# The Oregonian

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as tion Rates-Invariably in Advance ciption Rates—Invariably in Advance
(By Mail.)
Sanday included, one year. \$8.00
Sunday included, six months. 4.25
Sanday included, six months. 2.25
Sanday included, one months. 2.25
Sanday included, one months. 2.25
scillars Sunday, one year. 6.00
without Sunday, six months. 2.25
without Sunday, six months. 2.25
without Sunday, three menths. 1.35
without Sunday, one month. 4.00

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Sunday and Weekly, one year 2.50
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Daily Sunday included, one month. 75
Daily Sanday included, one month. 75
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Eastern Business Office The S. C. Beck-rith Special Agency—New York, rooms 48-a Tribune building Chicago, rooms 519-512 ribune building

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, DEC. 31, 1968.

#### SOUTHERN ITALY.

Earthquakes are an old story in Southern Italy. From the ancient days, almost a thousand years before Christ, when the Greeks came sailing across the mild Mediterranean to plant their colonies and build their cities along the coast of Calabria and Sicily, all down the centuries through the wars of Rome and Carthage, through the misrule of Roman governors, through the tyranny of Saracen and Norman, of Spaniard and Neapolitan, the people of that lovely and have suffered perpetually from human crucity while the happiness that man's inhumanity might have spared them has been blighted by the mysterious forces of nature. Throughout Calabria and Sicily the blessing and the curse of nature are strangely The climate permits the wrange and the palm to flourish. The courses of the streams are bordered in the balmy Summer months by tall thickets of blooming oleanders and on the mountain sides forests of verdant pines temper and perfume the breezes from the sea. The soil is of unparalleled fertility. plive flourishes, the vine bears luxuriantly, On the upland plains of Sicily the Romans fabled wheat to have been planted by the gods so well did it thrive and all through Roman times Sicily, with the Valley of the Nile, accounted the granary of the

The Greek cities planted in Calabria, which were supported mainly by agriculture, rose one after another to unprecedented power and magnificence. So great was the wealth of Sybaris that it has given a name to unrelned sensuality, and Crotona its greater rival, was famed throughout all the ancient world for salubrity of its air and the robust vigor of its men. In the Olympian games the wrestlers of Crotona were invariably victorious, and it was from that renowned city that Milo came. the strongest man of antiquity. Marvelous was the beauty of that old civilization where boundless wealth supported the arts and the intellect, where Pythagoras elaborated rules of life and invented his deathless theorem, where Zeuxis painted divinely and the chaste pillars of the were reared by architects whose glory might have excited the emulation of Phidias himself. Now the site of Sybaris is but a desolate stretch of sand. The salubrious air Crotona has been replaced by malarious vapors. On the fields where the agile Greeks reaped their abundant harvests Vergil's tristis lupinus, the dreary lupine, has alone survived, oked the sea nothing remains The avarice of rulers and the fury of perpetual earthquakes have wrought the ruin of the fairest part of the

Classical literature is full of allu-Sicilian earthquakes. There was an old tale that one of them in prehisoric times had formed the Straits of Messina, which run in a narrow channel between Sielly and Italy. sea, says Vergil, who collected all these legends and used them in his verse, the sea broke in between the island and the mainland by violence, 'venit medio vi pontus." A little way from the foaming straft Mount Aetna its summit ten thousand feet into the sky, never entirely free from volcanie violence, often in furious eruption. To the north in the serene Summer sea lies Stromboll, another which is always crowned with a halo of flame and still farther northward Vesuvius towers, some times quiescent, sometimes suddenly bursting into destructive fury. From these volcanoes, with their mysterious terror of interior fire, the ancients strowed their conception of Tartarus which has come down to us as the take of fire and brimstone. Under Acina the lively Sicilians of the Greek period fabled that the giant Encelatus lay buried and it was the heavlogs of his mighty frame which surrounding earth to tremble

Still the desolation of Calabria and the savagery of Sicilian life are due more to evils of absentee landlordism volcano. Whenever the people have not been ulterly plundered they have nestled even on the flanks of the flaming mountains, planting the olive and the vine on the edges of the lava streams, and nature mingling kindliness with her ferocity has abundantly blessed their toll. spite of all its serrows Sicily has always been a populous island and ar various times it has been the home of a brilliant civilization. Lovers of literature will not forget that it was the home of Theocritus, Tennyson's greater master, nor of Empedocles, who ranks with the giants of metaphysics, nor of Archimedes, the father of natural philosophy. But life in that enchanting iste has never been from the sudden violence earthquakes, and the same is true of the bordering mainland. There was a hideous one in 1783, which destroyed the little city of Scilla on the straits of Messina. The Inhabitants ran from their houses to the shore, as they did at Lisbon, and camped there to pass the night, when sudmountain fell into the sea, the waters gathered into a mighty wave which swept over the crowded people and gathered them all, four thousand in tumber, into a common grave. famous eruption of Vesuvius, which destroyed the cities of Herculaneum and Pompell, is the best known of all these fearful phenomena, but it was probably not by any means the most

