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TODAY'S WEATHER—Occasional rain southerly winds.
YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 47 deg.; minimum, 38. Precipitation, 0.10 inch.

They who are so sedulously cultivating pro-Russian sentiment in the United States must find, sooner or later, that they have embarked on an undertaking that is absolutely hopeless. The Far Eastern question, so far as it relates to the United States, is one that calls for careful exercise of the critical faculty, which is lamentably lacking in popular discussion. Let us lay down a few of the main points.

But there is no basis whatever for community of thought, interest and sympathy between the Russian order of things and the English or American order. The only panegyrics of Russia which this liberty-loving and free-thinking world has developed it, through the many years of strenuous agitation, is in Russia a thing unknown; that in Russia there is no Parliament or semblance of Parliament; that in Russia there is neither freedom of speech nor public opinion? Even now the newspapers are forbidden to obtain and print the news of the war. If this were done the offending publisher would probably disappear from the face of the earth "by administrative order." No prosecuting attorney could be required to file information against a man, and grand jury would be needed to consider his case. No panel of 12 good men and true would be thought of, no habeas corpus would bring his offense or its extenuation before court or public. The Russian masses are sunk in ignorance and oppression which would be unendurable to the Englishman or American. It is incredible that this order of things should seem to American citizens desir-

It is again the embezzlement.

It is also in the present conflict in the Orient. An army is not only an army, but it is the embodiment and exponent of a great force in history. What are the great principles intrusted to the custody of Russia for whose advancement prayer should be offered in this "land of the free and home of the brave"? Is it the right of Siberian exile or of massacres at Kishineff, or of "administrative order," or suppression of free press, or of trial by jury or the bar, or popular assemblies, or the principle of absolutism, or the total disregard of whatever desires or ambitions cherished however dearly by the people? If the Russian contention is true, the Catholic church is an offshoot from the Greek church which Russia still retains. Is it desired to abrogate not only Protestantism but Catholicism for a religious system cast in the molds of the fourth century, A. D. The miracle of the modern world is the amity with which Japan was taken

What has made Japan in attrition from without and friction within. Shut in from all the world, to Russia this eternal fermentation which alone gives life to the only hope of her masses for an equal share in the evolution of society is in some such violent shocks as have been felt in turn by England and Japan. It is the promise of the present war that it may, in the hands of Japan, either break into the encrusted medievalism of Russia or else, by driving it back upon itself, set forces of ferment and revolution at work which will in some way open opportunity in Russia for that clash of ideas and friction of social tendencies which alone can beget progress. The stagnation we see in China is simply Russian immobility raised to a higher power. Despotism in government, tyranny in religion, absolutism in intellectual and social life—all these are in the ark of the covenant which is born by the Russian arms to the Far East. It is an ethnic force irreconcilable with everything that the English-speaking race holds dear, and that it has won by the bitter sacrifices and bloody revolutions of a thousand years. For such fundamentally antagonistic civilisations there is no common ground. Between them there is eternal war.

But it is only when we come to penetrate these and other racial characteristics, do we begin to realize that the basic incongruity of the Japanese and the Teutonic types begins to appear. We should not be fast astray to ascribe the Teutonic and Anglo-Saxon eminence in the world to a quality of moral earnestness which finds its extreme exemplification in the Puritan, but is typical of the British and American resultant of Roman law and Hebrew religious thought imposed upon the native virtues and vices of the Northern races. It is not without reason that from time to time by revivals of Oriental speculation and classic art and literature. It is certain that in time the infiltration of warmer blood now preponderating in our immigration will sweep our National type perceptibly from the Teutonic toward the Latin form, with possible gains in the direction of art, music and gayer; but hitherto we have been and still are essentially English, in manners, traditions and laws.

It has been the lot of this English mind to take itself very seriously. Nominally Copernican, we have nevertheless, in our deepest convictions, which are those of the moral and religious nature, kept the old Ptolemaic conception of the universe in which each soul is the center of creation, the special object of divine purpose, about which all past and future events revolve. This is the solemn thought which has possessed the minds of the great men who have highly wrought in England and the United States. To them everything has been more real and compelling than the mere relations between themselves and Deity, and the heavy obligation laid upon them by the partnership. This feeling is as strong in Unitarians like Emerson and Whittier as in the reformers like Calvin and Knox, preachers like Wesley and Moody, more orthodox believers like Milton and Cromwell, Tennyson and Browning. Even the President descended from the humblest citizen, except the agnostic school, the serious-minded Briton or American recognizes himself as the viceroy of God upon earth and looks upon the moral element as the very greatest in all problems.

