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Today's Weather.

Western Oregon and Western Washington, Friday, occasional rain.
 Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington, cloudy with occasional rain; part snow in mountains and foothills.

SABBATH DEVOTION.

According to the New York Post the prediction lately made by a Chicago minister to the effect that the only way in which it would soon be possible to maintain an interest in church work would be by means of "continuous vaudeville," startled a great many conservative church-goers and possibly shocked some of them. However, the stream of tendency seems to have set rather strongly in the direction of a fulfillment of this prophecy. Billiards, ping pong, hops, amateur theatricals, secular concerts, legerdemain, charades, sociables, fairs and suppers, primarily for the purpose of revenue, music of doubtful sacredness—if there is a dividing line between the sacred and secular in music; all of those have come to be recognized as adjuncts of more or less value in church work. The underlying idea seems to be to make the church an attractive social club, and thus bring within its sphere of influence, many who value a church connection at the outset chiefly for the social opportunities it offers. It would be difficult to find a serious objection to this view of so much work of the church as may properly be considered secular. There may be a line which it would be dangerous to cross, but where it lies would be as difficult to determine as in the Alaskan boundary.

Perhaps the same is true of "stunts" or "turns" introduced to give the interest of variety of Sabbath devotions. For example, engaging an attractive young woman in a pure white dress, 19 years old, to whistle solos, as is said to have been done by the pastor, or music committee, or both, acting in the harmonious conjunction which should characterize all church doings, of one of the New York churches, startles the old-fashioned church-goers by its novelty. In the last analysis, however, there would seem to be no essential difference between breath from the sound lungs oozing through puckered lips and wind from a bellows of wood and leather hissing through the reeds of a pipe organ in the bank controlled by the piccolo stop. We are used to the cornet as our forefathers were to the bass viol. We have listened with equanimity to the operatic prima-donna rendering selections which have inspired very lofty emotions, when for the erratic wailings of the Italian libretto, were substituted modern hymns with some pretensions to poetic excellence. We have learned to march up the aisle and undulate sideways into our pews to the solemn minor cadences of one of Thielman's or Jadassohn's preludes, and wait out again when the services were ended to the "Soldiers' March" in Faust played with rag time variations, or choice selections from "El Capitán" or one of Offenbach's classics. No doubt whistling girls dressed in white, rendering "Traumerel" or "The Mocking Bird" are the usual thing, we shall take them, as a matter of course and wonder why anyone should be so narrow in his or her conventional prejudices as to question their eminent fitness as adjunct to devotion.

True, girls will have to learn to whistle a good deal better than any we have heard try in Astoria are able to do, to be entirely agreeable as entertainers, but that is beside the point. We have heard alleged singers of whom the kindest thing which could be said was, that they had missed their vocation, but in the expressive vernacular of the day, singing goes in church, even when feeble and uncertain as to intervals. For the same reason whistling may go when we are used to it. It is, after all, only another step toward what has been pronounced inevitable—worship by means of continuous vaudeville.

It is a notorious fact that fully as many people attend the two vaudeville

theaters in Astoria as attend all the churches. A show at Fishers' opera house on Sunday night plays to crowded house. It is possible that were more attractive features added to church services, more might be attracted thither, and when the church is filled with publicans and sinners, the minister can give them a little scriptural advice, which, it is possible they have not listened too since they were children, kneeling at mothers' knees. It would be an innovation, certainly, but as to whether it would be conflicting with the theological etiquette of the church, is something which an ordinary layman is not in a position to venture an opinion.

MAN OF THE UNIVERSE.

Man's place in the universe is the subject of a recent article published in a book. The sub-title of the book describes it as a study of the scientific research in relation to the unity or plurality of worlds. Though the books is from the pen of one of the most distinguished scientific investigators now living, it is to be greatly questioned whether the buzzing swarm of so-called scientists who subsist on the credulity of the public will calmly accept his conclusions, which are opposed to most of the modern theories and inventions of the romancers who disguise their calling under the name of science.

In the first place, the conclusion of the author represent a reaction. We have been surfeited with theories to the effect that the planets all about us are inhabited, and it has not been very long since there was considerable talk of opening up communications with the planet Mars. We believe Senator John H. Mitchell once made a suggestion of this kind: This was to be accomplished by the means of immense bonfires or by means of electric signals gigantic in their proportions. We are told that Mars has canals, and that the form and contour of these were such that they must inevitably have been made by artificial means, and this idea has taken such firm hold on the popular mind that a number of enterprising novelists have made trips to Mars—in their minds, and the adventures to be found in that far away land were of a nature to make the hair of a bronze statue stand on end.

