# The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER-Cloudy, with probe nal showers; east to south winds. TESTERDAY'S WEATHER-Maximum ten perature, 44 deg.; minimum temperature, 31 deg.; no precipitation.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

Affer the State Land Agent has been erforming the duties of his office for our years it is discovered that there is room for doubt concerning the legal existence of such an office. The authories are so evenly divided that lawyers differ in their opinions. The question was whether the law providing for the appointment of an agent had been re pealed. Since the Legislature of 1899 twice repealed an act which had been repealed once before, it is not surprising that they would leave some repealing acts uncertain in their effect. The remarkable feature of the case is that the Governor gave his approval on succes sive days to two acts which related to his own office and which were in conflict with each other. It is altogether probable that the Governor had so many bills to examine that he could not even make a thorough inspection of those relating to his own duties. When the next Legislature provides for the employment of committee clerks, perhaps it would be good policy to provide a competent clerk for the Governor to asist him in ascertaining the legal effect of the laws they have passed. In the multitude of duties thrust upon the Executive during the Legislative session can ecarcely be expected to give all the bills the attention to which they are entitled. The Legislature this session will have the advantage of being provided with a new compliation of the statutes, so that they will not be obliged to search in a dozen different volumes in order to find out what the law is.

A new and interesting fact is set forth in Higginson's new biography of Whittier, viz., that he was not only a poet but a very shrewd politician. It seems that in 1832 Whittier sought a Congressional nomination by modern methods of political appeal to mutual self-interest in securing posts of honor. A letter is quoted written by him at 24, in which he makes a dexterous appeal to "mutual self-interest." His few years in practical politics had fostered in him an ambition for power and patronage that was not suspected by those who knew him in later life. He never took up with civil service reform and he did not hesitate to invoke political influence to obtain a place in the Boston Custom-House for his brother, and to retain him in office. This circumstance is not mentioned by Higginson, but it reets on good author-Whittier's letters thanking politi cal friends for favors of this sort are still in existence. Whittier was an abolitionist, but never a Garrisonian, He was a Free-Soller, and afterward a Republican, but he was never an advocate of the dissolution of the Union, as were both Garrison and Phillips. He strongly disapproved John Brown's raid, and described Brown as "sadly misguided," and declined "any countenance to such attempts as that at Harper's Ferry.' Furthermore, Whittier declined to support woman suffrage. It is an interes ing fact that Whittier, the poet, should have been the most conservative, the most sober-minded, of all the old antislavery reformers, and the only one among them who had ever been an ambitious, practical politician.

The organization of a Fair Association for the purpose of giving an annual livestock exhibition and race meeting in this city is one of the most important moves yet made for the benefit of the livestock industry in the state. magnitude of this industry is not generally understood, but it has reached proportions where it now contributes something like \$9,000,000 per year to the wealth of the state. An industry of such vast importance is certainly entitled to all of the assistance and cultivation that can be accorded it, and that it will receive a positive benefit from well-conducted stock exhibitions an assured fact. In the early days of the industry the stockmen of Oregon were obliged to import large numbers of high-grade animals from the older settled portions of the country and from Europe. In that era exhibitions were of little value, for the reason that we had nothing to exhibit that would attract the attention or the cash of visitors who might attend. But the stock business has now reached a point where the state has switched around from the position of an importer to that of an exporter of fine animals. Oregon sheepmen are shipping prizewinning bucks all over the United States, Oregon horses are winning fame and money on the finest tracks in the East, and Oregon cattle ern markets. The advantages of stock shown and public sales which always go these exhibitors lie in the fact that they attract large crowds of buyers | water-level and relatively short route of | counties at a fixed ratio, there seems to | failure,

of all classes of stock. Without these fairs that bring out the best of all kinds of stock it is impossible for Oregon breeders to attract the best class of to buyers. The latter have neither time nor inclination to make a farm-to-farm canvass of the state in search of the class of stock they are seeking; but they will always be found wherever the various grades of well-bred stock are massed for inspection. The proposed association now in process of organization is composed of representative men of the city and etate-men whose names are a guarantee that it will be conducted for | can practically be enforced. the benefit of the industry, and not for the pleasure and profit of a few racing sharps who in the past have not only killed legitimate racing, but have also dragged down the stock business with it.

