

**CHRISTMAS.**  
This Christmas Festival is upon us. A word of its history will not be out of place. The twenty-fifth day of December was fixed upon in the fourth century as the day of Christ's nativity. This solemnity was celebrated at an earlier period in the month of April and May. But upon a full investigation of the time the theologians of the East and West agreed upon the 25th of December, since which time this day has been celebrated as one of the noted of Christian festive days. During the middle ages it was celebrated by the gay fantastic spectacles of dramatic mysteries and moralities performed by personages in grotesque masks and singular costumes. The scenery represented an infant in a cradle, with the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph standing close by. There was a custom of singing canticles or Christmas carols, which recalled the shepherds sang at the birth of Christ. The bishops and the lower clergy often joined with the populace in carolling and the songs were enlivened by dancing and by the music of tambours, guitars, violins and organs. Fathers, mothers, sons and daughters, mingled together in the dance. In the night, each bearing a lighted wax taper in his hand. These customs prevailed as early as the fourteenth century among the Welsh, French, Germans and English. It is the custom still for the Calabrian minstrels to come down from the mountains of Naples and Rome and salute the shrines of the Virgin Mother with their wild music under the poetical notion of observing her until the approaching Christmas. At dead midnight before Christmas the bells are rung throughout England and the continent, a collision being partaken of by the midnight revelers, that they may the better sustain the labor of the night. In Germany and north Europe Christmas is often called the "children's festival" and Christmas Eve is devoted to giving presents. A large yew bough is erected in one of the parlors, lighted with tapers, and hung with manifold gifts. The donor's name is never marked on them. When the whole family are assembled the gifts are distributed amid joyful acclamation and congratulations. As soon as this is over the good mother takes occasion to say privately to the daughters, and the father to the sons, what has been observed most praiseworthy and what most faulty in their conduct. The different modes of celebrating Christmas are very singular and peculiar to the people adopting them. But Christmas day has always been at once a religious, domestic and merry-making festival in England. This often continues until Candlemas (February 2d). The latter is decorated with caps, hens, turkeys, ducks, geese, beef, mutton, pork, puddings, etc.

Old England was merry, England when Old Christmas brought his sports again. 'Twas Christmas broached the mightiest ale; 'Twas Christmas told the merriest tale; A Christmas gambol'd would cheer A poor man's heart through half the year.

The common custom of decking the houses and churches at Christmas with evergreens is derived from ancient Druid practices. It was an old belief that sylvan spirits might flock to the evergreens and remain unmissed by frost till a milder season. The holly, ivy, rosemary, hays, laurel and mistletoe were the favorite trimmings. These are the favorite trimmings with us in this country. These were not removed till Candlemas. Chaplets of these were worn about the head, hence the phrases "Kiss under the rose," "whisper under the mistletoe," etc. Many were the superstitions that surrounded this day. The famous Hawthorne in the churchyard at Glensheen Abbey, which always blossomed on the 24th, and blossomed on that day, has with many other mysterious observances passed away. These celebrations have lost their boisterous features, and gambols and carols are nearly gone. Family reunions and evergreens are nearly all that remain. In the United States it is celebrated after the style of the old country. The Gorman, the Frenchman and the Englishman infuse into the occasion much of his own custom. It is so with those from all nations that celebrated Christmas. It is with us a legal holiday, and is celebrated with church services and exchanging Christmas cards, presents, trimming houses and churches with evergreens and imitating the German custom of Christmas trees. Dinners are the social feature of the day. The day will be celebrated with great industry and pleasure and we hope all may enjoy it after the traditions of their fathers. We wish all a "merry Christmas."

**LAQUINA BAY AND RAILROAD NOTES.**  
We hear from the Bay that work is going rapidly on in the preparations for constructing the railroad wharf and warehouses. We learn that the vessels will lie alongside the wharf in 18 feet at lowest low water, with a level mud bottom, and still have upwards of a quarter of mile of water opposite, varying from 24 to 40 feet in depth, for them to turn round in. The average rise of tide is seven feet and eight-tenths. The spot selected is entirely sheltered, and affords facilities for extending the wharfage alongside the deep water to any necessary extent. Our readers will remember that an hour's towage, or less, will take the ships from alongside the wharf to the wide ocean. There does not seem to be then a very wide scope here for the exactions of a pilotage and towage monopoly. On Wednesday, the 7th of Dec. the schooner "Emily Stephens," from Portland, entered Yaquina Bay, fully loaded, under sail, at dead low water. She came in without the least trouble and was safely secured alongside the wharf at Newport before the inhabitants had finished breakfast. We expect next week to get the exact draft of the "Emily Stephens" on this occasion. Our authority for the above facts as to the ship is Mr. Polhemus, U. S. Engineer. He is now in Portland preparing his report of the past season's successful work.

