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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 1908.

SOME EGOTISTICAL REMARKS.

"Harvey Scott," says a Bryan organ, "labors under the senile delusion that he can be United States Senator from Oregon; hence The Oregonian daily snarls forth various excuses to justify the repudiation of solemn pledges."

Harvey Scott labors under no delusion whatever—senile or other. He is not so young as he once was, and age is likely to overtake every man of decent habits of life. It will overtake, and very early, most of those who snarl and carp at the editor who writes this.

Never did this editor set before his mind a seat in the Senate as an object of desire. When he was younger, had it come to him, he would have taken up the work and done the best he could with it. A number of friends, years ago, urged him to permit the use of his name and he consented; but with no real expectation of success, and no positive desire of it. That was on the last night of a session. Some voted for him; another was elected—a man who had long been among his friends, and has been chief among his best friends ever since.

Another of the petty organs that wish to "get after the old man"—we shall name none of these organs, because they think their fame will be made forever, if they can get notice from The Oregonian—says: "We wonder whether Harvey Scott is after a seat in the cabinet, or does he still cherish the fond hope of being enveloped with the Senatorial toga?"

This also amuses. What would a seat in the cabinet be to Harvey Scott? Infinite work and responsibility in routine affairs, which could yield no fame; and abandonment of the position at the head of The Oregonian, which in itself is higher, and—if what men call honor be the object—more assured of honor now and hereafter than any connection with a temporary administration of the Government at Washington.

So of a seat in the Senate. It may be good for younger ambition, that imagines it sees possibilities; or for older, that might consent, reluctantly, to undertake a work whose responsibilities are little appreciated, or not at all, by most who seek them. But please excuse this citizen, who believes he has some sense of the proportions of things, some knowledge of responsibilities and of possibilities, and some conception moreover of the place he holds in the direction of this newspaper, from the imputation of being so foolish as to desire, at his time of life, a seat either in the cabinet or in the Senate of the United States. He doesn't wish to "step down," and will not do it. Suppose the impossible—and you may as well suppose the impossible as anything else. Even if one thing or the other were offered and urged by the unanimous suffrage of Oregon, he knows it would be a mistake on his part to accept it. He no longer is young enough to be "foolish fond" about such a matter; in short, he knows what becomes his age and place and achievement in life, and he wouldn't even thank the people of Oregon for the offer of any position whatever, nor for the opportunity of declining it. He is better placed. A seat in the Senate or in the cabinet brings no honor in itself—though the mob thinks differently. Such place can be great only as one can bring greatness to it. Some three or four men only have gone from Oregon to the Senate—only one has sat in the cabinet—who have conferred any kind of distinction on the state, or won honor for themselves. The rest—several of them are living.

Possibly we all have our vanities. He who writes this wishes it understood that he does not undervalue his position as editor of this journal, nor suppose for a moment that any other place could give him consideration comparable with his position here. He admits that the newspaper business is not strikingly lucrative; but that is a small matter. Yet it affords in this case means of paying current bills, which no seat in the Senate or in the cabinet, nor any foreign mission or other high place in the political service of the country, would afford;—and on this basis, "the present editor," as Carlyle was wont to speak of himself, is content also.

Now, men and brethren, if all this smacks of egotism, if that is what you are going to say about it, kindly observe, let "the old man" beg you to have the goodness to observe—for he knows how good you are—that it has been called forth by your own suggestions, and really was "coming to you." So let us have no hard feelings about it. We shall all go our several ways. This editor is content. As to position and fame and hold on the present and future, he is at least as secure as the majority of the ex-Senators of Oregon;—nor does he forget that there will be other Senators, and ex-Senators, as Time shall roll his ceaseless course.

There seems to be a lot of worry, that may as well be avoided. Friends and brethren, you who imagine there is fame or greatness in any of these positions, from top to bottom of the list, go right after the glories and honors in this world of contention and strife of politics, and all the rewards. But you will scarcely be remembered, even as ex-honorables, after you get through. You will find how far you have failed to bend the bow of Odysseus, or to wield the club of Hercules. For pigmies are pigmies still, though perched on Alps. Go it, boys! Cake and Chamberlain were well matched.

A PLOT TO SLAY HENEY?