THIS is as far apart from the Japanese conception of life as the distance between the poles. Students of a rare unite in confessing the charm of the Japanese personality, its receptivity, sprightliness, cleverness, devotion to poetry, passion for art, talent for literature. Patient in details, abounding in courtesy, sentimental in all pleasing and not offensive ways, affectionate alike toward Nature and fellow-beings, they are free of the most strikingly diverse of racial types. Loyalty and filial respect are cardinal virtues, and the national attitude toward everything good in other civilizations is one of wonderful open-mindedness and adaptability. And yet with all this the Japanese are curiously lacking in that moral and religious sense which we find in the dominant races of our mind. The "soul" as we have regarded it, they denied them entirely; which can only mean, of course, that while the capacity for Puritanic teaching must exist in them as in others, nothing has ever transpired to develop it. Like other Oriental races, they apprehend men as spiritual beings in the mass; they seem to have no distinct conception of the individual. In Mr. Ernest W. Clemens' "Hansel and Gretel in Modern Japan," a recent and entirely friendly commendation of Japanese life, we find approval given to the judgment of Professor George T. Ladd, who has made a special study of the Japanese from the psychological point of view and who says:

"The Japanese, generally, is himself a victim of the unmitigated sentimental temperament, may find everything interesting, aesthetically pleasing, promising and promisingly beautiful, and is surrounded by a delightful hostess of address. But the more profound student will take note of the clear indications that beneath this thin, fair, and smiling exterior, there is a cold, practical sentiment, uncontrolled by solid moral principle and unguided by sound, practical judgment."

The answer to this judgment upon the Japanese mind is, What is it? The world has already learned upon how insecure foundations rests the Puritanic conception of human life. The supernatural view of the Bible, the anthropomorphic conceptions of God, the dogmas of predestination and future punishment, constitute at once the foundation and the framework of the relig-

The closest parallel to this Japanese character is the ancient Greek—artistic, joyous, receptive, lively, intellectual, even, and, in spite of the oppressive sense of religious duty under which the Western world has labored since the Reformation. We have grown so familiar and perhaps so tired with the traditional lament over ancient Greece for its moral shortcomings that one might almost make bold to welcome a conquering race in which the joyous naturalness and intellectual freedom of the Hellenes should be revived. It is a suggestive and not displeasing thought and one fit to recall for readers of Shelley these lines from *Hellas*:

The world's great age begins anew,
The golden years return,
The earth doth like a snake renew
Her winter weeds outworn;
Another age is coming on,
And to its tumult turns
Bequest like sunset to the skies
The splendor of her prime.
A better Argos cleaves the main,
A braver crew its banner wins;
Another Argos sings again,
And loves, and weeps and dies,
A new Ulysses leaves once more
Calypso for his native shore.

THE OUTCOME OF WAR

The outcome of war is always uncertain. The Sunday following the firing on Sumner Wendell Phillips, speaking for the "Flag" in Music Hall, said: "No man can tell how long this war will last; no man can tell its vicissitudes or predict with any certainty its far-reaching consequences." On the other hand, Secretary Seward was smilingly asked to predict the duration of the "ninety days' affair," and Carl Schurz said it would be a very short war because the North was a Nation of shopkeepers and would stop the war the moment that it began severely to pinch their pockets. Phillips, the so-called political visionary, was correct when he said "War and Niagara thunder to a like end." The only difference is that war is likely to outrun the wildest dream of politicians," for the war lasted four years, imposed a debt of over \$2,000,000,000 upon the people, forced the extinction of human slavery and cost the country nearly a million of lives, directly and indirectly, before it was over. It has been so in many wars. Before we won our independence from England we were to become our ally; Spain was at war with England, and Holland had kept us money.

