

The Oregonian

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will take on more and more the distinctive character of her position and greatness. Attending it will be nearer approximation than heretofore to the spirit of the United States. But there is no likelihood that this change will conflict with the conditions of requirements of allegiance to Great Britain. You may, indeed, see British and Old World customs more plainly in Canada than in the United States; yet everywhere in Canada there are signs of conformity and approximation. Geographical position, physical conditions, and growing increase are largely responsible for this; and there is now a community of feeling and spirit between the United States and Canada which was not possible fifty years ago.

Truth is, Canada is developing into a great separate nation, independent as to her material interests of Great Britain. It is one of the most fertile of the firmest kind—a firm because merely sentimental. The development of Canada has but just begun; and the Dominion by the end of the present century will probably have a larger population than England, Scotland and Ireland. The destiny of Canada is one of the most interesting of all subjects of forecast and speculation. We may take for light upon it the remarkable saying of Coleridge, a century ago, that "the destiny of the United States of America, as a nation of one hundred millions of freemen, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, living under the laws of Alfred, reading the language of Shakespeare and Milton, was an august conception." We shall soon have exceeded our one hundred millions of people, and persons now living will see thirty millions in Canada.

By the close of the twentieth century there will be virtually ten millions in America, and virtually the same people, to support and extend and fulfill Coleridge's "august conception." A telegraphic dispatch from Milwaukee, Wis., printed today, tells us that there are 13,817,426 Roman Catholics in the United States. Add those of our islands in the Pacific and Atlantic, the number is 23,018,898. Of the whole population this is nearly one-third, and is rapidly increasing. It is very likely that if you should enumerate all the population, by families, some of whose members are Catholics, you might get the twenty-two millions. And if you should enumerate all the remaining population, by families, some of whose members are Protestants, you might get seventy-five millions more. But this calculation wouldn't prove that the numbers thus found were Catholics and Protestants. You would have only the conventional and ecclesiastical way of stating it. The great majority acknowledge Christianity, but do not accept the theological and ecclesiastical dogmas offered by one denomination or another.

Opinion here is not aggressive; but acquiescence should not be mistaken for positive opinion. It is easy to conform when no harm can come of it, much easier than to combat. "Almost every opinion we have," says the pious Scarron, "we have but by authority; we judge, act, live and die on trust, as common custom teaches us; and rightly, for we are too weak to decide and choose of ourselves. But we do not act thus." When Luther exclaimed "O doxa, doxa quam es communis nora!" ("O, opinion, doxa, dogma, how common an evil you are!"), he stated the fundamental principle of Protestantism. As another German writer puts it, "An ounce of custom outweighs a ton of reason." No one can separate habit from the thought and custom that lie about him. In seasons of political and social revolution there arises a struggle between the resisting force of ancient habits and the contagious sympathy of new modes of feeling and thought. In one portion of society the conservative influence of custom prevails over the contagion of example; in others the contagion of example prevails over the conservative force of antiquity and habit. Which of these conditions is the prevalent one now, each person will judge for himself. But obviously the disposition is not to adhere without question to old and customary opinion. We may be going too fast; but as to the movement there is no question. And yet opinion, especially on matters of religion, is the most conservative thing in the world. It is shocked by the change of a term or phrase of custom, or by suggested changes. The revised translation of the Scriptures, though more accurate than preceding ones, disturbed pious minds.

Habits of thinking, feeling and acting are the most potent forces in the world, in all ages; and this without much regard to their truth or error.

WOMEN AND SALOONS. It would not be quite true to say that a woman can have no decent purpose in visiting a saloon. Many of the Salvation Army sometimes invade drinking-places with an excellent purpose. Occasionally we hear of an exasperated wife entering the doors and haling her besotted husband home, to his great benefit; but as a rule it is safe to conclude that a woman who visits a saloon there for a purpose which were better fulfilled. The ordinary drinking-place is bad enough as a resort for men. For women it is not to be thought of. If they visit it, their ruin is only a matter of a short time. In fact, a woman who finds the saloon attractive is already ruined in all essential respects. The final climax is a mere detail.

An ordinance forbidding women to visit saloons ought to be more acceptable to barkeepers than to anybody else, since it would relieve them of a great deal of trouble and suspicion. The belief that a woman who places the weaker sex are led into vice, and men encouraged in crime has done much to create hostility to public drinking shops. If the practices continue which have caused the suspicion, there is no reason to expect that the hostility will diminish. It is much more likely to increase until the American saloon is swept out of existence.