It is suggested by the friends and partisans of Mr. Heney in San Francisco that the effort to kill him was a deliberate plot by certain malefactors vitally interested in getting him out of the way. It is incredible that the Ruef gang or their associated criminals could be either so murderous or so stupid. It is obvious that the exposure, or even the suspicion, of such a diabolical design would be to place the various defendants at a great disadvantage before the public which means that they would have difficulty in securing a favorable, or even an impartial, jury. Ruef sees it, Ach his attorney sees it; and each hastens to exculpate himself by denouncing the attempted assassination. Besides, the drift of events just now in San Francisco has not been unfavorable to the Ruefs and the Calhouns, and they cannot have been unaware of it. Why should they needlessly take the terrible risk of a brutal and cowardly murder, from which they could get no advantage, even if undetected, and which would certainly hang them if detected? All this assumes that they might be willing to put Heney "out of the way" if it were desirable from their standpoint; but even that is unthinkable.

Moreover, Haas' deed is not in the method of the midnight murderer or the paid assassin. It was the act of a madman, or of a maddened man, obsessed by an overpowering desire for revenge. The motive was obvious and explicable. Heney had exposed him as an ex-convict, and Haas wanted to get even. It is credible, of course, that others may have sought to take advantage of Haas' murderous hatred for Heney, and may have been willing that he should do just what he did, or tried to do. But that they actively supported him, or plotted with him, seems altogether unlikely, in view of the sensational and open method of assassination taken and of the great danger and risk involved.

FIGURES ON THE PRESIDENCY.

The Oregonian is daily in receipt of requests for publication of the final popular vote on the Presidential election or for the official vote of the various states. For example, here is a reader from Salem who asks for the "exact vote of Nebraska, Kansas, Maryland and Indiana on Taft and Bryan, and that of New York on Hughes and Chanler." Another correspondent asks The Oregonian to inform "many of your readers of the total vote for each candidate for the Presidency of the United States for the years 1900, 1904 and 1908." Still another asks "Who of the Socialist or Prohibition candidates for President had the most votes."

All in due time. The Oregonian will give the information just as rapidly as it is received. The popular vote for President is not compiled by any Federal officer, but it is matter for the states only. For example, the official result has not been declared in Oregon nor in Washington nor in Idaho, only in a few of the states, so far as The Oregonian has observed. It may be many weeks before the exact figures can be compiled from the records of the various states, and, when it is done, it will be by the volunteer work of newspapers or statisticians. The states have no duty to the general Government in this matter except to get the returns and compile them after their own fashion and to certify to Congress that certain electors have been duly chosen. The electors meet in the various states in December and the electoral vote is canvassed by Congress on the second Wednesday in February.

The popular plurality of Taft over Bryan appears to be about 1,100,000, perhaps as much as 1,250,000. It is just about one-half the popular plurality of Roosevelt over Parker four years ago, or perhaps a little less. Yet on the whole Taft has had more votes cast for him than Roosevelt had. Roosevelt in 1904 had 7,620,000 and Parker 5,080,207. It is likely that Taft's total will be found to approach 8,000,000 and Bryan's to be somewhat less than 7,000,000. The total vote for all candidates will be found to be about 16,000,000, or nearly that. The Socialist vote has apparently been little increased over 1904 when it was 401,380, while the Prohibition vote of 258,205 is about stationary, or perhaps a little diminished. When the full information on these subjects is available The Oregonian will promptly procure and print it.

REPEAL THE LAW.

One of the very first acts of Congress should be repeal of that foolish law which compels transcontinental railroads publicly to post their rates on Oriental traffic and to give thirty days' notice before a change in these can be made. The Oregonian has frequently called attention to the detrimental effect this law would have on the trans-Pacific steamship business; but it is only recently that a new phase of the injustice has appeared. Until a short time ago the business driven away from the transcontinental lines by this law was handled by the tramp steamers running through the Suez Canal. Now the Canadian Pacific, a line which has always been a dangerous competitor of the American railroads, has taken up the business and is making through rates to the Orient on freight originating in the eastern part of the United States, at figures which cannot be met by the American railroads without jeopardizing all of their Pacific Coast business.

