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THE WEATHER

Oregon, Washington, and Idaho—Fair.

OFFICIAL SNUBBING.

There is no organic, public body of men, elected by the people to attend to their affairs, that has a shadow of right to snub a citizen in any manner, by word or act, implied, or direct. Every public officer and representative, in court, commission or council, stands squarely in the light of a servant, whatever the honor attaching to the public choice that puts him there, and he is in no sort of position to take any discriminative attitude toward the least of the electors, when he, or they, as the case may be, appear in person or by communication, for official consideration. Some people, after a long season in office, are prone to run away with the idea that they are immune from the simpler traditions of office and indulge in flippant smiles, passing sneers, and even rude denial, in treating people and matters that they deem to be a bit inopportune, or pressing, or critical in their presentments. This is the blunder of all blunders in official life, and always reacts with sharp and decisive effect. Every property-owning citizen, and those who do not possess a single thing except the status of respectable citizenship, are amenable to the fullest consideration possible at all times, and to a dignified disposal of whatsoever he offers.

There are those in Astoria who do not always remember, nor observe the unit rule of official duty in this relation.

There is not a sane elector who does not wish to respect and obey the law and all its officers, and this unanimity of feeling is what preserves the law and dignifies it. To interfere with this condition is the last phase of latitude that should be assumed by any man who stands for the people and the law. As common courtesy is the cheapest commodity known in human intercourse, and always at the command of whosoever would use it, indifference, arrogance, neglect, become simply inexcusable and intolerable when employed in the official relation. Nor will the fact that an officer or representative is eternally in touch with the great public and often beset with incongruous and disagreeable persons and absurd contingencies, alter the imperative rule of invariable courtesy.

THE BABY MURDERER.

We do not envy Portland the glaring distinction that has fallen to her in the person and achievement of 11-year-old Jackson Reid, the murderer of George De Mars. Of course Portland is not to be blamed for the existence nor the presence of this marvel of infantile precocity; but she has the misfortune to harbor him and to stand civically for him and his dreadful act.

Of course, again, the child is an abnormal specimen of his race. The deed that marks him the most conspicuous of all criminals today, is one, that even under circumstances lending it warranty, would stall a hardened man; and the only kindly construction put upon the child's flippant indifference to its class and character, is his utter unconsciousness of what he has done.

The germ of crime may have been planted in this tender boy hundreds of years ago; he may have obeyed an inherited impulse to kill; it is possible the horrid inspiration flared, dwelt, and died, with the deed itself, new, undreamed, an instantaneous crisis. These things are of the realm intangible; and in the insane rush of the hour, may be left to those who delight in attempting their solution. It is enough for the materialist to know

that a new wonder has sprung up among us for the law and society to deal with, and to deplore the strangeness and dread of it.

SHABBY TREATMENT.

Some weeks ago the two big transportation companies doing business in this city, the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company, and the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway Company (including the Astoria & Columbia River Railroad Company) ordered their coupon ticket-cases out of their respective agencies here and forbade further interchange of business, as between these offices, compelling every traveler out of this city of 15,000 and county of 25,000, to travel to Portland in order to secure their transcontinental railway tickets and what of steamship-transportation they need at the Atlantic end, at sharp cost of time, money and convenience. In other words, they have reduced the second city in the State of Oregon to the level of a way-station that cannot be trusted to do and care for that important element of the business.

Aside from the additional trouble and expense it thus puts its patrons to, it is very shabby treatment of a terminal point, of size, business, and commercial importance that entitles it to more considerate and expeditious methods. It is peculiarly in line with the system of repression, belittling and contemptuous indifference lately assumed toward this city by the "North Bank" people, especially; it is not understood nor appreciated here, and both companies are going to hear from it later on, when it has become thoroughly realized by our people.

There is some influence at work to this end up in Portland; and whether it is stupidity on the part of the traffic managements of the roads in question, or whether it is the result of Portland manipulation inspired of Portland fear of Astoria, remains to be seen. At all events, it is condemned right and left and will evoke a spirit of reprisal as sure as it is continued.

It is on a par with the "North Bank's" failure to advertise the Clatsop coast resorts, this year, for fear they might yield something to Astoria that would benefit her and make her feel glad that she was in touch with another great railway system; the whole course of treatment seems to have been deliberately outlined as a policy of negation and subjection, and if it is, it were well for Astorians to know it and deal with it accordingly.

Both Guilty.

The man who prided himself on his keen perceptions watched the witness on the stand with intensity and nodded his head vigorously at the closing words of the bewildered witness.

"That man's concerned in it," said the keen observer to his friend. "Didn't you notice how his eyes shifted around?"

"How about this next one?" inquired the friend.

"He's guilty of something," asserted the keen observer. "No man stares at people in that bold, defiant way if he has a clear conscience."—Youth's Companion.

At the Barn Party.

"These country dances are enjoyable, after all, aren't they?"

"I tell you, the old fashioned dances are the reel thing."—Baltimore American.

COFFEE

What is essential to good coffee?

Good bean ground fresh, and a woman of common sense.

Your grocer returns your money if you don't like Selding's Best; we pay him.

THE MAGIC PAINTING

When the Room Was Darkened the Cow Went to Sleep.

IT WAS A VERY SIMPLE TRICK

How the Transformation Was Effected and How Some Other Seemingly Wonderful Effects May Be Produced by the Aid of Chemicals.

The Chinese Emperor Tai Tsung possessed among other treasures a picture known as a magic painting. It represented a pastoral scene with a cow standing in a field and mountains beyond. When the picture was shown to strangers or guests and they admired it, the emperor would say: "Yes, this is a remarkable painting. The cow, as you see, is standing, but if the room was darkened the cow would think it night and would lie down."