December wheat in Chicago closed on Saturday at 75% cents. On the corresponding date one year ago it closed at 75% cents. Walla Walla wheat in Portland sold on Saturday at 72 cents per bushel. On the corresponding date in 1901 it sold in Portland at 61 cents per bushel. December 13, 1899, the quotation on the same option was: Portland, cents; Chicago, 66 cente per bushel. Liverpool quotations Saturday were less than 1 cent per bushel higher than they were on a corresponding date one year ago. These figures will prove of interest to the people who in former years were professedly unable to understand why the Portland market failed to respond to every advance in the Chicago market. Interior newspapers always placed the blame for this independence of the Portland market on an alleged Portland wheat pool, and incidentally ought to work up a feeling against this market on that account. There are fewer exporters in the wheat business in Portland now than there were at this time last year, and if the "wheat pool" theory were correct, they would hardly be paying 11 cents per bushel more than they were paying a year ago, with the European market less than a cent bêtter than it was at that time As a matter of fact, there is no other commodity on the face of the earth more difficult of control by a pool or trust. This is on account of the universal production of the cereal. Liverpool is the world's supply depot, and the men who buy and sell at that port make the prices for the rest of the world. A local pool is as difficult of formation proportionately as would be a world-wide pool, for there are always hips which can be chartered to float cargoes, and always speculators willing to take a moderate profit for handling wheat or any other commodity. At the present time the Pacific Coast wheatgrower can ship his wheat 17,000 miles around the Horn to Europe at almost the same freight rate as the farmer of the Middle West, who by the transportation routes is 10,000 miles nearer to Liverpool than the Pacific Coast shipper Matters will remain in this shape until there is an advance in ocean freights out of our ports oh the Coast. there will be an advance is a certainty, for wheat is now carried to Europe for less than the cost of operating the ships, and the attendant loss is the farmers gain.

## ASPECTS OF TRANSPORTATION.

The Klickitat Railroad enterprise has given to the transportation situation, as related to the interests of Portland, an entirely new aspect. First and foremost it has demonstrated to our people the power of their own large capital, and through it, Portland's real independence of the great foreign railroad combinations which have arrogantly assumed to apportion our country among themselves, to promote or hold back its development, to "ronte" its traffic and "place" ite business as it may suit their convenience or assure their profit. The Klickitat Valley has been retarded in its progress a full twenty years under this policy, and even now, if the tactice of bluff were capable of effecting still further delay, it would be remanded to the list of districts waiting in isolation and poverty the convenience of a foreign railfoad company. Central Oregon, includng the valley of the John Day River, the valley of the Deschutes and the Lake country further south, has long been in this humble attitude, and has been left to wait because it has been ssumed that nobody could hope or would dare to contest for the transportation and general business of these regions with the powers in control of this part of the railroad field.

Second, the Klickitat enterprise, by the emphasis it has given to the fact that the basin of the Willamette and Lower Columbia Rivers now practically extends to The Dalles, has shown that the gateway of the Cascades is no monopoly, and that the occupation by one rallroad of its single rail route does not necessarily close it to competitive evatems. For, with the old barrier to navigation at the Cascades out of the way. railroads operating either on the north or the south side of the river and connecting with it at The Dalles or any point below, may extend their operaions to Portland by means which nobody can hinder; while at the same time they may command without treaty with the established roads and without oppression from anybody all the advantages of terminal facilities on the river front at Portland. This makes a situation in which two men in New York, one representing the northern and the other the southern "merger," may not get together and in an hour adjust the ransportation conditions and destinies of the Pacific Northwest with reference to the selfish interests of the properties represented. It means that a way is open by which Portland may, if she an muster the initiative and the energy (she has already the necessary command of capital), establish her own independent connections with a large part of the country east of the Cascade Mountains and within the field which the two great railroad trusts, operating under a mutual understanding, have partitioned between themselves, and from which in ef-

fect they have warned all comers. These demonstrations made by the Klickitat enterprise amazingly emphasize Portland's interest in the project for still further opening up the Columbia River to navigation. What has been done by extension of the basin of the Willamette and Lower Columbia Rivers to The Dalles is vastly impor tant, as has just been shown, but what still remains to be done is vastly more important, for it is related directly to the price of every bushel of wheat and every pound of merchandise which comes from or enters the great interior basin. Remove the barriers to navigation, make competition into the heart of the Columbia Basin possible, and there will be an end of those unnatural and essentially iniquitous "arrangements" under which the road operating on the

the Columbia gateway gives over a large share of its natural traffic to its north ern rival at rates which enable it to make a profit in carriage over its mountain route. When freight rates to and from the Columbia Basin shall be adjusted upon the basis of the level route and the shortest haul, there will be no profit in carrying bulky freights over a route which rises a mile into the air above both its terminals An open river is the means-apparently the only means by which a rate clearly demanded by common sense and justice