Perpetually threatened as it is by earthquakes, one is tempted to ask

tory supplies the answer. That which hath been shall be again, and that which is now hath been before. The awful destruction of this shock will be forgotten like those which pre-ceded it. The pensants will continue to drive their primitive plows across the fields and the landlords will continue to rob them, even as they have done through all recorded time, and the treacherous kindness of nature will in a few decades cover with verdure every trace of her cruel work. Then the tragedy will be repeated.

#### HELP FOR ITALY.

The catastrophe in Italy is one that calls for the sympathy of the whole It would seem that most of those not dead are destitute. Towns, cities and country are ruined. The copie must have help. No such catastrophe as this has been recorded since authentic history began. Possi-bly there was greater destruction of property at San Francisco, but there was little loss of life and few, comparatively, were left destitute.

It is the duty of the world now to succor the unfortunate people of Southern Italy. In Oregon, as elsewhere, the work has begun, receive the support of all who sympathize with suffering humanity. Such, indeed, include all our people, and in such emergency all will be glad to help.

THE FINCH TRIAL. The presumption is, of course, that awyers know better than laymen how o try their cases. Still when a lawyer makes such an exhibition of himself as Mr. C. F. Lord did in his closing argument for Finch, and indeed throughout the entire trial, laymen cannot help expressing surprise and asking pertinent questions. which presents itself insistently is this: Would not a really effective criminal lawyer have accomolished more with the jury in a single hour of condensed and pointed oratory than Mr. Lord did in his seven hours of diffuse and wearisome repetitions? Is the effect on the jury's minds strictly proportionate to the time a lawyer consumes in spouting at them? Does he not by prolonging his argument beyond all reason produce an effect directly contrary to the one he wishes? Even granting sound basis of fact and reason, which it did not, it seems pretty clear to the lay observer that the conduct of his lawyers would have destroyed its power to win belief.

Evidently the lawyers who were employed by Finch to conduct his deense took Ruef's attorneys for their models. From the beginning of the trial they spared no effort to interse senseless delays, to make much of trifles, to gain time by all sorts of tricks and deceptions. It is not of course known that they actually helped Finch invent a false story of the murder he had committed, but there was a good deal in the trial which suggested something of the kind. Whoever invented it, the tale was unskillful to the last degree. is wonderful that four lawyers, after putting their heads together, should have relied upon such a flimsy fabrication in preference to the tried and true device of insanity; but very likely Finch's defenders used the best judgment they had, and, if they falled in the realm of fiction, probably it was more from innate lack of the novelist's gift than from lack of practice

Miss Burkhart saw the murder committed and described it straightforward and convincing man-No man in his senses could have doubted for a moment that she was telling the truth. More than that, both the circumstances of the affair and of the beautiful temples which and the accounts of two or three trustworthy witnesses confirmed her this the defense had the hardihood to go to the jury with a tale which directly contradicted Miss Burkhart and two reputable physicians, to say nothing of other persons. It involved the introduction of a seal which was proved to have been locked in drawer at the time of the murder. It gave the lie to the fact that Fisher must have been shot while he sat in where he did; and it required an extremely improbable explanation of Finch's reason for buying the revolver which he shot Fisher with.

> Adept artists in mendacity would have done a better piece of work than It would have been far safer, considering their abilities in fiction if Finch's lawyers had relied upon in-Evidently that was the intention. Finch actually feigned for some time after the murder that he remembered nothing about it. His mind was all a blank from the time he bought the revolver till the officers had him in handcuffs. Had he persisted in this invention and hired a truly skillful band of lawyers and inunity experts to deploy it before the jury, there is no telling what might have happened. Finch might have been cleared and a new precedent set in the idiotic annals of American that Finch's original idea of his defense was dropped and the silly figment of an assault by Fisher substi-

> tuted for it? looks a little ominous that Finch's lawyers should so openly have taken the Ruef array for their models. The unavoidable conclusion from it is that the nefarious arts of Ach and his colleagues are now to be repeated; according to the ability of counsel, in every criminal trial in the land. There are to be endless delays in selecting jurymen, everlasting wrangles over evidence, even the judge on the bench is to be deluged with billingsgate and opposing witnesses are to be spirited away. interesting to speculate where those lawyers who are willing to drop every vestige of decency and consciwhen they go into court will fix the limit of their efforts for their clients Of course an accused man ought to have every advantage which he can

