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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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THE SAME ACROBATIC PERFORMANCE.

IT IS THE SAME OLD STORY with the Oregonian. When there is no chance of accomplishing anything in that direction it cries for reforms; it condemns the tariff, it denounces the ship subsidy bill, it grills the standpatters, it clubs the trusts, it declares that there must and shall be radical changes; but the moment a campaign comes on it takes a somersault and says the only thing to do is to support the ticket and the party, without consideration, without discrimination, good or bad, right or wrong, better or worse, white, black or yellow. Hear it:

"The Republican party has a mission. Its mission is to devise, support and enforce measures of legislation and schemes of administration designed to advance the welfare of our whole citizenship. And it cannot do these things by knocking out from whole structures the very cornerstone, which is the election or appointment of United States senators. The Oregonian opposes Governor Chamberlain because he is a Democrat and supports Mr. Withycombe because he is a Republican. That is sufficient reason—good reason."

A very lucid and impressive description of the "mission," surely. Those "measures of legislation and schemes of administration" seem mainly to be to overfax the people to build up trusts. Three years out of four the Oregonian opposes this "mission," but for a part of alternate years it supports everything that it condemns the rest of the time. A great multitude of Republicans are becoming tired of and restive under these "measures of legislation and schemes of administration." The president himself is so, but he and his supporters are not the Republican party, for he has been beaten by the senate at nearly everything he has undertaken and even he has not ventured to advocate tariff revision, which he believes in and which a great majority of the Republicans of the west believe in, but they can't get it; they are not the controlling elements of the party.

Frequently the Oregonian has argued that it would be better for the state and even for the Republican party if the legislature were more equally divided politically, but now it advocates the election of the whole 75 Republican nominees without exception. If there were any sincerity in its inter-campaign professions, why does it not pick out say one third or even one fourth of the opposition candidates and support them?

No matter if Governor Chamberlain has made the best governor the state ever had; no matter if he has been of great service to it and can be hereafter; he is opposed merely because he is a Democrat and has a dozen or so appointments to make. The fact is that in no respect does it make a nickel's worth of difference a year to anybody except a few office-holders or office-seekers what the politics of a governor may be.

But he appointed a Democrat and possibly might have the opportunity to appoint another—though this is extremely improbable—to the senate. Well, did not Senator Gearin do as well for Oregon as anybody? Hasn't he done as well so far as any Republican appointee could? Isn't he supporting the Republican president in the most important matters before the senate? Or isn't the president a Republican any more?

The fact is that while to some extent adherence to party is well enough, to put party above everything else, to support bad men in preference to good ones—for the doctrine runs that far—on party grounds alone, is a bad, dangerous and wicked policy. The country's salvation is the independent, discriminating, conscientious voter, who will vote out a party if it persistently does wrong, who will retain a man who has conspicuously done good, faithful and very valuable services, and who in general will put men, policies and principles before party. The "yellow dog" days in politics are about over in Oregon, thank God!

OAKLAND AND SAN FRANCISCO.

ACCORDING to the memoirs of General Sherman San Francisco sprung into being because of its name. It was a name that stuck. When the gold excitement rose it became of worldwide repute. There was a fascination in its sound, it seemed to fit into the scheme of things and bring up visions of the Spanish regime with its romance, its golden galleons and knightly adventures. Gold, California, San Francisco, was the trinity. California was a large and indefinite geographical designation; San Francisco was definite and specific. It was therefore toward San Francisco that the argonauts headed. At the beginning it was not the best or most desirable site for a great city; Benicia was much better situated naturally. But every circumstance was overbalanced by the name and while other towns vegetated it thrived.