### GRAIN BY RAIL TO THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER.

What have the rallroads to gain by delivering grain to the vessels at the mouth of the Columbia, rather than making the delivery at Portland, where the business has been established for many years? This is the question suggested by the story printed today to the effect that such a plan is in contemplation. It is plainly cheaper to haul grain down the Columbia on a water level than to lift it away into the sky to cross the mountains to Puget Sound. But, having reached ocean vessels by the easier route, why continue pulling the freight another hundred miles by rail. when it can be more cheaply transported over the same course in the holds of vemeis?

On the assumption that the matter printed today correctly represents the attitude of the railroads, and it must be admitted that appearances seem to confirm it, the Northern Pacific is the aggressor in the movement to force common grain rates to the mouth of the river. Three considerations operate to determine its position. First, it wishes to get rid of climbing the Cascade Range with its grain; second, it has not adequate facilities of its own for reaching Portland from the graingrowing Coumbia Basin, or for handling wheat it might deliver here: third, there is money to be made in opening a new country and building up a new town, such as would be involved in carrying the Northern Pacific line down the north bank of the Columbia to its mouth. These are business reasons, and they must have weight. The question of ri valry between the two great transcontinental systems may have a moral bearing on the case, but personal feellogs can be and usually are subordinated to considerations of pecuniary

profit. Now, would it increase the profits the Northern Pacific to carry wheat down the Columbia to its mouth? There can be no doubt that it would if the ompany had a track on that route in operation. Not having such track, will it be worth while to build it? The cost will be something like \$7,500,000, carrying an annual interest charge of about \$350,000. The grain traffic would hardly warrant such an investment. It is to be observed, however, that the same route that will give a water grade for grain will give the same advantage to other traffic, and that it is rather more than possible that a large part of the tonnage to and from Puget Sound would pase through the Columbia Gorge in preference to toiling over the steep mountains. Then there is the new business to be developed along the Lower Columbia-the lumber carriage out, the Summer resort travel, and, by no means to be despised, the opportunities for

Granting that the Northern Pacific will sooner or later make this move, the O R & N will meet it as a mat. ter of course, occupying the south side of the river. The effect upon Portland will be insignificant. It may even be doubted that all the wheat loading will will still come to the Columbia with cargoes for Portland which they must discharge here, Being here, they will naturally take on return cargoes at Portland wharves. The new railroad move contains far more of menace to Puget Sound than to Portland. But there will be time for adjustment. Grain loading at the mouth of the Coumbia is not so imminent that anybody should have night sweats over it.

thrift in new townsite enterprises.

## HOW TO RAISE REVENUE.

In one year more, according to Governor Odell, direct state taxation or general property will be abandoned in New York. Minnesota is rapidly ac complishing the same change in its tax system, and in five years, according to State Auditor Dunn, the direct state tax will entirely disappear. Thus it is seen that in one of the old and wealthy states of the East and in one of the comparatively new and partially developed states of the Middle West the indirect taxation eystem has been found to be

successful. Why not in Oregon? The raising of revenue by means of state liquor taxes, franchises taxes, corporation taxes and inheritance taxes has enabled New York and Minnesota to reduce direct state taxes to a very small arate, much to the gratification of owners of real property. County and city revenues are still raised largely by direct taxation. In both states the indirect taxes were imposed by degrees, so that no radical change was wrought and no business interests suffered. The popularity of the indirect system is shown by the satisfaction expressed over the announcement that direct taxes will soon be

thing of the past. The argument will probably be made in Oregon, in opposition to corporation and franchise taxes, that the burden is eventually borne by the people, and will be no lighter. Even if this were true, a shifting of the burden from one shoulder to the other would make it easier to carry. It is possibly true that the tax on the kross receipts of insurance companies is paid by the property-owners who have their property insured. It is possible that if special taxes were imposed upon telegraph and express companies, they would increase their rates in this state enough to make up th amount of the tax. Perhaps if the franchises of corporations were taxed, these concerns would arrange their business so as to increase their income accordingly. While this is not probable, as a general rule, yet if it be admitted for the sake of argument, still it is prefer able that state revenue be raised en-

tirely by means of a state tax. Tangible property-property which the Assessor never falls to find-is bearing more than its share of the burden. while money, notes and accounts, spe cial privileges, etc., usually escape taxa tion. An indirect tax will be more equitably distributed, and those who pay it will do so without inconvenience, If all state revenue were raised by in direct taxation, there would never be the incentive to low valuations which still prevails in this state. While state taxes are being apportioned among the

be a feeling that perhaps some time the state may return to the old system, an have not been advanced as they values should be. Let Oregon once establish a tax system which insures a permanent separation of tax collection for state and ounty purposes, and assessed valuations will become pretty nearly an index of the actual market value of the