Many saloon men who believe that their business is legitimate do their best to avoid the practices which bring odium upon it; but their efforts are likely to increase until the good businesses are blown up by the capacity of its already large fleet of steamers. As for the Pacific Mail, its local business between Panama and San Francisco has been out to pieces by the German and French lines, which have more frequent sailings and carry freight for much lower rates than the old line has been charging. Under such conditions the operation of a steamship line by the Government would be about as absurd an undertaking as could well be imagined. The opening of the Tehuantepec route has afforded a trade highway between the oceans that cannot be successfully competed with until the completion of the Panama Canal.

France is struggling with a phase of the tipping system with which America has some trouble, though in a different manner. It seems that in Paris it is the custom for the servant girl who does the family marketing to receive a sou for each franc's worth of goods purchased. That amounts to a commission of 2 cents on the dollar. The commission is, of course, added to the price of the goods, and the householder not only pays that, but also suffers from excessive purchases the servant girl is tempted to make and the wastefulness encouraged in all departments of household affairs.

France the system is open and public one. In this country the purchases they make for their employers, and the commission is undoubtedly made a part of the purchase price. Sometimes, too, public servants get a rakeoff on purchases they make for their employers. While this has not come to be recognized as an established practice, it may soon have the approval of our courts and become a legitimate feature of public business.

The graft decision in San Francisco is plainly a tendency in that direction, and no surprise need be at any decision the courts may make as to the legality of rakeoffs secured by public servants on the deals they are employed.

The Chicago Health Department's report for the midwinter week closes with a total of 659,000 cases of persons suffering from an aggravated type of influenza or grip. Not since the epidemic season of 1898-99, says the bulletin, has influenza played such an important part in the mortality of the city, as during the week covered. The death rate of the week was 17.4—the highest since 1899. Elderly people and those debilitated from any cause are the readiest subjects of the malady, and those most likely to succumb to its prostrating weakness. Warmth, rest, fresh air, nourishing food and gentle stimulants cover the treatment enjoined for the comfort and possible recovery of the patient. It is the one disease in which the determination "to keep up and fight it off" is condemned as worse than useless. The patient who yields to the inclination so pronounced in the early stages of the attack, to go to bed and stay there, is the one whose recovery is the most speedy and permanent.

In another year—that is, about April or May, 1909, the United States will relinquish the provisional government of Cuba. The census of the island will be completed in two or three months, the local elections will be held in June, and the presidential election next December. The economic condition of Cuba, according to the report of Charles E. Magroon, Provisional Governor, lately filed in the War Department at Washington, are excellent. The manufactures are rapidly expanding in capacity and output; new deposits of iron have been discovered and are being developed; the iron and steel industry, commerce and trade for the past year show a gratifying increase over previous years. So much for supplanting the destructive, centuries-old policy of Spain in the government of the island by a policy that encouraged the development of the natural resources of Cuba and taught the people the essential elements of prosperity, self-control and the basic principles of enlightened self-government.

The Port of Portland referendum petitions are now in circulation, and every taxpayer in the city should make it a personal matter to get the petitions complete and signed. The practically unanimous desire of the people to hasten the needed reform is shown by the fact that two solicitors yesterday forenoon secured 250 signatures and met with but one refusal, and in that low case the person refusing was unable to offer any reason for his refusal. Do not wait for the solicitor to hunt you up, but sign the list unsolicited.

The most persistent hammering of the bear element in the wheat market, aided by the enormous shipments from both coasts of the United States, has proved insistent to force wheat down to \$1 bushel in Chicago. There has been a decline of several cents per bushel from the highest point reached, but the price is still hovering around far above the average in previous years, and promises to hold at good figures until the entire surplus is marketed.

Mr. Bryan in his speech in Kentucky yesterday said, "It was wrong for Democrats to refuse to support men just because they did not want them." But this is what Republicans have been doing in Oregon, with Democratic applause.

Lease of the McGinn quarter block at Seventh and Washington is the fact to prove that real estate values in Portland have not been adversely affected by the October panic.

In view of the coming of Eastern folk by the thousand, taking advantage of the colonist rates, every publicity agency in Oregon should immediately get busy.

Press reports from Rio Janeiro are singularly silent on the subject of profanity in connection with Admiral Evans' game leg.

Probably Lawyer Delmas is more interested than any other reader of the reports of the Thaw murder trial.

Has any one noticed that the recent financial flurry has had the effect of reducing the price of farm products?

So far from scaring us with the bogey man's yarn about blowing up the fleet, it did not even amuse us.

