

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

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ABOUT ARTESIAN WELLS.

The census reports upon irrigation show that one year ago this month there were 8,007 flowing artesian wells in the United States. Of this number 3,930 wells were employed in irrigation, watering 51,296 acres or an average of 13.21 acres per well.

The conclusion derived from the data gathered by the census is that irrigation by artesian wells should not be attempted where other means are available. The average cost of irrigating an acre of land with artesian water is figured at \$18.88, in comparison with \$8.15 by the ordinary methods.

The fact that all the wells in the United States are capable of irrigating no more land than is covered by a single large ditch, and that in California, Utah and Colorado experience has shown that only a limited amount of water can be forced out of a single basin, the old wells going dry as the new ones are sunk, is convincing that irrigation by this method can never be more than of minor importance.

There is still no certainty as to the murderer of Mamie Walsh. At present there are three men in custody charged with the murder—Tim Sullivan, a harmless old Portland drunk; A. A. Demicks, the piano-tuner, and Rafes. It would not be at all surprising if half a dozen more names were added to the list within the next week.

J. S. Clarkson declines to act as chairman of the republican national committee this year. That is perfectly natural. The place belongs to Stephen B. Elkins, according to a long standing rule of the committee that "the officers shall be selected from among the closest friends of the candidate nominated."

The most successful winner at the Chicago Derby on Saturday, is a boy twenty years of age, Arthur White. It is said that he cleared over \$14,000 winnings on the race, backing the winning horse on the outside and holding him out in his book.

The people of Guadalajara, Mexico, and surrounding country have been in a state of terror for the past few days on account of repeated shocks of earthquake which have been the most severe ever felt.

The Indiana state convention met at Fort Wayne today. The chief interest centers in the gubernatorial contest. It is Chase against the field, with little chance of the field uniting.

A special session of the legislature to reappoint the state into legislative districts meets in Madison, Wis., today.

President Harrison has decided not to make any political trips during the campaign.

To Let: Dwelling of A. E. Dow at the east end of Third street.

WHAT WRITERS EARN

SOME MAKE FORTUNES AND OTHERS MERELY A PITTANCE.

What the Late James Parton Earned and How He Lived—Other Authors Who Receive Big Pay for Comparative Little Labor—The Average Man.

Not long before his death James Parton is reported to have said that a person who decided to support himself exclusively by his pen must be content to live on about \$2,000 a year. The best, according to Mr. Parton, that a literary man could hope to attain would be \$5,000 or \$7,000 a year for perhaps ten or twelve years, when the author's experience was ripe and while he was still in his prime.

This statement seemed rather strange coming from so successful an author as Mr. Parton, yet it was reported in such a way as leaves but little doubt that this was his opinion. Yet he was himself an example of the falsity of it, although he may have thought that his case was the exception that proves the rule.

Mr. Parton was a constant writer and a pretty frequent author for more than forty years. Some of his books had a phenomenal sale. His "Life of Horace Greeley" brought him not only a handsome income, but a small capital. His "History of Ben Butler," and especially of Butler's life in New Orleans after the capture of that city, was very popular during the war days, and Parton's life of Aaron Burr added materially to his possessions.

Parton earned so much money that he was able to accumulate, and when he left New York and went to Newburyport, Mass., to live, just as old age was beginning to come upon him, he had a sufficient property to support him even if he did not write another line. Of course he could not live in luxury, but he lived in comfort, surrounded by all those things which make life agreeable to him.

Parton was not a great author. He wrote as a business, and it was his business to give what his clients wanted. And that is the secret of the success of those who have adopted literature as a profession. Those who take up the pen in order to win an exalted and permanent fame must undoubtedly give but little heed to the pecuniary consideration, but those who expect to make a living out of authorship must do as is done in every other profession—serve their clients and increase them if possible.

There are a good many other examples which indicate that Mr. Parton was mistaken. In his own vicinity there lived several men who had done exceedingly well at the business of authorship. Mr. Charles Carleton Coffin abandoned journalism for a brilliant career as a war correspondent, and has made a comfortable fortune and a good income by writing in a popular manner historical and anecdotal works designed mainly for young persons.