Punishment by imprisonment in the penitentiary will overtake wife-deserters in Nebraska if the Legislature of that state at its coming session approves a recommendation to that effect embodled in a bill that will be presented by the State Board of Charities and Corrections. In the opinion of this organization it will be a disgrace for the state longer to exist as an organized body in society without enacting a law providing for the punishment of this most dastardly class of offenders. There is much wholesome indignation embodied in the resolutions bearing upon this subject as passed by this board. That the desertion of wives and children is something more than a misdemeanor, to be dismissed with the scorn of loyal responsible men, may well be conceded. That it is a crime, often of the most heartles character, has been too often attested in community annais to admit of question The suicide of a discouraged husband leaving his wife to bear alone what he felt to be a burden too heavy for him to carry is the least reprehensible way in which a man can desert his wife and family, and this, as every one will allow is instinct with cowardice. It at least eliminates all uncertainty from the problem of desertion and opens the door of sympathy for a woman supposedly bereft. But a sneak who, because he is tired, discouraged or meanly irresponformkes his wife, leaving her to slble. struggle with poverty, humiliation, anx lety and uncertainty, is a criminal of a vicious and contemptible type, whom it would be to the credit of the state to apprehend and punish. Public opinion should indorse a law looking to this end.

The National Indian Association urges Congress to come to the relief of the Navajo Indians in Arizona by means of proper legislation. These Indians, it is said, are confined upon an arid tract of land which it is impossible to bring under cultivation without systematic irrigation. It is further charged that settlers upon lands adjoining the repervation divert such water as is available to their own use, leaving the crops of the Navajos to wither and their cattle to perish from thirst. The case s one that calls for such relief as good common sense in legislation affords. It the reservation lands of these people are not arable lands, they should be reocated upon some more suitable tract, or measures should be taken to provide irrigation for this one. It is manifestly both absurd and cruel to expect Inlians to raise crope where conditions are such that nothing will grow. To locate them upon such lands means either that the Government will have to continue the ration system indefinitely or that the Indians will starve. Either alternative would discredit the Government-the first because it is plainly op posed to the simplest principle of polit ical economy, and the second because it would be a disgrace to the simples precepts of humanity. In this connec tion it may be asked what has become of the Indian Agent of this Arizons reservation, the Government's accredited representative in dealing with these Indians, that it becomes necessary for the National Indian Association to petition Congress to do its duty in the premises?

The letter from Mr. Frank L. Brown touching the isthmian canal question interoceanic transportation would have upon the Pacific Slope. The implication that people of this Coast have urged construction of the canal in the hope of promoting their fobbing trade with the Orient does not do them justice, however. The Eastern States can get as efficient service through the Suez Cana as through a canal at Nicaragua or Panama, and we cannot bring wares in from the East by any means and trans ship them to the Orient at a profit in the face of direct competition of the pro ducers who supply us. We want the canal because it will facilitate interchange of traffic between our Atlantic and Pacific seaboards and open an easler way to market for many of the products of this Coast. Our prosperity depends on our power to produce and to market. The isthmian canal will help us reach market. Our productive capacity will not increase by simply taking toll of the commerce that may pass this way. For that we must develop natural resources and work them into finished products. This will save us in any situation

While the Attorney-General Ages not quote so many states for his view of the law relating to the State Land Agent, it is to be observed that his authoritie carry more weight than those supporting the contrary view. The Supreme Courts of Wisconsin, Indiana and Nev York greatly outweigh those of Texas Missouri, Illinois and Ohio in the re spect they command among those learned in the law. Probably no Supreme Court except that of Massachu setts stands uniformly higher than that of Wisconsin. Those courts have never been weak. New York has been in the front rank, but it has shown weak spots as has also Indiana. But Texas, Missouri, Illinois and Ohio are frequently weak. They are too closely affiliated with partisan politics to command the best scholarship and the cleanest motives. Incidentally it may be remarked that among the Western courts Oregon's Supreme Bench holds high rank for its work of the more recent years, and many of its decisions are regarded as very excellent authority in the fields they traverse.

