

The Oregonian.

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Oregon, as second-class matter.

TELEPHONES: Editorial Rooms...161 Business Office...167

REVISED SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By Mail (postage prepaid, in Advance) Daily, with Sunday, special agency, New York...

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News or discussion intended for publication in the Oregonian should be addressed invariably "Editor The Oregonian," not to the name of any individual.

Portland, Sunday, March 11.

BANKS AND THE PEOPLE.

In certain political quarters where, perhaps, such things are to be expected, attack is made on the new currency bill, on the ground that it will afford new or additional facilities for banking.

There are a great many more farmers in this country than bankers; there are a great many more mechanics. Some of the farmers and mechanics have been talked into the notion that the bankers are their natural enemies.

Such facts, as has been pointed out very often, prove pretty conclusively that the bankers, so far from being the remorseless exploiters that cheap agitators declare them to be, enjoy the confidence of the masses of the people who intrust the bankers with their money.

General Buller's forces are reported at Helpmakar. As the Boers are entrenched at Biggarsburg, south of Glencoe Junction, the movement of the British is probably to turn the left of the Boer position in the Biggarsburg Mountains.

threaten the Orange Free State on the left and the Transvaal on the right. The Boers have entrenched south of Glencoe, at Biggarsburg, because it is the strongest position from which they can hope to stop Buller's occupation of the railway line from Ladysmith via Newcastle into the Transvaal.

AN ABLE STATESMAN.

In the death of E. J. Phelps in his 78th year, the country loses a very able lawyer, an eminent diplomatist and statesman, a man of versatile scholarship and literary accomplishments and unblemished personal and political integrity.

This quality of intellectual courage and devotion to his honest convictions in defiance of his party, which was so marked a quality in the leading character of the party, was inherited by his able and accomplished son, who, at the close of a long and busy life, could fairly say that he deliberately threw away the highest political honors in the gift of his state in order to be true to his honest personal convictions.

It was a very bold thing to do at that time in New England, and no other man of equal ability and personal character dared do it. There were plenty of "illustrious obscure" copperheads in New England who sulked in their tents, but the only man of great ability and culture and high personal character in New England who signed his own political death warrant by openly espousing the cause of the South from 1861 to 1865 was E. J. Phelps.

After the civil war, Mr. Phelps, as the bitterness of the memories of the war abated, became himself calmer in political views, finally changed some of his old-time opinions, and confessed his change of heart with the same courage that had prompted his original public opinion of his section in 1861-65.

Under the new act we shall get universal recognition of the gold standard and provision of funds for maintaining it. Our banking and currency will then be on unassailable foundations.

for 1855, holding that Mr. Cleveland had stretched the Monroe doctrine wantonly beyond the views of Webster, Clay, John Quincy Adams or Calhoun. Mr. Phelps was the ablest and most accomplished man that Vermont has contributed to public life in her whole history.

THE CANAL TREATY AMENDMENT.

The wording of treaties between great powers is an unsatisfactory and often an unprofitable object of study. Turns of a phrase, over which anger may rise and bloodshed seem imminent, often appear in time of no moment whatever, and under the other hand.

The amendment has been misinterpreted in the dispatches, for it is not a direct provision for fortification of the canal. It stipulates concerning Nicaragua just what it stipulates in Egypt's favor concerning the Suez.

The fact stands out that the foreign relations committee of the senate, which includes Davis, Frye, Cullom and Lodge, is desirous of safeguarding in this matter the present interests and the future rights of the United States. Mr. Hay is able and acute in diplomacy, but so are these. We are on friendly terms with Great Britain, but the day may come when our relations with her will be unfriendly.

THE ENGLISH ARISTOCRACY.

There is a great deal of malignant criticism lavished by ignorant or unscrupulous folk upon what is termed England's aristocracy, but intelligent men know and truthful men confess that England's aristocracy has for at least a century been recruited from the ranks of able men, who have conferred great honor upon their country by their services in war, in statesmanship, or in letters.