The great "Thirty Years' War" began in a struggle between the Catholic powers of Austria and Bavaria on the one side and the Protestant states of Germany, supported by Sweden. But soon the great Catholic power of France, under Louis XIV., joined hands with Protestant Sweden against Austria. The Protestant troops of Cromwell helped Cardinal Mazarin's Catholic French army beat the Catholic Spaniards and take Dunkirk. Many small wars have led to great events, and nearly all wars have been marked by unexpected conclusions and unexpected reverses. It was the same old valor and energy for her victorious way through the passes of the Balkans to the gates of Constantinople. Then the Berlin Congress of 1878, through the influence of Bismarck and Beaconsfield, forced Russia to lose all the spoils of victory. The same unjust interference on the part of Russia, Germany and Austria, to keep the Chinese from the Tung Peninsula, which she had fairly won by her valor and energy from China in 1895. It is not unlikely that history may repeat itself at some stage of the war between Japan and Russia.

Nations are brutally selfish in their civil and military policy, and sympathize with the under dog or the upper dog, without any regard to the considerations, and since the fate of China is sure to be ultimately involved in the outcome of this struggle, the great powers of Europe will naturally bid their time for effective intervention. In case Japan should be transiently victorious, it is morally certain that she would be bound to restore her old hostilities to dictate a treaty partition for the future of Manchuria. The great powers of Europe, whether Russia or Japan had the best of it, would be sure to claim the right to take part in the settlement, and the final result would be a treaty placing the sovereignty of Manchuria under the guarantee of all the great powers, and their interests there, instead of under that of Japan and Russia alone. Great Britain by the consent of the great powers is

ffered to be paramount in Egypt, although Turkey is the nominal sovereign of that country. Russian occupation of Manchuria has become complete and Russia's vested interests there are nearly as large as those of England in Egypt.

While Turkey is the nominal sovereign of Egypt, Great Britain is clearly in Egypt to stay, and so while China is the nominal sovereign of Manchuria, Russia is clearly in that province to stay unless the powers of Europe combine to force her out, which they are not likely to do. It is entirely probable, however, that a concert of European powers may be established as a paramount influence in the Far East akin to that which has since 1856 dominated over the affairs of the Ottoman Empire and the various Balkan States. It is quite possible, that Japan has counted this probability of forcing an ultimate settlement upon Russia with Russia. Without war things would have tended to drift, while war would force a settlement upon the powers of Europe, who would be obliged to act decisively or else let Russia or Japan work its will. It is true that Japan, if victorious, might not be suffered to enjoy the full fruits of a victory beyond the occupation of Corea, and neither would Russia should she prove victorious. It is highly probable that in any event the powers of Europe will settle the Manchurian question for many years to come. China will awake to a new era of modern life, so that her vast population was equal to the task of resisting the encroachments and aggressions of Western civilized nations, the powers of Europe would not dare interfere.

But China is as helpless as a hamstrung elephant today; she cannot resist Russia or rescue Manchuria from Russian occupation, and the result will be, whether Japan wins or loses, the concerted action of the powers of Europe is likely to fix the fate of Manchuria to suit themselves. When the naval

quadrons of Russia and Japan have become seriously impaired in fighting capacity by service; when Russia and Japan both have exhausted the army chest, then the Western powers will be likely to allot the limitations of Japan's occupation of Korea; they will be likely to forbid the fortification of the Korean peninsula and they will be likely to restrict Russia's occupancy and rule in Manchuria to its original lease of the Port Arthur district and to the protection of its existing lines of railway. Japan probably will be suffered strongly to occupy and hold Korea, and such portions of Manchuria as the Peking government would permit them to colonize. Japan would be used as a perpetual threat of military and naval aggression and Russia would be held down to the possibility of its being driven in Manchuria so far as trade and territory are concerned. Manchuria is Chinese pie; the powers of Europe will all want a slice, and when Japan and Russia have battered each other into a mood for peace the powers of Europe will wish to preside over the distribution of pie, just as they did at the Berlin Congress of 1878.

RIVER MUST NOT BE NEGLECTED.