A District Attorney in New York recently visited gambling dens to learn what was going on, and made his entrance through a window. This prompts the New York Times to devote a half column to a discussion of the question whether a District Attorney, when he wishes to make an evening call on a great gambler, should seek ingress through a door or a window. Out here in the wild and woolly West that question is not likely to arise, for Municipal Judge Hogue found no difficulty in making an entrance through the front door.

Secretary Root has decided that in promotion of enlisted men to be Second Lieutenants, candidates for examination must have passed two full years of service in the ranks, and that to count in this a term of cadetship at West Point, where the men had been dropped for deficiency, would be to put a premium on

## SPIRIT OF THE NORTHWEST PRESS SUBTLE ESTIMATE OF GREATNESS

Philosophy From Idaho. Lewiston Tribune.

If the average man would serve hi country with as much zeal as he serves his party, he would not need to find himself up against the blizzard of adversity.

> Webfoot in the Palouse. Garfield Enterprise.

The Fall and Winter rains and conse mud of the Palouse country ever-present subjects of conversation, and with many, a source of needless discontent.

### In Keeping With Our Dignity. Aurora Borealis, The President of the United States

should have an annual salary of \$100,000. Such a powerful and rich Nation as this should not assume such a niggardly attitude toward its Chief Executive Asks Insurance Investigation, Brownsville Times A law looking to the control of insu ance rates in Oregon should engage the attention of the next Legislature. Rates

ing unreasonable. We believe inquiry into business of the insurance companies will show that the receipts are double the amount paid for losses and expenses. Contrariness of the Easterner. Albany Democrat.

People arc freezing to death in the Eas and fuel to keep warm and even for cook-ing purposes almost unobtainable. In

are being advanced until they are become

some people have contrary ways. The Real Land Grabbers.

scarcely weather cold-enough for a frosty

Oregon we are having some rain,

morning. Yet some people seem to

While Congress is so deeply absorbed in endeavoring to amend the homested and timber land laws it should not overlook the fact that it is not the persons who buy and pay for the land or home-steads that are a menace to the public homain, but the real and active landompanies with lieu land schemes. tieu lands schemes not only need watching and amending, but repealing.

Looks Well for the 1905 Fair.

Heppner Times. The Harriman lines, the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railroad Companies have agreed jointly to contribute \$50,00 towards the celebrating of the Lewis and Clark Centennial. This raises the amount of contributions so far to \$419,000. Con gress has been asked for an appropria-tion of \$2,000,000. Should this amount, or half of it, be secured from Congress, and the Oregon Legislature appropriates \$500.-000, the success of the 1905 fair is as

### The Other Side Takes an Inning.

Eugene Guard. The transcontinental railroad lines en tering Portland are not bothered with spasms of liberality. They refuse to even make a joint \$50,000 subscription to the Lewis and Clark Fair unless the state first appropriates \$750,000. It is not probable they will have to make the beggarly The outside Legislator who vote to tax the people for that amount for a Portland enterprise pure and simple would end his political prospects slature are not ignorant of this fact.

Jonathan Is His Own David.

Astoria Astorian. It would seem strange indeed for Jon than Bourne to entertain aspirations for the Senatorial toga, but that appears to be the exact situation. Bourne is a Re-publican with Popullatic tendencies. But it is quite reasonable that, even if Mr. Fulton could not be successful, neither the Governor nor the Populistic Portlander could hope for the toga. They are, They are, to emones," and might as well hope for a ride over that railroad to Mars as to hope for s commission that would entitle either of em to a seat in the upper house of the National Congress.

The Dull Thud That's Coming

Salem Statesman. With a wave of the Kand that appear to end the matter, as if spoken by one with authority, the Astorian re marks that Governor Geer's candidacy fo the United States Senate "is not worth considering." Here is a law of the state, carefully prepared and amended on its passage through the Legislature, in order that it might be perfected, and fully complied with in every particular, supple-mented by the votes of 45,000 men of Oregon on the one side, and the opinion of on man on the other. The people are watch ing closely to see whether the next "sa fice" is to be made by themselves or "sacriothers. It is going to be a mighty one-sid ed game unless the Legislature concludes to deride the popular vote, in which case concludes something will probably drop later on,

Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Take the treaty with France. Under it Eastern manufacturers would procure better terms in the French markets, at the expense of the dried fruit and dustries of the Pacific Coast. the dried fruit and wine wines and dried fruits would be admitted in competition with like products of the Pacific Coast, but no Pacific Coast product would have any easier entry into France. This is a kind of reciprocity against which there can be legitimate objection. The Eastern manufacturer, who is so cheerfully willing to sacrifice the fruit in dustry of the Pacific Coast, would with und reason object to any proposition to compensate the Pacific ducer for being exposed to such a competition by giving him lower duties on such manufactured products as he uses but does not produce.