The mill yard at Onesta is stacked full of lumber for the flat cars and box cars for the railroad, and yet but a small portion of the number to be provided for is yet completed. This car lumber is of the finest quality, clear and level, and all cut from the biggest size of logs that the mill can handle.

In the reports of the blast that almost daily reach them the inhabitants of Corvallis have pretty good evidence that the rock gang on this side of the summit is busily at work. We mention this fact to re-assure the editor of the *Willamette Farmer*, who has been telling his readers that his "fall" is "dampened" and his "ardor," "cooled" by virtue of reports that all works have been stopped and that there is no money with which to carry on the work. We should be very much concerned that the virtues of the *Farmer* should be so weakened without any good reason just when after a severe course of incredulity, he had announced himself a convert to belief in the success of the Oregon Pacific.—*Gazette*.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**  
SHALL WE HAVE LAW AND ORDER?  
*Rt. Democrat:*  
The many expressions which find utterance in the so-called respectable newspapers in regard to Guitau and what should be done with him, are enough to lead us to inquire: Are we a nation of murderers? Take for instance the following from the *Oregonian*: "Everything in this world may be abused. Reverence for the sanctity of law may, in extreme cases run into absurdity. The present time affords an instance of it. In the trial of Guitau the instance is compelled to witness a sickening farce. The trial shows that the law, in its present state, is not fit to deal with a crime so extreme and atrocious. In such cases the only thing necessary should be a motion for a sentence of death, which should be executed right speedily. But a long 'trial,' with its disgusting details takes place—though there is not a single doubt on any point, nor a single fact relating to the murder to be developed. Such is the enormity of this crime, the detestable character of the assassin, and the farcical nature of the legal proceedings, that people and press have very generally expressed a *quasi* approval of the steps which have been made to put an end to the worthless life of the damnable monster. But some say this is a lawless spirit, which cannot be encouraged without the gravest danger. Here then is one of those extreme cases before spoken of, and fortunately rare as extreme, where reverence for the sanctity of law runs into absurdity. The taking of this accused scoundrel, as his crime is greatly in the minority for three hundred years, would be no precedent for disregard or violation of the law in any other conceivable case. There is only one thing to be done, and that thing is to destroy him, as men would destroy any horrible monster; and it matters little or nothing how, when or by whose hand it is accomplished."

The effect of such ideas, if they influence any one, will be twofold. 1. It will encourage the criminal classes to commit crime. 2. It will encourage the friends of law and good society to become more diligent in seeing that good men are placed in responsible positions. Suppose that the man who wrote the above were in the place of the man before whom Guitau is now being tried? If such were the case, although a violent presumption, there would be no enforcing law. The most sacred rights of the Constitution would be trampled upon, brute force would prevail and the crime of assassination would be encouraged.

A judge has but one course to follow and that is a strict adherence to the law. If Judge Cox should violate the law in order that Guitau should be hanged in that case he could with equal propriety do so in any other. "Reverence for the sanctity of law" never was and never will be run into absurdity. There are unrighteous laws, but that does not justify any Court in violating his sacred duty to disregard them in any case. It would be far better if Guitau should go unhung, though some, than that the law should be trampled upon by a Judge to court popular favor. The trial of Guitau is not "a sickening farce." The Editors that are continual y howling about the conduct of Judge Cox show that they are ignorant of what they are talking. The *Oregonian* says "there is not a single doubt on any point." Long before the trial began his counsel declared that Guitau was innocent. If he were innocent in point of fact when he committed the deed, what sane man could wish to see him hung? What good would come of hanging an insane man? Would it deter other insane men from committing crime? Not at all. The assertion in the above that "There is only one thing to be done and that thing is to destroy him" no matter "how, when or by whose hand it is accomplished," only indicates how utterly insignificant some people are. The thing referred to has not been done. The Court before whom he is being tried has thus far shown himself to be a fair and honorable man. The "taking off"—in other words the murder—of the prisoner has not taken place and there needs to be a good prospect that law will be enforced and the Constitution unviolated, notwithstanding the opinion of the *Oregonian*. I quote the following from the *Oregonian* of Dec 15th only to show how extremely wild some persons can become. It may not prove to be very injurious as not one law-abiding citizen in the land would endorse it:

