

The Oregonian

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Portland, Monday, Nov. 9, 1908.

THE SLAVERY QUESTION IN OREGON.

Mr. T. W. Davenport, of Silverton, honored as a pioneer and holding high place in our history among active participants in the early political life of Oregon, has written an article that appears in the current number of "The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society," on the controversy over the effort to ignore slavery into the period of agitation for the formation of a Constitution and admission of Oregon into the Union.

The question as to slavery—for an age and a generation—was submitted as a separate article, for a direct vote. At the election held November 3, 1857, the constitution was adopted by a vote of 7195 ayes to 3195 nays. For slavery there were 2646 votes, against it, 7727.

In the same number of the Quarterly the celebrated "Free State" letter of George H. Williams is reprinted from the Oregon Statesman of July 28, 1857. Judge Williams had acted with the Democratic party, and continued to act with it till the outbreak of the gold fever. But since then he has been an anti-slavery man, and a distinguished pro-slavery section of the party; and in order to make himself fully understood by opponents, as well as by advocates of slavery, he published his notable free-state letter.

"NOT COMPETENCE, AND YET NOT WANT." The University of Kansas has lately been dealing through chapel lectures, with the "Ideal Home Life." Mr. J. D. Bowersock, of Lawrence, in a recent address to the student body of that vigorous Western institution, spoke upon this topic, and directly to the point. He held that the old-fashioned ideal of the home is not essential to happiness in the home, nor to the existence of a healthy well-governed family.

As to the matter of the division of the Democratic party on the slavery question, as it is reflected in this issue, it is a true transcript of the state of the question as then presented to most men's minds.

PROSPERITY'S FLOOD TIDE.

By a demonstration almost overwhelming in the proportions, the business interests of the country have again displayed implicit confidence in the principles and policy of the Republican party. Prior to election, the Republican claims that the election of Mr. Taft would be followed by an instantaneous revival of business were greeted with derision by most of the Democratic leaders of the country.

In all lines of industrial endeavor there is a feeling of buoyancy that is sweeping all skepticism aside and seems certain to result in greater prosperity than this country has ever known. But while partisan politics, as usual, figured quite extensively in the period of agitation for the formation of a Constitution and admission of Oregon into the Union, the article is an excellent representation and portrayal of the spirit of the times, in which it is written.

Every large city in the land has been called upon to make disposal in some sort of these disinterred human bones. Portland, though neither an old nor a great city, has already absorbed two cemeteries in a commercial and the other in a residential district; the confines of another are being pressed on every side by homes; sanitary considerations have already shown that burials therein should no longer be permitted.

Our local Democratic brethren profess to be content. And contentment is a great matter. One of them, reported yesterday by The Oregonian, said: "Even if Bryan is elected in the Presidential chair his policies will continue to be followed. The principles he has promulgated have been lived up to by Roosevelt, and I hope they will be followed by Roosevelt's successor. Here arises a puzzle. Mr. Bryan feigns his campaign by declaring himself Roosevelt's heir. Roosevelt had started the good work and Bryan would continue it."

While nobody can gainsay the truth of the statement that idle women are clogs upon the wheels of progress (the same, of course, being true of idle men), it is scarcely conceivable that Dr. Shaw would have taken it upon himself to make a public statement of the kind. He is a man of the distaff and the spindle, the hand loom and the dye pot, the churn dasher and the cheese press, in the name of personal liberty and political advancement.

Many of us, Dr. Shaw included, can remember the days when the prime of their industrial activities. Soft-voiced, gray-haired women they were, whose toll-hardened hands and faces early old bore witness to the years of strenuous endeavor that lay behind them; but was not their part as wealth-producers a silent one? Had any one ever think of women in those days as earners? Were not shelter and food and clothing, often of the most inferior quality, all that was deemed necessary in the way of material recompense for a day's work?

OLD CEMETERIES IN CITIES.

An argument in favor of cremation as against earth burial, that appeals strongly to the imagination, is that found every time an old burial ground is converted by the march of progress, to commercial uses. Bones of the unremembered dead are disinterred for excavations for foundations of great modern buildings, reinterred again without ceremony to be again removed to some other place.

The Japanese government has given notice to the local governors to prohibit the emigration of Japanese laborers to America and Hawaii. At the same time it is stated that emigration will be encouraged to Peru and Brazil. This policy will undoubtedly remove a considerable portion of the population that has been caused between Japan and the United States. This friction was caused by the aggressiveness of the Japanese laborers in crowding white men out of employment along the Pacific Coast.

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RULING PASSION OF MRS. ASTOR.

Did the Social Autocrat Get More Out of Life Than the Humble Mother? Kansas City Star. Mrs. Astor presented a very rare example of absorption in the gay concerns of this life at an age when the vast majority of women are content with such quiet comforts as the preservation of their health and faculties will permit them to enjoy.

It may be believed, nevertheless, that Mrs. Astor found delight and refreshment in paying this tribute to her proud position. She was, in essence, the power she wielded as a social leader and arbiter was doubtless as grateful to her as a great host of women who covet and attain in various public activities. She may even have found in the consciousness of her authority, a stimulus to the sort of interest that is reported yesterday by The Oregonian.

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GROWING USE OF STEEL.

It Will Largely Replace Wood in Railway and Other Construction. Iron Trade Review. There are about 35,000 miles of track owned by the public railroads. Ultimately 100,000 miles will have to be laid with 200,000 tons of steel rails.

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