eral provision for it.

# The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER-Occasional rain; cooler during the afternoon; brisk and possibly high, gusty south to west winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER-Maximum temperature, 58 deg.; minimum temperature, 38 deg.; precipitation, 1.10 inches.

### PORTLAND, THURSDAY, DEC. 25.

Without disparagement of the assidulty with which Postmaster Croasman has labored to discharge the duties of his office acceptably, it is yet to be said that Mr. F. A. Bancroft may reasonably be expected to give the city's growing mail business a better administration than it has had for very many years. It is not necessary to review in extended detail the history of our postoffice appointments, in order to understand the gratification afforded by the selection at length of a man whose business experience and success justify ex-pectation of prompt and energetic performance of these most important tasks. It is a fact that politicians use this and other offices for the upbuilding of their machines and the complication of Mr. Bancroft's probable appointment with politics no one would have the hardihood to deny; but there comes a point in a city's development where facilitation of its business must be reckoned with by the most hardened political manipulator. Portland has reached that point. Its postoffice business has risen to a volume of between \$8,000,000 and \$7,900,000 a year, and in view of the Lewis and Clark Centennial is certain to increase rapidly. Its clerical and carrier force comprises in the neighborhood of 120 employes. The place pays \$3600 a year now, and in another year will pay \$3800 to \$4000. In view of the vital relations sustained by the mail service to all business, the absolute necessity of executive ability and business training is manifest. These Mr. Bancroft possesses in an eminent degree. Railroad companies do not maintain incompetents in positions of great responsi bility and supervision over large bodies of men. We are persuaded that Mr. Bancroft will make it his ambition to give Portland an exceptionally able administration of its postoffice, and of his ability to realize such ambition there is no possible doubt.

Mr. Perry Heath rises to disown his ambition for the Utah Senatorship, though that ambition has been generally regarded as forming an essential part of the reason for his exodus to Sait Lake from Indiana, Ohio and Washington City. The most plausible explanation of his disclaimer is that he and Senator Kearns, who is believed to own the Tribune and to father the Heath candidacy, have become dismayed at the display of strength made by the Mormon power in Smoot's behalf. The story runs that the Mormons, from whom Kearns obtained his election by a satisfactory bargain, not only resent his opposition to Smoot, but have even resolved upon the displacement of Kearns himself two years from now, with a loyal churchman. The Saints are not content with one Senator, but want two, and in this resolve, which is nevertheless cloaked by the protest that the church is altogether out of politics, they have aroused hostility in influential circles at Washington. It is even said that representations have emanated from so high a source as National Chairman Hanna, if not from the White House itself, that the chinothing by Smoot's election, but would

lose much, as the apostle would be given no chance for influence with Congress or the Administration. This threat, it is needless to say, in view of the Roberts episode, could be executed, but the Mormon church is reported obdurate to reason, and insistent upon Smoot's election, whatever its result. The Saints are further restrained by the tactical disadvantage that if they compel Smoot to withdraw they thereby admit themselves to be in politics. Should Smoot be elected and the warfare on Kearns continue, a probable reply of Congress would be an amendment of the Edmunds law enabling the Federal Government to proceed criminally against polygamists.

Every year the earth swings round the sun makes the end of Castro regimes in Latin-America more imperative and their perpetuation more intolerable. Perhaps the most impressive thing about this whole South American problem, in its world-aspect, is this pressing of economic necessity upon governmental incapacity. Castro is just another Paul Kruger or Emilio Aguinaldo or General Weyler or Soudanese Khalif or Egyptian Khedive, occupying profitlessly for its progress and development. It is ith a fine instinct for the impossible and the unfit, therefore, that visionary correspondents of the anti-imperialist school now rally to the defense of Veneela. They apprehend correctly that the longer this Venezuelan difficulty or

similar difficulties with other Latin-American states continue, the more clearly will the necessity for anarchy's suppression be manifest. Our old friend, conservative and sentimental obstruction, is destined to appear in a new face; and whether its present expression goes down to history with a semblance of heroism like that pertaining to Hungary, Ireland and Poland, or whether the triumph of law and order is more readily justified by surface evidences, as in Egypt, Porto Rico and the Philippines, we must expect to thresh the same old straw over and over again. The one stubborn fact with which all these past and future experiences must be reconciled is that the economic development of the earth's surface and the reign of the economic virtues of thrift, honesty and enterprise will not be gain said by incompetence and dishonesty in any form or any place. Whether civilized ideas are pumped into Latin-American rulers through the medium of gunpowder or efficient Americans or Europeans are installed there in posts of financial and commercial power, or whether these counterfeit republics themselves are suffered to exist under some sort of American protectorate does not greatly matter. The end of efficient government must be reached somehow, and anti-imperialist heathen must be suffered to rage in vain. The strong will rule, the weak will go to the Wheatley, 813 Mission street.