It will now have another fight for its life for Oakland has shied its caster into the ring and made its bid for the new and great city that is to spring up. It is offering every inducement to the wholesale houses, the shipping firms and the retailers who have flocked there to secure temporary quarters to make of them permanent homes. They are there now against their will; because it is the most convenient of all points to find temporary shelter and maintain more or less intact the businesses which were blotted out under such tragical circumstances. If those which have no great real estate holdings in the old town find in Oakland the facilities which they require, if they can do business as advantageously in one place as in the other, doubtless some of them will remain but as to most of them there will be too many influences to draw them across the bay to the old town whose name is so well known and with which they have been so long identified. Evidently, however, the people of San Francisco consider the danger imminent and are making every effort to divert the movement toward Oakland by providing as speedily as possible temporary quarters in San Francisco so that business may be resumed on the old ground under such conditions as will make them bearable until such time as adequate structures can be provided. The danger, however, seems less great the farther one gets away from the centers of distrubance.

COULD NOT BE SUPPRESSED.

SENATOR LA FOLLETTE has defied the traditions of the senate. He declined to be hazed, or sat down on, or suppressed, or to go back in a corner seat and suck his thumbs for two or three years before he dared open his mouth in that august body, the senate. A very important bill, the railroad rate regulation bill, was before the senate for debate. La Follette knows something about this subject. He has had experience with railroad legislation. He has studied conditions, wrongs, and remedies, with reference to railroad transportation. So he had something to say, and he said it. It took him over three days of senatorial debating time.

When La Follette rose to begin his speech—they couldn't chain him down to his seat or physically gag him—there was an immediate scurrying of most of the members out of the chamber. La Follette turned toward them and said that if they did not want to hear what he had to say the country did, and significantly added that "the seats now being temporarily vacated may be permanently vacated in the near future."

La Follette in this performance showed a great deal of moral courage. He, like Spooner, is small of stature but big in brain. His speech may not have been as great as that of Rayner or even that of Bailey, but it was a great speech. La Follette is a man intensely in earnest in what he does and says. He does not lose his head but he is dramatic. He is naturally an actor, yet wholly himself.

Considering the conditions under which this speech was delivered, it is calculated, whether designedly or not, to make La Follette a prominent figure in the next national Republican convention as the candidate of the "radical" element of the party for president.

MANY PEOPLE COMING TO PORTLAND.

THE PROSPECT is that Portland will be filled up with strangers this summer as it never has been before, except perhaps last summer during a portion of the Lewis and Clark fair. Thousands of homeseekers are coming, most of whom, unless their exact destination has been decided upon in advance, remain here a little while. The tourist travel will largely increase over any previous year. The "See America First" propaganda will do some good. Then, while a great many eastern people would like to see the ruins of San Francisco there will be no accommodations for them there, and many visitors to the coast who otherwise would spend days or weeks there will move northward instead of southward. Besides, hundreds of San Francisco families will make their habitation here for some weeks or months, until their homes can be rebuilt or repaired, and order restored in the stricken city.

There is plenty of room and a welcome for all. Building of hotels, apartment houses and residences has kept pace with the general growth of the city, and for a year or two prior to the Lewis and Clark fair went ahead of the increase of population in anticipation of that event. But these will all be pretty much filled up this summer, largely with temporary tenants, but to a considerable extent with permanent residents.

SHIFTING RESPONSIBILITIES.

CALIFORNIA, and particularly San Francisco, will be for many months a far greater market than ever before for our products and manufactures of all kinds. They will need food supplies, lumber and other materials which we can partly supply in vast quantities.

But more than this, the calamity to California, while not irreparable in time, and even with the sublime faith and courage being displayed there, will result in thousands of people coming to the Pacific northwest to live. Some of them will be poor, and will for a time have a hard struggle even here; many others will come with plenty of means to make an independent start. The very fact that Oregon and Washington had so much to send and contribute, without feeling the most willing and cheerful sacrifice, will tend to draw dissatisfied Californians hither. We are not urging them to come, only stating one of the certain results of the catastrophe.

While these benefits are real and tangible, in a larger and more abstract view the disaster is also ours, for there are eastern people who suppose San Francisco and Portland lie in equal peril, and that all our volcanos are likely to burst out any moment, or have done so already. But this notion will be gradually corrected.

TWO VIEWS OF THE PRIMARY LAW

From The Dalles Chronicle.