> derive from a fair statement of his case, from all the evidence he can muster, from the watchful vigilance of counsel and from a reasonable appeal to the fury's heart. This we all concede. But there, it truly seems, the lawyers' labors for the man on trial ought to come to an end. They ought not to feel obliged to advise him to perjure himself, nor is it their duty to invent fictitious defenses for him. But if they must invent, let them in all conscience inject some little semblance of verisimilitude into

their figments. To an unprejudiced outsider there is not the slightest doubt of Finch's Beyond all question he committed a murder for which he richly But granting that, deserves hanging. it also looks to the outsider as if his defense had been budly planned and inartistically conducted. It really appears as if imitation of Ruef's lawyers were not to be the winning play in good will of her neighbors hitherto. whether Calabria will not presently a

be abandoned by human beings? His- future criminal trials. Perhaps our next murder case may show that the lawyers themselves are of this opinion.

# LOOK FOR THE 1909 ANNUAL.

It has been for many years the custom of The Oregonian to Issue an Annual number on each New Year's day. It has been uniformly a record of progress. No important interest or industry has been neglected. It has been the purpose always to present to the world the story of Portland and Oregon in its most favorable light. Thousands of copies are every distributed throughout the United States and in foreign countries, so that the Annual has become probably the best-known and the most important medium through which information as to this great country and its people is spread abroad.

Formerly the Annual was largely made up of articles on various topics about Oregon; but, with the perfection of newspaper illustration, pictures have come to dominate the edition. Now The Oregonian, which reproduces photographs and drawings as well as any newspaper anywhere, and better than most, is about to send out an Annual that in that respect greatly excels any previous number. The text, too, is various, intelligent, timely, very readable and highly instructive, the Annual being largely edited by a number of writers who are well known throughout Oregon and who have been successful in their several lines of endeavor, and therefore know what they are writing about.

The Oregonian commends the Annual for 1909, to be issued tomorrow, to the public, with entire confidence that it will contain no disappointments, but will indeed be far above the mark of any previous Annual.

#### VAIN QUESTIONS.

The Oregonian prints today a letter from Albee, Or., which is typical of many others. The writer of it, S. S. Smith, is evidently a schoolboy who has an essay to write or a debate to prepare for, and instead of seeking the information he needs in books of reference he writes to The Oregonian. Questions of wide interest or whose answers are difficult to obtain The Oregonian gladly receives and spares no pains to print correct replies to them, but young Smith's questions are neither interesting nor difficult. The answers to them, so far as they have definite answers, can be found in dozens of reference books, and schoolboys should be trained to look them up

for themselves. Some of young Smith's questions can be answered in as many different ways as there are different persons in the world, and one way is just as correct as another. To one man the most "important event" of the past year may have been his marriage, to another the election of Mr. Taft. all depends. Our schoolboy friend asks for eight "most important" events all together. Most important If he means the events to whom? which will be remembered a thousand years from now, we do not know what they are. Perhaps one of them was the birth of some babe in a workingman's cottage.

# THE WARNING OF LORD ROBERTS.

Napoleon could not invade England, because he could not command the sea. Steam was unknown at that time, else he would have been able invade England. He could have detained the great war fleet of England at one point, while throwing hi men by transports across the English Channel at another. Steam power, in the hands of such a man, at such time, would have changed the face of the world. But conditions have so changed

since that day that Lord Roberts has produced consternation in his country by the declaration that England might now be invaded, because the sea is no longer securely hers, and her principal war fleet might be detained at one point by a force able to match it, while a great army might be passed over into England, at some other point; and England has no land force able to resist such invasion The result of the argument is that England requires a large standing army, as well as a great fleet. The statement has produced a sen

sation in England. It discloses a condition or situation undoubtedly true. The London Times says that Roberts has "issued to his country men a grave and reasoned warning of the perils they incur by their un preparedness to resist invasion." the forces that might be summoned on English soil would be unable to make a stand against 200,000 men from Germany or France, under perfect discipline as an army. Napoleon knew it well, and it was this knowledge that led him to the plan of the invasion of England. But he could not command the sea; vessels then without steam, could not move with celerity and certainty; he could not detain the main war fleet of England in one locality, while he was passing his troops over in a single night by transports at another. But this undoubtedly might be done now, by power that was relatively equal to that which Napoleon possessed a cen-