## What Is a Caucus, Anyhow?

Salem Journal. Such a thing as a signed call for a caucus is an anomaly, bearing the proof of sale and delivery on the face of it, and should be repudiated by all decent and honest Republicans in Oregon. All Repub-licans should go into caucus on a plain, verbal announcement in each house by the presiding officer. That is the way each house organizes. That is the way both houses of Congress organize. There is no precedent outside of Oregon, unless it is in some rotten-borough Democratic state, for a signed call. Men who do not want to sell their vote for cash or for a Federal office better smash the rotten cus tom of a signed, sealed and delivered caucus to nominate a Senator. It is un-Re publican, un-American, un-Democratic and inmannerly, and will only produce a dead-

# Stupendous Irrigation Project.

Spokane Spokesman-Review. In the heart of the African desert a dam has been constructed 114 miles long and 130 feet high. It will create a lake with three times the area of Lake Geneva and throw back the Nile water for a distance of 140 mfles. From April to August when the Nile runs low and the demand for water for the crops is at its highest the gates will be systematically opened and all the valley below, thirsting for moisture, will be supplied. More than 2500 square miles of new arable land will be opened, and it is estimated that the pernament benefit resulting will amount to

\$100,000,000. The cost of this, the largest irrigation project of the age, has been about \$24,000. . It is a large sum, but it is well ex-nded. Perhaps in no other part of the world is there a section of country where an improvement of this sort would have so important an influence on the life of an entire people and prove so much of a na-tional blessing.

Minneapolis Tribune. Mr. Thomas B. Reed furnishes anothe example of the truth, that American statesmen of the greatest intellectual power and public usefulness do not reach the highest station. Hamilton and Webster, Clay and Blaine, all missed the public recognition to which their brains and capacity for government entitled them. These were idols of their own states, and commanded the highest appointive positions under the general Government; but none of them could compete with lesser men for the popular electoral support of the whole country. Mr. Reed is comparable to the first two for vigor of intellect, and to the last two for those engaging personal and social qualities that invite the best kind of popularity. He was popular, as they were to day of his death; but the people loved and admired him did not want him

for President. The familiar explanation of this familfar fact is that the people want for Presi dent a commonplace, average man, more like one of themselves. That is only stat-ing the fact in another form. Why have they this preference? The human habit of hero worship is universal. Why do not the American people express their frank admiration for their greatest men by making them Presidents? There is something in the fact that the average intellect does not understand clearly the work-ings of the exceptional intellect; cannot foresee how its possessor will act in an emergency, or where his intellectual pre-science will lead him. It might lead him beyond the average depth and carry the Government above the heads of real popular sovereigns.

This is the mental side of the popular

fer to live in the blizzard-stricken East preference for commonplace men for Presidents. We believe that it has a moral side as well. That is, the people hold men of extraordinary intellect and wide knowledge to higher responsibility for their public conduct than men of average powers. They are vaguely suppo to know better the highest course, they are less easily forgiven for taking the lower. The people can forgive an av-erage public man for falling into their own common errors of ignorance and short-sightedness in dealing with great public questions, because he has the same excuse that they have. They cannot for-give a man with just pretensions to superior knowledge and foresight, especially if he change to win popular favor. Insincerity with higher capacity is more dreaded than fallibility with lower.

An episode in Mr. Reed's career illus

trated this as perfectly as Mr. Webster's isappointment of the moral sentiment of the country on the slavery question. Webster took the heart out of his antislavery supporters without winning friends on the other side. Mr. Reed disappointed the best intelligence and experi-ence of the country by temporizing on the money question, and he won no friends on the other side. He did not vaciliate on the money question as much as Mr. Mc-Kinley, but his higher intellectual stand-ard caused him to be held to stricter responsibility. McKinley's errors were for-given by men who shared them with him, and traveled with him the same path to and traveled with him the same pain to gradual perception of the truth. They were forgiven by men who never shared them, but believed him honest in them and equally honest in his gradual change

It is probable that Reed might have been President if he had taken President if he had taken a bold stand when the whole business and intellectual balance of the country was swinging around to the gold standard in 1896, and groping for a trusty leader. He took just that time to temporize with convictions the country knew he possessed, and the slowly crystallizing public opinion preferred to wait for the slower process of McKinley's mind. A man slow to form right opinions was preferred to a man who would not act on the right opinions

### APPLIED FOR THREE PENSIONS. She Was Widow of Three Veterans

and Is the Wife of a Fourth. Washington.-Commissioner of Pension Ware recently concluded an investigation made to determine the pensionable of Mrs. Ashton, of New Albany, Ind., who is the widow of three Union veterans and the wife of a fourth, and has decided to wait the outcome of Mrs. Ashton's most recent matrimonial venture before taking any action.