The Daily Capital Journal of Salem contains the following in its issue of the 20th instant:

"In Oregon today is being struck a blow for the advancement of popular government, second only to the Declaration of Independence.

"The light of political freedom is dawning on the Pacific coast. It is breaking on the souls of men here in Oregon. Political emancipation begins today.

"The old log-rolling conventions, the packed primary, the stuffed ballots of the ballot-stuffing boss, counted by the tool of the boss, are things of the past.

"The light of greater political freedom is breaking out of the Egyptian darkness of Oregon politics. The era of graft will give place to an era of better business administration.

"The first direct primary under the Australian ballot system will result in a great triumph for the people, and the ultimate downfall of the trusts and syndicates that are robbing the masses.

"The primary election is only the beginning. The people will find that there is a power in their hands to get better results by freedom from ring rule and machine dictation, and they will use it."

All bally rot! Pure Hoferian twaddle of the greenest grade yet seen; idle bombast unsupported by analysis, observation or experience. In fact, the direct primary for the nomination of candidates for office is a piece of idiocy saddling a double election expense on the people, a double campaign expense on the candidates whereby it is possible for a little machine in Portland to control with almost absolute certainty the nominations for office. The result of the primary, the boasted "light of political freedom," the vaunted vehicle of political emancipation, the panacea against log-rolling conventions, packed primaries, stuffed ballot boxes, dishonesty, graft and bossism, is that the entire state may be thrown into the hands of the Democratic party with Gearin for senator and Chamberlain for governor.

This makes mighty fine campaign thunder for the Democrats, and good war medicine for everybody but the Republicans. With the stalking horse U'Ren, Bourne has taken the party into camp and he will be the great Republican IT or the party delivered into the hands of Democracy.

This, of course, is a partisan viewpoint. There are no objections to urge against Gearin or Chamberlain except from a purely partisan standpoint. Both are good, able, honorable men and a credit to the state of Oregon. But The Journal is talking politics and poses as a Republican paper. It speaks like a sonorous, pale gray ass in an alfalfa wilderness.

The primary nominating imbecility places wealth as a prerequisite to a campaign for party nomination and election to office. The expense of the campaign is all out of proportion to emoluments of the offices. The tone and tendency of reason and sentiment among statesmen and political economists is to have fewer general elections to remove conditions tending to make "dabbling in politics" expensive and to give office holders a longer term with smaller chance for a second nomination.

"Eternal vigilance," said our country's father, "is the price of liberty." It is the only safeguard. Had vigilance been exercised by the sovereign elector under the convention system, election evils would not have sprung into existence.

Origin of the Orange.

From Economista, Havana.

It is to India, and to the Arabs as middlemen, that Europe, and through Europe America, owe this now familiar fruit. The orange crossed from Africa to Spain with Mohammedanism, while probably the Crusaders are to be thanked for bringing it to Italy and western Europe among their trophies of the east. The very name is really Arabic—"naraj"—and of eastern origin, though the legend that it comes from two words meaning "elephant" and "be ill," because elephants ate oranges to make themselves ill, is absurd. Probably in French the initial "n" is dropped off from naranj with the final "n" of the indefinite article, just as our "an apron" represent "a napron," and the spelling with an "o" points to false association with "or" (gold).

A Case of Necessity.

From the Cleveland News.

One Sunday two small boys were industriously digging in a vacant lot, when a man who was passing stopped to give them a lecture.

"Don't you know that it is a sin to dig on Sunday unless it be a case of necessity?"

"Yes, sir," timidly replied one of the boys.

"Then why don't you stop it?"

"'Cause this is a case of necessity," replied the little philosopher. "A feller can't fish without bait."

A Lost Art.

From the Christian Register.

We know innumerable things that were not known 100 years ago, but thousands of years ago some men and nations had learned the art of living happily, which we have forgotten or neglected.

SMALL CHANGE

No great harm without some little good; the earthquake swallowed up Dowie, Mrs. Carey, George W. Perkins, Maxim Gorky, et al., for a few days at least.

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And nobody but those directly interested paid any attention to Dora Jennings.

