## GREAT VITALITY OF SNAILS.

One at the Smithsonian Lived Without Food and Water for Six Years.

The Smithsonian institution has hit something extraordinary in upon snails. The creatures may be slow, but they hold the record over all other animals for prolonged vitality under adverse conditions. Stories of toads dug out of rocks in which they had been imprisoned for ages are apocryphal, but recent discovery, says the Providence Journal, has established the credit of this humble mollusk as No. 1 in tenacity of life. Only the other day a specimen from an island off the coast of Lower California, inclosed in a drawer with a part of the molluscan collection, was foundt o be alive. It had had no food or water for more than six years. When placed in a box with moist earth it protruded its foot, began to move about and seemed to be as well as ever. Some time ago a few snails of a different species, gathered in Mexico, reached the Smithsonian institution and were placed in a box. They remained undisturbed for two years and three months, at the end of which time they were put into a glass jar with some chickweed and a small quantity of tepid water. Pretty soon they woke up and appeared quite active.

Pond snails, which are sometimes found alive in logs of mahogany from Honduras, possess equal endurance. Specimens carried from Egypt to Paris packed in sawdust have arrived uninjured. Other kinds have been experimented with by shutting them up in pill boxes and dry bags for years, but have survived. The limit of their vitality is yet to be ascertained. Land snails in cold climates bury themselves in the ground or under dead leaves in winter; in tropical regions they become torpid during the hot season. When about to start in on a period of sleep they seal up their shells with a closefitting door, which sometimes is a shield of thin, transparent mucus, and in other cases an opaque membrane as thick as a visiting card. Behind this the animal constructs other walls, which serve like so many partitions to protect it against prolonged cold or dryness. It is believed that just as the seeds of plants are distributed by the winds, so likewise the eggs of snails are scattered abroad on the breezes, thus disseminating their species. They are very prolific ani-mals. Some of the great land snails of the tropics, which live on trees and weigh a pound apiece, lay eggs that look strikingly like those of pigeons, being quite as large. The eggs are deposited among decaying vegetation, the heat of decomposition hatching them

## LOVERS' VOWS ON PAPER.

How an English Newspaper Proposes to Simplify Breach of Promise Suits. The London Spectator, moved by the

painful spectacle of the modern breach of. promise case, proposes a novel expedient in order to overcome the difficulties which such suits pre-It says: There would be one sent. very simple method of lightening the task of the jury, which would also afford to young women and their guardians a means of ascertaining whether the lover had any serious intention of developing into a husband Let no promise of marriage or not. be held valid unless it is made in writing upon properly stamped paper. If the plaintiff could produce a formal promise of this kind, there would be



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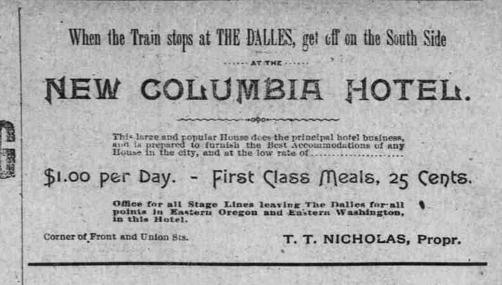
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<u>[47</u>

## The Dalles **Daily and Weekly** Chronicle.

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THE CHRONICLE PUBLISHING CO., The Dalles, Oregon.



no need to go into all the history of a doubtful courtship, or to consider any other factor in the assessment of damages than the respective incomes of the contracting parties. Of course it will be objected that such a proposition is injurious to all the romance of courtship and marriage. But where, we would ask, is the romance in nine out of ten breach of promise cases that find their way into the law courts? These cases are hardly ever brought except by people whose affections have not been deeply engaged in their acceptance of a suitor. For one young woman who now brings an action for breach of promise at least nine are jilted and suffer in silence. The more their affections have been engaged the less they can bear to tell the pitiful tale of their disappointment and witness the poor little romance of their life exposed to the ridicule and laughter of an unsympathetic world. If it once became understood that the ardent lover should offer such a proof of his good faith, then a girl would know well what to expect from a lover who withheld it. At any rate, parents or guardians of the lower and middle classes would not allow a young man to grow "too particular in his attentions"-as their phrase runs-unless he showed a disposition to furnish this guarantee. Then, if the promise were unfulfilled, even the most modest and

unfulfilled, even the most modest and sensitive maiden could proceed against her faithlesslover without loss of pride or dignity.
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Haworth, printer, 116 Court St. ti



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Republican County Convention.

A Republican Convention for the County of Wasco, State of Oregon. is called to meet in Dalles City, in said county, on Wednesday, April 4th, 1883, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following county officer. Once County, Commissioner County nominating candidates for the following county offices: One County Commissioner, County Clerk, County Sheriff, County Treasurer, County Assessor, County School Superintendent, County Coroner and County Surveyor: and also precinct officers for the several precincts, and eight dele-gates to the State Convention, and to transact such other business as may properly come before such convention. The convention will consist of 67 delegates chosen by the several precincts, and the several precincts of the county will be entitled to representation in said convention as follows:

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dwin2	Eight Mile
umbla2	Deschutes
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galey	Tygh
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