

The Oregonian

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WAR AND ANTI-WAR POETRY.

War has ever been perhaps the most powerful stimulus to the poetic imagination. The first poets were doubtless chanters of runes recounting the glories of the tribe in warfare, or, more often, the heroic exploits of some individual tribesman.

In this simple manner assuredly sprang into wondrous being all the heroes of antiquity, of every race and clime. The Greek and Scandinavian mythologies surely had their rise in poetic exaggeration of the deeds of the mortal.

Through all the songs that have come down to us, the heroic and heroic manhood of the race throbs the restive rhythm of the war drum. War is extolled and the warrior is glorified.

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creep across a valley through the brown wheat. Johann, with four others, lies in a cottage garden. They hear a bird call from the eaves and a clock tick through the door.

Of a sudden lightning's lash the sky. The lightning's arrow, masked and using smokeless powder, flays the sky. Then there comes a charge: They leapt across the lead flash.

Michael the poet, blind, goes home with a message to Sonia from Johann, in a field hospital, taking her the bullet that had been cut from Johann's breast.

Discordant echoes from Mexico. Just at a time when the disciples of moral suasion were pointing to "peaceful Mexico" as a splendid example of the power of gentle patience.

Chamberlain to West to Smith. The Oregonian approves the single-item veto and has frequently expressed itself; but it agrees with Mr. Withycombe's reported remarks that it may indeed be a "two-edged sword."

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again be handed over to the Chamberlain-West-Smith machine, a quite royal. Mahon, marching to rescue him, was defeated and his entire force captured at Sedan. He was completely outgunned, and the French were before him.

THE SPORT OF KINGS. Although the dispatches give us but a fleeting glimpse of the German Crown Prince in action, yet little imagination is required to fill in the details and give us a graphic picture of why war is the sport of kings and men-of-letters.

THE WAR OF 1870. The Franco-Prussian war which broke out in the summer of 1870 was an unbroken series of disasters for the French from beginning to end.

FOR NATIONAL ROADS. The National Old Trails Road Association is a department of the National Highways Association.

REAPING THE WHIRLWIND. Arthur Sears Henning, correspondent of the Chicago Tribune at Washington, says on high authority, for which that careful newspaper vouches, that a widespread and formidable insurrection against American authority is on the point of breaking out.

LITTLE RISK, MUCH GAIN. Although the trade of the world will necessarily be disturbed by the European war, that of the Pacific Coast will suffer little risk of interruption.

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close to being in charge of island affairs and is given credence by Army officers and Republican Senators and Representatives in close touch with Philippine affairs, who say the War Department knows less about what is going on in the Philippines now than ever before.

LONDON'S LOSS OF PEOPLE. An extremely suggestive current phenomenon is the decrease in the population of London. From the heart of the city a million people have been lost in the last ten years.

WILLIAM MORRIS. Lovers of the good in man will be glad to learn that a new book on William Morris has been published in this country. It is by Mr. Clutton-Brock and the price is 50 cents.

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Gleams Through the Mist

The sun was shining on the sea. Shining with all its might; It did its very best to make The billows smooth and bright; And proudly sailed the little ship Unto the scene of fight.

The Piffle ploughed with plunging keel Through clinging clumps of kelp; And round the European shores Was heard the war dogs' yelp. "Make haste," remarked the Commodore.

"We ought to go and help," he said. "If there is any way To calm these warring nations down, Avert the fearful fray, And give the dove of peace a chance To build a nest and lay."

"Oh, William J.!" the crew exclaimed Unto the Commodore. "What if the Piffle peddles peace Along all Europe's shores? Do you suppose that we'll be heard Above the battle's roar?"

"If," said the Commodore, "we preach, And if they stop to hear, The lofty thoughts I offer them, Will they not see it clear? 'I don't see it clearly' said the crew, And shed a bitter tear."

"At first we'll start it mild," then said The Commodore, "and thin, And on the smaller ones at first, 'Well start to rub it in, And by and by, if all goes well, The bigger ones will win."

"Supposing Iceland we persuade To shun the general fray, And let the world's most arduous work We influence to stay? May we not finally work up To Switzerland some day?"

"And if the Swiss will promise us To keep their navy out, We may congratulate ourselves And wish a joyous shout. For we will then have made a good Beginning, without doubt."

"But, Commodore," replied the crew, "While we are thus engaged, What Portugal may do, the war Just went right on and raged. How long do you suppose 'twould be Before things were assuaged?"

The Commodore replied with pride: "The world must surely wait, How watchfully I waited peace In poor old Mexico; And can't a plea for A B C Be tried out here also?"