbors of the Pacific is justified. The Manchurian occupation scheme was elaborated by Divine Providence with Russia as its agent—modest, unassuming Russia, that longs for world-wide peace and attests the sincerity of this longing by increased activity in its navy, and an aggressive policy in its own Finland as well as in China. The year, having been duly enlightened upon this matter, will now have a sign of satisfaction.

THE MISSOURI FARMERS ARE URGING THEIR GOVERNOR TO PROTEST AGAINST ANY INTERFERENCE WITH THE PURCHASE OF HORSES AND MULES BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON THE GROUND THAT THIS EXPORT TRADE IN HORSES AND MULES HAS BEEN WORTH \$7,000,000 TO MISSOURI FOR THE PAST YEAR.

According to British statistics, the value of the horses exported by the United States to Great Britain from 1895 to 1901 amounts to the sum of \$35,000,000, while our shipments of mules to the United Kingdom from September, 1899, to December, 1901, aggregate in value over \$6,000,000. In 1891 the exports of horses from the United States amounted to less than \$1,000,000. In 1901 the shipments of horses to South Africa was \$7,465, to Great Britain \$2,468. Since 1895, Great Britain alone has received from the United States on the average 50,000 horses annually.

The other day a lion and bear fight was witnessed by the thousands of spectators in a Mexican town. Something far more repulsive than this spectacle was the recent "Grand American Handicap Shoot" at Kansas City, whose result was 13,000 dead pigeons, a butchery of tame, helpless birds. New York State prohibits by law such exhibitions. Women took part in this Kansas City match. Such exhibitions are more barbarous than applying the "water cure" to a Filipino spy or assassin, for the Filipino brigand and assassin is a noxious animal, while the pigeon is incapable of mischief.

A LETTER FROM JUDGE LOWELL.

His Complaint About His Defeat by Mr. Furnish.

PENDELTON, April 21. — (To the Editor.)—In yesterday's issue of your paper you pay me, a private citizen, the high compliment of editorial notice, and while I have no desire to question either the Oregonian's analysis of my character or its estimate of my standing and popularity in my own county, I think I am justified in asking the publication of my letter to Mr. Chamberlain, in order that my true position upon the gubernatorial matter may receive the same publicity as was given the attack upon me by you. The following is the letter in full:

April 22, 1902. Hon. George E. Chamberlain, Portland, Ore.—Dear Sir: I have the honor to congratulate you upon your nomination for the position of chief executive of the state, and to express the hope that you may triumph at the polls. I am a Republican, and in accordance with the historic principles of that party, its candidates, with the exception of those who are not eligible for office, will receive my support and vote at the approaching election. My platform is fully endorsed by the people of Oregon, and the Governorship is not political, but moral, and goes to the very existence of popular government. The question thus to be settled at the ballot-box is whether we are to have the rule of the commonwealth in an article of merchandise, which can be bought by money, and attained by the arts of the political speculator.

I, for one, propose to go on record in the negative, and share your fate. With assurance high respect, I am, Sir, your truly yours, STEPHEN A. LOWELL. I know of no other letter of mine to which your editorial comment could refer. This is a letter, however, written to the Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee. I do not think Mr. Matthews has published the letter, but if he desires to do so he has my fullest permission. STEPHEN A. LOWELL.

It is open to Judge Lowell as to every other man to take what course in politics he may desire. However, the public will judge him when he writes this kind of letter. He was a candidate for Governor in the primaries of Umatilla County. Mr. Furnish beat him five to one, on a full vote. He now says that Mr. Furnish is "a political freebooter," and declares that the issue is "whether or not the office of Governor of the commonwealth is an article of merchandise which can be bought by money." It is for the Republicans of Umatilla County to put an estimate on this estimate of themselves. It is apparent, however, from the vote in the primary there that they do not take Judge Lowell at his own valuation. He no doubt is a worthy man in many ways; but all who know him (and all who do not) must be sorry to witness this exhibition of meanness.

Again, his assumption that Mr. Chamberlain is the prime and perfection of personal and civic virtue does his intelligence as little credit as the other assumption does credit to his magnanimity. Mr. Chamberlain is what he is. He is merely "a good fellow," who depends on politics, but does no official duty thoroughly, because he is always trying to "make votes"; and at this moment he is, and for a year past, has been, allowing the commission of unlawful infractions to rampant in Portland—though as District Attorney he has full power to suppress them. It is his vote that is expected to contribute to the scheme to make him Governor. If Judge Lowell doesn't know these things it is because he prefers not to know them—not to know the "moral issue" which he says is "raised upon the gubernatorial question."

It is a pity that Judge Lowell has made this estimate of himself. It seems to have been an unerring judgment that led the Republicans of Umatilla County to prefer another citizen of the county to himself for Governor, by a vote of five to one. WARE AS A VERSIFIER. Samples of Efforts by the New Commissioner of Pensions. Rochester Post-Express. Eugene F. Ware, of Kansas, whom President Roosevelt has selected to succeed H. Clayton Wood as Commissioner of Pensions, is a bigger man than his reputation. It is safe to say that "Ironclad" is a name unknown to most readers, yet under his pen name Eugene F. Ware has published verses that ought to, and probably will, withstand a good deal of the buffeting of time. "Rhymes" were first published 10 or 12 years ago, and have since been the property of the members of the clerical force, and devote themselves to the legitimate work of his office.