The discovery is now claimed that two jurors acting in the Guitau case are disqualified, and that this fact will invalidate any verdict which the jury may render. The story is a doubtful one; but should it prove true it will only be the more necessary for the person who is to ride the world of the devilish monster to hurry up the business. The only possible thing to be done with the accused wretch is to prepare his wife carcass for the earth, and then to inhume it as quickly as possible. How it is done, when, or by whose hand, matters little. Mankind has no interest in him but to destroy him, or to know that he is destroyed. The law, in its present state, cannot deal properly with such a miscreant, and therefore is not entitled to respect. The only thing necessary in such a case should be to bring the detested scoundrel before the court to receive the sentence of death. A "trial" for such a crime is a burlesque of justice and an outrage upon mankind. The scenes enacted in the court room at Washington are not for enforcement of justice, but for perversion of the law so as to secure immunity for the assassin. The civilized world is disgusted at the spectacle, and nine-tenths of the American people would express their satisfaction any moment if they could hear that this infernal wretch's brains had been blown out, within Judge Cox's court or out of it.

Why should it be more necessary to murder the prisoner because some one made a mistake in getting a jury? Would that the fault of the prisoner? We look on the above as a mere literary curiosity. One lives in the 19th century and would hardly believe it possible that the editor of a large daily newspaper could have stooped so low as to publish such monstrous ideas. If that had come from the pen of Henry the 8th one could not have been astonished. Even he would hardly have dared to advocate such hideous doctrines. To "hurry up the business" of murdering the prisoner on account of a mistake

**SCIO NOTES.**  
Dec. 20th, 1881.  
*Editor Democrat:*  
A very pleasant social party was held last week at the residence of Mr. W. H. Talbot. Quite a number were present. Games and plays were the order of the evening. Refreshments were served, to which all did justice after which the pleasures of the evening were engaged, till the clock announced the twelfth hour of the night, when all turned their faces homeward expressing themselves as having passed a very enjoyable evening.

We had the pleasure last week of meeting T. L. Dugger Esq., Mr. D. comes in the interest of the "Herald" and he seemed pleased to meet any who wished to subscribe for this paper.

Mrs. Dorcas Johns, of Marion, was a guest in Scio last week.

Christmas is near at hand and such a supply of holiday goods was never brought to our town, all are well supplied and all are buying.

A meeting has been held to perfect arrangements for a rousing time on Christmas Eve. A good program is already completed. Nothing has been left undone that would add to the pleasure of the evening. Also an opportunity will be given to all who trip "the light fantastic."

A debating society has been organized in Cole's School District. Chas. Cole, President; Frank Darby, Secretary. No doubt but the Webster and Clays wax eloquent in their discussions. At one of their debates they decided that Christianity was on the decline. Question for next meeting, "Resolved that infidelity has produced more evil than good."

Two young men of this place are becoming quite noted. They have been committing their depredations for sometime; within one year they have broken into several of the business places, but as yet they have not been dealt with. The crime committed one night last week on the school premises, was too low for any one in human form to be guilty of. The teacher had the necessary papers made out, and had it not been for the respect to their parents, they would have been arrested and justice given them. Boys, the citizens are getting tired of such conduct; if you do not change your course, you will be invited to engage board with Hotel de Dush at Salem for a term of years. Take warning in time and do better.

The school in District No. 71 closes next week, with appropriate exercises prepared by B. Cornell, teacher.

**POSTMASTER GENERAL JAMES WILL** resign his position on January 1st, on account of private business.

The gap in the Northern Pacific Railroad between Oregon and Montana is now about 700 miles, and it will almost be closed during the coming year.