Upon the death of her first husband Mrs. Ashton applied for a pension and got it married the second time the pension stopped, but upon the death of her second husband she secured two pension allowances from the bureau. pensions ceased. Upon the death of the third husband Mrs. Ashton promptly applied for three pensions, which staggered the officials of the bureau. While the case was under consideration Mrs. Ashton grew tired of a life of single blessedness and again selected a Union veteran for life partner. He is still alive, and the question of how many pensions Mrs. Ashon is entitled to will await further de velopments.

### Dr. H. C. Minton's Warning Against Woman Workers.

Philadelphia Record. Trenton, N. J .- The Rev. Dr. Henry Collin Minton, moderator of the last Presoyterian General Assembly, sounded warning to the Nation in his sermon to-

Dr. Minton's theme was "Home, State and Church," and in the course of his re-marks said: "The American home is at once the pride, the joy and the hope of our Nation. God grant that it may continue to be so. But it is not without its perils. Conditions are combining to make the survival of the home a more serious problem in our modern life. The young women of today are filling a hundred places our grandmothers never dreamed of Every one of them is robbing a home of a wife and mother-a household mistress or a maid.

"The unmarried are in danger of be oming timid in the face of the practical difficulties of homemaking, while the mar-ried are flocking for refuge to the cruel, tender mercies of hotels and apartment houses. I am saying nothing pro or con about women's rights or wrongs, but I do say that, unless there is a reaction from the tendency now prevailing, unless women will consent to leave a larger share for men to do in the office, the store and the factory, the future of the home circle is threatened with forces that tend toward disintegration and decay.

## Without a Champion.

Shanghai Times. Ye kin sca'ce pick up a paper An' its poets' corner greet.

'Cept je'il see er pirty poem
'Bout the mother, saintly sweet;
But ye'il have a time a-s'archin'—
Eyes will be er-achin' bad Ere ye'll overtake er poem At this time for pore ole dad!

No, it isn't willful in 'em-Them that write of mother dear That thar's never notice taken of her ole man settin' near;
No, it's never meant to slight him,
But hit looks a little sad—
All the bouquets made for mother,
Not a bloom for pore old dad!

True, our mother watched above us
Till her dear ole eyes wud ache.
But ole dad, he humped to feed us
Till his back would nearly break.
Mother crooned above the cradle,
Gave devotion all she had;
Still, that wasn't any circus
At this time for pore ole dad!

Do not take one line from mother.
When ye write the soul-sweet song,
But if thar's a word for father
Now and then it won't be wrong.
Pore ole soul! He's bent and wrinkles
An' I know 'twould make him glad

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Good morning! Nice weather, isn't it? Venezuela has long been dunned, but it looks as if she were now to be done up.

Whoever tries to select presents for 10 friends knows the exact definition of the strenuous life.

A strictly up-to-date preacher should choose for his text, "What shall I give for Christmas?"

President Cleveland is now wishing he could get in another shot over the parapet of the Monroe Doctrine.

Now we know what was the matter with the Prince of Slam. He was wondering what Papa Chulalongkorn would say to his writing love letters to an American girl, who is likely to make much money out of these royal and fervent epistles.

John Barrett is both sawing wood and saying something. Too many go to sleep in the calm assurance that silence is golden. When they wake up they generally find that they are in the midst of a silence where no sound is heard, and some who talk have the gold.

New Yorkers yesterday had for their bill of fare hall, sleet, rain and snow. And coal is something awful a ton. But the Oregonian got out of his bed to see the gleaming mountains and a blue sky. Let that hardened lover of the good old timės pray vigorously for "Christmas weather." but the most of us are quite willing to trust to our gentle climate.