For to have heroism and pluck and daring lost ground. To be sure, nobody fights a duel nowadays, but on the sterner battlefields which demand moral courage, there has been a fighting of the most heroic kind, and a good deal of it. A man of the cloth, by the way, and certainly a part of our political life, and I am especially struck with the high standard of the which animates so many of them, and which, notwithstanding all the little frictions that attend every organization from a military department to a political party, has been a marked advance. The great body of clerical places are no longer the property of the victor, secured by political favor, but are held by men who are doing a good deal of work, and are certainly a part of our political life, and I am especially struck with the high standard of the which animates so many of them, and which, notwithstanding all the little frictions that attend every organization from a military department to a political party, has been a marked advance.

A Conscienceless Trust. Utica Observer. Tell me, O my dear friend, how did you get on the well-to-do and the dinners of the poor. On the way it has stopped to wreak ruin and ruin on some who are slow or reluctant to do his bidding, and to demonstrate that its machinery is constructed to work vengeance as well as accomplish robbery. Small Loan by Comparison. New York Journal. What a protest roar will rise in Britain if the minister carries out its rumored project of putting a tariff upon grain and flour! But a duty of 4 per cent, such as Americans, who meekly pay 25 per cent on furniture, 60 per cent on clothing and on raw sugar 55 per cent.

PLEASANTNESSES OF PARAGRAPHS. A Raisin—Press Agent—The star says he wants a half an inch to the height of the letters in her name on the programme—Judge. His occupation—Asked by a Justice to give account of himself, a Georgia dray driver replied: "I do a job of negroes, haul, swing around for a home's help!"—Atlanta Constitution. Didn't give it—While, did you give John Smith a black eye? "No, ma'am." "Are you sure?" "Yes, ma'am." "He already had one on his forehead!"—Chicago Post. Literature—Have you read about the great discovery by a geologist exploring of the globe? "I have." "What is it?" "The discovery is supposed to have played on them."—Chicago Daily News. Little Bertie had been taught not to ask for anything at meals. One day poor Bertie had been forgotten, when he pathetically inquired: "Do little boys get to heaven when they are starved to death?"—Tribune. An Opening for Revenge—Harry Harriet, don't you be so haughty with those people next door. Harriet? Why not? Harry—First thing you know they'll turn out a daisy, and get her away from us—Puck. Easily Pleas'd—The host—I'm more than sorry, Colonel, but you know I never have wine on my table when my children are present. The Colonel—No offense, sir. I'd just as soon have whisky and water—Brooklyn Life. The Lesser Evil—Accum after the performance of a play, a friend of mine, who had a part in amateur theatricals, Stinson (I don't of the cast—I don't, but if I didn't, I'd probably have to sit up in the audience)—Philadelphia Post. A Blessing in Disguise—"It was so sorry to hear a fox had been stealing your poultry again." "How ungrateful you are!" "Oh, we are the Slophoric side country comes up to our farm on one side and the Jewlers on the other." "I don't think you'd care to take each day for the old hens."—Punch.

ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSIONS.

Chicago Inter-Ocean.

A volume just published at Baltimore with the sanction of Cardinal Gibbons contains information which, while doubtless well known to Roman Catholics, may come as something of a surprise to the best of other Christian communions. It is a history of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and shows how and by whom the missionary enterprises of the Roman Church are sustained. Most Protestants are probably under the impression that these enterprises are directed, and the revenue for their support collected, by the board of committee in Rome, commonly called "the Congregation of the Propagation." This is a error. The propaganda's income does not exceed \$35,000 a year, and this is wholly absorbed by its schools and printing-houses. Missionaries are sent to the most remote parts of the world by the largest and most widely spread.

This society was organized in Lyons in 1822 by a dozen persons assembled to bear in mind the progress and the difficulties of the Roman Catholic missions in America. Its beginnings were very humble, but its founders persisted in their work, and in 1849 an encyclical from Pope Gregory XVI commended the society to all churches. From 1822 to 1900 the society has collected and distributed no less than \$5,500,000. France has been the great contributor to Catholic foreign missions, having given no less than \$2,076,000 of the total. Italy has given \$1,250,135; Germany and Austria, \$1,000,000; Belgium, \$800,000; Great Britain and Ireland, \$2,304,734; Holland, \$1,167,534; Canada, Mexico and the West Indies, \$1,144,476; the United States, \$1,120,421, and no other country has contributed more than \$100,000. The total expenditure—\$5,502,445—has been in Asia, in Europe \$5,798,854; in Africa, \$5,815,533; in Oceania, \$5,011,620, and in America, \$2,076,000. The missions now maintained in this country are chiefly among the Indians.

The administration of the society, which sustains but does not testifies to the religious work, is almost entirely in the hands of the laity. The division of funds is made by agreement between the central councils of Lyons and Paris, and the local chapters and individual, though members are usually organized in bands of 10, each headed by a "promoter." The requirements for membership are daily prayer, and the giving of 5 cents each month. The society has no permanent or invested funds. At the opening of each year the total collected during the preceding year is distributed, its work depends from year to year upon the continuing zeal of the faithful.

By these means the society sustains and helps 699 priests, and 1,000 missionaries, and 4,000 sisters, besides native priests and helpers—a great religious army exhibiting the power of systematic charity when that charity is supported by faith in the righteousness of the chosen cause. LONG ON NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. He Sees Reasons for Good Cheer in His Outlook. (Secretary of the Navy John D. Long, in the Congressionalist.) So far as I can see, there has been a steady improvement in American political conditions. There is a general feeling of good cheer. There have been few backward steps and there certainly have been a great many forward. The man in power has been a man of high character and in all life. His standards of personal