GEN. JOE JOHNSTON now accuses Jeff Davis of appropriating to his own use about \$2,500,000 which belonged to the Southern Confederacy at the close of the war. Jeff will probably write a book on it.

An old government scout says there is no doubt there will be a general uprising of Indians on the plains next summer. A man might just as well prophesy that we would have rain in Webfoot during the winter.

BUTWELL has been tendered the position of Secretary of the Navy, but it is understood that he declines, and asks for an appointment as Circuit Judge in Massachusetts. Wm. E. Chandler will probably get the place offered Butwell, and the Secretary of the Interior will either be Sargent or Chaffee.

HORACE GRAY, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, has been nominated as successor to Justice Clifford in the Supreme Court of the United States. As Justice Gray is a man of known ability and purity of character his nomination is well received by everybody.

The despatches says that a capital of about \$30,000,000 invested in manufactures, threatens to leave the state of Illinois because the railroad commissioners prohibit railroads from making special rates for large firms. Oregon is a large state, so that there is plenty of room here for them if they will only come.

Among the bills introduced in the House on Wednesday last week was one providing for the restoration of the Klamath Indian reservation to the public domain, with a proviso that the rights of present settlers to make homestead or pre-emption entries shall date back to the time of actual settlement.

The Anti-Monopoly League of New York makes the statement that on the occasion of the late election in New York it placed nineteen candidates for the State Senate on a black list, because of their adherence to protectionist theories. Out of the nineteen thus opposed only three were elected. Candidates for the Assembly did not fare any better.

SENATOR SLATER has presented a bill in Congress to divide up the Umattilla Reservation, giving the head of each Indian family 160 acres; to each single person over 18 years of age, and each orphan child under that age, 80 acres; each child under 18, not otherwise provided for, 40 acres. The balance of the land is to be appraised and sold to actual settlers. The bill is a good one and we hope to see it pass.

Aston, the New York millionaire who tried to buy a seat in Congress, after his crushing defeat concluded to take a European tour. It isn't fashionable to sail for the Old World in November, but he doubtless thought anything was better than reading the comments on his corrupt campaign work. He will probably come back a firm believer in the virtues of a monarchical form of government.

The only argument that ever was worth a cent in favor of a protective tariff is that our laborers should be protected against the "pauper labor of Europe." Then why in the name of sense do not the protectionists prohibit the importation of European laborers. That is the short and only way to protect laborers in this country; any other protection is pocketed by the favored capitalist.

The post office (court) organs all over the country are wonderfully changed in opinion since the "court" changed. They all claim now that the stalwart Vice President, Arthur, who was mean enough to follow Conkling in a bitter fight against his chief, Garfield, over official spoils, is one of nature's noblemen and always loved the President and all the half-breeds. They claim that there is now no longer any factional fight in the radical party, or, in other words, that Garfield said it would, "unite the Republican party."

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"Be it enacted, etc.—That on account of the services of Ulysses S. Grant general of the army, the president be and is hereby authorized to nominate and by advice and consent of the senate, appoint him to the army with the rank and grade of general, to be placed on the retired list with pay accordingly. All laws and parts of laws in conflict herewith are suspended for this purpose only."

The bill put the committee by a party vote, 5 against 3. Senators Logan, Cameron, of Pa., Harrison, Sewell and Hawley in the affirmative, and Cockrell, Maxey and Grover in the negative. Hampton was absent.

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**CENTAUR LINIMENT.** always Cures and never disappoints. The world's great Pain-Reliever for Man and Beast. Cheap, quick and reliable.

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**PITCHER'S CASTORIA** is not Narcotic. Children grow fat upon Mothers like, and Physicians recommend CASTORIA. It regulates the Bowels, cures Wind Colic, allays Feverishness, and destroys Worms.

**WILL SCRATCH** where he can find the most worms, and farmers should act on the same principle when they buy their goods.

**DRY GOODS, HATS, CAPS, BOOTS, SHOES** and an extra stock of the best quality of GROCERIES.

**JAMES L. COWAN,** of LEBANON, has just returned from below with a mammoth and complete stock of General Merchandise, which he bought at such low figures that no establishment in the county is able to undersell him. He makes no specialties, but has EVERYTHING YOU WANT!

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