For sale in Los Angeles by B. F. Gardner.

Strong will rule, the weak will go to the wall, unrestrained and unprotected by polite impedimental fictions of national and governmental dignities.

It is idle to blink the widespread pop-

ular apprehension that the Powers of Europe have concocted a scheme for utilizing the Venezuela episode to the humiliation of the United States and the possible disturbance of the Monroe Doctrine. These fears may be dismissed as groundless. The one thing that no European power desires today is the hostility of the United States, Their solicitude is especially directed toawrd popular sentiment in this country as distinct from the official circles recognized as supreme at European courts. A prime factor in this attitude is regard for the profits of trade. Monarchy or republic. democracy or autocracy, they are all alert to the economic problems and necessities of their people. Germany, to take the extreme case, has no desire to discourage our purchases of German sugar, jewelry, toys, etc., aggregating \$100,000,000 annually. The German government can do nothing more likely to embarrass itself with its people than to incur American dislike which would increase the business strain under which German manufacturers are now struggling. It must also be remembered that Germany as well as other powers, has taken every precaution to assure itself of American acquiescence and support in its South American programme. It is not beyond the bounds of safety to say that Germany has been quite as solicitous for Washington's approval as for vengeance on Venezuela. There is not the slightest evidence of double dealing or of ulterior purposes in Germany's proceedings, and if the United States is threatened with embarrassment in the arbitration negotiations, the embarrassment is nothing more than arises out of the very nature of the case and is imposed upon us as the self-constituted sponsor and champion of irresponsible, debt-repudiating, revolution-paralyzed imitation republics to the south of us. Ordinarily, if a man can't pay his debts the creditors take whatever property he has lying around that they can get hold of. If we forbid Europe to take Latin-American land, it is a fair question what we do propose.

## THE DAY AND THE MESSAGE.

The Christmas festival in its dress of paganism necessarily crept into the early Christian holidays, because it was their habit to make them replace a pagan festival, and the coarse barbaric quality has always clung to it down to our modern life of recent date. The old English Christmas was a day of gluttonous feasting and drunken joility in public and private. Walter Scott graphically describes this turbulent English Christmas when the poor were drunk for days at the expense of the rich. The Christmas week in Shakespeare's day was clearly a time of noisy sport, gross feasting and deep drinking, continuou eveling such as we find set forth in the antics of Sir Toby Belch and Sir Andrew Ague Cheek in "Twelfth Night." The old English Christmas was so drunken and profane in its popular cele bration that the Puritans would have none of it. While Shakespeare clearly had small sympathy with the Puritan philosophy of religion and conduct nevertheless it is clear from the reverence with which he treats the name of Christ, his life and death, that he felt nothing but disgust for the popular drunken celebration of the great Christian festival. His words of eloquent allusion have never been excelled for eauty and suggestiveness

The speech of Marcellus in "Hamlet," the lines in "Henry IV," in which the King speaks of "those blessed feet that were nailed for our advantage on the bitter cross," and, finest of all, that peerless passage in "Richard II" describing banished Norfolk, giving "his pure soul unto his Captain, Christ, under whose colors he had fought so long. all show that Shakespeare's thought of Christ and Christmas was far beyond the best English thought of his time. But the drunken English Christmas was the rule for more than 200 years after Shakespeare among English-speaking folk, save the theocracy that ruled New England. The Christmas festival was a day of gross feeding and heavy drinking in England as late as 1840, as we can see from Dickens' "Pickwick Papers," published in 1837. It was a day of conviviality in New York and throughout our Southern States up to as ate a date, and it was not until about 1840 that New England adopted from Germany a refined and spiritual observance of the day, and from this time forward Christmas throughout the whole English-speaking world has put on its modern dress of charity and spiritual commemoration of Christ.

Christmas has become a day when all men of peace and good-will, within or without the churches, should renew their vows to imitate Christ. This is the spirit in which Christmas is increasingly celebrated every year. Every year intolerance and asceticism diminishes; every year the ethical Christian unity of spirit draws men of all humane and sane faiths closer together. There is no sane man of intelligence today who disgreat regions that civilization requires putes that Christianity is not better than paganism in the social and moral evo-lution of the world. That is not the question in dispute at all. The simple question between liberal Christians of all shades of belief and orthodox Bourbonism is concerning the validity of supernaturalism. This is a question of by the blood of religious and political

ment. When we recall how faith in supernaturalism, the savage differences over dogmas concerning the atonement, the trinity, the resurrection, eternal punishment, etc., once made the earth red with blood as "a cardinal's hat," we can see that the superiority of Christianity as a working humane force has been a long and weary effort of evolution before it reached its present form