The best stuff in the so-called British aristocracy has been recruited from the ranks of law, statesmanship, literature, science and war, during the present century. The report that Lord Roberts is to be made a Duke for his recent brilliant services recalls the fact that since the days of Marlborough no English soldier has won his way to Dukedom, save Wellington, through his military services.

to this fact alone owe their dukedoms. Lord Roberts, measured by his military brain, is the best soldier England has produced since Wellington, for he is the only English soldier who has won fame fighting a well-armed, scientifically led white foe of notable courage and skill in the use of the modern magazine rifle.

A DRAWBACK IN SALARIES RESENTED.

The persistent attempt of the Board of Education of Philadelphia to supervise the earnings of teachers of public schools that these persons will not be left destitute when old age overtakes them doubtless comes from praiseworthy motives.

The first attempt in this line was made through a Teachers' Amnity Fund Association, but it was found impossible—there being no compulsion in the matter—to attract thereto as members one-fourth of the great army of public school teachers.

It might be a good thing for the teachers if all of them could be brought to join cheerfully in the effort to insure themselves against the possibility of becoming superannuated, but it is a compulsory method, and is neither wise, just or legal.

Teachers are not different from other workers in their ability or opportunity to provide for their old age by their own efforts.

A GENERAL IS AS OLD AS HE FEELS.

The fact that Lord Roberts is 68 years of age has renewed the discussion of the comparative merits of old men and young men in war. It is true that the vast majority of great soldiers have won their glory in their youth, but this is due, we suspect, rather to the fact that old soldiers who have won great fame by middle life do not care to resume their armor even when their old age is like a lusty winter.

Tomorrow a School Director will be elected. The interest Mr. D. P. Thompson has taken in the public schools of Portland is part of their history. His ability in the work is well known. It should not be necessary to say more.

The Boer collapse may not be so panic as depicted. It will be given up soon and let peace resume her sway. Perhaps this is the method in their apparent madness.

The Puerto Rican Question.

The Chicago Tribune's Washington special says that the opinion is gaining ground that the Senate will ultimately vote for free trade between Puerto Rico and the United States, and that the House will back down, accept this and admit its blunder as gracefully as possible.

the honor of the Nation, which is directly affected. It is a misfortune, a very grave misfortune, that the high purpose professed by the President in the name of the Nation can be exposed to suspicion by such substantial contrast between profession and performance.

NOW OR NEVER.

Apparently No Other Alternative for Republican Party.

Senator Davis, of Minnesota, has raised the true standard of American obligations to Puerto Rico around which all Republicans can rally for the salvation of the party from the amazing blunder of the 15-per-cent House compromise with our duty.

The public deconcentration in London Thursday, caused by the appearance of the aged Queen, clad in black, heavily veiled, and accompanied by two of her black-robed daughters, was as touching as spontaneously as a suggestive of the loyalty of the British people to their aged sovereign.

Rev. J. F. Ghormley and the First Christian Church in this city accepts the invitation of the Christian Scientists to hear expounded at the Marquam today the "religion of Jesus Christ," interpreted by Mary Baker Eddy.

False and Dangerous Position.

As it is evident that the people prefer some other mode of raising revenue for Puerto Rico than that devised by the House and favored by the Republicans on the Senate committee, it will be politic for the latter to return to their first love and vote for free trade between the United States and Puerto Rico.

When March Winds Blow.

"Pa, why is Spring called Spring?" "Don't bother me, Johnny." "Well, why is it?" "Soze folks won't go round thinkin' it's Winter."

Not Enough Pin Money to Go Round.

Ostend—Pa. I want a dollar to buy a set of tennies. Pa—Well, you just don't get it! It's all I can do to keep your mother in pin money.

The Culpable One.

Church—Who is responsible for most of the mistakes which appear in the newspapers? Gotham—The weather man, I think.

Great Social Forces.

We believe it will be found that, next to electricity, flattery is the greatest force in the world.

A Massacre Averted.

Every face was streaked with war paint, Every eye with hate was gleaming, Every red hand grasped a weapon.

The President and Puerto Rico.

Our readers are aware that we have not been grudging in the credit awarded to the President for many acts of courage and wisdom. Nor have we hesitated to make all possible allowance for the difficulties by which he has been surrounded, or to give him the benefit of the doubt in all insufficient information.