The effect of this is shown in an enormous increase in the volume of Oriental business passing through Vancouver, B. C., instead of through Seattle, Tacoma, Portland and San Francisco, where it was formerly handled. The Canadian Pacific, with its American connections, can, by absorbing the regular rate on the short haul across the border from the American ports, change its thorough rates to the Orient without a moment's notice, and can make any rate that is necessary in order to get the business, without giving it the slightest publicity. Until the Canadian Pacific began making a special effort to capture this trade it was still possible for the lines operating out of Pacific Coast ports to secure a limited amount of fast through freight not shipped by way of the Suez. But with the Canadian, an active competitor for the business, the last vestige of American transcontinental, trans-Pacific trade has been swept away.

The immediate and detrimental effect of the law which drives our business into the hands of the foreigner is quite plain here in Portland. With no Eastern freight available for part cargoes, the steamers sailing out of this port are dependent entirely on local freight, and this is not sufficiently remunerative to warrant operating vessels in ballast on the inward trip. As a result we are deprived of a frequent service and local business is hampered, the November steamers sailing from Portland being insufficient to handle the flour offerings. The most singular feature in connection with this odious law is the fact that it pleases no one except the New York shipping agents of foreign tramp steamers, and was apparently slipped through Congress without its deadly effect on American trans-Pacific trade being understood. There can be no revival of the trans-Pacific trade out of the Pacific ports until the railroads are again permitted to meet competition in the only way it can be met.

POSTAL BANKS.

The news that Mr. Taft believes the Republican platform promise to establish postal savings banks ought to be kept is cheering. The tendency to make promises before election and forget them afterwards is so familiar that it always excites some mild surprise when a President-elect or anybody else actually feels bound by them. Congress, however, although both houses will be Republican, does not feel under the same obligation as Mr. Taft does to fulfill ante-election pledges. It is rumored now that postal banks may be postponed for a couple of years to give the currency commission time to make its report, and after that they may again be postponed forever. If this should happen it would be a serious disappointment to the country. Mr. Bryan's scheme of deposit guaranty was very popular in spite of the weighty objections to it. These objections were largely made in the interest of bankers, not the public; but the people were willing to allow them every consideration because the Republican party had promised to give us a desirable substitute for the proposed guaranty, namely postal banks.

If it turns out now that both the guaranty and the postal banks are denied to the country by Congress, there will be much complaint. Virtually all the objections to the postal banks come from the bankers, and they are of the most narrowly selfish nature. Not a single one of them looks beyond their temporary interest to the broad welfare of the Nation. Objections of this character cannot in the long run prevail against the solid reasoning of such men as Mr. Taft and Mr. Meyer, sustained by the almost unanimous wish of the country.

The bankers are afraid that postal banks would either take away some of their deposits or force them to pay interest on money which they now get for nothing. Neither of these apprehensions is sound. What the postal banks would really do would be to call out of its hiding-places some $500,000,000 of currency which the bankers cannot get hold of by any possibility. The men who keep it in hoarding simply will not trust them, but the Government they will trust, and they would deposit their cash in the postoffice even if no interest whatever were offered them as an inducement. What such people desire above all else is unfailing security, and, so long as it is not obtainable, they will keep their money in the ginger jar and nothing the bankers can say or do will lure it out.

PSYCHOTHERAPY.

Now that mental healing has been made respectable by receiving a Greek name, it seems as if our elite and elegant churches might deign to take it up and patronize it. Bishop Samuel Fallows, of the Reformed Episcopal Church, bestows a saintly favor upon "psychotherapy" which he would scarcely have thought it advisable to impart to the mind cure or to Christian Science. The difference between tweedledee and tweedledum is still marked and important. The gracious inclination of many of the orthodox churches which is now so apparent toward mental therapy, after the preliminary difficulties in the matter have been worked out and the initial persecutions borne by others, is a charming illustration of a common course of conduct. When Copernicus wrote out his theory of the stellar motions he was afraid to publish it because the church was committed to the opposing theory of Ptolemy and he knew how the new knowledge would be received. Galileo's ideas of the earth's motion met with very much the same reception from the orthodox that Christian Science has experienced. The law has not permitted Mrs. Eddy and her followers to be imprisoned as Galileo was, but they have been maligned unsparingly and the leader herself has been pursued with every possible social and legal annoyance, even to the point of trying to rob her of her property.

