

The Oregonian

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Portland, Friday, August 16, 1912.

NEW YORK'S MORAL SPASM.

New York in one of its periodical spasms of moral reformation always presents an edifying spectacle to the country. These seasons of grace occur to the city as a whole, after an unusually wild spree, is quite likely to shudder at the thought of his sins for a day or two and make vehement resolutions of amendment which he forgets the next morning, or as soon as his head stops aching.

After a few days it came to light that the crime had been concocted by high police officials to punish the gambler for exposing their alliance with the gambling brotherhood. Just how high the lines of the alliance stretched was not quite certain, but the farther they were traced the farther they ran.

We do not pretend to say how deep New York's moral reformation is likely to go this time, but judging from the past, we see no reason to expect it to be very profound or very lasting. The metropolis loves to pose as a moral guide and censor for the rest of the country and the fit performance of that role requires an aspect of decency which is never recovered by a decorous series of shrieks and shudders over the Rosenthal murder.

There is no moral reason why a shopgirl should not wear diamonds as well as Mrs. Astor. The only problem for her to solve is how to get them. When she solves it she does it by selling her virtue, just as the fine lady above her in the social scale sold herself to a millionaire husband.

The barber who is happy until he has the money to gamble with like the man he shaves and massages. It comes to him in the form of tips which grow more extravagant every day with his increasing greed and the swelling vanity of his customers.

Among the significant events to take place in Portland next summer will be the World's Christian Citizenship Conference. It will be held from June 29 to July 6 and it is expected that a number of well-known men will participate in its discussions.

from the official announcement, is to discuss a variety of social questions, but "only" those of a distinctly Christian character. It appears that views dissident from this position will not be welcome.

The circular announcement from which we gather these points fore-shadows more or less clearly what some of the purposes of the meeting are. For example we read "the constitution of the Christian nations do not always avowedly declare the sacred sources from which they derive their authority."

Again the announcement declares that "all earthly authority banks up against the divine, which alone is pre-emptive." This might be interpreted to mean that the church is superior to the state and that civil authority is derived from revelation.

STREETCAR SERVICE.

The people of Portland are not demanding a 3-cent streetcar fare. What they want and will have is service from the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company. The 3-cent stand-up ordinance of the City Council is little short of ridiculous.

Now the Kellaher-Daly-Clyde outfit gives us an impossible 3-cent stand-up ordinance. The public does not want to stand in streetcars on any terms. It wants service, but for a laborer, his crowd we should have had it now.

THE ANGEL PERKINS.

Representative Stanley gave to Congress Tuesday a few interesting and salient facts as to the activities of Mr. George W. Perkins, financier, during the service of Mr. Roosevelt as President, and subsequently.

There it is, bluntly set forth, except that to the impartial and curious historian is left the task of building up around this structure of bald biographical detail the story of the Perkins contributions to past Roosevelt administrations.

Mr. Roosevelt now calmly presents Mr. Perkins as the chairman of the Roosevelt executive committee. Dr. Hays says that Perkins is the great progressive leader, with a progressive record extending over two or three long and turbulent months, says in five years Mr. Perkins will be the best-loved man in America.

THE LITTLE HERO TO MILLIONS.

Less than two days old and worth millions. Casual judgment would put the Astor baby down as a most fortunate arrival in this world of many aspects. The baby's great good fortune is that he is the son of a man who has effectively shielded him from the specters of future want.

parts that protect him from future extremity also hem him in from participation in the glorious battle that is life. When he graduates from the army of nurses and private physicians and tutors which will escort him through the delicious days of childhood, there is to be a vocational day in seven; education and with many of the family and with many others of equal importance and timeliness.

Perhaps we would better save our envy for the normal course of life in all its wonderful possibilities and detectable uncertainties. For if the young Astor should escape from the cramped and prearranged existence of the idle rich, he would only be the exception that proves the rule.

WOODROW WILSON'S ACCEPTANCE.

Woodrow Wilson's speech of acceptance is commended by newspapers of all parties, but by each for a different cause. Democrats praise it for its democracy, Republicans for its moderation and freedom from radicalism, Progressives for its progressiveness, and few find serious fault with it.

It will sound formidable and threatening to some. But there is nothing of the kind in it. It is a speech of a man who is not a demagogue. When he comes to speak of remedial measures, we hear the words "and we will not do anything that will take time and must be born of something more than a theory."

True in spirit and temper and sound in principle are the terms applied to the speech by the Indianapolis News, which calls attention to the fact that both Wilson and Taft, in their discussion of issues, limit themselves to those with which the National Government has to do.

The meteoric shower which is about due now will be unusually brilliant because the nights are moonless. The little objects travel through space in the New York sky at an angle of about 45 degrees at this season of the year.

Elmer M. Hartnell has done pretty well in the way of a criminal record "even for a minister's son." He is "wanted" in three different cities, which means that he is not wanted in any of them.

Study of scriptural quotations in some of our esteemed contemporaries forces one to the melancholy conclusion that an energetic course at Sunday school would do them good. For a single example out of many sad ones take this from an afternoon paper.