The excellent work of Major Langfitt, U. S. Engineers, in co-operation with the Port of Portland Commission, is reflected in the ease with which twenty-four-foot ships now make the passage from Portland to Astoria. The fact that these deep-draft ships still suffer delays at Astoria is a matter which is due to the port, and prevents any lack of vigilance in hastening the work of completing the jetty and "removing the cork from the bottle" by deepening the channel over the bar. So long as the absence of even temporary relief below Astoria hampers the free movement of shipping there will be no relaxing of effort to secure not only temporary but permanent improvement in the depth of water. This incentive for improvement in the river channel is at present lacking. The ships come and go over the 100-foot stretch between Portland and Astoria without delay, and in the absence of any complaint over the condition of the river public sentiment is gradually drifting toward the assumption that we are permanently secure against a recurrence of the delays which have wrought such injury on the port in the past.

Unfortunately there is nothing in the present situation that warrants this feeling of security, and in our efforts to hasten the permanent work at the mouth of the river, the small amount of money that is required for constant dredging on the river is necessary each year, until the Government takes up the matter of permanent improvement. No effort should be or will be spared in hastening the work at the bar, where we are now experiencing the greatest trouble. The dredge Chinook, which has been sent to the mouth of the river, originally intended exclusively for the jetty extension, can offer but temporary relief, but even this will be welcome if it comes, and the money thus spent will not be wasted if the exhaustion of the appropriation leaves the jetty unfinished. All dredging, however, on the bar or in the river, can offer at the most but temporary relief, and on the river the relief will be of minor importance. Eventually depend upon jetties or revetment work, which will confine the channel in lateral bounds which will force it to carry its way to the sea.

The failure of Congress to pass a river and harbor bill has postponed this permanent work, but even with the present law, the work is being pushed after the high water of the Spring freshet the channel between Portland and Astoria can probably be maintained at its present depth for another season. By that time it is to be hoped that an appropriation of goodly dimensions can be secured for commencing the work. It is not yet a matter of record, but it has been stated, the work of the jetties or breakwaters in the river is no longer in the nature of an experiment. The results secured at St. Helens and Walker's Island have been of such a satisfactory nature that a permanent channel of ample depth for all classes of vessels is no longer a matter of question if the funds are provided for carrying on the work. The entire Columbia Basin is growing in wealth and population as it has never grown before, and the increasing tonnage of the products of this empire, following the course of least resistance, should reach the river. The river is the outlet of this empire. Money is available for pushing work at the mouth of the river for at least another year, and that work is of a permanent nature, with an absolute certainty that its completion will end all delays to shipping at the mouth of the river. The next step is maritally to improve the river above and no effort should be spared in securing an appropriation sufficient to start work on a permanent channel in keeping with that which we will have at the bar when present plans are carried out.

NEW YORK'S ELECTORAL VOTE.

It is within the constitutional powers of the Republican Legislature of the State of New York to make the success of the Republican ticket sure in the coming Presidential contest by passing a law similar to that which the Democrats of Michigan passed just before the election of 1892, by which the electors were chosen by Congressional districts. This would break the electoral state of New York in two, so that the Democratic half would be of no avail. In 1890 the Democrats carried Michigan, electing a state ticket and Legislature, but having no hope of carrying the electoral vote of the state in 1892, they passed the so-called Miner law, providing that each Congressional district should choose one elector, and then divided the state into two grand districts for the choice of two electors-at-large. Under this law Michigan contributed two electors to the electoral college, one from the Grand and one from the Small column and nine to that of Harrison. The vote of the state showed a Republican majority of 20,000, so that without this device the entire fourteen votes of Michigan would have been cast for Harrison. The United States Supreme Court decided that the Democratic Legislature had enacted a perfectly constitutional measure. The application of the Miner law to the State of New York would divide its electoral vote almost evenly. The Democrats now control seventeen Congressional districts, and the Republicans control the remaining twenty-two. If the two electors-at-large, the ones chosen from the lower half of the state would be Democratic and from the upper half Republican, or, if they were elected on a general ticket, the vote might be close. If this device were adopted by the Republican State Legislature, the Democrats could not get more than half the electoral votes from the Empire State. If the Republicans were in any danger of losing the election by the loss of New York, the adoption

This so-called Miner law would secure the victory. With half of New York's electoral college the Republicans could not fall, while with none of it they might be defeated.