On this we rise to start in on what will doubtless be one of the merriest weeks of the whole year. Anticipation will lend the next few days wings, and before we are aware of it, Time will have gathered our happy hours into the storehouse of memory. Surely it is the gift of God that we may never lose happiness once attained. Its material form may melt into dust, no sense may be able to apprehend even a trace of what raised us to the skies, but in the depths of our hearts we bear the central jewel safely. And in days of waning life we can at will open the casket of the joyous past and revel in its precious memoirs.

"M. A. P" tells a story with regard to the late Czar of Russia. He was one night playing a game of whist at Homburg, and the present King, then, of course, Prince of Wales, and several of his friends were of the party. Among those friends was Sir James Mackintosh, a well-known bon vivant of the '80s and '90s. Sir James was one of these blunt, downright, rough-spoken Scotchmen, who didn't know fear of God or man. In the midst of the game Sir James called out to the Czar, "You've revoked." Everybody's blood ran cold. The Prince of Wales, I have been told, kicked the Scotchman under the table; and the Czar, blushing and confused, exclaimed in be wilderment, "Revoked! Why, I never did such a thing in my life!" But Sir James persisted, and the monarch was proved to be in the wrong; whereupon Sir James replied to the observation of the Czar, "I daresay you've often revoked, Your Majesty, but this is the first time you were ever told so."

After weeks of cloud and rain that have veiled from our eyes the lofty heights of the Cascade range, the sun has restored to us our horizon. We knew that Helens and Hood and Adams and Jefferson were immutably there, we caught an occasional breath of wind from their chill and lonely peaks; but the exultation of lifting our eves once more to that mighty sierra is above all pride. Immobile, preponderant, imperative, the mountains stand about our valley and teach us the desire for the beyond and the outer vast. Day in and lay out we jostle our fellows in the sordi streets, strive to lay up a little store of wealth, forget the calling world. But inevitably the moment comes when we raise our dimming eyes to the hills and our hands forget to clutch and our feet to seek. That rugged skyline, the noble heights so deep into the blue call us home. Like children, we wait to see the procession of a strange and sweet world, gazing in amazement at the mysteries of the great showman. The pageant passes, the clouds return and we wake to find ourselves faring in crowded ways. But who may fall to remember the vision?

A Bristol contemporary publishes a good story which has reached it from Canada. says the London Express. It hangs on an advertisement which appeared in an English paper:

"A lady in delicate health wishes to meet a useful companion. She must be domesticated, musical, an early-riser; amiable, of good appearance, and have experience in nursing. A total abstainer preferred. Comfortable home. No sal-

A few days afterward the advertiser received by express a basket labeled, "This side up-with care-perishable." On opening it, she found a tabby cat, with a letter on its tail. It read thus:

"Madam-In response to your advertisement, I am happy to furnish you with a very useful companion, which you will find exactly suited to your requirements. She is domesticated, a good vocalist, an early-riser, possesses an amiable disposition, and is considered handsome. She has great experience as nurse, having brought up a large family. I need scarcely add that she is a total abstainer. A salary is no object to her; she will serve you faithfully in return for a comfortable

### PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS. Customer-What do you charge for 10 cents'

worth of camphor? Druggist (absently)-Twen-ty-five cents.-Chicago Daily News. "But, you see, I only want the tenpot and servants of our customers."-Punch.

"How did you like the sermon this morn-ing?" "Oh, it was a beautiful discourse! I don't believe Satan himself could have taken offense at anything in it."—Chicago Tribune. General-I see here's an article on "Rev-olution in the Mince Pie." Colonel-That's the kind of revolution you like to put down, I suppose, General?—Yonkers Statesman.

"I knows some nisgers what's so lucky," said Brother Dickey, "dat I wouldn't be 'tall sur-prise ter hear dat some er dem sot lynched on a Chris'mus treel"—Atlanta Constitution. on a Christmus trees—Atlanta Constitution.

The father—My daughter, sir, must have
the same amount of money after she is married that she had before. The suitor—I wouldn't
deprive her of it for anything.—Brooklyn Life. Mrs. Jones-Ob, that brave, gallant young Lieutenant Van Buster! Just killed in the Philippines, and was to have been married month. Mr. Jones-Gad! fortune favors

Elizabeth-Begone, Horatio, me mudder says yer ain't refined enough ter go in our set. Horatio-You're crazy, you are. Ain't me fodder workin' in a lard refinery dis very minnet?-Detroit Free Press.

Naggaby-It's funny how women will change their minds. When I first met the girl who eventually became Mrs. N., she was one of those who declared she wouldn't marry the best man in the world. Within a year she married me. Waggeby-But what makes you think she has changed her mind?-Baltimore