* *

Russia still needs a revolution.

* *

Even an eruption wouldn't change the name of Mount Rainier to Tacoma.

* *

It is just 35 years since Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over the lamp.

* *

The only excitement about earthquakes all over the Pacific coast is back east of the Mississippi river.

* *

Even Teddy almost dropped out of view.

* *

Is nobody ever going to mention Uncle Chauncey Depew again?

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A man supposed to be the Oregon City murderer slept in a Woodburn barn one night, and the men who were looking for him didn't go within 40 rods of the barn until late in the afternoon.

* *

Now the election campaign is on.

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A garden rake is better than a muckrake.

* *

Which are the better men for the position, not party, is the main question.

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The editor of the Salem Journal was beaten by two votes. But as he acknowledges his opponent to be the better man, he ought to be glad that two of the other man's votes didn't come his way.

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"The kids are all we have left," said one refugee who formerly lived in Oregon. But they wouldn't exchange the kids for all they lost.

* *

Not very long now till the circus, boys.

* *

Will any the babies born out o' doors the night of the earthquake be named "Earthquake," "Fire" or "H—l"?

* *

Whatever the excitement, don't forget to buy only Oregon-made goods.

* *

Woodburn Independent, before the returns came in: The people acted very sensibly in turning down Jonathan Bourne Jr. If he had been selected the Republican party of this state would have been rent asunder and irreparably injured.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Now Oregon lumber mills will get busier than ever, if possible, and there will be more of them. San Francisco will need an immense quantity of lumber and Oregon has the timber to make much of it.

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Bonanza is to have a newspaper.

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Salmon are about extinct in Crooked river.

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The Baldwin Sheep & Land company, which is the most extensive stock ranch and the producer of the finest grades of sheep on the Pacific coast, is laying the foundation to become one of the greatest stock ranches in the world, and has purchased fine horses and cattle, says the Prineville Journal.

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Prineville being much improved.

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A Klamath county mare that died recently was first seen in 1868, when she had a broken hip, and has since been a familiar figure to buccaroos. She bore her last colt only a few years ago.

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"Farmers very busy" say all the country correspondents.

* *

A Baker City hatter has become violently insane from drinking too much booze. An old expression is, "Mad as a hatter."

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Farmers in many eastern Oregon localities are putting in more crops than ever before.

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Prices of horses and cattle rising in Umatilla county.

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Shaniko claims to be the best wool market in the state.

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Umatilla county has 200,000 sheep, not counting this year's increase.

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Many spuds as well as hops are raised around Independence.

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A man who had a walkover when he ran for state senator four years ago in Polk, Benton and Lincoln counties, and who would not sign "statement No. 1," was easily beaten for renomination by a man who did sign.

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The Creffield holy rollers over at Weldport should be induced to roll themselves into the ocean.

* *

Good fruit crop prospects around Tangent.

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A mysterious disease is affecting the hogs in the vicinity of The Dalles and several raisers have lost large numbers. One man lost 128 head. It is thought the disease was imported in a shipment of hogs from Nebraska.

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The universal testimony is that the election passed off quietly.

* *

While leaning over a well about eight feet deep, a Dufur woman fell head first into the water, which was seven feet deep. She came to the surface, grasped a pole and climbed out.

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Umatilla county farmers are buying fine breeding hogs at from $25 to $150 each.

* *

A firm with headquarters at Pendleton has sold $400,000 worth of imported horses, and the demand is growing.

* *

Now is the time to fix the coddling moth.

* *

Hundreds of minor improvements in residence property in The Dalles, such as additions to houses, old fences being removed, gardens and lawns being improved, a generous use of the paint brush, all tend to beautify the city.

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Freight and lumber teams getting busy in central Oregon.

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Merrill has been suffering a lumber famine.

* *

Much new land will be cultivated in Crook county.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By H. D. Jenkins, D. D.

Topic: The Parable of the Sower—Mark iv:1-20.

Golden Text—The seed is the word of God.—Luke viii:11.

Introduction.