of faith and practice. Christianity, separated from medieval superstition and theological dogma, is simply the most recent but not necessarily the ultimate or final stride of moral or religious evolution. Pastor Robinson warned his Puritan flock, as they set sail from Leyden, against thinking that unto their religious teachers had been lent "a light for all the coming days," or that religious growth was limited by Luther's dike or Calvin's dam. Before this thought the mass of thinking men care nothing about the cerements and excrements of medieval ecclesiasticism, about the fate of a theology which is but a forlorn attempt to make Christ walk and talk in the black robe and cowl of a medleval metaphysician turned monk. We know neither the day nor the year in which Jesus was born, and that is of no religious or spiritual consequence; but we know that he has been with us and that his spirit is still every year. It is of small consequence in the light of Christ's life and thought whether he wrought any miracles or not, for Moses and Aaron and the witch of Endor wrought quite as wonderful miracles.

Historical skepticism may attribute his miracles to the ignorant credulity or pious falsehoods of his followers: sciof them, but no skeptic, no scientist, will deny or attempt to explain the vast, overpowering, inexplicable miracle of all criminals. he wrought was the miracle of his own daily walk and talk from childhood to nothing of its human potency by battles about dates and petty wrangling over was to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to set at libdeliverance to captives, to heal the sick, and in execution of this simple scheme tation of Christ and the application of the only hope of a better and less brutal world than we have today.

Of that divinest daybreak lightens the earth.

### THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.

chorus "Peace on Earth, Good-Will to Men," will be taken up by thousands of the Christmas story in order to recognize the Christmas spirit that has for this spirit permeates the very atmos-Sweet charity, wrought upon anew by its influence, seeks out the abodes of the lowly and the distressed with the seaministers unto them in sweet sprprises if necessary rather than repealed. today is an evolution of comparatively days. Sympathy remembers the sick in looks down upon the unfortunate and

the criminal and comes fullhanded to cheer and point them to the better way. This is the ideal view of the Christmas time, dominated by the Christ spirit. That it does not represent a universal fact is painfully apparent in the perversion in many conspicuous ways of the Christmas idea. But if it tempers with self-denial the great mass of human selfishness; brings pause for a brief season to human greed; places gentle restraint for a time upon human strife. and ministers temporarily to human suffering, it performs in its allotted season a divine errand and one that can-

not fail of generous fruitage. The other side of the picture has often een painted, and its petty details descanted upon. The struggle to do more in the way of buying and giving than the circumstances of the individual justify: the effort to make a show of gener osity that the heart does not feel; the overstrain and the weariness expressed in the oft-repeated wish that "It was all over"-with all of these things we are unhappily familiar. It may be well this morning to turn away from this picture and view the brighter side of the Christmas season—the side illumined by love and charity and human kindness; by the eager joy of little children, the benedictions of the poor, the thankfulness of the sick and sorrowing. So shall the Christmas legend become gracious with significance and instinct, though centuries old, with renewed life and light,

## THE WHITMAN MEMORIAL PRO-

The movement which has for its purpose the purchase by the State of Washington of the site of the Whitman Mission, near Walla Walla, and its maintenance as a memorial park, is one which ought to enlist the co-operation of all persons of liberal sentiment. No other incident in the history of the State of Washington has had or can have the significance and the interest attaching to the career and death of Whitman. Dismiss from consideration all that is questionable in the Whitman story and enough remains to make the name of Whitman for all time the first in the calendar of Washington's historic worthles. Whitman's life and work entitle him to permanent fame, while his tragic fate has attached to his name and nemory an almost reverential charac-

ter. While Washington shares with Oregon the history of our earliest times she has within her limits few of the places connected with early historic events. Van couver, on the Columbia River, and the Whitman Mission, near Walla Walla, alone stand out conspicuously in the records of the settlement of the country. It is, therefore, peculiarly fitting Washington should in some emphatic and permanent way mark her connection with the events which gained and held this country for the American settler and for the American flag. And in no way can this be done with more propriety or grace than by creating upon the site of Waillatpu-at the place hallowed

historical fact and philosophical judg- martyrdom-a memorial park. The suggestion is a most happy one, and there is little doubt that the Washington Legislature will make suitable and lib-

> It is only just now that the people of the Pacific Coast have come to understand that they have a history worth cherishing. California is literally enshrining the memorials of her occupation by Christian missionaries; and recently she has set up a beautiful shaft in memory of Marshall-a one-time Oregonlan, by the way-the discoverer of gold. Oregon a little while back marked suitably the spot where civil government was first organized within her boundaries, and there are movements on foot to commemorate other events and places associated with the foundation of civilization in the country. And by these reverential acts do we signify our own worthiness as the inheritors and occupiers of a land won by manly courage and maintained by heroism in many forms.