This method was familiar years before Michigan adopted it. In 1829 in Massachusetts electors were chosen one by one by Congresses of the county at large, and the electoral college consisted of eight Federalists and seven Democrats. Many persons believe that this would be the better way to choose Presidential electors always. It would throw the pressure upon the doubtful Congressional districts instead of the campaign's concentrating upon New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Illinois and Ohio.

Some Republicans think that the resort to the Miner law would react upon the party responsible for it and would cost the Republican ticket more votes than it won, because so much higher standards in public life prevail in the Republican party of the North that it could not afford to follow the precedent of the South and of foreign countries.

Some Republicans hold that a method of choosing Presidential electors which is intrinsically as good as or better than the present one ought not to be objected to simply because a "reduction of the size of the stake for which the two parties would play in the case of a single state would greatly increase the chances of the Roosevelt ticket."

In April, 1820, Hamilton, Madison, and Jay, the three Federalists, left New York City and state in the election for members of the Legislature who were to make choice of Presidential electors, and tried to induce Governor Jay to call an extra session of the Legislature, whose term did not expire until July, for the purpose of changing the mode of selecting Presidential electors, giving the choice to the people in the several Congressional districts of the state. Governor Jay, however, declined the proposition and indorsed Hamilton's letter as follows: "Proposing a measure for party purposes which I think it would not be prudent to discuss. Up to 1823 Presidential electors were chosen by the Legislatures of the respective states, and not by the popular vote, in New York, Delaware, Louisiana, South Carolina and Vermont. In the other states electors were chosen by the people at the general election. In 1823 the New York Legislature passed a law providing for the election of Presidential electors by districts, but in 1825 the system was changed to electing by general ticket, which system has prevailed to the present time in the Empire State.

THE CELT IN LITERATURE.

The appearance of William Butler Yeats, a distinguished Irish poet and man of letters, as a lecturer before the Universities of California and Stanford is a noteworthy literary event. Mr. Yeats is but 37 years of age, is the son of a well-known Irish artist, was born in Dublin, but spent much of his early life in County Sligo, where his grandparents lived. Mr. Yeats does not lecture upon "Irish Literature"; he deals with the Celtic influence on literature. The popular definition of "Irish literature" would include the poetry of Goldsmith and that of Tom Moore and the "Charles O'Malley" of Lever and the "Harry Andy" of Lover. Macaulay fifty years ago pointed out that Goldsmith was of English stock, the son of a poor curate of the Established Church; that his literary work has no distinctive Celtic quality or flavor. In the "Deserted Village" the village in its happy days is a true English village, while in its decay it is an Irish village. The prosperous "Auburn" he had known as a boy while in America, which turned its people out of their homes and forced them to emigrate in a body to America he had seen in Munster.

While Goldsmith was passionately fond of Irish music, was a Jacobite in his political sympathies and an Irishman in feeling and temperament, nevertheless Goldsmith's excellent work in both prose and poetry is no more "Irish literature" than the works of Irish-born English writers such as Swift and Burns are "Irish literature". In the sense that we speak of Burns as the poet of Scotland, because he was saturated with the spirit of the Scottish people as no other Scotch writer of genius has been. Tom Moore, too, loved Irish music, but Tom Moore's clever verses are no more "Irish poetry" than they are "English poetry," for, as Mr. Yeats puts it, such sentimental lyrics as these do not really come from the heart of the Irish people. Goldsmith and Moore both knew that their poetry did not speak for the aboriginal race of Ireland, who spoke the Irish language, for Goldsmith had heard some of the last notes of the harp of Carolan, who could pour forth unpremeditated Irish verses. But Goldsmith and Moore had both been spoiled for genuine Irish singers by their Dublin University education, even as the Irish have been spoiled for a distinctly Scottish singer had he been given a University education, which would have either made him a writer of else

rant English verse, like Gray, or made him an imitator of Pope, as Allan Ramsay is in his "Gentle Shepherd."