The teaching of our Lord has done more to make religion a life than the teaching of all other religious instructors. His similes, metaphors and illustrations of every kind were drawn from the daily experience which everybody understood, and he helped men to realize that religion instead of being a mystic philosophy or a magical art, was a principle of conduct. Religion has its analogies in every sphere of human action or endeavor. There is a tendency in every age and under every form of faith to reduce the service of God to a mere "opus operatum," a something to be done which rightly done assures a desired effect. The Jew exhibited this tendency in making salvation consist in a certain number of feasts or fasts observed with scrupulous fidelity to the very letter of the law. The Romanist puts his faith in a rosary and a distribution of alms; the Thibetan in his prayer-wheel and the Confucian in his incense offered before the tablets of his ancestors. With Jesus it was a living thing, a germinant seed, a rising blade, an expanding and maturing ear. Religion as interpreted by these parables is not something for the man to do but something for the man to be. It is this conception of religion which, together with other reasons, led our Lord to teach in parables instead of formulating a new legislation.

A fuller report of this day is to be found in the eighth chapter of Luke, from which we learn that Jesus set out upon another tour of preaching after the anointing in the house of Simon. His twelve disciples accompanied him, as also a number of women whom he had healed of various infirmities or plagues, among whom were several who accompanied him even to the cross. In the course of this journey he came to a city by the sea, probably Capernaum, where, on account of the multitude pressing to see and hear him, he entered into a boat and taught them from it as from a pulpit.

The Lesson.

Verse 1. The multitudes which gathered to hear Christ were in part attracted by the fame of his miracles (Mark iii:1-9). The excitement ran so high that his mother and other relatives were alarmed for his safety (Mark iii:31-35). They could not foretell what the outcome might be, but they noted the growing animosity of the learned and powerful classes, so they attempted to excuse him as one not in his right mind, Jesus so far from withdrawing himself, continued his work until the crowds fairly drove him to seek refuge in a boat.

Verse 2. Our Lord used parables for more than one reason. At times they served to veil his meaning just so far that what he said could not be used in an attack upon his good standing, as he intimates in the verses that follow. But apart from this, parables served to make (to those who cared for spiritual truth) religion a matter of conversation. In some, as was the case with the 12, these picture-sermons caused his hearers to seek him for further enlightenment.

Verse 3. A recent writer in Mohammedan lands has told us that this particular parable is as common in the literature of the Moslem teachers now as in the discourses of Christian pulpits. Its truth and power have given it a place in the religious literature of the whole world.

Verse 4. Jesus was always optimistic but never visionary. He never expected to see his hearers all overpowered by sudden conviction. There were, and always would be, careless hearers, into whose hearts the seed, however excellent, would effect no entrance. A little thing would suffice to remove every trace of it. We ought not to forget that Jesus taught there were malevolent influences and personalities in the world intent upon destroying the seed before it could possibly germinate. We may not practice too rigid an economy in the seed-sowing, since as in nature's sowing, it is inevitable that much will be lost.

Verse 5. It is quite true that more speedy results are at times seen from a light soil than from a deep loam.

Verse 6. In such a soil, beneath which at no great remove lies the rock, the fierce sun known in Syria soon exhausts the moisture and the growing grain is ruined before it ripens. Jesus explains this in verses 16 and 17 to mean that certain persons possessed of abundant emotion but shallow volition will ofttimes proclaim a discipleship which amounts to nothing. A piety which will not stand some persecution, some opposition of the ungodly, some enmity of evil-disposed persons is not a piety that counts for much. One thing we ought not to overlook in any part of this parable; and that it, it says that this world, in and of itself, is not "a friend of grace to help us on to God." Neither the soil nor the living creatures above it are favorable to its germination and fruitfulness.