It should not have required the statement of Lord Roberts to show to Englishmen the real danger of the present and the future time. there are only a few who are observ ant and reflective, who have grasp of the past, through historic time, and of the possibilities of the future, through changes constantly in progby introduction of new and their use. Yet it is certain that England now is in greater danger of invasion than she ever has been since the Norman conquest. The only sure protection will be a large and perfeetly disciplined army, equal to any that might be landed by an enemy Such army can, of course, be provided only by the methods of conscription employed on the continent of Europe To assume that England never again will have any powerful continental enemy would be short-sighted indeed. disciplined army of two hundred thousand men, landed in England, could not be opposed without an army equal in discipline and numbers; and a Napoleon to engage and detain the naval power of England, till from another point he could land such a force in a day and night. Lord Roberts did not mistake. The conditions are no longer what they were a century ago. Great Britain has not relied on the

She cannot rely on it hereafter. It will be necessary for her to have an army for defense, as well as a navy. The speech of Lord Roberts, in the House of Lords, is the first note of a policy that Great Britain certainly will find it necessary to adopt. Perhaps not very soon; but it is inevit-Yet it might be postponed till able. oo late to save the country from conquest.

The Mayor appears to believe that the Portland General Electric can be orced to supply light for the city, without a contract, from month to month, till the city can work up some scheme to compete with it or to shut But the Portland General wants a time contract, so it may have assurance of something to go on, for improvements and extensions; and it objects to being used as an instrument for breaking itself down. This, simply stated, is the present issue as to tion is, what is a fair price for the light? That should be granted and paid; and one thing is certain, namely, that a city light plant never can supply light at as low a rate as contractors can and will. The whole city and county government, under public direction, costs more than twice as much as an equal amount of business costs, or would cost, in private hands. But then we have that imaginary thing we call self-govern-ment. For support of this fiction the people submit to miserable service and prodigious extortion.

The holiday weakness predicted for the Chicago wheat market has utterly failed to materialize, and the old year drifts out today with the May option well above \$1.08 per bushel, while \$1 is bid for wheat for delivery next July. Meanwhile corn and oats are holding their own and selling at the highest prices that have been reached in years. The speculative deal of Mr. Patton is credited with responsibility for much of the strength in these markets, but, whatever the cause may be, there is no questioning the fact that the producer can market his remaining stocks of wheat, corn and oats at prices far above the average recent years. For this reas much as the honest farmer may deprecate the principle of corners, he will to approve of the one fail which Mr. Patton seems to be working up to such a successful climax Chicago is not the only point in the country where dollar wheat is in evi dence, for an entire cargo was cleared at this valuation in Portland yesterday.

It is but natural that so many of our American cities should endeavor by all possible means to escape the evils which are thrust on them by the chair-warming brigades which clutter up the salary rolls with their names and the public offices with their un-needed presence. Municipal ownership, however, might increase instead of decreasing the burden. Different cities throughout the country have tried different branches of the work, and the results are far from satisfacory. After a ten years' trial, Boston is about to abandon its municipal printing plant, the city having squandered in that decade about \$1,000,000 in doing its own printing. The plant is now in charge of a competent man but he recommends its sale and that the work be done by contract. This expert declines to stay permanently for the reason that the office is drifting back into the hands of the pollticians and will be run in the interest of themselves and their friends.

The French court has denied the petition of Count Boni de Castellane that the custody of his three sons be given to his mother, and by the de-cision the children will remain in the custody of their mother. There are plenty of instances where indescribably vile sons have had the best of mothers, and the case of the unfortu-nate mother of Count Boni may be one of these. For all that, the French court did not seem to deem it advisable that the innocent children should emain in the custody of a family which had been so thoroughly disgraced by the acts of one of its members. The court, however, must have been sore perplexed over its inability to take the children out of the custody of either of their unspeakably indecent parents.

The moderately warm dispute be ween the city police and the Sheriff's office as to which had the genuine trainrobbers may be considered set-tled. The men captured by Sheriff Stevens and his deputies have pleaded gullty and have been sentenced to the Penitentiary for long terms. is not yet two weeks since Burke and Hayes, with a third man, held up the O. R. & N. train, and their capture, securing the evidence and speedy co. viction is a piece of work that is highly creditable to Sheriff Stevens and

It is reported from Washington, and it is generally believed there, that President Roosevelt in his answer to the House of Representatives for a statement of the grounds on which he based his intimation that members of Congress feared investigation by the men of the secret service, will embody a statement of the work of Chief John E. Wilkie's force, and an argument in support and defense of it. This would make "mighty interestin readin'."

No one asks the execution of the aw upon a murderer for revenge. one "wants his blood." But protection of the members of a community against murderers is possible only by enforcement of the law against murder. There is justice, too; but it is not vengeance.