When the pioneer geologists were working up their science early in the last century they were bitterly vilified on the ground that they were destroying religion. In particular it was urged against them that geology contradicted the opening chapters of Genesis and therefore in the first place it could not be true; and in the second place, if it were true, it must not be taught, because anything which contradicted Genesis was wicked. It was much the same with the theory of evolution. Darwin's ideas were received with shrieks of horror by pretty nearly every light of the churches in England. Anglicans and dissenters joined in calumniating both him and his views upon the origin of species. The notion that man was descended from the lower tribes of animals seemed not only abhorrent to rational human pride, but destructive to faith. In adopting the theory of evolution the United States was, of course, long behind the rest of the civilized world, and here the struggle against the new light raged furiously for years after the victory had been won in England and upon the Continent. Professor Woodward was expelled from his chair in South Carolina for teaching biological facts at a time when even the bishops of the Church of England had succumbed to the irresistible force of truth. Perhaps Oregon was the last place in the whole world where good men like the late Professor Condon were persecuted for teaching Darwin's great discoveries to their students.

These facts are all mere commonplaces and they are mentioned here merely to illustrate a confirmed habit in the churches of opposing new truth as long as by hook or crook they can do it, and then suddenly with a violent right about face appropriating the treasure to themselves and posing as its best patrons if not its veritable discoverers. Outside the barracks of the Salvation Army no preacher would now think of making himself absurd by fulminating against evolution. The church has reached the point of denying that it ever persecuted Galileo and has manufactured a good deal of laudable pride in the imaginary support it claims to have given Copernicus. Geology has become respectable in evangelical pulpits and very likely the time is at hand when orthodox orators will begin to sound the praises of Giordano Bruno and claim that the hierarchy was his best patron. So we can see what is to be expected in the matter of mental healing. Having preached and prayed and fulminated against it as long as there was the slightest hope of stamping out the new truth, the churches have now begun to patronize it. Presently Bishop Fallows and others will be saying that it has always been a part of their belief and practice.

These remarks are not offered in a faultfinding spirit, nor yet in a mood of pessimism. There are excellent reasons why the churches must approach new truth and forsake old errors with slow and timorous steps. Much of their influence with the multitude depends upon keeping a halo of infallibility over their heads.

AN INTERESTING COMMENT.

The Boston Herald speaks editorially of the experience of an English minister who had taken an American pulpit and sought to interest the young men of his church in economic and social problems. He failed to do so. His failure stirs the Herald to make some unfavorable comment upon the prevalent method of educating our young people. Instead of stimulating them to efficient interest in life and to vigorous effort, it appears to dull their interest and paralyze ambition. Thus the Boston Herald seems to believe. Persons everywhere in the United States who have undertaken to interest the public in questions of current moment generally have a similar experience. It is comparatively easy to collect audiences of women who will study deep subjects interminably, but men will not do it; neither will youths fresh from the high schools. One would naturally suppose that men and youths would be eager students of economic problems, but it is not so. They shun such subjects.

The reason for this unfortunate state of things is to be sought in the kind of education we give our young people. This education skims over numerous subjects, evading as many difficulties as possible, making everything childishly easy either in appearance or reality, and thus it disastrously blights the real interest which the young mind naturally takes in knowledge. Such men as President Pritchett and Superintendent Draper agree that we must have a change in this particular or our schools will continue to fall far short of their best usefulness. Both the aim and the subject matter of education must be revolutionized. Some way must be discovered of linking the schools vitally to life. If that is done, then students will go out into the world, not with their interest in all living questions fatally dulled, but they will be full of thought and burning with inquiry. The interest of the citizen in political and economic subjects is especially necessary in a democracy like ours, but the truth seems to be that we have less of it than most other peoples.

A PROPER SUBJECT OF INQUIRY.