Verse 7. The earth is not simply a field for good grain, it is a place in which noxious growths find abundant rootage. The earth produces not only "the finest of the wheat," but weeds and thorns and brambles, at times in overpowering multiplicity. Jesus explains this in verses 18 and 19 to mean that the cares of this life, the daily toil and daily loss, the growing ambition and the absorbing lust for gain which success engenders, too often war against the better interests and intents of the soul. People think usually of the enjoyments of wealth, but Jesus thought of its burdens. "Blessed be nothing," was spoken by a wise man. The man of simple life reaches to a good old age denied to the business man who, stooping under the care of wealth, finds its retention a greater burden than its acquisition. Many a worldly-minded merchant, banker, railroad manager, looks back with a sigh to the days when he had time to remember his soul. The man who goes home every Saturday night too tired to sleep till past midnight, and gives orders that he is not to be waked Sunday morning, should he secure slumber late in the night, knows a good deal more about wealth as a care than as an enjoyment.

Verse 8. But after all, there will be a harvest from the word. Sow the seed faithfully and it will find lodgment somewhere. There are extinct mammoths but not extinct cereals. For good ground in which the word may bring forth abundant increase the man needs a patient attention, a receptive spirit and a conscientious purpose. One of the rascals who stole incredible sums from the funds of an eastern city some years ago was arrested and brought back from Europe on a sailing vessel. Every day upon this long voyage he read a chapter in the Bible. Thus he kept his promise to a Christian wife. But he died in prison, an impenitent thief to the end. You could sow such a soil a foot deep in grain and it would produce no increase. We need to pray God for a heart-preparation as well as for a sown seed. And when the soul is fitted by grace to receive the truth, there is almost no limit to its productive power. The year of 1905 probably showed more conversions to Christ than any other year since the resurrection. Some of these wonderful harvests were upon the soil which was occupied by paganism before. The sons and daughters of believing parents may offer stony soil or thorn-covered soil to the word, but it will find good ground somewhere; if not in America; if not in England, then in Japan; and if not among college students, then among Welsh miners. The unbelief of no one class, of no half-dozen classes, is going to blot out Christianity. Some will receive it, and it will spread as it is spreading now.

Verse 9. Jesus added a solemn warning. There is a hearing which means nothing, accomplishes nothing, results in nothing. Probably a large proportion of those present at church any one Sunday cannot tell at the close of the service what was the text, what the theme or what the purpose of the preacher. They heard every word and yet heard nothing to retain it.

Verse 10. Happy is the hearer who, not content with a surface knowledge of the word, seeks in private communion with the Master to know its intent and relation to all other truth. Devout scholars are still bringing forth out of these conferences with their Lord meanings and visions not perceived before.

Verse 11. Here, as in everything else, it shall be given to him that hath (Matt. xiii:12). It is easy for the rich man to make money. It is easy for the scholar to master another book. It is easy for the saint to acquire more grace. The spiritually alert always come to Christ. This parable became a sieve by which Jesus separated the eager from the indifferent disciples.

Verse 12. That which in one man quickens a desire for the truth, in another becomes a ready excuse for turning away from it. One says, "There is something here that I do not understand but am resolved to discover." Another says, "There is something here that I cannot understand—throw it away."

Verse 13. Ability to solve one spiritual problem leads to the solution of others more intricate or recondite. The grace to apprehend is one that we may covet for ourselves and for our pupils. The teacher who is to teach this lesson should ponder it in the solitude of his closet, alone with Christ.

LEWIS AND CLARK

Opposite the mouth of the Walla Walla river.