Two Lights Are Put Out—Thackeray— "Vanity Fair."

That second-floor arch in a London house, looking up and down the well of the staircase, and commanding the main thoroughfare by which the inhabitants are passing; by which cook lurks down before daylight to scour her pots and pans in the kitchen; by which young master stealthily ascends, having left his boots in the hall, and let himself in after dawn from a jolly night at the club; down which miss comes rustling in fresh ribbons and spreading muslin, brilliant and beautiful, and prepared for conquest and the ball; or Master Tommy slides, preferring the banisters for a mode of conveyance, and disdaining danger and the stair; down which the mother is fondly carried, smiling, in her strong husband's arms, as he steps steadily by step and followed by the masterly nurse, on the day when the medical man has pronounced that the charming patient may go down stairs; up which John lurks to bed yawning, with a spattering tallow candle, and to gather up before sunrise the boots which are waiting him in the passages—that stair, up or down which babies are carried, old people are helped, guests are marshaled to the ball, the doctor to the sickroom, the undertaker's men to the upper floor—what a memento of Life, Death and Vanity it is!

The doctor will come up to us, too, for the last time there, my friend in motley. The nurse will look in at the curtains, and will put a notice—no, and then she will fling open the door to ask about dinner in the air. Then they will pull down all the front blinds of the house, and live in the back rooms—then they will send for the lawyer and other men in black, etc. Your comedy and mine will have been played then, and we shall be removed, O how far, from the trumpets, and the shouting, and the pastures-making. If we are gentlefolk they will put us to bed, and then, in domestic with gilt cherubim, and motives with that there is "Quiet in Heaven." Your own will new furnish the house, or perhaps let it, and go into a more modern contained in the tariff provision of the Puerto Rico bill.

Which of the dead are most tenderly and passionately deplored? Those who love the survivors the least, I believe. The death of a child occasions a passion of grief and frantic tears, such as your end, brother reader, will never know. The death of an infant which scarce knew you, which a week's absence from you would have caused to forget you, will strike you down more than the loss of your closest friend, or your first-born son, a man grown, like yourself, with children of his own. We may be harsh and stern with Judah and Simeon—our love and pity glow for Benjamin, the little one. And if you are old, and your wife may be, or shall be—old and rich, or old and poor—you may one day be thinking for yourself, "These people are very good round about me; but they won't grieve too much when I am gone. I am very rich, and they want my inheritance—or very poor, and they are tired of supporting me."

The old man clung to his daughter during this sickness. He would take his broths and medicines from scarcely any other hand. He loved her with more fondness now, perhaps, than ever he had done since the days of her childhood. One night when she stole into his room she found him awake, when the broken old man made his confession, "O, Emmy, I've been thinking we were very unkind and unjust to you," he said, and put out his cold and trembling hand to her. "You had better not, my dear," he said, "as you are so old, and you are so poor, and you are so tired of supporting me."

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Every face was streaked with war paint, Every eye with hate was gleaming, Every red hand grasped a weapon. But the defiant warriors Swarmed around their startled chieftain Clamoring for blood and carnage! Crying out that he must lead them to the unsuspecting paleontologist Dwelling in the fair Durango. To avenge a deadly insult! Blood would be shed, the sting off One of them of highest standing. Known as Jim-That-Never-Was, Had been stowed against a tin-horn Round the corner of a quiet street. And had but a half a dollar On a pat queen full of deuces, And had been quite recently beaten With a dash of hotball species And an overgrown six-shooter. William Penn Groundhog, the chieftain, Was a man of peaceful habits, But the paleontologist gave him whiskey And the white squaws gave him doughnuts And the bread they spoiled in baking. Round the corner of a quiet street, Told the warriors to scatter. Begged them to corral their passion, Even quoted Scripture to them. But the paleontologist would not care whether Puerto Rico does or does not become a precedent for action in regard to the Philippines. They merely declare that, as Puerto Rico received miles' army with powder, stand of with bullets, they must come into the Union, if at all, "on the ground floor."

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