Not all the pious John Jacob Astor took to prevent a will contest between his successive wives and that offspring seem likely to avail. Even when a rich man leaves only one family it is difficult to prevent discord from arising over division of his estate.

Half a Century Ago. From the Oregonian of August 16, 1862. A gentleman who has crossed from Fort Benton this summer arrived here leaving his hat at a temperature of 80 degrees in 1000 yards, very nearly. Divide by 1728 to find the weight of a cubic inch.

Fortress Monroe, Aug. 6.—A reconnoitering party of 100 men from the Malvern Hill returned favorably. We now occupy that position with sufficient force to hold it and carry on other plans.

Washington, Aug. 7.—Ex-Senator A. O. P. Nicholson, of Tennessee, has been arrested on a charge of treason. Although there is no probability of hostilities between the United States and Canada the people of that province have been told emphatically that in such event they must not look to England for arms to sustain their cause.

The steamer Marie will make her first trip to the Cascades on Monday next leaving here at 9 A. M. and will continue thereafter to make regular daily trips on this route, connecting with the steamers Dalles and Spray on the Columbia river.

HOW ONE DEMOCRAT THINKS.

W. J. Bryan in New York World. Mr. Roosevelt will also have to meet the questions raised as to his tardiness in espousing the reforms which he now advocates.

Why, for instance, should a Democrat leave the Democratic party, which has labored in behalf of the popular election of Senators for 20 years, in behalf of an income tax for 18 years, for railroad regulation for 16 years, for anti-trust legislation for 12 years, for publicly before the election as to campaign contributions for four years and for tariff reform for a generation?

Henry Watterson, speaking through the Louisville Courier-Journal, has overcome his prejudice against the professor so far that he says: "The professor is a man of exceptional ability and inspiring. That it would be scholarly, thoughtful and well-considered is to be expected of a man of his rank and position."

But the Star professes to know "that if Wilson wins the bosses also will," contending that "great organizations like Tammany Hall are too canny to go in on any arrangement contemplating that they shall elect Mr. Wilson, for example, and then he will tell them to go to thunder."

Now the plan to inform on public questions that were even five or six years ago. The ossified haven't found this out yet. It is not there. Just after the procession has moved on. The people are familiar with our curves. We have been caught with the goods.

3. McKay Creek has been closed by order of the State Board of Fish and Game Commissioners. It is a stream closed to fishing ownership of adjoining land will give no right to fish in the stream, nor will possession of a license.

Problem in Science. PORTLAND, Aug. 14.—(To the Editor.)—This morning in washing a large steel jar with a flat glazed bottom, an ordinary brass nozzle on the end of a 3/4-inch hose carrying a very strong force of water, was placed in the bottom of the jar, when it was instantly seized and held fast, so much so that the jar was held lifted by pulling up on the hose—the water in the nozzle was frozen.

Weight of Water. PORTLAND, Aug. 14.—(To the Editor.)—What is the weight of a cubic inch of water? A READER. The weight of a cubic foot of distilled water at a temperature of 60 degrees is 1000 ounces, very nearly. Divide by 1728 to find the weight of a cubic inch.

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INFLUENCE, NOT IDENTITY, COUNTS.

Bad Man Among Followers Need Not Injure Candidate. MARSFIELD, Or., Aug. 12.—(To the Editor.)—The writer agrees with you in your article concerning one of the charitable institutions in Portland that I felt I would like to say a word about.

With all due respect I wish to remark that Theodore Roosevelt did take steps toward refusal to be elected. He said: "Hold on now, don't go so fast, wait until after the election in 1908 and then look at our smoke."

Since then we have been on the run and the folks here have been looking for us with a club. Each time they have gotten a fair wallop the sponge has gone up and our approved policies have gone down.

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LOUISE HOME AND ITS PURPOSES.

Friend Commends Its Work and Discusses Needs It Fills. PORTLAND, Aug. 15.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian August 15, I noticed an article concerning one of the charitable institutions in Portland that I felt I would like to say a word about.

More, the founder of this home and his helpers make a part of the work which I consider the greatest which the institution under question is meeting. I cannot believe that it comes under this category.

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SUNDAY FEATURES.

Setting Things Straight—The work of a coterie of German scientists, who would normalize the world, is described by a Berlin correspondent. An interesting and profitable feature.

Outlawed Birds—There is a Federal court that tries feathered offenders against mankind. The guilty are condemned to die. Unusual page feature.

Capturing Berlin—How irresistible American beauties took a handsome count for their own and humbled the Emperor's daughter.

The Outfielder—Joe Jackson, star outfielder of the Cleveland Americans, contributes to the series of baseball articles by experts.

Safe Flying—An illustrated page feature on the progress of aviation. It will be as safe as automobiles in another year, says one authority.

A Perilous Corner—A true narrative of the perilous corner in Congo's rubber output effected by two adventurous Englishmen.

The Mystery—A rattling good adventure tale.

Three complete short stories.

The Golf Girl—New feature in colors, replacing the Jump Ups. A striking page to frame or mount on cardboard.

Many other features.

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