WASHINGTON'S ROYAL BLOOD.

Discovery That He Was of the Stock of English Kings. Boston Transcript. That George Washington, the first President of the United States, was a lineal descendant of King Edward I is the announcement of an English genealogist who, for several months past has been investigating the ancestry of the Washington family in a branch about which hitherto little or nothing has been known.

The Rev. Frederick W. Rags, a university graduate and fellow of the Royal Historical Society, undertook the investigation of a branch of the Washington ancestry purely out of antiquarian interest. That the line of genealogy ascended to royalty was as great a surprise to him as it is to the two nations interested. That the liberator of the American colonies should have sprung from an English monarch carries the serpent's tooth into the third and fourth generations.

Mr. Rags has been for several years interested in the restoration of the little parish church at St. Leonard, at Acton-le-Walls, in Northamptonshire. But his interest included other items as well, notably the crumbling tombstones of the Washingtons in the churchyard and the parish register in which the births, deaths and marriages of the family were recorded for generations. The genealogy of the male Washingtons, father to son, goes back to the year 1300. It had hitherto occurred to no one to trace the ancestry of a certain Margaret Butler, the wife of Laurence Washington, of Saltergate, who died in 1588. It was the great-granddaughter of Sir John Sutton, a Shakespeare, Margaret Butler was the great-great-grandmother of General George Washington. She was the great-granddaughter of Sir John Sutton, a Shakespeare, Margaret Butler was the great-great-grandmother of General George Washington. She was the great-granddaughter of Sir John Sutton, a Shakespeare, Margaret Butler was the great-great-grandmother of General George Washington.

One reason why this thread of the Washington ancestry has never before been known is probably the circumstance that the name of Margaret Butler living in Acton-le-Walls at about the same period. An entry in the Acton-le-Walls parish register reads: "Margaret Butler, wife of Laurence Washington, gent, and Margaret Butler, widow, both of Acton-le-Walls, were buried on August 1st, 1588."

The confusion between the Margaret Butler (if, indeed, it was known that there were two persons of that name) led to a neglect of this branch of the family, with the result that some centuries have passed since the decease of the first President of the United States before the discovery that he came of royal lineage. The fact that the name of Washington is of this surprising discovery, is a man of scholarly tastes with an enthusiasm for the architecture of the English parish church, and who had been visiting in and out of a church in the south of England, of which he was rector, he learned the mason's trade and stone-cutting, and set about the work. When he got to Acton-le-Walls he was instantly struck by the fine architecture of the little church, which was allowed to go to ruin. The parish register, which was in a state of decay, was found to contain a list of names of these tenant farmers and laborers. No funds could be raised for repairs. He regarded the church as especially worthy of preservation on account of its identification with the Washingtons. A more sophisticated man would perhaps have appealed to America. Mr. Rags, however, was a man of simple tastes. And yet while busily occupied in endeavoring to raise funds for the repairs, inventing a new kind of mortar and superintending the construction work as fast as it could go forward, he found time to go into the neglected branch of the Washington genealogy, of which he writes to friends on his side as follows: "I have just traced the descent of these ancestors (of the Washingtons) and the result will, I think, be surprising. It ought to delight all Americans."

Since indictments were found against 14 men for being concerned in the Capitol building and burning graft at Harrisburg, Pa., the public has not heard much about the matter, but interest in it is likely to be revived by the trial of these men in the federal court at Harrisburg, Pa., on January 27. Recently some fresh indictments have been found against several men in the defendant list, fraud in measurement being the charge against them. The architect of the building already under \$60,000 bill in 30 charges of conspiracy, while Sanderson, the contractor, who showed a genius for making bills, and Casel, president of the Pennsylvania Construction Company, who supplied the metallic furniture, have each 15 charges hanging over their heads, being involved in the new one of false pretense. Proceedings against them have progressed to the entire satisfaction of the public to date. The Governor recommended his pledge by instituting a vigorous investigation. The probing committee showed that it was on no whit lessening mission, and the Attorney-general pushed it to its logical conclusion the evidence that was placed before him. The scandal has been large enough to attract National attention.

She Was "Getting Even." Youth's Campaign. It was close on midnight, and the professional guest felt it was high time for him to stop playing. "Perhaps I'd better not play any more tonight," he said, wearily. "I see you have near neighbors, and they might be annoyed."

"You needn't mind them for a minute," said his hostess earnestly. "We are perfectly sure they poisoned our cat, and if they did, nothing is too bad for them."