Many times in the last few years, and particularly in the last few months, the farmers of Oregon have been criticised and expostulated with because the people of Oregon find it necessary to consume eggs produced in the East and shipped here to be sold at high prices. The Oregon farmer has been charged with negligence and lack of business judgment and has apparently been tried and found guilty before the bar of public opinion. In view of the facts as they appear it seems that the verdict is well-founded, for it is incredible that in this mild climate, where green feed can be had all the year round, it is not practicable to produce eggs cheaper than the Eastern poultryraiser can produce them. It seems impossible that any circumstances exist which make it unprofitable for Oregon farmers to produce the eggs for home consumption, when Eastern farmers can produce them, and sell them here after paying the freight and at least one extra commission to a middleman.

But, strong though the case seems to be against the Oregon farmer, possibly he has been misjudged. Perhaps there is some good reason why he should not be expected to supply the home market with eggs at the prices that can be obtained. If there is such a reason it should be made known so that the agriculturist may be relieved from the charge now hanging over him. Perhaps the Oregon farmer should be presumed innocent until he has been proven guilty and facts should be produced showing what it actually costs the farmer, or should reasonably cost him, to produce eggs; how many eggs he produces or should produce in a year, and what he gets for his eggs. The consumer who pays 35 and 40 cents a dozen for eggs has no doubt whatever that there is an immense profit in egg production. But is there? Will not the Agricultural College undertake an investigation, not for the purpose of demonstrating merely that some farmers make money producing eggs, but for the purpose of ascertaining how many hens the average farmer keeps, how many eggs he gets a year, how much it costs him to raise and feed his poultry, and how much he gets for his product?

Beyond question some farmers make money raising poultry and producing eggs for the market. The columns of the agricultural papers have set forth facts and figures showing this to be true. But are these exceptional cases? Does the average farmer find egg production unprofitable and, if so, why? These are intensely practical questions because they go to the merits of the question whether the Oregon farmer is guilty of carelessness. If the hens kept by the average Oregon farmer lay eggs only a little while in the Spring, and then yield no return for their feed all the rest of the year, let us know that fact and whether the difficulty can be remedied and how. If there is too large a difference between the price the Oregon farmer gets for his eggs and the price the Oregon consumer pays, we should know that fact, and why. It is very easy for the paper farmer, who does not need to build fences to keep chickens out of the garden and whose flocks are not depleted by hawks or "varmints," to figure out a big profit for the poultryraiser. But that paper farmer is probably a man who works ten hours a day and quits. He knows it doesn't take much time to throw out some wheat for the hens in the morning and gather the eggs at night. He doesn't know how much time is required to give the additional care which is necessary to make the hens lay. He doesn't know whether the Oregon farmer has any difficulty in inducing the storekeeper to take his eggs at a fair price, not merely when eggs are scarce, but all through the year. It is easy enough to demonstrate on paper that egg production pays. It is easy enough to prove by the actual experience of a few skilled poultry-raisers that it pays. But the real and important question is whether the average farmer makes it pay and if he does, how, and if he does not, why? It has taken years of effort to convince the Willamette Valley applegrower that there was something radically wrong with the way he raised apples and to point out the better way. Quite likely the same service must be performed for the poultry-raiser.

TWO OLD-YOUNG RULERS.

Tsi An, Dowager Empress of China, is the youngest-looking old woman alive today, unless Mary Baker G. Eddy is entitled to that distinction. Both of these young-old women are absolute rulers over their subjects, and both (if the pictures published of them are reliable) look young, despite their eighty, and no one knows how many more, years. Both came up from the ranks, so to speak, by the sheer force of will, and both observe a secrecy about their daily life that causes their subjects to regard them as holy and their persons as sacred. Both have been frequently reported as dead, and it was impossible to ascertain the truth or falsity of the report for days.

Unquestioning obedience and adoration are exacted by both from their subjects, and homage is paid to both without stint. Tsi An is probably the older of the two, though of this no one knows certainly. She dwells in the innermost recesses of the Forbidden City in barbaric splendor, accessible to the limited few who compose the inner circle. Mrs. Eddy dwells in the innermost temple of her stately palace near Boston, and communicates to the outside only through her faithful secretary. There are those among their subjects who believe them superior to the claims of mortality. Now, however, it is said that Tsi An is dying, perhaps dead, while for what the world knows to the contrary Mrs. Eddy is still living, the most remarkable young-old woman in America, as Tsi An is the most remarkable in Asia. Somehow the world will wag along without them when they go hence, though to their subjects this seems impossible.

