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THE SEM-WEEELY ASTORIAN.
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## ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

## "Stunning" Language.

An English literary journal has been reading a leeture to the war correspondents, the younger ones especially, whom it aceuses of striving for startling effeets in language rather than for a plain record of the facts, says the Saturday Evening Post. It ap pears that in the Bore war some one of these seribe of Bellona spoke of a large cannon as having "coughed at the enem ytwo or three times and the relapsed into tense, painful silence." The edito thinks the young man tried too hard.
This eritie apparently lacks the fine preceptive ear for the sound of words which the correspondent exhibited. He would have no sympathy for the dear old lady who "found great support in that com forting word, Mesopotamia." The cannon in ques tion was supposed to be some distance away, and its remarks may have sounded like a cough. Nobody supposes that the cammon was actually afficted wit a bronchial difficulty which the surgeon should hav treated. Cannon have boomed too long; let them
cough. Perhaps the correspondent, if hard presed, ought to be allowed to make the rapid fire guns sneeze.
This matter of the cultivation of striking word or the using of words in unexpeeted ways
mainly for the effect of the sound of the word itself is never carried on very industriously in English Efforts in this direction are usually casual and spor adie. Dante Gabriel Rossetti was a bver (and user of out-of-the-way and high-sounding words, an after his death his brother, William Michael, found long lists of such words dug from Chaucer and th old romants or made up by himself during happy
moments of inspiration and written down for refer moments of inspiration and written down for refer ence when aetual composition was under way. Among some handredsi inthese schedules of "stunning wor soothfastness, lass-lorn, gonfalon, cheyerel flesk quake, bergamot, jess-hawk, eldrich, grisamber, cre ance, gracile, knee-tribute, eagle-heron, guerdonles cherisahnce, aughtwhere, jaceent, trench-payne; a certainly very beautiful words indeed
If the majority of poets will persist in neglecting their duty in cultivating the language and making reason why the war correspondents should not be eurbed. Perhaps the newspaper correspondent is the true poet of the age. It was Artemus Ward who
said that "Shakespeer rote good plase, but he said that "Shakespeer rote good plase, but he
wouldn't hav suceeded as a Washington correspond ent of a New York daily paper. He laekt the rekesit fancy and imagginashun." But many Washington correspondents do succeed, and the conelusion is too
obvious for mention. We live in obvious for mention. We live in fallen times. In another age our war correspondents might be writing epies while the Washington men turned out odes. But possibly we're just as well off.
vertical writing and forgery. The statement has reeently gone the rounds that a New England banker had discovered that the teaching of vetrical handwriting is breeding a race of forgers, says the Ledger. This statement is only one of many expressions of prejudice and dislike against the vertical system of permanship now generally
taught in the schools. It is a sufficiently serious taught in the sechols. It is a sufficiently serious
eharge to justify investigation and analysis, and the American Banker has made a careful canvass of expert opinion on the subjeet with the result that the ney system of penmanship is completely vindicated from the hideous charge of encouraging or ineiting the erime of forgery.
riting infler Frazer, a celeurated expert on hand relation and authority on the subject, says that the f forgery is anstem or writing to the prevalene says that there are so many characteristies in every handwriting unknown and invisible to the posessor, that the shape or appearance of the writing is of the least importance in seeking the author.
A leading New York banker deelares that the de teetion of a forgery of a plain, simple signature is easier than that of a complicated sigmature, a forgery of which will often pass unnoticed unless it is ver
mefuly examined.
Another expert on handwriting, in order to "ley offectually he absurd ghost about vertical handwriting and forgery," says that "forgers do not
aroung initating the signatures of school children."
This is truee. Whatever system of writin is This is true. Whatever system of writing is followe
in copy books in school serves only to train the hand in copy books in school serves only to train the hand
The adult aequires individuality in writing and soon departs from copy book forms. The vertical systen
den has the merits of clearness, legibility, and simplieity and is as good as Spencerinin or any other metho ever taught to start with. Indeed, the less ornate a system of penmanship is the more readily it adapt itself to practical business uses.

SENATOR PATTERSON, HAYSEED.
For pure provincialism or a most amaxing insin cerity commend us to the Honorable T. M. Patterson junior United States senator from Colorado, say the New York Commercial. He would have the country believe that New York city already has mor extensive postoffice facilities than she needs or is encive the senate unows better but is trying to netropolis.
"New York already has one postoffice," he sagely emarked to his colleagues in objecting to the Cen ral lease and the Pennsylvaniassite purch has only one postofitice, of course, and she somehow anages to scrape along with that. So has Pueblo, more. And only look at Ouray and Starking for Bagdad and Wiggins and Pawnee Buttes and Cocheopa, Pope's Nose, Shoshone, Bonanza and Yellow acket Pass-all great and growing towns, but non of them with more than one postofficel New York ought to be ashamed of herself at being found before etra building for her letters / proposition to get an ork a little over hours now and then, and there wil no trouble with the mails.
Why," the Colorado senator went on, "that postofice which New York now has cost the nation over 66,000,000, and it looks to me as if the committee fairly to give New York more plums than she ities throughout the country are compelled to without adequate postoffice accommodations. I chal enge the committee to show how the lease from the Central is at all neeessary for the disposition ostal business in New York.
Senator Penrose picked up the Colorado man' untlet-but of what earthly use was it to show him hat there are a few more people here in New York han there are in Aspen and that our mails here are trifle heavier than they are in Leadville or Webster Devil's Causeway! His limited experience and is provincial range of vision wouldn't permit hin is take more than a peck measure survey of this ques
tion. Or is he in that class of beings whe tion. Or is he in that class of beings which the provlind as those who won't see $t$
We dislike to set Senator Patterson down as ignor ant or insincere, but, if he is neither one nor the tho York propositions in congress. He has succeeded all events in tying up the postoffice-site amendment for the present-and that may be quite glory enough for him.
Japan has deelined to take the space vacated by by Russia at the St. Louis exposition. Her ambition Russia to vacate in Korea.

Lieutenant Totten now prediets that the world will解 an end 1919. There are some members congress who have a suspicion that the end will come
next November.

We trust that some one in the state department in keeping tab on the South Ameriean revolutions, so
we can cheek up after the big show is over in the we can check up after the big show is over in the .
The Congressional Record would be much more anteresting if it contained illustrations showing how he members of the house look when they say it.

There should be no longer any question as to "Why Smith Left Home" after reading the test ony of the president of the Mormon ehureh.

There is no longer any qeustion about the presence of spring. North Carolina is sending her first shipnents of Vermont maple syrup to market.

Many a man is credited with having "sporting cood in his veins" when an anlysis would show that is nothing but booze in his blood.
A Chicago dispatch reports that President Harpe in splendid health. He has just lost his vermifor appendix and also Professor Triggs.
China feels that she could get along without hav g her integrity guaranteed if some plan could devised for curing Russia's greed.

There are indications that the Mormon apoostes are boking to the nenate committee on privileges and eleations for their next rovelationa
 that a touch of cleanses.

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