Mr. J. T. Trowbridge lives comfortably on the income he gets from his boys' stories, and so does Oliver Optic. Mr. Adams, who is Oliver Optic in real life, although his hair is gray and he has become an old man, has just entered into a contract to furnish a series of ten stories for young persons, written in the style which earned him popularity forty years ago. He will probably write those ten stories within a year, for he is a very rapid workman, and while the precise terms of payment are not known, it is believed that he will receive not less than \$15,000 for them.

General Lew Wallace is said to have received from \$75,000 to \$90,000 royalty upon his single book, "Ben Hur," but that is one of those spasmodic and phenomenal successes which become traditional. Miss Alcott, besides living handily, left an estate valued at \$100,000, all of which has been made in about twenty years. Mr. George Parsons Lathrop, his brother-in-law, Julian Hawthorne, Edgar Saltus, and Edgar Fawcett have no other profession than literature. Lathrop and Hawthorne do some journalistic work, while Fawcett has a private fortune. Each of these men counts on making as much as \$5,000 a year, and Saltus' income one year was nearly \$15,000.

There have been a number of successful authors of late who have complained that they cannot live by their pens. A few years ago a novel appeared entitled "Gruendale." It was published over a non de plume, "J. S. of Dale," and it was regarded as one of the successful books of the year. Its author, Mr. Stimson, was a recent graduate of Harvard college, and the success of the book inspired him with literary ambition. Yet he has practically abandoned literature, excepting as a by play, and is making money practicing law.

Robert Grant, another young Boston litterateur who won some fame, relies upon the practice of a dryer profession than literature for his support. John Habberton, who made a great hit with "Helen's Babies," and who writes exceedingly clever stories, relies upon journalism for his support, while literature is a side issue with him. Mrs. Burnett made no money until her play, "Little Lord Fauntleroy," was produced, although she had previously written several very successful novels, and she has practically abandoned story telling for the drama.

These cases, however, simply illustrate the fact that that sort of literature which develops fiction cannot be relied upon for a very handsome support. The authors who make money are those like Parton, Benson J. Lossing and Coffin, who are able to set forth, in a style which does not shoot over the head of the public, either history or the stories of achievement or the careers of famous men in a manner which makes the telling of the story most attractive. The author who can cultivate this quality is sure of repeating the successes of those who have been named, and would probably earn more money in this sort of writing than he could if he went into any other business or profession.—New York Advertiser.

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All persons indebted to the late firm of W. Bolton & Co., Antelope, either by note or book account, will please call at the old store and make immediate settlement of the same.

The partnership heretofore existing between E. B. McFarland, S. French, G. V. Bolton and Wilbur Bolton, under the name and style of W. Bolton & Co., Antelope, Oregon, was dissolved on the 21st day of March, 1892.

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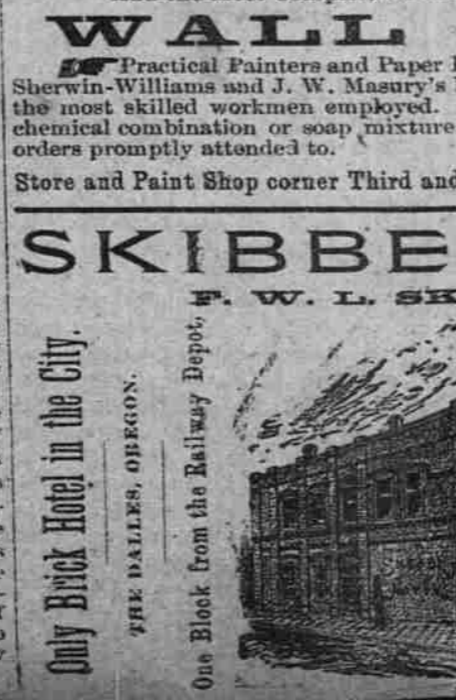
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