THE EMPEROR WHO TALKS TOO MUCH.

The animosity between England and Germany, which angered the Kaiser until he gave his wrath vent in his ill-advised interview, and thereby brought all Europe about his ears, has been growing ever since the Franco-German war of 1870-71. It has its roots in national commercial rivalry and has been intensified by the expansion of German commerce the world over and by British opposition to the invasion of what Britons regarded as their exclusive field.

Prior to 1870 Germany was of small importance as a commercial nation. Split into many petty principalities and having no shipping of consequence, she could accomplish little and her manufactures found small outlet. But about that year German manufacturers began vigorously to seek an export trade. Young Germans were sent to England, or went of their own accord, to learn the English language and English business habits as clerks in English export houses. They underbid Englishmen for employment, were apt and industrious, willingly working longer hours than their English competitors. Thus they sowed the seeds of hatred among the great army of English clerks.

After a few years they returned home thoroughly equipped by their knowledge of the enemy's country to manage a German manufacturing or export business. During their absence German industry had grown by leaps and bounds, and its products were overflowing the empire's frontiers. Coal and iron mines were developed and great steel works established. English patterns and styles were copied and improved upon and cheaper substitutes were put on the market. Novelties were produced in place of English standard patterns, which had not changed in generations.

Thus came fierce commercial competition, which rapidly extended to all European countries, then to the colonies, America, the Orient. The Germans established branches and catered to the whims and customs of their many-colored patrons, while the English, in effect, though not in words, told their customers that what was good enough for their fathers was good enough for them. German steamship lines traversed every ocean as the carriers of German goods. Finally Germany acquired colonies of her own in Africa, and began developing them in her hard and fast, bureaucratic, military way. She acquired a sphere of influence in China and sought concessions for the development of that empire.

The result was that every letter home from any foreign port to either country told of the competition of the other. The English merchants who had gladly hired cheap German clerks found those same clerks, as managers of German branch houses, taking away their customers in Africa, the Orient, South America. Naturally, the hatred which was already ingrained in the English clerks, spread to their employers.

About the same period a large influx of German workmen into England occurred. In some cases they were imported by employers to break strikes of English workmen, notably in the case of the great Courthouse in London. They worked longer hours for lower wages than their English competitors. Thus the seeds of hatred were sown also in the minds of the English workingmen.

The frequent intermarriage between British Princes and Princesses and petty German Princes and Princesses was also a source of irritation in Great Britain. The prejudice against intermarriage with Catholic royal families made Germany and Scandinavia the only field open. Many of these German Princes ruled petty kingdoms, but under the agreement by which the British crown lands were ceded to the nation, a liberal allowance had to be voted by Parliament for each Princess on her marriage. The result was frequent allusions in Radical newspapers to the husbands of these Princesses as "pauper German Princes." That made German blood boil.

The character of the Kaiser and his government has tended to aggravate this hatred, do what he will to counteract it. In all essentials, Great Britain is the most democratic country on earth and has an instinctive repugnance for anything which savors of absolutism. In that country the King "rules, but does not govern," and thus sits above the storm of political controversy. In Germany the Emperor insists that he shall not only rule, but govern; that the acts of his ministers shall be the execution of his personal will. Yet he demands that he, like the British King, shall be free from criticism. The British dislike such a system and therefore never miss an opportunity to hit a blow at its representative. The Kaiser, being by his own choice the active head of his government, occupies much the same position in the British mind as the British Premier, who is criticised unsparingly and expects it. Their hatred of the Germans as commercial rivals adds venom to their shafts.

When such deep-seated animosity exists, the Kaiser's citation of evidences of his friendship for Great Britain served only to add fuel to the flames. His claim to have furnished the plan of campaign by which the Boers were conquered hurt British vanity by stealing the glory of their idolized General Roberts. His exposure of the Franco-Russian movement to intervene in the Boer war enraged the French, who now love John Bull as dearly as they hated him only a few years ago. His scolding of his own people has aroused them to equal frenzy. His frank declaration that Germany has enlarged her navy with a view to playing a part in the struggle for the control of the Pacific is calculated to put every other nation having interests on that ocean on the alert. He has fanned every smoldering animosity into a flame and the world will be fortunate if the outcome is nothing more serious than a large expenditure of strong language in every European newspaper and parliament. No wonder the Reichstag begs him to talk no more.