Then the emperor would order the room to be darkened, and the cow would be seen to be lying down, apparently asleep.

The picture was a water color, over which was painted in colorless phosphorescent paint a similar picture representing the cow lying down. In the light the standing animal was seen, but at night or in a darkened room only the phosphorescent picture was visible. So the magic picture was, after all, a very simple trick.

A Dresden chemist named Schade discovered a method of imitating it which can be accomplished as follows:

First paint in ordinary colors the picture of the cow standing. Then melt some Zanzibar copal over a charcoal fire and dissolve fifteen parts of it in sixty parts of French oil of turpentine. Filter this and mix with twenty-five parts of pure linseed oil which has been previously heated and cooled.

Now take forty parts of the varnish so obtained and mix with six parts of prepared calcium carbonate, twelve parts of prepared white zinc sulphide and thirty-six parts of luminous calcium sulphide, all of which can be obtained from any chemist.

This emulsion should be ground very fine in a color mill. The result will be white luminous paint, which should be used to paint the cow lying down.

Many seemingly wonderful tricks can be performed with the use of a few simple chemicals. One of them is the ball of fire. Take for this barium sulphate (CP) one part, magnesium carbonate (CP) one part, gum tragacanth q. s. This should be mixed and rolled into marbles and kept at a red heat for about an hour, then allowed to cool slowly and placed in a glass stoppered bottle. A few hours before using place in the sun, and the marbles at once become luminous.

At the entertainment ordinary marbles are passed among the audience, one or more of the luminous marbles being concealed in the hand. The exhibitor then takes a marble from some one in the audience, holds it between his thumb and forefinger, blows upon it and asks to have the lights turned down. As this is done he substitutes the luminous marble, and the mysterious light is seen. This is handed around and changes again as the light is turned on, when the magician presents to the audience several of the ordinary marbles as souvenirs.

Another trick is very effective. Take two similar bunches of artificial flowers. Brush one over with glue or mucilage and powder it with the dust from one of the marbles described. Then place in the sun. When taken into a darkened room, luminous flowers are seen. The magician exhibits the flowers that have not been prepared and shows that there is nothing peculiar about them. Then as the light is turned down he substitutes the concealed bunch, blows upon the flowers and, presto, displays to the astonished observers a luminous bunch, each flower of which stands out as if at white heat.

Luminous letters can be written and exhibited in the dark to the wonder of the audience. Luminous ink is made by placing a piece of phosphorus about the size of a pea in a test tube with a little olive oil. Place the tube in a water bath until the oil becomes heated and the phosphorus liquid. Shake, well and pour into a bottle with a glass stopper. Admit air just previous to using it, and the fluid will become luminous tracery in the dark.

Water can be rendered luminous in a very simple manner. Dissolve a small piece of phosphorus in ether for several days in a glass stoppered bottle. In this place a lump of sugar, then drop the sugar in water, which will at once become luminous.

Luminous paints can be made any color—green, yellow, violet or blue—and if applied to various objects make a wonderful display at night.

Odd Names of Maryland Farms.

The curious names given to tracts of land by the owners in olden times are illustrated in a conveyance recorded in Liber W. G. No. 60, folio 57. It was executed in 1790 and conveyed from Joshua Stevenson to Richard Gettings five tracts of land in Baltimore county, the consideration being £200. The name of each tract and its dimensions are as follows: My Sweet Girl, My Friend and Pitcher, 62 acres; Here Is Life Without Care and Love Without Fear, 41½ acres; The Unexpected Discovery, 262 acres; Hug Me Snug, 15 acres, and Stevenson's Cow Pasture, With Little I am Content, 22 acres.—Baltimore Sun.

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A MAN'S HAT.

Why is it Always Regarded as a Fit Subject For Jokes?

"I wonder why it is," says a young gentleman who spends most of his leisure time studying human nature at a populous street corner, "that a man's hat is always regarded as a fit subject for jokes? Anything that happens to his shoes is a serious matter, and, although his vest, especially if it is out of the usual in design or color, is sometimes made the subject of pointed remarks, disaster to any other garment is regarded as a matter of sympathy.

"But if he goes to church and puts down his hat at the end of his pew, where somebody kicks a dent in it and knocks it five feet down the aisle, or if he places it carefully beside him in a lecture room or theater and a preoccupied young woman comes in and sits down on it people laugh without seeming to feel the slightest sympathy for him or his sky piece.

"A man chasing his hat through the street on a windy day will always attract a grinning, unsympathetic crowd ready to lay bets on the distance the hat will travel before he catches up or on the amount of damage it will sustain before it is finally recovered, and so irritated does the owner become when he finds his vicious dabs and grabs at it greeted with ironical applause that he generally forgets to thank the man who stops it by stamping on it and hands it back. I believe Joe Miller perpetrated jokes about chasing the hat, but the heavy felts and cocked hats of Miller's time did not lend themselves readily to joking purposes, for when those old fashioned headpieces were blown off they dropped to the ground and stayed there. A Panama, a stovepipe or even a derby may run and fly by turns from Broadway to the postoffice and attract as much attention as a runaway team."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A Model Servant.

Master—Here—er—has my whatser-name come?

Man—Yessir.

Master—Yes—well, then, hop over to th—er—that club with the silly name and tell Mr.—er—Thingummy I shan't be able to fix up that er—um—d'you see? And then get hold of that book—er—with the yellow cover and look out a train to—er—to—er—oh you know!

Man—Yessir.—Punch.

Two Wise Ones.

The young man carefully removed the cigars from his vest pocket and placed them on the piano. Then he opened his arms. But the young girl did not flutter to them. "You," she said coldly, "have loved before."—Chicago Record-Herald.

He Evidently Had One.

"What is a pessimist, pa?"
"A man who has a note to meet."—New York Press.

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