These modern critics, like Yeats are right in their contention that Goldsmith, Moore, *Lever*, *Lover* and Miss Edgeworth, excellent as is their literary work, do not reveal the spirit of Ireland as distinguished from that of England or Scotland. The Irish spirit of the time they give you only on pictures of the Anglo-Irishman, but the Anglo-Irishman was never transformed into a true Celt. The mere surface, the mere foam and bursting bubbles on the shallow streams of Irish life, are delineated by the *Lever* school of Irish fiction. The novelists who went below the surface were all Catholic and all Celtic, like John Banim and Carleton, who pictured the real peasant, that, if he learned to read and write at all, was taught by a hedge schoolmaster, who, because he was a Catholic and could not read or educate his pupils, was obliged to hide with his pupils. The inner life of Celtic Ireland owes nothing to the *Lever* or Edgeworth school of fiction.

Matthew Arnold in his essay on Celtic literature held that there is a streak of the Celt in every Anglo-Saxon poet of genius: that the natural magic and mystery of some of the finest passages in English poetry are due to a strain of Celt in the poet, and he favored the foundation of a chair of Celtic at Oxford. Mr. Yeats holds that if a man is to be a true Celtic poet he must draw his inspiration from the Celtic fountain alone. The real passionate, romantic Celt, whom neither the Englishman nor the Anglo-Irishman ever painted because he was never understood, is set forth by Lady Gregory's recently published translations from the Irish ballads written sixty years ago for the peasants of Galway by the blind, wandering peasant-poet, Rafferty, who composed in Irish for an Irish audience and whose songs are still sung in Mayo and Galway. These Celtic peasant

seldom talk of love; marriage for
is almost unknown; it is a matter
common-sense arrangement between
heads of peasant families, as in
ance and Italy. Only the lamenta-
to come from the heart and the
most note struck is the love of coun-
try. Of all the love songs quoted by
Gregory, there is only one that
ends at once both tender and true.
It is called "The Grief of a Girl's
art," and is sung in the south of
land as well as on the Arran Islands,
the west coast:

...late last night the dog was speaking of
the snipe was speaking of you in her
own way. . . . I have my love to you;
I have my love to you; the Sunday that is last
over Easter Sunday. And myself on
my reading the Psalter; and my two eyes
are looking for you forever. . . . You have
come from the East from the East to the
west from me; you have taken what is before
and what is behind me; you have taken
me, you have taken the sun from me;
my fear is great that you have taken God
from me.

Lady Gregory quotes from a "Sorrow-
Lament for Ireland," which includes
my fine lines, saying that nothing un-
der the sky is friendly or favorable to
Gael, only the sea and the wind:
there is reason that these are reconciled
with us,
to increase the sea with our tears,
the wandering wind with our sighs.

John Keats did not have to learn
reel to produce some of the finest
high classical" poetry in literary form and
his spirit, and Mr. Yeats has written
fringe Anglo-Irish poetry of admirable form,
which he was not indebted to the
Celtic fountain to which he would con-
sider the Celtic poets of the future. Mr.
Yeats is a man of poetic genius, but a
good deal of a mystic, like the artist-
poet William Blake, of whom he is so
often an admirer. He is right in his
attention that much of the so-called
popular Irish fiction and poetry is not
"pure literature" at all in any such
sense as Burns' songs speak distinctly
for Scotland. He is right in his
belief that Mangan's "Dark Rosaleen"
Celtic, while Tom Moore is only cock-
ney-Irish in spirit. But it is not neces-
sary for a poet to drink at the Celtic
fountainhead in order to catch the Celtic
spirit, any more than it was necessary
for Keats to know Greek in order to be
Greek in his apprehension of the spirit
beauty which was incarnated in that
people and expressed in their art and
literature. Shelley knew something of
Greek; Keats knew nothing; but both
of these great poets were born of the
their apprehension of the spirit of
beauty and their comprehension of its
poetic expression.