The resignation, seemingly forced, of Secretary Metcalf, points to the belief that the "Pinafore" hero's rule, "Stick close to your desk and never go to sea, and some day you'll be ruler of the Queen's navee," is no longer a safe one to follow. The experience of the inexperienced Secretary shows that, unless an official has other qualifications than a lawyer's, he is somewhat out of place as the ruler of a navy. Secretary Metcalf is a good citizen and loyal to his party, but his ignorance of the work that was part of his position was so painfully apparent in his manipulation of the Pacific fleet that it has been a surprise to many that he was not relieved from duty long ago. Portland, which suffered through the Secretary's ignorance, will hope that his successor is sufficiently familiar with maritime matters to know that a twenty-four-foot battleship does not draw any more water than a twenty-six-foot merchantman.

The Governor of British Honduras has arrived at Victoria for the purpose of looking over a large surplus stock of Hindus who have been causing all sorts of labor troubles in the province for many months past. It is believed that these strange people from the Far East can be made useful on the Central American plantations, and an effort will be made to induce them to migrate to the warmer climate. If the effort is successful, it will relieve British Columbia of an embarrassing predicament. The Hindus, unlike the Japanese, are British subjects, and, if old "Stormalong John" should fail to protect them in this part of his possessions, their brethren in far-away India might take revenge by reducing the British population at the old home of these wanderers who are not warmly welcomed at any Pacific Coast port.

It is useless to say that the law of Oregon does not attempt to compel the members of the Legislature to vote in a certain way for Senator. It does that very thing. It "instructs" them "to vote for and elect the candidates who receive the highest number of votes at our general elections." This is the very language of the law, which was enacted by the initiative method last June. It supersedes Statement One; it undertakes to make it obligatory upon every member of the Legislature—those who didn't take that "pledge," as well as those who did—to vote for particular candidates for the Senate, and for no others. Statement One, of the primary law, superseded by this statute, is no longer of force or effect. This statute annihilated every pledge, and has substituted a mandate of its own. Is it to be obeyed?

If the loungers in the San Francisco courtroom had been searched for pistols they had no right to have, the Heney shooting would not have occurred. Many others would not happen if citizens suspected of carrying concealed weapons were searched every day, as they should be.

The Yaquina Railroad appears to have run $1156.06 behind after paying running expenses, taxes and interest on $1,410,000 bonds. That's a pretty good record for a railroad that some years ago sold for $100,000 cash. It's what Wall street would call "a juicy melon."

Laying aside all buncombe, members of the Legislature are supposed to serve the people's best interests and all Republicans know that the reasonable way to serve those interests at Washington is to elect a Republican United States Senator.

Perhaps the tariff commission will agree that the duty on foreign titles should be increased. This is the only imported article on which there will be unanimity of opinion.

If the people of San Francisco had unitedly taken up Heney's fight against the Ruef thieves and sent the lawbreakers to speedy punishment, this latest crime would not have occurred.

From this time forward the percentage column in the bank clearings statement is likely to furnish hebdomadal business cheer.

Once again there is imperial information that the Chinese Emperor is dead. Once is enough in this country, but not in China.

So far there has been no revision of the tariff downward. But it might be done if the Democratic party would consent.

Mr. Bryan was not so sorely disappointed as the Democratic patriots in Oregon who hoped for pie.

Thirty cents a pound for turkey doesn't seem high—if you don't intend to have turkey.

Up to the hour of going to press Emperor Wilhelm hadn't talked back any to speak of

TOPICAL VERSE

The Bill.

Philadelphia Bulletin.

If life's a stage, this early bill,
This mundane muss,
Is what they term in vaudeville
"Continuous."

We climb and struggle out of debt
And gayly then
We set ourselves to work and get
Back in again.

We're not, when we one fiddler pay,
Forthwith immune.
Another straight begins to play
Another tune.

We cannot show our grace or skill
In just one song.
For we are playing in a bill
That runneth long.

Ballade on the Usual Delay.

Chicago News.