GRAND JURY AND THE DEFENSE. The argument in favor of a feturn to the old grand jury system and a repeal of the law which authorizes the District Attorney to file an information in lieu of an indictment, is based principally upon a possibility of wrong-doing under the new system. No one undertakes to say with us and grows stronger and stronger that District Attorneys have used their power to persecute the innocent or to shield the guilty, but it is said that too great a power has been placed in the hands of the prosecuting officer. This power is not much greater, however, than it was under the old system, when the District Attorney placed the testimony before the grand jurors and advised them as to its sufficiency. The ence might give a plausible explanation District Attorney then exercised the power without bearing the full measure of responsibility; now the credit or cenoverpowering, immortal influence of sure for results rests upon the official Christ's life and teachings. The vast, who has control of the prosecution of

It may be admitted that under the present system a corrupt District Attorthe cross, the miracle of a life that loses ney could do great injustice and conduct the office for the advancement of his personal interests, financial or polittexts. Christ's mission as defined by ical. A sufficient answer to this is that himself implied no mystery beyond that the grand jury has not been abolished involved in supreme moral genius, for it and that at any time the Circuit Court may deem such action desirable a grand jury may be drawn. No very serious erty them that are bruised, to preach lapse in official duty could occur without a protest being made which would induce the calling of the grand jury. he went about doing good. In the imi- As one of the Portland lawyere suggests, District Attorneys should make it his simple creed to human society lies a practice to have a grand jury drawn regularly at least once a year, so that any one having a grievance might be All evil hearts hearts grow gentler, as the With this practice established, there would be very little opportunity for abuse of power on the part of the prose-

cuting officer. Attorneys who represent defendants The Christmas legend will be recited can see in the old system some advantoday in thousands of homes, and the tage for their clients for the reason that under that system the defendants learned more of the nature of the testiof voices in cathedral, church and mony against them and were enabled chapel. The old story of the Babe of the better to prepare for the defense. Bethlehem will be retold, and glad tid- Unless, however, there has been a conings of great joy will be again pro- spiracy to manufacture testimony claimed to all who will listen. It is not against a defendant, there is no reason necessary, indeed, to listen to the telling why he should be informed of more than the law now requires-the nature of the charge against him, the time of many days been abroad in the land, the alleged unlawful act, the person Impalpable as air, yet real as life itself, against whom committed and the names of the witnesses upon whose testimony phere with happiness and good cheer, the charge is brought. An innocent man can prepare his defense with that information as a basis: a guilty man needs more. The present law is in the eon's message of good-will and the sea- interests of economy and dispatch, and son's bounty. Love, seeking its own, it is to be hoped that it may be amended

The figures showing that in the last two years the school districts of the flower-laden, and pity with veiled eyes state paid out over \$28,800 for insurance and received only \$6146 on account of losses sustained makes a very strong presentation in favor of the state carry ing its own insurance. Since the insurance was upon school buildings in every part of the state, the losses in the las two years may be taken as a fair representation of the losses that will ordinarily be sustained. The principle upon which business men carry insurance does not apply in the case of the state. If a business man is burned out, he loses all his property or is so badly crippled financially that he cannot get on his feet again. Not so with the state. The total losses for two years were only a little over \$6000, or \$3000 a year. These osses could in no way cripple the state and it would seem that the margin of \$22,000 paid to the insurance companies for carrying the insurance might be saved. Probably the same state of facts exists regarding all insurance on public property. The state carries insurance on its normal schools, university and public institutions at the capital, Would not the state be the gainer by placing all the insurance premiums in a fund and drawing from the fund to pay any losses that may be sustained? The in surance companies place their rates high enough to cover all the expenses of agents and leave a safe margin of profit after all possible losses have been paid. Cannot the state afford to carry its own insurance at the same rate the insurance companies carry it? There is certainly an opportunity for a saving here

Jerry Simpson is down in New Mexico n a cattle ranch. Those who know him best affirm that he will make a strenu ous effort, when the time comes, to round up the United States Senatorship. Kansas repudiated populism before his turn for Senatorial honors came, as he had good cause at one time to think it would come to him, and he was compelled to seek pastures new. In doing so he incidentally went into the cattle busi ness in New Mexico, resolved to grow up with the country. He is there yet, waiting his chance to wheel into the Senate when the bill converting the territory into a state passes. From pres ent indications he will be on the waiting list for some time yet, as there are obstacles in the way of making another sagebrush state in the interest of aspiring politicians.

The annual cost of maintenance of the Oregon Insane Asylum is about \$125 per capita. At a conference of the superintendents of the Illinois state asylum recently it was decided that their ap propriation of \$140 per capita is insufficient, and that \$150 must be made avail able. This is one more evidence of the relatively low cost of living in Oregon.