The rate agreement which has been effected between the owners of the trans-Atlantic freighters since the Moroccan combine was effected, about two years ago, has been shattered and there open warfare between the various crews engaged. Some of them have made contracts at cut rates for several months ahead, an action which precludes the possibility of an immediate restoration of rates. This gives the shippers—and, of course, the producers—an added profit on the products that are going foreign in such large quantities, and the rates will remain at a low level until the business overtakes the cargo supply. Rates have been cut only to European ports, but also on the main line to South Africa and South America. The greatest trouble at this time that such a condition of affairs has existed, but it serves to show how utterly needless is a subsidy in order to provide shipping for our foreign trade. Here we have shipowners operating vessels under all of the principal flags of the world bidding against each other for the privilege of carrying American products to market at a rate lower than that at which American vessels could handle the traffic. A subsidy, no matter how large, could do no more in the way of providing us with shipping for foreign trade, and it is doubtful if an attempt to force it on the country will ever be successful.

"Nothing," says the Berlin Chamber of Commerce in its last annual report, can take the place of American bacon—a cheap and nutritious article of food for the masses of our population. Therefore it would be a matter of deep regret the high import duties of the new tariff law were not reduced to a reasonable degree." This sentiment from Germany is not prompted by love of American bacon, but by love of free trade in general. It is simply because they need American bacon and have nothing in their own land that can answer as a substitute. On this basic principle rests the foreign trade which fails our way. We can have access to the Russian domain—when they get there—in the East if we have to sell that which they wish to buy. We can trade with the Japanese on the same basis. Americans are not likely to be shut out of any market that is in need of our goods, and on the other hand we shall always be in danger of being shut out of markets where we have no inducements to attract buyers.

It is said that an aged man, an old soldier, by the way, who was recently sent to the county poor farm, was required by the management to saw wood at that institution. If the man was not physically able to perform the work, a charge of inhumanity or cruelty may well be lodged against those who compelled him to perform this labor. That he was an old soldier has nothing to do with it. No man, soldier, ex-soldier or civilian, ordinary civilian, should be forced by the public authorities to work when he is sick or disabled through age or bodily infirmity. Neither romance nor patriotism has part in a matter of this kind. It is a simple question of humanity. The only privileged class we have in this country (or in any one we are supposed to have) is that composed of the helpless, the infirm, and the blind. To require any member of this class to do any work is not only unnecessary, since property is taxed for their support, but also thus unfortunate, in addition to this, humanity forbids it.

From present indications all "deficiency in precipitation" in this district for the current weather year is likely to be made up before time for genial spring weather comes. This is well. Insures good crops and an early spring. Or, as the poet has it, it foretells "an early harvest and a plentiful year"—conditions for which even the prone Winter weather growler approves.

If the report of Ruessa's purpose to carry the war direct to the Japanese is true, it affords the first evidence of sound strategy in Russian councils. The place to conquer Corea and Manchuria is neither at Seoul nor Port Arthur, but by fire and sword in every Japanese seaport, just as Spain's sure way to win Jamaica and Gibraltar was on the shores of England.

NOTE AND COMMENT.
Dramatic Notes.
The following news items concerning the ornaments of the stage are, by special arrangement, published simultaneously in the Oregonian and in the Box Office Gazette. Owing to line trouble, however, it is possible that some of the news have been mangled in transmission:

Tomkey Toole, starring in "Three in a Turkish Bath," showed rare presence of mind in preventing a panic at the last Boston Opera House. Some responsible person in the front row uttered a cry of alarm, and a scene of indescribable horror was averted by Miss Toole, who stepped to the footlights and announced that she was "Miss Blanner." (The irresponsible person struck for a dollar instead of four hits.)

At R. Radloffe had a narrow escape from a while in his dressing-room after last night's performance of "Busted Round the Bend." Radloffe was asked to send draughts of beer restorer in mistake for the draughts necessary for due inspiration. Had he the fact that the eminent actor feels that a drink of beer is his business, he might have been less liable out, he escapes no inconvenience.

Miss Mollie Maloney writes to say she is in any way connected with Lillian Russell, the great singer of names might surprise some people to believe.

Person Booth writes to contradict the rumor of his death, which was erroneously reported from the fact that he heard some work about his being half shot.

Leslie Longcocks, of the Hi-Hiddle-Dee Company, was almost roasted alive in the last act of the "Gee Whizz" and was touched it to the gas jet, which did up brightly. The plucky little star did not scream for help, and in fact, made no notice.