But the conclusions of the author are entirely different, and although they are not remanite they are very interesting. With all the resources and discoveries of real science at his command, he concludes that our universe is a rounded whole, and that our polar system is situated in its center. The concurrence of the conditions that are a necessity of organic life exist on the planet, which we call the earth, but they cannot very well exist on any other planet, for their existence depends on a central situation. They cannot exist in the neighborhood of any other star than our sun, nor on any planet revolving around the sun, except on the one which providence has placed us.

A planet to be the seat of life must move in a nearly circular orbit, and at such a distance as to receive exactly the amount of heat and light that ours receives, and its atmosphere must be formed of a combination of oxygen and nitrogen in the proper proportions. Gravity must have the same force on the surface of the planet that ours has, for, were it otherwise, it could not retain the amount of atmosphere at the proper pressure. Moreover, aqueous vapor must be present in quantities sufficient to produce the right amount of rain. In short, as no other planet conforms to these conditions, life can only exist on the earth.

All this agrees with the discoveries of real science, but it puts an end to the theories of the pseudo-scientists who have been so industrious in inventing sensations, resembling yellow journals. Yet it should not be forgotten that neither author, nor the smaller fry can ever have any absolute knowledge about our universe except that which is before our eyes or within the reach of their experiment; and even with these limitations they can give no very definite account of things.

AN OBNOXIOUS ELEMENT.

There is a certain element in every small community who peddle gossip about their neighbors, or some one to whom they have taken a dislike. The effect of this is to belittle others, or injure their reputation or business. This practice has become chronic with some people, while others do it unintentionally, but the effect is the same. A person can defend himself against a seen foe, but it is impossible to defend one against the sting of a viper. Some people who take a great interest in other people's affairs, to the extent of peddling scandalous tales or idle gossip, should look in the mirror and see if their own lives are free from criticism. "Let him that is without fault cast the first stone," is an admonition of He who came into the world to better mankind. It is not justice, it is not Christianity; to try and injure a neighbor. The Master taught the golden rule. To him that had transgressed the law He did not utter words of contempt, but blessed him and sent him on his way with, "Go, and sin no more." These would be good rules for those prone to gossip to follow. Consider that when you are discussing the faults of others,

there may be a blot on your own character that you would desire effaced. What would be your feelings if others gossiped about you? Even you would not like to be held up to ridicule by your neighbors and you ought to be as just to others as you would ask justice for yourself.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

Epitome of Anecdotes and Incidents With Comments By a Layman.

While Easter is still a long way off it is a brave husband who can pass a millinery shop without a tremor.

Mr. Dowle says he can raise the dead, but he does not do so, probably because the sheriff keeps him busy all the time trying to raise money.

A religious sect in Indiana insists that the world will soon come to an end. Indiana politicians are beginning to feel that way, too, since Governor Hanly has refused to appoint to office any man who drinks liquor.

Saint Peter has all this time had a vacant seat of honor reserved for the man who was never a weather knocker.

A Chicago physician has prescribed champagne as an every day appetizer for the masses. Here's another one that believes all he reads about prosperity.

The government wants an agrostologist. The name has an abstract sound, but it means a person who has forgotten more than a cow ever knew about grass.

An Astoria young married man was seen hurrying along the street carrying a big paper bag on Thursday.

Somebody asked him why he was in such a hurry:

"I've just bought a hat for my wife," he replied, "and I want to get home before the style changes."

An expedition is being fitted out at Christina, Sweden, to find the magnetic pole. Somebody ought to tell Ole Oleson that Morgan got that long ago.

The navy department has contracted for 200,000 pounds of frankfurter, 145,000 pounds of sauer kraut and 90,000 pounds of bologna. That should smother any smoldering German criticisms for a little while.

"Did you tell the landlord what an awful leak there was in the roof?"
 "eYa, I told him."
 "What did he say?"
 "He said he'd fix the roof as soon as you pay the rent you owe."
 "Did he? I guess it aint much of a leak."