Of course, if it had been unlawful for Mr. Dunbar to collect fees, as Secretary of State, it would also have been unlawful for members of the Oregon Supreme Court to collect more than their constitutional salaries That would have been the height of absurdity.

candidate for the Senate. In that pody he would only embarrass his brother, the President. Every one can see how and why. The "insanity" dodge was omitted in the Finch trial. It would not do

But The Oregonian is really sorry

that Charles P. Taft persists in being

for anybody connected with the crazy Finch defense to make insanity admissions. The office of District Attorney and the compensations thereof "looked good" to Mr. Cameron when he was

running for the office. The New Year is considerably behind this Spring weather.

Now for the water wagen,

OREGON MUST ACT AS ONE MAN. Only Hope of Getting a Rivers and Har-

bors Bill Through This Session. PORTLAND Dec 30 .- (To the Editor.)-From the best information I can get, I learn the passage of a rivers and harbors bill at this session of Congress is very doubtful unless the people of the country generally make their wishes known so effectively that Congress will be compelled, in defer-ence to public opinion, to pass this measure. This matter is a serious one for this state and the entire Northwest

and the people generally must interest themselves in the subject. Unless there is a rivers and harbors bill passed at this session of Congress, all the work now in progress in this state and in Washington and in Idaho and throughout the country will cease for lack of funds before the next regular session of Congress. What this means in addition to the cost of the work, besides the loss attendant on the delay, destruction by the elements, ar public lighting. Meantime, the question is, what is a fair price for the light? That should be granted and everyone and is a condition which the people of this country should not sub mit to. With the stoppage of all work now under way, surveying or adopting new projects will also be nece sarily postponed. It is practically out of the question for any one project to be made the subject of a particular

bill and receive any recognition.

A general bill is the only sure re With the fallure of Congres to act this session we will have reverted to a triennial river and harbebill instead of an annual bill and or of the greatest and most important Governmental subjects will receive atention only when everything else, or little, is provided for. If, therefore the people of this state feel that the ovement of their harbors and their rivers is of importance and that the work should continue, then everyne that is interested in should write to the Senators and Con gressmen from this state and insist far as this state is concerned. the passage of a rivers and harborn bill at this session.

The duty of calling the attention of our representatives at Washington to our condition and to our necessities does not devolve upon any one man, but every commercial body in this state and every individual should make his

I therefore trust that this appeal will meet with a ready response, and that the people generally will take action if every other state in the Union in terested in rivers and harbors improve ments would do likewise, there would be no question but that there would be a rivers and harbors bill this session. but as this is the short session of Con gress and will adjourn March 4, and at the outside there will not be to exceed 60 days within which to prepare and pass a bill through both houses the necessity for immediate action is apparent. A. H. DEVERS, apparent One of the Directors of National Rivers

and Harbors Congress for the Pacific

# WORDS OF CAUTION.

Which Are Just as Good for Portland as for Any Other City. Opposing the scheme of public owner

ship and operation of municipal light ng proposed in its city, the Tacom ledger offers these remarks, which might be commended to Mayor Lane and his followers in Portland-if he has any:

has any:

City-owned water plants fall much less frequently than city-owned light plants, for the reason that the machinery of a water plant is less complex and less skill is required in management. In the case of a water plant a city has the material ready for distribution. Water does not have to be generated. Gravity or artificial pressure carries it through the mains to the concumer. Electricity must be generated. Breatuse of new inventions machinery is likely to become out of date in a few years and new squipment is required if a plant is to keep step with progress. Capable men are necessary to keep a light plant modern and efficient. The service of the city-owned plant in Seattle is condemned for inefficiency. The politiciam have interfered to find positions for their lieutenants. The city suffers the consequences.

condemned for have mistered to find positions for their lieutenants. The city suffers the consequences.

When the business of a city-owned plant goes wrong, who shall be blamed? The city? There is not much confort to be had in blaming the city of which you are a citizen. The superintendent may reply, in answer to posmplaints, that the city has falled to provide sufficient money to maintain the plant in good condition and handlied to appropriate for new equipment at the generating plant that would save in the cost of making electricity. The blame is shifted from one place to another. After all, it rests upon the shoulders of the general public. As the National Civic Federation report observes, a high capacity for self-government is required to make public operation a success.

There have been many failures of city-owned electric light plants. Can Tacoma operate a plant for generating electricity more successfully than the average American city?

Certainly it does appear unwise for the city, without a fuller understanding in the minds of the people, to venture into an enterprise involving an investment of \$2,000,000 at year. A man of ordinary discretion and hundness judgment, if he is honest, figures out to a reasonable cortainty how he is going to pay it back before he borrows money to make an improvement. The Tacoma Council appears to be trusting largely to luck for the members are sadiy deficient in information about the practical financial workings of the proposed plant. And just here is one of the phases of public operation that is worthy of the consideration of voters. The average Councilman is less careful about handling his own.