April 28—We therefore purchased 10 dogs. While this trade was carried on by our men, Yellept brought a fine white horse and presented him to Captain Clark, expressing at the same time a wish to have a kettle; but on being informed that we had already disposed of the last kettle we could spare, he said that he would be content with any present we should make in return. Captain Clark therefore gave his sword, for which the chief had before expressed a desire, adding 100 balls, some powder and other small articles, with which he appeared perfectly satisfied. We were now anxious to depart, and requested Yellept to lend us canoes for the purpose of crossing the river. But he would not listen to any proposal of leaving the village. He wished us to remain two or three days; and would not let us go today, for he had already sent to invite his neighbors, the Chimnapoos, to come down this evening and join his people in a dance for our amusement. We urged in vain that, by setting out sooner, we would the earlier return with the articles they desired; for a day, he observed, would make but little difference. We at length mentioned that, as there was no wind, it was now the best time to cross the river, and we should merely take the horses over and return to sleep at their village. To this he assented; we then crossed with the horses and, having hobbled them, returned to their (the Indian) camp. Fortunately, there was among these Wollawollahs a prisoner belonging to a tribe of Shoshone or Snake Indians, residing to the south of the Multnomah and visiting occasionally the heads of Wollawollah creek. Our Shoshone woman, Sacajawea, though she belonged to a tribe near the Missouri, spoke the same language as this prisoner; by their means we were able to explain ourselves to the Indians, and answer their inquiries with respect to ourselves and the object of our journey. Our conversation inspired them with much confidence, and they soon brought several sick persons, for whom they requested our assistance. We splinted (Captain Clark splinted) the broken arm of one, gave some relief to another, whose knee was contracted with rheumatism, and administered what we thought beneficial for ulcers and eruptions of the skin on various parts of the body, which are very common disorders among them. But our most valuable medicine was eye water, which we distributed, and which, indeed, they required very much; the complaint of the eyes, occasioned by living on the water and increased by the fine sand of the plains, being universal. A little before sunset the Chimnapoos, amounting to 100 men and a few women, came to the village and, joining the Wollawollahs, who were about the same number of men, formed themselves in a circle around our camp and waited very patiently till our men were disposed to dance, which they did for about an hour, to the tune of the violin. We then requested to see the Indians dance. With this they readily complied, and the whole assemblage, amounting, with the women and children of the village, to several hundred, sang and danced at the same time. The exercise was neither very violent nor very graceful; for the greater part of them were formed in a solid column round a kind of solid square, stood on the same place, and merely jumped up at intervals, to keep time to the music. Some, however, of the more active warriors, entered the square and danced round it sidewise, and some of our men joined in the dance, to the great satisfaction of the Indians. The dance continued till 10 o'clock.

Portland's Last Triumph.

From the Pendleton East Oregonian.

The opening of the Tehuantepec railway across the southern point of Mexico and the establishment of a line of steamers between Portland and the Pacific coast terminus of that road gives Portland a 20-day freight schedule by sea from New York city, a new and vital step in the commercial interests and development of Oregon's hustling metropolis.

This gives almost as good service between New York and Portland as the Panama canal would afford. The transfer of the freight cargoes and the transportation over the 115 miles of the Tehuantepec road will require but little time and slight expense, and it cuts down the sea voyage from the Atlantic to the Pacific by almost two months.

This will force a reduction of transcontinental railroad rates. The carrying of freight from New York to Portland in 20 days, at the extraordinarily low rate by sea, will work a revolution in the freight carrying traffic on the continent. And this is but a foretaste of the revolution which will follow the completion of the Panama canal.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Have Women Filled Their Own Field?

Portland, Or., April 24.—To the Editor of The Journal—I notice that the suffragists are claiming that they are sure to carry the state; but I doubt. The women who will ask their sons and fathers and husbands to vote against this loading of men's work on woman's shoulders have not spoken yet, but when these quiet "helpers at home" request they have as much influence with their own men folk as the others do with theirs. And the men who rush in and promise these aggressive suffragists to support them on the ground that if women want to vote the men should let them will hear and heed their own families later on. I think this assurance that suffrage is to carry Oregon is a little exaggerated. It reminds me of the statement of Anna Shaw at the Anthony memorial meeting, when with appropriate gesture she told us: "Susan B. Anthony, I deliberately assert, is the greatest statesman of the last century the world over." This writer was there and then overcome with sympathy for poor Gladstone, Bismarck, Webster and Lincoln and the rest of "the mere men."