She may at times show lots of speed,
Move round at quite a lively rate
On some occasions. Yes, indeed,
She hits up a 2:40 gait.
But if she fails to keep a date
On time, the reason you may guess—
It's one, too, that's most adequate:
She has to take the time to dress.

You show her that there's pressing need—
A bargain sale of hats ornate,
Or ribbons, and it's well agreed,
The way she hustles round is great
But don't from that anticipate
She'll fix and fuss a moment less,
Preparing for affairs of state,
She has to take the time to dress.

I know I never could succeed,
However I might agitate
Myself and her and storm or plead,
In hurrying my own dear mate,
She has to get her hat on straight,
Or curl or smooth some stubborn tress,
We miss our train, as sure as fate,
She has to take the time to dress.

L'ENVOI.

She has to take the time to dress,
Young man, it's certain you'll be late.
Your soul in patience, pray, possess,
Although, of course, you hate to wait,
She has to take the time to dress.

A Lullaby.

Amy Churchill in Lippincott's.

The sunbeams are kissing each other good-night;
Hush, thee, my little one, hush.
The flowers are closing their peepers up tight;
Hush, thee, my little one, hush.
Now draw close the shutters across the blue eyes;
The loved queen of Nodland awaits her sweet prize,
And fairies standy ready to carry thee o'er
The meadows that stretch to the far silent shore.
Hush, thee, my little one, hush.

The golden head nestles on mother's warm breast;
Baby is almost asleep.
A wee little bird flutters home to its nest;
Baby is almost asleep.
How gently, how fast, fall the deep twilight shades!
O'er sea and o'er land, o'er hills and o'er glades!
How softly the moon sheds its silvery beams
On slumberland's walls and its cities of dreams!
Baby is fast, fast asleep.

The Closing Year.

F. W. Bourdillon.

Faster than petals fall on windy days
From ruined roses,
Hope after hope falls fluttering, and decays
Ere the year closes.

For little hopes, that open but to die,
And little pleasures
Divide the long sad year that labors by,
Into short measures.

Yea, let them go! our day-lived hopes are not
The life we cherish;
Love lives, till disappointments are forgot,
And sorrows perish.

On withered boughs, where still the old leaf clings,
New leaves come never;
And in the heart, where hope hangs faded, springs
No new endeavor.

When You Were Young.

John Randolph Stedman in Appleton's.

Old Age, in the firelight's ruddy gleam
At dying day,
You smile, amused at Love's young dream
And foolish way,
And yet, grayheads, you'd fain repeat
The song that's sung,
For ah! this foolish love was sweet,
When you were young.

You scoff at his impassioned eyes,
And burning speech
Of hopes and dreams beyond the skies,
Far out of reach.
And yet, grayheads, you'll fain recall
Fond words that rung,
For ah! this foolish love was all,
When you were young.

L'Amour Fait Peur.

Florence Earle Coates in Independent.

A coward is man, yet a hero,
Whose will overmasters his fear
Till peril no longer appals him,
And danger itself groweth dear,
Poised and strong, asking no intervention,
He hazards the rock and the shoal;
Only one thing halts his pretension—
Love frightens the soul.

Self-disciplined, slowly but surely,
Disaster accustomed to brave,
He makes a companion of sorrow,
Nor falters at threat of the grave;
Nay, often would hold it at nearer
Approach a beneficent goal—
But, ah! with the thought of one dearer,
Love frightens the soul!

The Panic in Africa.

Puck.

In the jungles deep where the were-wolves creep,
And the pterodactyls nest,
Where is built the lair of the untamed bear,
There's a sort of vague unrest;
For the news has blown from the lion's throne
To the haunt of the crocodile,
That a dead game sport—Theodore, for short—
Will arrive in a little while.

In the humble cot of the hippopotamus there is deepest gloom;
And the better half of the tall giraffe
Wails loud at the signs of doom;
In the noisome brake the constrictor snake
No longer is fierce and bold,
For the tidings dread of the ruthless Ted
Are making its blood run cold.

Alas for the ant and the elephant,
The gnu and the humble bee!
And alas for the stoat and bewhiskered goat,
And the scat and the chimpanzee!
For a deadlier death than their native heath
Will take each beast and bird!
And their dying yawp will but swell the crop
Of yarns at a dollar a word!