"This pardon business cannot have any sentiment in it," says Governor Stanley, of Kansas, "It must be handled as a cold-blooded business propo-sition. If sentiment controlled, there would not be a convict in the Penitentlary today. That's why I will not even issue a Christmas pardon." And Governor Stanley is right.

## MONGRELS OF MONARCHY.

Charles Laurent in the Courrier des Etats Unis figures out the pedigrees of the different reigning monarchs of Europe, taken from the unenswered, and probably unanswerable, statements of the oppositions, all going to prove that Kings can lay little or no claim to race relationship with the people whom they govern. Here is the result of his investigations:

1. The living Princes of the House of Bourbon, or the House of France, are only one-sixteenth French, the remaining portions being German, Spanish and Ital-2. Prince Victor Napoleon Bonapart

stands for only one-third in the French family of his illustrious grand uncle, and for two-thirds in the houses of Wurtemburg and Savoy.

3. King Alfonso XIII of Spain is fourfifths Austrian. 4. King Victor Emmanuel III is more

Austrian than Italian on account of numerous crossings in his race, and his descendants will have Montenegrin blood in their yeins.

5. Emperor Francis Joseph and his pre-sumptive heir are as much Wittlesbach or Estes as they are Hapsburgs. Conse-quently they are for a large part Bavar-ians and Itilians.

6. The King of Sweden and Norway is of Bearnaise and French source by Bernadotte, and of Southern French stock through the Clary family. He is also re-

lated to the Holstein-Gottorps and to the Leuchtenbergs.
7. The King of Greece is a Dane.
8. The King of Servia is half Russian.
9. The Prince of Bulgaria is a Saxe-Coburg-Gothan or a Bourbon, and has no

Bulgarian blood in him.

10. The Emperor of Russia is somewhat Moscovite and very much Danish or Ger-man, by reason of the marriage of his male ancestors. He descends from the Schleswick - Holstein - Sonderburg-Glucksburg or the Hesse-Darmstadt quite as

much as from the Romanoffs. The King of the Belgians is Saxe-Coburg-Gothan and Bourbon-Orleans There is nothing of the Belgian in him. 12. The Queen of the Netherlands is descended from the houses of Orange, Nassau and Waldeck-Pyrmont. Consequent sau and Waldeck-Pyrmont. Consequently she is as much German as Dutch.

13. The King of England is Saxe-Coburg-Hanover, Norman and French.

14. The Emperor of Germany is Hohenzollern by his father, Guelfe or Brunswick-Luneburg by his mother, daughter
of Queen Victoria, and French by his ancestor. Louise de Coligny, the daughter of

cestor, Louise de Coligny, the daughter the great Admiral married by Charles IX. and married for the second time to Will-lam the Taciturn, of whom she was the fourth wife. From this union there was one son, Henri-Frederic of Nassau-Orange, born at Delft on the 29th of Januany, 1884. His daughter, Louise Henriette, born at The Hague, November 27, 1627, married in 1646 the Grand Elector, Fred-eric William of Brandenburg. And there begins the relation to the Hohenzollerns, The son of Frederic William of Brandenburg and of Louise Henriette of Nassau-Orange was the first to take the title of King of Prussia. It is from him that the Hohenzollerns are descended. But the strange thing about it is that the Hohenzollern dynasty sprung from an assassi-nation committed in Paris 300 years ago. When Louise de Coligny married William Orange she was the widow of Charles de Teligny. The Vicomte Charles de Teligny was killed on August 24, 1572, with his father-in-law, the Admiral. Conse-quently if the King of France had not Bartholomew's day, the race of the Ger-man Emperors of the 19th and 20th centuries would not have sprung from Hol-land and France at the same time by the marriage of the Taciturn to the daughter of Coligny. Another curious detail, one which gives to the origin of the Hohengollerns something of fatality, lies in the fact that the second marriage of Louise de Collgny to the Statholder, the widower of three wives, took place three months before the murder of that Prince by Balthazar Gerard, on the stairway of the Delft Palace; so that the son of the Taciturn and Louise de Coligny, Henry Fred-eric of Nassau-Orange, whose daughter was destined to marry the Elector of Brandenburg, was a posthumous son, born seven months after the death of his

All of this goes to prove that the only form of government.