A Simple Situation. Washington Post, Ind. The political situation on the Democratic side of the hedge is marvelously simple and hopeless. The two wings are flapped together—after a fashion. More than 3,000,000 Democrats would rather go to defeat with Bryan than go to victory with any other candidate. At least 900,000 are willing that Mr. Bryan shall be nominated in order that a third defeat may rid the party of its old man of the sea.

EMBARRASSING. A recent Cleveland leader, after the following wisecrack, showing how soon a man learns new wisdom from the Bureau of Prisons, used to get my dinner. At restaurants and such places, the waiter brought me. "Was usually this much—"

But, now since I've discovered how many joys are hidden in this Matilda gets the dinner. The cost for this—"

However, there's a gas range that ornaments my flat. The gas for this—"

Retire monthly bills like that—"

—From the Milwaukee Sentinel.

JAPAN'S TROUBLES OF HER OWN.

Several of the foreign newspapers which have been discussing our relations with Japan appear to have been inspired by the belief that if the Tokio Government were disposed to strike at the United States it would have a perfectly free hand to do so. They have spoken as if Japan had no domestic questions that would check a disposition to enter upon a belligerent policy, and they have dwelt upon the promptness with which, anticipating every her fleet and army, were set in motion against Russia before any declaration of war was issued. After the manner of the strategists of the study they have speculated as to what might, could, would or should happen if Japan were to aim a blow at us as while our fleet is midway the east coast of South America on its voyage to the Pacific.

Corea refused to be readily assimilated. In fact the Coreans are fighting assimilation with all the weapons which their imperfect development leaves at their disposal. When the Corean army was disbanded or dispersed by the Japanese several months ago a popular resistance sprang up, in which Coreans have made but brief and occasional mention. Private letters received in this country from persons who have special opportunities to observe where the Coreans are, not only advise of their unimpaired motives for misrepresenting it are to the effect that the Japanese troops in Corea have all they can do to make head against the Corean resistance, but they also advise of the Corean insurrection on her hands, she is still further embarrassed by the evident mismanagement of the British in India of the ability of the Tokio government to curtail the "Asia-for-Asia" propaganda which the belligerent Japanese have been preaching. Count Okuma may have been misreported, as he is never in the habit of coming to advise a merely commercial competition in India, but it will take many disavowals to soothe the sensibilities of the British government, which is so anxious that they did not dissemble the display of moving pictures of Japanese victories over the Russians which was so conspicuous in the Japanese press, and the agitation of last summer. These pictures were accompanied by inscriptions to the effect that they illustrated the military prowess of "Asia for Asia" against the Europeans, and with an adjuration that sounded very much like "God thou and do likewise."

WORLD'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER. In a Modern Sense, Said to Be the Cradle of Germany, Dated 1609. Professor Adolph Koch of the University of Heidelberg has been delivering a series of lectures on the history of lectures on "Public Opinion, Journalism and the Press," and Nathan Straus, brother of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, is attending the course of lectures. He has kindly sent to us a facsimile of what is said to be the oldest extant specimen of a newspaper in the modern sense of the term, which was printed in the year 1609. Professor Koch among his audience, it bears date of 1609 and was issued weekly. It has an elaborately engraved border to enclose the text, and is printed on two opposite sides of the sheet, and three chubby angels, symbolic of Hope, Faith and Charity, sit at the top of the page. The text of numbers for the year forms a quarto volume of 115 pages, and contains correspondence from 17 towns, among them, Vienna, Prague, Amsterdam and several German cities. The publisher of the paper was Johann Carolus, and his place of business was Strasbourg, where he conducted the paper until 1634, when the name of his brother and successor appeared. This paper was probably continued through the seventeenth century, and it was up to the year 1800, when it was merged into the journal of the time. It might even be said to have initiated the "accop," since through its columns the practical demonstration of Galileo's great invention, the telescope, was announced to the world in May, 1609.

As a record of the communicable world's doings at that time it is a relic of large public interest and historical value. The Venetian gazettes of the previous century were tentative essays into the field of journalism, but they fell under the ban of censorship and were discontinued. Italy was the parent of the daily newspaper in a way, since the Acta Diurna of ancient Rome was a part of the daily public archives. It had, however, a too restricted circulation to be put in the journalistic class. The oldest daily journal still being published is, perhaps, the "Telling of Peckin" which was started in the eighteenth century and is yet running. But its spirit is still about as ancient as when the first number was issued.

The Canadian newspaper makes a plausible bid, in the modern sense, for the distinction of being the pioneer of the "fourth estate."

