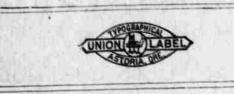
PAGE TWO.

Morning Astorian

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PATTI AND HER TRADUCERS.

Ashton Stevens started it, the San Francisco Musical Age, in an extra edition of abominable stuff, pushed it along, and all of the San Francisco criticism was reflected in the articles of the Portland "critics"-poor, weak pretenders, who must fain follow the fashion and traduce the greatest vocalist the world has ever seen and heard. Stevens was gentlemanly aout it-which is something out of the ordinary for Stevens; usually he is vulgar. The Musical Age, the expressions of which are so unkind so painfully unkind-was brutal. The Portland "critics"-or mimics-were, like all parrots silly; and their expressions bore the unmistakable earmarks of the San Francisco criticisms. Portland you know, must needs be like San Francisco at critical times in her career, else some one might doubt her very great greatness. Just think! what an everlasting stain would have remained on Portland's fair name had Patti been courteously dealt with by the weaklings who rushed to print with their senseless prattle! What imperishable grief would have come over the elite of Portland society and intellect had it not been informed by these discerning, superior ones that it had been bilked because "seven-aher distinguished reputation that the critics dwelt ticians who have been literally forced into a within her midst. We shudder to contemplate what might have transpired but for their presence, and the lasting tribute to art reflected in the caricature appearing in the Oregonian, to say nothing of the lame jokes of the funny men who draw down good money for the privilege of practicing upon the publie. Madame Patti is 61 years of age. Her voice is not what it once was, as she well knows. "She has lost her high notes and her lower register is sadly threadbare," the Musical Age says, and the Portland critics echo the sentiment. Those who went to the odeon to hear Patti knew what to expect. They knew she once possessed the grandest voice the world has ever known, and they knew time had told upon its sweet notes. But they went to see her and to hear her, not so much because they expected the old-time tones, but because they desired to pay their last tribute to the wonderful vocal ability of Patti, or else desired to pose as people of sufficient mental accomplishment to appreciate the high order of entertainemnt presented. The art lovers were there because of an irresistible, honest impulse; the snobs were there, as snobs always are, posing for effect; and the eurious went just as they would flock to see John L. Sullivan, or any other celebrity who had held the world's attention. What does it matter that Patti's high notes have been lost, that her lower register is threadbare? Is she not the grandest living vocalist of the age of 61? Did she induce the crowd to gather under false pretenses ! And, if she is the complete failure the Portland critics brand her, why did the tears come to the eyes of that vast throng when she sang "Home, Sweet Home ?" Surely, there is some of the old-time charm to her voice-none the less of the personal magnetism that brought the world to her feet.

ASTORIA, OREGON, SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 1904.

mence the publication of a paper at St. Louis, where the democratic convention is to be held. For fully a year past his papers have kept his name prominently before the public, and the supposition that he is seeking the nomination at the hands of the democrats-a doubtful honor from the view point of success-is probably correct. It is supposed his determination to publish a paper at St. Louis is merely a part of his plan to bring to bear upon the national convention the greatest possible influence in his favor. His papers, published at widely separated points, reach practically all of the people of the country, and their utterances are familiar to the majority of the men who will make up the convention. We can see no reason why Mr. Hearst is to be condemned for thus planning to get for himself the democratic nomination. He is anxious to become prominent politically, and already holds a seat in congress, representing the Wall street district of New York city. Mr. Hearst is a democrat, and makes as good a congressman as any other democrat would make-perhaps a better one, for he is energetic and has the means to carry out his ideas. Democrats follow beaten political paths, and Mr. Hearst's footprints may be found upon them.

It is not the intention here to discuss the merits of Mr. Hearst's political character, but to consider for a moment the means he has adopted to gain his ends. He has presumably determined to use his papers in his own interests in his fight for recognition, and that he should be condemned for his course is seriously to be doubted. Mr. Hearst is an eminently successful newspaper publisher. His papers are wide ly read, and they print the news-for which they have been dubbed, "yellow." The man who owns them believes in advertising. It has made other men, and he knows of no reason why it should not make him. He is merely advertising himself into public notice. His papers set forth his claims, and if there is no general response it is not the fault of the system. As is the case with all other kinds of advertising, he is simply letting the people know of existing conditions; the choise lies with them.

It might be said of Mr. Hearst that he is disregarding the proprieties by thus "tooting his own horn;" that he is vulgarly forward in urging himself for the nomination through the columns of his own papers. But this view is not well founded. The man who "boosts" himself is the one who succeeds, and were it not for Mr. Hearst's efforts in his own behalf he would surely not now be a member of the lower house of congress. Through the medium of his papers he secured the political recognition, and out w," as one critic polishedly expressed it, was an by similar means he hopes, it is to be presumed, to essentiality! Surely it was well for Portland and land the presidential nomination. Those few polienthusiastic friends are merely the exception prove the well-established rule that the st politician must attend very carefully and tently to his own campaign, before the battle as after.



The Portland critics have merely followed the fashion and roasted Patti. To turn them on the cultured old woman reminds one of turning a bull into a china shop to restore order. For her enemiesPatti will be loved more than ever, even though her dear sweet voice is not just what it was 25 years ago. . .

GETTING THE NOMINATION.

Just at the present time the papers are full of words of condemnation of the action of William Randolph Hearst, who is, if indications count for aught, desirous of securing the democratic nomination. Mr. Hearst owns papers in four of the large cities of the country, and, it is reported, will com- pelled to eat.

Mr. Hearst would unquestionably be def nominated; no democvrat, with the possibl

tion of Mr. Cleveland, could even be serie garded in a contest with either Mr. Roosevel Hanna, of whom one or the other will doub ceive the republican nomination. But certs in the absence of any very material popular that he be nominated, Mr. Hearst is using available means to secure the indorsement of tional convention. That he owns the paper are giving him the greatest portion of his is an immaterial circumstance; like every oth ocrat who is seeking the honor, he is employ best means at his command-and the best at mand of any man.

For it pays to advertise.

Those democrats who are superstitious sh

member that Mr. Tilden was nominated at S in 1876 and beaten, and that Mr. Clevela nominated there in 1888 and beaten. Mr. Sc will be nominated there in 1904, and there is just at present to indicate that he will not for the unfortunate footsteps of the previous S candidates.

The Tribune Almanac for 1904 is what the Almanae has always been-the most comple lication of its kind issued. It is an absolut of technical information, and practically in sible in libraries. The Almanae represent careful research, and its selling price, 25 cent below its value.

That Baker City man at whom Colonel took a few shots will now doubtless awake t zation of the propriety of first killing a m afterwards telling him of it.

The dredge Chinook threatens to wipe out supply at the mouth of the Columbia. Wel not interfere with the lobster supply till she work above Astoria.

We trust Hon. Jerry Simpson found our salmon more palatable than the crow he was o

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