An Alabama weekly exchange has the following:

"In the 32d year of his age—in the very prime of noble manhood; standing like a giant oak among the smaller trees of the community, loved by all mankind for his brilliant qualities—for his kind heart—his keen intellect—his strict integrity; honored and blessed by rich and poor alike, the friend of the widow; the father of the fatherless, he presents his name to the voter of this commonwealth as a candidate for office."

And we thought, when we began a reading, that the poor man was dead and the editor was writing his obituary.

Strikes Hidden Rocks.

When your ship of health strikes the hidden rocks of Consumption, Pneumonia, etc., you are lost, if you don't get help from Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. J. W. McKinnon of Talladega Springs, Ala., writes: "I had been very ill with pneumonia, under the care of two doctors, but was getting no better when I began to take Dr. King's New Discovery. The first dose gave relief, and one bottle cured me." Sure cure for sore throat, bronchitis, coughs and colds. Guaranteed at Chas. Rogers' drug store, price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

WE DRAW THE LINE

When it comes to selling "cheap goods" because "cheap goods" are high at any price. That is the policy of small order stores, but we do sell good substantial goods, cheap. Next time you are mailing your order to some Portland Department store, stop in and price us—be glad to show you and quote our prices, then if we are not as cheap or cheaper than Portland just mail your order in the mail box outside the door. That's all.

J. N. GRIFFIN

DON'T
 Neglect to inspect our "swagger" stock of Clothing for spring built for Man or Boy

The Man

Who is fond of good clothes is the man we like to see come into our store. Once he tries on one of our easy, neat fitting, double or single breasted suits, 'tis a sure sale

\$10.00

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Who is fond of garments that is "chock" full of style, and quality to withstand the strain that a boy full of life and vigor is bound to put them to, will be delighted with such clothing as we are showing

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to

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Every garment guaranteed to give entire satisfaction or your money refunded

P. A. STOKES

KEEPS A DRESSY SHOP FOR DRESSY MEN.

PERSONAL MENTION.

C. C. Masten of Svensen was in the city yesterday.
 Thomas Craine of Brookfield was in the city yesterday.
 F. W. Preston of Warrenton was in the city yesterday.
 James Armstrong of Svensen was in the city yesterday.
 George Reed of Portland is registered at the Central.
 Fred Blaisdell of Olney was a visitor in Astoria yesterday.
 her husband yesterday, who is confined in the hospital.
 J. W. Wallace and wife of Boise are visiting in the city.
 Miss Edith Butts is spending a few days visiting in Portland.
 Geo. Hannigan of the Cathlamet Sun was in the city yesterday.
 B. Donley of Portland was in the city yesterday on business.
 W. J. Wirtz of Gresham is in the city the guest of M. R. Pomeroy.
 Captain Larsen of Altoona was in the city yesterday on business.
 C. C. Dalton of Seattle was in the city yesterday on legal business.
 C. E. Smith, principal of the Olney school was in the city yesterday.
 W. E. Tallent returned from a business trip to Portland last night.
 A. A. Siegerston, the Warrenton clam man, was in the city yesterday.
 John C. Manciet returned from a business trip to Portland last evening.
 Judge W. R. Hume returned yesterday from a business trip to San Francisco.
 Captain A. E. Beard, who was taken ill Thursday, was able to be out yesterday.
 John Lamont, a prominent seiner from up the river, was in the city yesterday.
 Captain William O'Brien and bride have returned from their wedding trip to Puget sound.
 S. F. Cheshire of Grants Pass, a brother of Jess Cheshire, is in the city on a visit.
 Mrs. C. W. Fulton has returned from Washington and the senator returned on last night's train.
 Mrs. Merrill of Skamokawa visited George Hamilton of Cathlamet was in the city yesterday.
 Mrs. S. W. Smith, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. George M. McBride, returned to Portland yesterday.

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 Capital and Surplus \$100,000

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 Everything the Market Affords.
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Finest brands of Liquors and Cigars.

A few that I would like to call your attention to: One is that Frank Hart keeps

Liquozone, - Vinol,
 And All the Standard Patent Medicines—and another is that he is still selling White Pine Cough Syrup in 25c and 50c bottles the same as in the past five years. Don't forget the Diamond-Shaped Bottle.

FRANK HART, Druggist.
 Corner 14th and Commercial Sts.

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