Have women gotten through with their tasks so well that we have to ask them to take up our work, now that they have nothing else of their own to do? Are their homes less in need of their best efforts than our business places? Are there not as many children running the streets and growing up criminals as there are employes unmanaged by the men who oversee them? In other words, are not men attending to their business as well as women to theirs? What impudence for them, with their own fields neglected worse than ours, to be telling us what great improvement they could make if they were only permitted to wear our trousers! Experience does not prove it. Observation does not confirm the claim that the women will do our work better than we can. A young man, son of one on these suffragists who want to run creation, was at the restaurant table, and seeing a sign on the wall, "The Kind of Coffee Mother Used to Make," said: "Do you have the kind of coffee mother used to make?" "Yes," was the reply. "Then I will take a cup of tea, please."

SON OF AN ANTI-SUFFRAGE MOTHER.

"Get a Piece of Land."

Portland, April 25.—To the Editor of The Journal—In a recent editorial under the heading of "Get a Piece of Land," you close by saying: "The owners of the land if they choose are the rulers of the earth." I believe that that is perfectly true. But is it right that it should be so? Shall we be satisfied that the land owning class should rule the rest? Is it consistent with American ideas of liberty? Does the advice given in your editorial solve the problem? Under present laws by far the largest part of the people must remain landless. Directly thus, was a general move of the masses to get land, values would go away up and the bulk of them would find it further out of their reach than ever. I am a Henry George man and I believe that the only thing that will ever free the people and settle the labor question would be to place a sufficient tax on land values. It would encourage the use of land and make it impossible to keep valuable land idle. The increased taxes raised on land would enable us to abolish all other taxes and would encourage industry greatly. The price of a tax is always added to the goods taxed and the consumer must always pay the tax. When the tax is abolished it will make goods cheaper. When land is taxed the tax cannot be added to the price, but on the contrary, it makes land cheaper because it makes it harder for the speculator to hold it idle. Cheap land opens up opportunities for men to employ themselves. Higher wages follows increased opportunities to labor. The land and labor questions would be solved and we would have cheap land, cheap goods and high wages. SINGLE TAXER.

Is Woman Suffrage Completer Democracy?

Portland, April 25.—To the Editor of The JoJurnal—To retain the present suffrage system, in spite of all reasonable calculations to the contrary, is simply a battle for aristocracy. But we have reason to believe the manhood of our state will rise in its greatness and come to the rescue. History reveals the fact that man's representation was in the past very limited, but little by little broader methods have been employed and he now enjoys unrestricted privilege of the ballot. And none can deny many are honored in this direction who do not deserve it, for there is no justice in granting the ignorant and vicious, black, white or red man, the right of suffrage and denying to the well-reared and well-born woman, who is a citizen in every sense of the word, with this exception.

There was something noble in the declaration made by a lady in Fisher, Minnesota, several years ago, when she said: "I am a suffragist because I am an American citizen." When custom and prejudice no longer dim the mental vision this reform movement will receive an impetus in our national deliberations which will give to the world the best results, which will bestow upon it that truth and power which today is demanded by all thoughtful and progressive people. J. A. HUNT.

Socialism.

Portland, Or., April 25.—To the Editor of The Journal—Socialism is said to be growing in this country, and the fact must be granted. But what is the logical inference from this fact? Take the statements of the Socialists themselves; judge them impartially, and what is their import? No doubt that some good men are found in their ranks, but what influence would these few have or be able to exert provided the government were in their hands, or what agency would check the tidal wave of destruction, more devastating than the earthquake in California?

David Parry has written a story which is meant to illustrate the practical effect of Socialism. Bellamy wrote another, which even if it were not a gross exaggeration can have no attraction to a man of practical affairs. A full-blooded American who has studied the institutions of his country and noted the abuses of corporate wealth will surely hesitate when his choice is between these abuses which be remedied and Socialism once firmly seated. The former is temporary and may be borne, the latter is a disease, incurable.

M. S. GRISWOLD.

If He Had $10,000,000.

From R. H. Murray's "Henry H. Rogers" in Human Life.

Rogers once walked into the hut of Ned Haskins, who lived the life of a semi-hermit in a hut eight feet square, close to Fort Phoenix in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, where Mr. Rogers' summer house stands now.

"Ned, what would you do if you had $10,000,000?" asked Rogers.

"By jings," said the hermit, after long cogitation, "I'd have this hut built two feet larger."