Lincoln the Head Great Heart.

# Lincoln the Ideal Great Heart.

From a Chicago Special Great Heart, who appears in the second part of John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," is President Roosevelt's favorite character in allegorical literature. "Pilgrim's Progress" itself, the President considers one of the greatest books ever written, and Abraham Lincoln he deems the ideal "Great Heart" of public life. The President says in a letter to the Rev. Duncan C. says in a letter to the Rev. Duncan C. Milner, a retired Presbyterian minister, written in reply to one by Dr. Milner asking for verification of words on the same subject attributed to Mr. Roose velt.

The President's letter follows: The President's letter follows:

Nov. 36, 1908.—My Dear Mr. Milner: Yes
you are entirely right. But I had no ide
that what I said was being reported. Great
Heari is my favorite character in alleger
(which is. of course, a oranch of action
as you say), just as Bunyan's "Pilgrin'
Progress" is to my mind one of the great
est books that ever was written; and
think that Abraham Lincoln is the idea
Great Heart of public life. Sincerely yours
THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

#### Keeping Within the Limit. Harper's Weekly.

Mrs. Justwed—Oh, dear, dear! Mary, since you've been here—only one month —you've broken more china than your wages amount to. How on earth are we to prevent this sort of thing? -Well, mum, I moight have me wages raised.

Emotions Aroused by Chancellor Day. Washington Herald. The Rochester Herald admits that Chancellor Day may have a look-Washington after the African hunting trip is well under way, but not before This engenders within our hearts emotions entirely defying analysis,

#### One Regretful Phase of a Loss. Washington Post

Wall street will not be sorry to see Thomas F. Ryan retire from business but it will be mighty sorry to see him carrying away \$50,000,000 of real

# Washington Post.

No, the Spanish newspapers didn't issue extras when they heard the United States had risen to be the second naval power in the world. It was not news.

# SCYLLA AND CHARYBDIS

Southern Italy, the Scene of the Recent Frightful Earthquakes.

But when she suck'd the sait wave down

again,
Then, all the pool appeard wheeling about

Within, the rock rebellow'd, and the sea Drawn off into that sulph disclosed to view The coay bottom. Us pale horror seized.

Thus, dreading death, with fast-set eyes we

Charybdis; meantime, Scylla from the bark

Caught six away, the bravest of my friends; And as I watching stood the gulley's course

Their legs and arms I saw. My name aloud Pronouncing in their agony, they went,

My name, and never to pronounce it more. As when from some beld point among the

Casts forth his bait to snare the smaller fry,

So Scylla raised them struggling to the

And at her cavern's mouth devour'd them

Shrieking and stretching forth to me their

In sign of hopeless mis'ry. Ne'er beheld These eyes in all the seas that I have

THIRD PART.

through, and soon landed on Trinacria,

the Island where grazed the sacred cat-

tle of the Sun, which Odysseus had

been warned not to let his people

touch; but he, falling asleep, and they,

obeyed the injunction and feasted on

the sacred oxen. Horrified when he

awoke, he got his people on board and

set sall as son as possible; and this is

Appearing none, but sky alone and sea. Right o'er the bollow bark Saturnian Jave A blue cloud station'd, dark'ning all the

Deep. Not long my vessel ran, for, blowing wild,

Now came shrill Zephyrus; a stormy gust Snapp'd sheer the shrouds on both aldes;

The mast, and with loose tackle strew'd the

Striking the pilot in the stern, it crush'd

His scull together; he a diver's plunge Made downward, and his noble spirit fied.

Then Jove, still thund'ring, hurl'd into the

ship. His candent bolts; she, qualiting all her

With sulphur reek'd, and o'er her shatter'd

My people, plunging, on the boist'rous

Like sea-mews rode, forbidden by that

Of wrath divine to hope their country more.

Till sever'd by the storm her planks and

Snapp'd where it join'd the keel the mast had fall'n,

Which it retain'd; hinding with this the

Borne helpiess onward by the dreadful gale

And now the West subsided, and the South Arose instead, with mie'ry charged for me.

That I might measure back my course

To dire Charybdis. All night long I drove.