Philadelphia Public Ledger. An interesting item in the Treasury statistics for the last ten months is the very large increase in the importation of ma terials of manufacture, coupled with an increase in the exportation of manufactured articles. The value of the crude or partially manufactured materials imported in this period is 15 per cent greater than the corresponding figures in 1901, the highest previous record, and it is almost en-tirely offset by the exports of manufactures, exclusive of agricultural products and the products of forests and mines. In six years the imports of raw materials have increased 80 per cent and the exports of manufactures have more than doubled. Only to a limited extent is this a direct exchange. Our chief exports of manufac-tures are from the products of our mines and forests, and the raw materials we import are mainly manufactured for home use. Nevertheless do these figures illustrate the interchange which is the essential law of commerce and the necessary condition of commercial or industrial exnansion. We must buy the materials we need where we can get them cheapest or we shall not be able to sell our own prodicts to the best advantage

The import tax upon raw materials imoses the only distinct limit upon the extension of the foreign trade in American has survived from a period long past, and only an unprecedented domestic growth has enabled many industries to prosper in spite of it. At the present stage of the National development this relic of barbar-ism is not only a burden upon industry, but a barrier to the commercial growth for which all natural conditions have prepared the way.

### Socialists Burned Their Deeds. Liverpool Letter In the course of an article

Doukhbors, a weekly paper points out that on a 40-acre tract in a lonely part of the Cotwold hills, England, there is a olony every bit as crazy as that of the Canadian Doukhbor. The first performance of the Socialists who bought the land was to make a bonfire of the title deeds. They consider that no one has any right to private property. The result of this extraordinry perform-

ance is, of course, that the land has reverted to the Crown.

The colonists, of whom there were a year or two ago about 20, hold all their property in common. Each raises what ne can by spade labor. No one ever asks his neighbor for any help, and, conse-quently, only such work is done as one

nan can do single-handed. If a thief comes and steals their prop-erty, none of them ever resist. They may reason with him, but use no force. Each comes and goes as he pleases. They have no law or order of any kind.

### Even the Parrots Are Disgusted. Boston Evening Transcript.

Just to show how universally the coal situation is deplored, the comment of a parrot who sits all day and in mournful numbers says, "Coal twelve dollars a ton," should be recorded. It is, or it may be, a side light on the condition that will help to impress on the minds of future genera-tions the sufferings of their ancestors in this Winter of distress, if they know that even parrots joined in the widespread la ment. Besides, true stories of parrots— those "human birds," as a visitor from over seas calls them—are always in order. And this is just as true as it is that coal

## LAW OF THE WIDE-OPEN POLICY.

Spokane Chronicle Spokane Chronicle.

For years Seattle has held to the "wideopen" policy. For years Seattle has been
the headquarters for the toughs, the
bunco men, the panders and the thugs of
the Northwest. Notorious lawbreakers
posed as "bosses," to whom politicians
truckled; rival gamblers waged war with
the help of the police force; deep of vice the help of the police force; dens of vice multiplied; immorality was protected if not fostered by public officials; murders, hold-ups, robberies came one after anhold-ups, robberies came one after an-other; and the fame of Seattle's bad lands

spread across the continent. It was the "wide-open" policy in its perfection—the practical application of the theory that gambling must be given full liberty, lust must be stimulated and enaged, drunkenness must be treated as slightful and gentlemanly art—in brief, that bold, open, flaunted vice is far better for a community than decency (not to say virtue) because it "attracts fellows to the city" and "gets people to spend their money in the town." Such was Seattle. A change has come.

Gambling has been closed. A grand jury has been called. An effort has been made to render the town unpleasant for some of the most despicable wretches who fattened on the shame of women and the de-bauchery of men. It is interesting to note the progress of the experiment-interesting even to those who would have Spo-kane "wide open," for the same noble reasons that were given by Seattle's business men-the fellows who would trade decency for dollars, risk the wrecking of their sons' lives and honor to "put money in circulation," and "to attract fellows to the city," would make merchandise of the virtue of their neighbors' daughters, if

Times:

The is "nothing doing" below the line. The barefaced hold-ups and robberies for the time being have ceased. No more is the public shocked with blood-curdling tales of unprotected women and children being bound hand and foot to chairs. House robberies are becoming unknown, while stick-up men and those with the "great strong arm" have quietly departed to Tacoma to wait the passing of the storm.

Within the past week, for instance, the Arand at the same time most notorious joints in the new Tenderion, has extinguished its lights, closed its doors and quietly slipped out of the business world. The Creo, another joint in that district, ran Saturday night for the last time. There was also a healthy rumor on the streets that the Folly, a newly organized theater, was also to quit, although one of the owners denied this.

The arrest of 10 Frenchmen who were re-

The arrest of 10 Frenchmen who were responsible for a great number of the French women recently quartered below the line, and their subsequent fine of \$100 per man, has driven them far away from Seattle. Along the more quiet streets in the new underworld, where formerly women too low and vile even for a cribhouse were wont to lure their victims into rooms hired for that purpose, it is now alread age for a decent more.

pose, it is now almost safe for a decent man to walk in broad daylight.

