

The Oregonian

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Portland, Saturday, Dec. 21, 1907.

How Hard It Is to Climb: Cardinal Newman in his great book, "The Chief of Faith," argues that the chief proof of the existence of God is derived from development of the moral conscience in man.

In our public and social life it is the same. Man is guided by his consciousness and by his conscience. But they are feeble lights. It is only through long experience and many efforts and failures that conscience begets to cast a clear light.

There has been no political, social or economic system that has not had these struggles. To every people whatever has been or appeared to be profitable has seemed to be right.

It is interesting to note the connection between a certain class of saloons and such crimes of violence as the murder of Policeman Gittings. Before the trial of Blodgett, the man who had been drinking in a saloon, Blodgett, the murderer of Alice Minthorn, had also been drinking on the morning when he killed the poor woman in her bed.

It is not always granted to the intellects that rank highest. Cicero was among those who thought labor only fit for slaves. Matthew Hale was a believer in witchcraft and joined in the persecution of witches.

In Byron's poetry an energetic and splendid passage ends with, "Whatever fields be sought or lands be trod, man's conscience is the oracle of God." This brings us back to Cardinal Newman's argument. It is true, in the ultimate, but it becomes true only after vast wanderings in error and much chastening.

By setting free a man like Blodgett of course the safety of human life in the State of Oregon is appreciably diminished; but no such reflection as this ever troubles the courts. It is a wrong, but can there be any doubt whatever that the notorious leniency of the courts creates an atmosphere admirably suited to the growth of crime?

Suppose there were some connection between the relieve of Blodgett and the access of murderous courage

which inspired Bradley to shoot Gittings. Suppose this depraved young man said to himself on that morning, "I see that Blodgett is to be set free after all. Why cannot I get drunk and kill my enemies the same as he shot Alice Minthorn?" Would not the triumph of technical law over justice be purchased at fearful cost in such a case?

Very likely Blodgett never reasoned the matter out in precisely that way, but it is not certain that he and others like him feel the logic of the situation instinctively? The cost of this triumph of technicality and sentimentality is not confined to the loss of grown men like Policeman Gittings.

The essential fact in the case is that Blodgett committed an atrocious murder. His whole life, as well as his confession, proves him to be of the worthless, vicious, criminal class. He committed the murder, unquestionably. The jury found him guilty.

There are many reasons why our country is not building and sailing ships, in proportion to its other vast industries. We can neither build them nor sail them.

Such subsidies as other countries pay would be too limited to make a difference at present, and for years to come, subsidies would be a most wasteful way. Economic conditions are so much against us, at present, in the matter of this industry, that subsidies, if we began to use them, would really become the main reliance.

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PICTURES REAL EASTERN OREGON

Bishop Scadding Says This State is Strategic Field for the Church. NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—(To the Editor.)—The average Easterner gets his conception of Oregon from Wild West shows, and for the past three months I have been on a campaign of education trying to correct the impressions.

The new Bishop for Eastern Oregon is a remarkably capable man, was brought up on the Pacific Coast, and will be a great acquisition to Oregon. Ignorance on the part of some Eastern people concerning conditions in distant places has done much to give opportunity to some New York writers to give startling headlines to stories which give false impressions of Oregon.

The incident occurred at a White House luncheon about a week ago, and in making the remark the President spoke of Von Sternberg the first out-spoken hint of the plan that has been running through his head ever since he definitely decided to retire at the end of his present term.

Standing upon his irrevocable decision not to follow the path of nomination, Mr. Roosevelt will retire from office a year from next March, and thereafter, for a time at least, will be free to follow his natural bent. These are the plans he has under consideration.

A history of his administration to be published in London, and a big game hunt in Africa and India to be indulged in.

A tour of the world, with incidental visits to the great states.

It may be said with the utmost certainty that the President will not be a candidate for election to the Senate in 1912.

That the tour of the world offers great attraction to the President is well known to his friends.

The question of the big game hunt, his imagination has been aroused. Mr. Roosevelt has recently almost drained the Congressional Library of books containing information on Alaska, as well as other parts of the world.

ASHLAND GOES DRY

New Ashland Will Try to Make Jackson County Go the Same Way. Medford Daily Tribune.

Ashland has voted for prohibition and will dry for the next year.

It is an unfortunate feature of Oregon local opinion here that it is so one-sided that any district or county which does not go dry, the district must also go dry, irrespective of its vote and wishes.

Extra Meeker Visits Congress. Washington (D. C.) Herald.

Extra Meeker, the man who made the trip from Oregon to Washington, D. C., on the Pacific schooner, was a visitor on the floor of the House, and, owing to the fact that he closely resembles the popular conception of Santa Claus, attracted much attention.

Colliding Autos Can't Kill Him. New York World.

The experience of being hit and a speeding auto has been mine and the motorist to Horace Dowd, a farmer of Richfield, N. J. Five times within the last year Dowd has been struck, but each time he has escaped unscathed.

The Reason is Sound. Harney County News.

Those who have watched the trend of political action in Oregon for the twelve years past will recognize the justice and force of the Oregonian's recent announcement of its determination to stand aloof and renounce allegiance to the Republican cause in this year.

How is Julia on Splitting Wood? Fossil Journal.

Miss Julia Chapman won a set of silver knives, forks and spoons in a board-sawing contest given by a medicine show in the town of Fossil, Wednesday evening.

Horrible Thought! Baker City Herald.

Some of the Republicans who seek to attend the National Convention as delegates will probably change their minds when they thought presents itself that there will be no possible this year.

The Presents of Yesteryear. New York Sun.

MORE PLANS FOR MR. ROOSEVELT

What He Is to Do After Retirement as President. Washington Special, December 12.

What to expect our ex-Presidents will not trouble the American people as far as Theodore Roosevelt is concerned, at least for a number of years.

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BOOKS

DMIRERS and critics alike of Henry James, the American novelist who prefers to live in England, are astonished to read his announcement just issued that he is to write his early novels so as to bring them into harmony with what he calls his "war among the years."

Mr. James is 64 years old, and has written about 23 books in the 37 years of his literary activity. It is natural that he should wish to bring his work into more mature style his earlier stories, and to blot out and otherwise alter many phrases of those early days.

Francis Thompson, the