

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, JULY 21, 1906.

ANOTHER TRIAL, AT ONCE. Failure of the jury to agree in the case of the United States against Williamson, Gesner and Biggs will be followed by a new trial, at once. The jury stood ten for conviction and two for acquittal.

IS NORMAN WILLIAMS GUILTY? Evidence is anything that tends to produce belief. Cuvier found evidence enough in a single fossil bone, and not a very large one either, to convince him that the animal from which it came, though no man had ever seen it alive or dead, had a certain form and size. He reconstructed the animal from the bone; and later scientists, delving among the relics of prehistoric time, found its body complete and as he had said. The bone was circumstantial evidence. Agassiz could do the same thing, reasoning from a single fish scale. Their achievements show what circumstantial evidence, and a very little of it, indeed, may effect in an intellect of the first rank.

A DOCTRINE AND ITS INTERPRETATION. The doctrine that all government rests on consent of the governed is true, interpreted one way—the rational way; but false if interpreted irrationally and immorally.

THE REAL PERIL IN LANGUAGE. Professor Thomas R. Lounsbury, in these latter days there exists a distinct tendency toward lawlessness in usage, a distinct indisposition to defer to authority. We are told that the language of the man in the street is held up as the all-sufficient standard. If this statement were ever true, it was never less true than now.

Vereschagin's Right Hand. Philadelphia Bulletin. A group of war correspondents were talking about the unhappy Russian painter, Vereschagin.

But the basis must be some approximation to the principles of right and justice, of which the experience of mankind through historic ages furnishes a steady though not always inflexible guide.

AN ESSAY ON REFORM. Why should any city employ call upon Mayor Lane to protect him from the money shark, who would discount his salary? Why doesn't the employe protect himself? Because he is so weak he can't? Then he should not be a city employe. It is tiresome—this thing of protecting everybody and of being cowardly to everybody, and of coddling everybody, and of standing guard over everybody—even public officials—against solicitors to vice, against makers of every kind, against gamblers and against women of the town.

But for the "pernicious activity" of persons of this class there would be little vice in Portland. Common vice is little or nothing. It doesn't pretend to secrecy. It is open, palatable—and honest as vice can be. But let us have the sons of respectability pulled out of their gambling clubs and out of their beds of infamy at 2 o'clock in the morning, and let us see their names on the police register.

IT FITS THE CRIME. The second infliction of penalty under the whipping-post law has been applied to the bare back of a brutal wifebeater. Here is a man, a blacksmith, who was able to earn, and did earn, enough at his trade to support his wife and children. After paying the house rent and monthly bill at the grocery, he drank up the balance of his earnings and his wife took in washing to meet the deficit in the family expenses.

Another Kansas bank has failed through holding too much of the Devil's paper. In this latest case the institution involved held notes of the bankrupt millionaire to the amount of more than \$100,000. When the Devil failed was first announced the leading figure was rated as worth \$7,000,000.

IMMIGRATION. What are the qualities of the ideal immigrant—the one whom we shall all agree to admit when we are through arguing about it? Perhaps it is not so difficult to answer this question as the endless discussion of the matter would indicate. Few people of good sense would differ much about the kind of man that benefits the country by coming, or the kind that benefits it by staying.

One County Assessor is trying to find authority for a postponement of the meeting of the County Board of Equalization so that the time for returning the assessment roll may be extended. His efforts would be more commendable if directed toward the performance of all official duties at the time specified by law.

Those who enjoy sparring matches will have good sport from ambassadors extraordinary from St. Petersburg and Tokio come next month in Washington.

Having said all there is to say against Rockefeller, Miss Tarbell may find inspiration in Dr. Depew.

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conflicts with circumstances, following a rule exactly opposite to the courts. Hume went to a great length, perhaps, when he said a miracle could never be proved, because it was always more likely that men would lie than that the course of Nature should vary; but in practice we all make it honestly.

The facts which Mr. Desmarais alludes in his letter as tending to throw doubt upon Williams' guilt—his assertions of innocence, his refined character, his intelligence and learning—are all irrelevant. Given a sufficient motive, any man will commit any crime.

Merchants' day at the Fair failed to bring out the crowd it should have attracted. As Mr. Wheelwright stated in his eloquent and beautiful address, the pursuit of the almighty dollar was so alluring that the majority of the members of the Chamber of Commerce were unable to ease up long enough to enjoy the beauties of the Fair, even for a few hours in the afternoon.

What is the latest concerning the awful thing that happened to a girl in Texas: PASS IT ALONG. She said that she couldn't climb fences, but that was a city girl's yarn: When she met the old cow she just howled "Wow!"

As a matter of fact, now, to get it exact, That maiden is learning the game Of jumping up high so the feat she can try Of jumping an Oregon claim.

Who was it used to beam and shine, Whose wit was mellow as the wine? "Our Chauncey." Who was it loudest, longest laughed, The while the sparkling draught he quaffed? "Our Chauncey."

Who was it always glad to dine And after dinner say a line? "Our Chauncey." Who made the merry jest and quip Like molten music drip and slip? "Our Chauncey."

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Who is it now and hence for aye Hath not a witsome word to say? "Our Chauncey." Who is it must go back and sit "Way down, with not a bit of wit? No chance! he!"

OUT OF THE ORDINARY. "Wasn't that woman's club a success?" "No; it had all the disadvantages of home."

ORIGON OZONE. New York people drank 11,000,000 quarts of cold milk to alkali the terrible heat of Wednesday. Out here in Oregon we have the cream of the weather.

The Chau-Talk-Away is now in our midst. Oregon furnishes two of the most popular Chau-talkers—Joaquin Miller and Homer Davenport, and both of them talk well of Oregon.

Nothing to It. Interlocutor—What are you working at now, Mr. Bones? End Man—I've not done no work at all, Melah Johnson.

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OUT OF THE ORDINARY. "Wasn't that woman's club a success?" "No; it had all the disadvantages of home."

LETTERS ON CURRENT TOPICS. "Webfoot" State and the Disagreeable Impression the Name Suggests—Father Desmarais and Murderer Williams.

PORTLAND, July 21.—(To the Editor.)—While Joaquin Miller last Saturday probably said nothing new in his denunciation of the all too common misuse of the word "Webfoot," his declaration had all the directness and aptness which characterize his writings, to the delight of the reader. He dwelt chiefly on the esthetic phase of the matter, and it is surely to be hoped that the words of this great celebrity may greatly startle the puerile wit who believes their splendid comeliness by referring to it as the "Webfoot State."

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