She Was "Getting Even." Youth's Campaign. It was close on midnight, and the professional guest felt it was high time for him to stop playing. "Perhaps I'd better not play any more tonight," he said, wearily. "I see you have near neighbors, and they might be annoyed."

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—From the Milwaukee Sentinel.

LIBEL RULING OF JUDGE HANNA.

One of Putnam's Lawyers Says It Was Wrong But Quite Honest. GRANTS PASS, Or, Jan. 20.—(To the Editor)—The press of the state has commented very extensively upon the conviction of Mr. Putnam upon an indictment for libel before Judge H. K. Hanna at Jacksonville last week. The criticisms of the trial judge have in some instances been so unjust that I can not forbear offering a word of explanation. I was one of Mr. Putnam's attorneys and am also a stockholder in the Madison Publishing Company that owns and publishes the Daily Tribune in which the alleged libel was published, and, in a position, to know whereof I speak. Upon the trial of the case the defendant was treated as fairly as could be desired by any man. With the other attorney for the defendant I presented a motion asking the court not to permit the Sheriff of Jackson County to summon the jurors for the trial of the case, and a proper plea was entered for that purpose. When the motion was presented A. E. Reames prosecuting attorney said he would not oppose, and that he did not intend to object, but the defendant suspected of being prejudiced against him to have any part in selecting the jurors. At my suggestion the court appointed R. E. Dow as affisor. At the beginning of the trial the prosecuting attorney took the position that the defense would not be permitted to go into the question of the assessor, who had been committed by Barnum upon J. F. Reddy or into the manner of conducting the investigation by the grand jury of said assessor, and that the assessor's precedents to sustain his contention, which I did not consider very strong or applicable in view of our statute on the subject. The court concurred in this view, and even went a step further, and ruled that he did not think that we could question the rightfulness of the grand jury's action. This view was a surprise to the defendant, and I was surprised to find the words of the statute, but we were not prepared to offer any legal authorities to sustain our position under any circumstances, and I was surprised to find that there did not happen to be textbooks on the subject of libel and the libraries at hand were not very extensive. The case was argued on the 17th of January, which had to be the last day of court as the judge had to hold court at Grants Pass on Monday. The attorney asked for a recess, and the court granted it, and concluded to take exceptions to the ruling of the court, make their record and appeal. The rest of the trial was somewhat perfunctory, and I believe the feeling or opinion manifested by the trial judge I did not observe it. In truth he was liberal and courteous to the defense. All the defense can complain in his view of the law, I believe the court was in error, but I know it was an honest mistake. Had the trial judge not believed that law to be as he announced it, he certainly would not have instructed the jury as he did, for he knew the case would be appealed, and it would be unreasonable to accuse him of intentional malice. I believe the Supreme Court to reverse the case. To my knowledge there was nothing done by the trial judge in this case, to call down upon him, or to make an example of the press of this state. He should no more be subject to criticism in this case, than any other judge in any other case, who makes a ruling in the application of the law, but which he honestly believes to be correct. As I said in the beginning I am interested in being the ruling of Judge Hanna set aside, and the Supreme Court, and which will be, but even though the whole state of Oregon believed so, that would not justify the criticisms which have been heaped upon him, or knowledge or fairness to him. I have little patience with the homage usually paid to judges of our courts. I have never believed that a fallible lawyer became an infallible one by the mere fact of being elevated to the bench. I believe they are just objects of criticism, and in Oregon have been criticized too little, but misrepresentation of the facts of the case, on this matter, as press of the state is not giving Judge Hanna a square deal, because it proceeded on the theory that he was trying to be unjust, and this supposition is both unreasonable and untrue. ROBERT G. SMITH.

The Oregonian does not feel called upon to assume responsibility for what the "Press of the State" may have said about Judge Hanna's remarkable decision. For itself, it has not impugned to Judge Hanna a deliberate purpose to deny Editor Putnam his rights before the law. But that Putnam was denied his rights, it has asserted, and its assertion, we think, fully supported by the facts, is attempting to defend the Judge. The Oregonian said, following the decision that "there has been here a most surprising invasion of liberty of the press and an unjustifiable denial of Putnam's elementary rights before the law as a citizen. This decision means that a newspaper has no right to criticize a grand jury or the court. That is absurd and cannot stand any test of history, or experience or judicial precedent."

This criticism, The Oregonian thinks, was and is entirely warranted. Putnam had made a harsh attack upon the District Attorney and grand jury of Jackson County for their failure to indict a man named Barnum accused of a serious assault. Judge Hanna, as the District Attorney caused Putnam to