And when the sun aross, at Scylla's rool Once more, and at Charpbdis' guiph serived

It was the fearful time when she absorb'd

selzed the branches of the wild-fig fast,

My foot secure found not, or where to

For distant lay the roots, and distant shot

The largest arms erect into the air, O'erehadowing all Charybdis; therefore hard

They came, though late; for at what ho

After decision made of num'rous strifes Between young candidates for honour,

The forum for refreshment's sake at home, Then was it that the mast and kee

Fast by those beams I dash'd into the flood

And seated on them both, with eary paims impell'd them; nor the Sire of Gods and

Nine days I floated, and the Gods, at

On the tenth night, the beams which I be

Drove to Ogygla, where the beauteous

My want of all things. But let this suffice. Whate'er casued, thy royal spouse and thou Learn'd yesterday; and, to rehearse a tale

Calypso dwells; she pitied and supplied

So lately told, were wearlsome and vain.

Permitted Scylla to discern me more, Else, in that moment, had I surely died.

clench'd the boughs, till she disgorg'd

The briny flood, but by a wave up

fix

again

the Judge.

emerged.

strode

Nymph

Deliver'd to a voluntary fall

Fo which, bat-like, I clung; yet wh

But I, the vessel still paced to and fro,

ribs Porsook the keel now left to float alone.

But fell encircled with a leathern brace,

And keel together, on them both I sat,

The island left afar, and other land

at the point of perishing for food, dis

With loss of six the hero passed

A sight so pitcous, nor in all my tells.

jerks aground at once the struggling

The angler, with his taper rod in hand,

He swings away remote his guarded line.

And then within, uplifted high in air

watch'd

rocks

prey.

arms

roun'd.

what happened:

backward fell

length,

aldes

waves

stroke

Always from the beginning of human | On both those rocky summits fell in history, and ages before the present records of human history began, the southern part of Italy has been known, through song and story, as subject to terrors and cataclysmic disasters. On the opposite sides of the Strait of Messina were dreaded Scylla and Charybdis. There was no conception of the order of nature; everythingwind, volcano, violence of sea and earthquake was supposed to depend on the will of the gods-one or another. Odysseus (Ulysses), striving to lead his companions home after the capture of Troy, had passed through immeasureable dangers and was approaching the dreaded place between Trinacria and Calabria. The Goddess Circe, over whose magic Odysseus had prevailed, and from which he had delivered his companions, had given him warning against the dangers of Scylla and Charybdis. The verses that follow are from the Twelfth Book of Homer's

Odyssey; translation by William Cowper; CIRCL'S WARNING TO ODYSSEUS. Here vaulted rocks impend, for ever dash'd By the hourse billows of the agure Deep The blessed Gods those rocks, Erratic, call even birds can pass them; not the

Themselves which his ambrosia bear to Jove. But even of those doves the slipp'ry rock Proves fatal still to one, for which the God Supplies another, lest the number fall. thip never yet, arriving there, escaped,

Or, caught by flery tempests, swept away. The Argo only from the Colchian shore Pass'd safely, further'd by the vows of all And even her perhaps rude winds had driv'n against those bulky rocks, but Juno's aid

But planks and mariners are whelm'd at

Youchsafed to Jason sent her safe along. These rocks are two: one lifts his summi aharp. High as the spacious heavens, in ducky

Enveloped which nor Autumn sees dis pers'd Summer, for the sun shines never Nor

No mortal man, with twice ten feet sup-And were his hands as num'rous, might attain

Its tow'ring head, or to its base descend,

For smoothness such it shows, as if by Of some nice artist polish'd all around. Full in the center of its western side, Turn'd toward Erebus, a cavern yawns Gloomy and deep; beneath it ye shall steer Ulysses, glorious Chief! your flying bark

No youth could send an arrow from o High as its horrid mouth. There Scylla dwells,
And like a wild-beast's whelp of late re

nounced By its fierce dam, with hungry whinings fille Her deep recess, a monster to be view'd With terrour even by the Gods themselves

Her feet are twelve, all fore-feet; six her necks Of hideous length, each clubb'd into a head Terrifick, arm'd with fangs in triple row. Thick-planted, and with carnage fill'd be

Plunged to her middle in the hollow den She lurks, protruding from the black abysi Her heads, with which the ravining monster

dives In quest of dolphins, dog-fish, or of prey More bulky, such as in the roaring gulphs Of Amphitrite without end abounds. None ever bossted yet that he had pass'd Her cavern safely, for with ev'ry mouth She bears upcaught a mariner away. The other rock, Ulysses, thou shalt find On this a wild fig grows broad-leav'd, and

here Charybdis dire ingulphs the sable flood Each day she thrice disgorges, and again Thrice drinks, insatiable, the deluge down Ah, fear her Then! for should thy bark approach What time she drinks the billows, not the

Of Neptune's self could rescue thee and Steer, therefore, close to Scylla, and thy

Urge swiftly on since loss of six alone Is better far than shipwreck made of all.