The cribhouses in the new redlight district that for weeks have been the nightly scene of drunken revelry, are today almost deserted. The deprayed inmates have fied to other cities, and it can truthfully be said that there are fewer women of that character in this city today than there has been for months.

And yet-in spite of the abandonment of the wide-open policy-in spite of the ruin-ous effects of approaching decency-in spite of the sudden blighting of so many delightful enterprises that "put money in circulation" and "attract people to the city"—in spite of all these things, Seattle's bank clearings last week were \$4,366,813, massacred his Huguenot subjects on Saint | an increase over the same week of last year of 44 per cent.

### BRAVER THAN CLEVELAND.

Minneapolis Tribune.

We hear no public expression of doubt of President Roosevelt's courage, because he has played no such sensational part in this Venezuelan difficulty as President Cleveland played in that of seven years ago. Should any such doubt arise, we fancy that the President's friends will meet it by citing another case in which he has shown far more courage than Grover Cleveland. Almost any average American might dare the embattled navy of Great Britain in the assurance of a good cause and complete command of the British food supply. But it takes courage countries in the world where the supreme of an exceptional order to face a body of power is really exercised by the natives crusading women, writing letters by the thousand upon a matter that does not concern them. George Frederick Watts, the greatest

contemporary English artist, sent to the Chicago exposition one of his most beautiful pictures, called Love and Life. It represents two youthful figures, a boy and girl, in the costume of the Venus of Medici, but otherwise as free from any improper suggestion as the most saintly Madonna and Child. Mr. Watts is too great a painter to make commerce of his pictures, and he presented this painting. after the exposition, to the Government of the United States, as he had given many pictures to the British galleries for exhibition. It was hung in the White House soon after Cleveland's electo be generally photographed and en-

The Women's Christian Temperance Union of New York has a so-called "purity in art and literature" committee, which makes it its business to demand that wax models in show windows be properly clothed and that statues on public buildings should expose neither limbs nor bosoms. This purity committee decided from the newspaper reproductions that the Watt picture was immoral, and started a popular agitation to drive it out of the White House. They got affiliated bodies to write letters on the "chain principle, which increases its geometrical proportion until President and Mrs. Cleveland were fairly buried under an avalanche of protest. The letters were dumped into the fire without counting, but the women say that 12,000 of them were written. Mr. Cleveland could not stand it. He surrendered at discretion and the picture was sent to the Corcoran Art Gallery. There it hung, contaminating the

instead of Grover Cleveland all through administration and McKinley's, the White House was remodeled and re decorated for Roosevelt's big family. The Roosevelts know something about art, and Mrs. Roosevelt changed the relative station of a lot of pictures. first things she did was to bring Love and Life back from the Corcoran and hang it in her private sitting room. The purity committee heard of it and the bombardment of letters has begun again, though they are coming singly, as the multiply-ing chain has not begun to work. Most of them have been sent to Mrs. Roosevelt so far; but she has inspired the announce ment that she needs no advice as to decoration of her sitting-room, and the letter-writers have begun on the President. This has brought the inspired state ment from him in turn that the letters will be burned unread and that the picture will stay where it is. We imagine that nobody will doubt Theodore Roosevelt's courage after this.

### Frauds in Land Scrip. Oakesdale Cruiser.

A bill is before Congress to repeal the wholesale frauds are being perpetrated under these acts. There have been som frauds, but to repeal these laws is t give that other and greatest fraud still another cinch. We refer to the placing of scrip on Government lands. The present law permits a working man to pro-cure a timber claim for the few hundred dollars he has been saving and to some money out of it. Scrip has been given to big companies in many cases for lands which have been logged off, and again placed upon timber land. If the small man is guilty of not living up to small man is guilty of not living up to the letter of the law there is a great out. cry, but the big syndicate will continue to steal from Uncle Sam and all will have

### NOTE AND COMMENT.

Good morning! Merry Christmas! Now, don't be cross because the chil-

dren wouldn't let you sleep. We live not by bread alone, but also

by kind words and loving smiles. Little girl, don't, please don't give your new dolly too much to eat the first day. The old people, bless their hearts, can

memories. It is not necessarily a sign of change on political faith when a man believes in expansion after the sixth course of

beat the whole family in telling stories

today. White hair doesn't mean black

today's dinner. The nutritious and exhilarating plum pudding will bring delight to the small boy's heart and it's useless for his mother to warn him anxiously against it. Even experience is not proof against its

charms.

A Portland miss, 7 years old, says she does not think there is a Santa Claus because she does not believe there is any old man rich enough to give all the children in the world Christmas presents. But it's all true, just the same

The horrible fate of Jailer Johnson should be a warning to all little boys and girls. This unfortunate man's birthday comes on Christmas! Could heaven devise not of their own. Read a few paragraphs any more dreadful punishment for sin? from the news columns of the Seattle And Mr. Johnson is a good man, too, but he makes the mistake of hanging about the City Jail. Wonder if this happens to all men who go to jail? Horrors!