Miss Mandy Skamokawa, who will make her debut next week, comes of a theatrical family. Her mother's first husband having been nephew of a friend of Mrs. Leslie Car-

Miss Jessie Jelliffe, who in private life is Mrs. Tom Rattercracks, has a delightful family party. She has two beautiful children, to whom she is fully devoted. Three or four times a week Rattercracks spends five minutes with his little cherubs, who almost remember her.

A Leap-Year Valentine.
St. Valentine, pray lend your aid
To a poor, suppliant leap-year maid;
When this the month has one less day
Than the rest, and I am left away
The Jack that's been forever flying
In ardent unaccompanied rhyming
With "love" and "dove" forever chiming,
To give this year a love on Tuesday
Compelled to measure love by meter.
I can't take Jack's own form of speech,
And tell him that he's just a peach;
His lute I couldn't say is curly,
I were twenty times his girlie;
Such compliments as he would make
He's simply homely, dear old Jack.
I never knew 'twas such a job
To put in words the pulses' throbs;
I think of things that I might say,
But not this side of Tuesday day;
They make too much for just one line,
Or else I've cut them down too fine.
Love you, Jack—there's nothing sweeter,
Than that you won't be so horrid mean.
Think goodness, leap year's once in four,
I'd die if it came any more—
I'll leave the fatters of the line,
And send myself as valentine.

ambling in Pendleton seems to be more
less of a gamble.

—

Don Domingo resembles a continuous
mocratic harmony meeting.

—

anass City is a suburb of Oregon City.
should change its name to New

—

Pacudah motorman is said to have
to beat a train to a crossing.
e was a dead beat and the passengers
dead people.

—

Bangai Togo" is what the Japanese say
en they want to cheer their Admiral,
they probably wouldn't swap it for
rah for Dewey."

—

San Francisco reports a really well-
ent gambling-house robbery. In some
pects San Francisco will always be
Queen city of the Pacific.

to our proud boast that a man cannot
punished twice for the same offense.
It seems that all Oregon's convicts
to be sent over the road again.

—

After all, nothing can surpass the sweet
eternity of youth's immemorial valen-
tine:

The rose is red;
The violet's blue;
Sugar's sweet,
And so are you.

Secretary Hay is a phrase-maker of
it. If the skill of a diplomatist is
own by saying something that may
an anything, the Secretary will hold
belt for some time with "China's ad-
ministrative entity."

The Post-Intelligencer runs a cartoon
the Japanese. It is written that he was
gloried to read about far-East news,"
it he intended to "draw some funny
ture," and concluded by saying "If I
see it again on the paper what my
and is you can suppose."

latter Mattson, of Astoria, is certainly in luck. It appears that by dint of laborious days he accumulated enough money to buy a ticket to the Pacific Coast to meet the best girl in far-away Florida. The name West, but Seattle man married her. A "Seattle man" Ppor Mattson.

North Beach clams for North Beach-burners," is the motto of the diggers' society for the northward of the Columbia.

Clatsopians, in their mad pursuit of the feeding clam, have done North Beach the detriment of the local trappers, whose protest may be said-by special license-to be clamorous.

"Clatsop man's a big clamflammer," North Beach stammers;

North gets out his little hammer, And it hammers;

Just listen to the clamor Of the clamflammers.

letter signed "Widower" has reached office, says the Atchafalaya Globe, and contains the following: "I have a fearful confession to make, and I make wondering if it will lead other men to admit that they committed the same sin. I thought a great deal of my wife, but during her long illness I often caught myself thinking of other women. I was jealous of her and would bring my mind back to my dear one with a jerk. She died, and the second day my grief was uppermost. The first day a neighboring girl came and shook hands with me, and I thought how pretty she looked. I jerked my mind back again. A widow rode out to the cemetery with me, and before the carriage had turned into the cemetery I was wondering if she was a good cook. Another jerk to my mind. While the coffin was lowered my mind was very proper; I was thinking only of my dear one, but when the coffin came home it has been raining in a scandalous manner. I notice that women are pretty; that they are very kind; that when they look sympathetic I enjoy it, though I know I am a hypocrite. Do other men have the same experience? I have put a photo of my wife on office desk to keep my mind in order, and it is losing its influence."

WEXFORD JONES.