SECOND PART. They had passed the Sirens safely and had come to the terrible passage between the vaulted rocks.

For here stood Scylla, while Charybdia With hearse throat deep absorb'd the briny

Oft as she vomited the deluge forth, Like water cauldron'd o'er a furious fire The whirling Deep all murmur'd, and the ubinh.

MILTON, Or., Dec. 29 .- (To the Ed-

the mind of the undersigned, what good

did Voltaire accomplish? I am sure the

world is the better for his having lived

and written. It is well to judge Vol-taire by the conditions which confront-

ed him, and which conditions exasper ated him into a voice sometimes speak

ing wrong things, but often uttering truths to regenerate the society of

against the progressive tendencies of society, and the rule of Louis XIV was

absolute, as was the sway of the church. The victims of sore oppression

Voltaire saw and pitied, and if he de-famed Joan of Arc, he sprung to the

defense of the family of Calas. To counteract the work of a stationary

church, superstition, intolerance and

absolutism of kingly rule Voltaire went too far, and became the victim of his

own prejudice and shortsightedness, but

he burned up much rubbish in need of

As long as fanatics and hypocrites

abound God has some work for the

Voltaires, the Paines and the Inger-

the bigot. If Voltaire was willing to become a black crow to light upon un-

buried carcasses, I do not object, so

far as that kind of service is con-

cerned. Voltaire stood for toleration

and liberty, and Franklin, easily the first all-round citizen of early America,

begged Voltaire to put his hand of

blessing upon the head of his grandsor

France today is a republic, and we ought to keep in mind that Voltaire, while making France acquainted with Shakespeare. whose name was unknown by her most intelligent citizens,

he did a greater work in introducing France to Magna Charta and to tolera-

tion he witnessed in England. Voltaire

Revolution that have burned out

omewhere, and his prose stands learness and quickness, quali

every nation of Europe.

helped to light the fires of the French

tyrannies, not only in France, but in

As a writer he was on his way

clearness and quickness, qualities which have lifted the prose of France to a higher level than that of Eng-

The infidel whips the back of

removal.

solis.

modern Europe. The church

The Great Agitator Burned Up Much Rubbish in Need of Removal.

ble collection of books is Voltaire's "History of Charles XII, King of Sweden." and along with that classic we may put his "The Age of Louis New May be a support of the collection of books is Voltaire's "History of Charles XII, King of Sweden." and along with that classic we may put his "The Age of Louis New May be a support of the collection of books is Voltaire's "History of Charles XII, King of Sweden." and along with that classic we may put his "The Age of Louis New May be a support of the collection of books is Voltaire's "History of Charles XII, King of Sweden." and along with that classic we may put his "The Age of Louis New May be a support of the collection of books is Voltaire's "History of Charles XII, King of Sweden." and along with that classic we may put his "The Age of Louis New May be a support of the collection of books is Voltaire's "History of Charles XII, King of Sweden." and along with that classic we may put his "The Age of Louis New May be a support of the collection of the XIV." and the "Essay on Manners." Let me give the readers of The Oregonias tor.)-A recent contribution to The Oregonian about the bad done by

a few of Voltaire's sentences: "It is to him who masters our minds Voltaire has raised the question in by the force of truth, not those who enslave men by violence; It is to him who understands the those who disfigure it, that we owe our reverence

"All nature is nothing but mathe-

"Most men die without having lived." "Controversy never convinced any man; men can be influenced by making them think for themselves, by seeming to doubt with them, by leading them as if by the hand, without their perceiving 't."

"Miracles are good; but to relieve a brother, to draw a friend from the depths of misery, to pardon the virtues of our enemies-these are greater mirneles." B. J. HOADLEY.

# 'A Difference la Degree.

Everybody's Magazine.
"I just love cake," said Johnnie, feel-"It's awful nice." You should not say 'love' cake," corrected his mother. "You should say 'like.' And do not say 'awful' — say 'very.' And say 'good' instead of 'nice.' Now see if you can repeat the sentence

"I like cake," repeated Johnnie. "It's very good."
"That's better."

"I know, ma." complained Johnnie, "but it sounds just as if I was talkin' bout bread."

Being a Letter Answered Elsewhere. ALBEE, Or., Dec. 28.—(To the Editor.)

—Please answer the following questions:

Name five of the most important events that have happened during Roo velt's administration. most important events during the past year. (3) Give the names of the members of President's Cabinet. (4) Names of

#### S. S. SMITH Why Should He Exchange?

the principal cities in Oregon

Hartford Times It isn't easy to understand why Charles P. Taft should wish to exchange a powerful editorship for land. A highly-prized book in my hum- mere Senatorship.