> As General Corbin turned the corner of Fifteenth street at F this morning, says the New York World, a small boy who was running away from his mother bumped full into him and was sent skittering to the gutter.

> "There!" said the mother, "now you see what you have done. You ran into that gentleman." "He ain't no gentleman," squeaked the

small boy. "He's a General," "See my new dollie, mother?"

"Yes, dear heart," "She can wink her eyes, can't she?"

"Yes, dearie." "Just like baby used to, mother?" "Come here and let mother kiss dollie." "Was baby a Christmas present to you, mother?

"And you losted her?"

"Yes, sweetheart." "Ain't you sorry? Ain't you awful sorry, mother dear?"

"Don't cry, mother dear. You can have my dollie part of the time. And you'll be real good to mother, won't you, dollie? 'Cause she lost her baby."

In the carelessness of our age we forget that anniversaries such as today come a limited number of times to each one of us. The greater part of those enjoying themselves today will see but few more seasons. This is not reason for sadness, rather it should be the cause of passionate and wholesouled devotion to all the joys that Christmas can bring. To throw away Christmas is to lose the most perfect jewel of the year. And in every home in the city families will put aside care and worry and pleasureless memory and dread to taste to the utter fullness the sparkling wine of life. In other seasons we shall look back upon this day as one of rest and happiness. So even anticipation may lend its warmth to the hour's gladness.

Yesterday afternoon at a late hour the County Clerk had Issued 13 licenses for Christmas weddings. The deputies in the office, as the closing hour for the day approached, and another would-be Benedict did not appear, discussed in sympathetic tones the hapless fate which migh overcome these unlucky 13 couples, and prayed that another marriage document would be issued before the clock struck 5, in order that the hoodoo would be broken. One of the boys in his eagerness to help the unlucky 13 out of their trouble, even went so far as to muster up courage to propose to one of the young women in the office, with the under standing that the license be made out on the spot, but he lost his nerve at the last minute for fear the girl might accept. But just as the case seemed hopeless, two more couples seeking connubial bliss arrived and saved the day.

He stood outside the window of a Fifthstreet store and gazed hungrily at the glittering things within. He had done this every night since payday on Saturday, only now he had but a dollar left where the first time he was possessed of 20. It seemed to him particularly unkind in heaven to give him so little for Christmas. Even now he was thinking that he would have to spend his remaining coin for oil. And once started on this calculation, he ended miserably in a mass of figures that apparently denied him a dime to spend on anything for the next year. After an hour's weary pacing back and forth, now blind with tears now smiling in boyish delight at his dreams, he turned doggedly away and trudged out Washington street. At the front door of his little house he halted again. "Poor Nellie!" he muttered. "I never was able to get her an engage-

ment ring." Inside the chilly house he took off his overcoat and hung it on the tree. By the scanty fire he found his wife asleep and sat him down beside her. The long hours crept silently away and she still slept. At midnight there rang out the chimes, and she stirred into wakefulness. When she saw her husband she laughed softly and reached out her hand. "Have you got my Christmas present?" she asked lightly.

He bent over her and whispered, "Yes." "What is it?" A bashfulness came over him and he

dropped his eyes. "What is it, Tom?" she repeated. He could not say anything, but very simply stooped and kissed her. And she understood.

"Mammy's Baby Coon."

"Mammy's Baby Coon."

George C. Marshall.

Dar yo' lays a-chuckiin' an' a-hummin',

Yo' saucy lump o' choc-late-cul'ud fat.

Yo' rascal! Yo' jes' heard you' mammy comin';

Stop blinkin' dose big saucer eyes like dat.

Yo' looks jes' like a ball of Injy rubbah'Deed, I bopes nobody steals ma lam' away.

Ma goodness, ef he isn't goin' to blubbah.

Dat baby understan's jes' what I say.

I wonder what yo'll be when yo' gets biggah.

A mighty man like Roosevelt, perhaps.

I hopes yo' won't turn out a low-down niggah
An' spend all yo' time a-shootin' craps.

I wants to see yo' Guv'ner or Pres'dent,
Livin' in de White House in gran' style.

In Washin'ton yo'll be a high-toned res'dent.
Dat won't be none too good for mammy's
chile.

chile. I'se gwine to send ma han'some son to

I'se gwine to send ma han son to case.
So grow right up as quick now as yo' can.
I wants yo' for to learn a heap o' knowledge;
Den mammny will be proud of her big man.
An' now I'se got to get yo' daddy's dinnah,
So 'fore I go I'll take anudder peep. Well, lordy, lordy, suah as I'm a Dat little coon am snorin' fast asleep