

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

The only Republican Daily Newspaper in Wasco County.

EASTERN OFFICE—230 to 234 Temple Court, N. Y. City. E. KATZ, Agent.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1897

Clubbing Rates.
Chronicle and Oregonian \$2 25
Chronicle and Examiner 2 25
Chronicle and Tribune 1 75
Chronicle and N. Y. World 2 00

ERRORS IN HISTORY.

There is a great deal of rhetorical fustian in newspaper editorials on the present war between Greece and Turkey. The big daily at Portland, in its disparaging comments on the valor of the modern Greeks, should adhere to facts, and not follow school "histories" in exploiting its knowledge of the famous actions of antiquity. Some of its statements are on a par with the one it recently made that in French history "Waterloo is sometimes called the battle of Quatre Bras." The Statesmen asked for its authority, but no response has yet been made.

In its paragraph on the war now raging, the aforesaid daily slashes right and left with perfect recklessness, quoting from compilations of ancient history, instead of going to the fountain head for its facts. It says Xerxes led 1,000,000 Persians into Greece in the third invasion (pray, what was the first invasion?) when the Father of History declares positively that there were 2,641,610 fighting men, 300,000 of whom were Greeks in the service of Persia, besides as many more non-combatants, making a grand total of 5,283,220 men that Xerxes, son of Darius, led to Thermopylae, exclusive of women who made bread, and concubines, and other attendants, besides beasts of burden and Indian dogs, which no one could number.

The big daily also speaks of Leonidas' "deathless 300." Had the editor referred more carefully to his school history he would have found the statement that the 300 all died, including Leonidas himself. That is also the opinion generally received—they all died, and were not "deathless." The fact, however, is that only 298 of the 300 actually fell in the battle, as anyone will find by consulting the only original authority. Furthermore, they were not buried on Mount Olympus, but were entombed in the pass, near the hot gates, where they fell.

There is another glaring fiction of history which the Oregonian editor unwittingly adopts, in common with the great mass of loose writers and declaimers. The battle of Thermopylae is never referred to without the particular statement that there Leonidas and his 300 Spartans died gloriously while defending the liberties of Greece against the Persian millions, the inference being that no other Greeks fought and died there. The truth is, Herodotus, the only contemporary authority, expressly declares that after Leonidas had dismissed all the Grecian troops except his own, knowing defeat was certain, and that he and the Spartans could not honorably desert the post, 700 Thespians and 400 Thebans, from two small cities of Boeotia, stayed with him. The Thespians remained willingly, for they refused to go away and abandon Leonidas and those with him, but remained and died with them; but the Thebans were compelled to stay, as Leonidas distrusted them, and after he was killed those who were alive threw down their arms and surrendered to the Persians. The voluntary sacrifice of the 700 Thespians in behalf of Grecian liberty is seldom alluded to, and is uncelebrated in song, but their conduct was tenfold more glorious than that of the Spartans, who remained and died in obedience to the laws of their country. What school-boy is there who does not know of

Leonidas and his 300 Spartans, but never heard of the 700 Thespians who voluntarily fought and died at Thermopylae? Demophilus was their glorious leader. Although about seven thousand Greeks fought at Thermopylae under Leonidas, a fair deduction from the words of Herodotus shows that four thousand of them were slain in the conflict. So much for the mistakes of histories and encyclopedias, which lead astray so many superficial writers, who in turn mislead myriads of readers.—Salem Statesman.

The teachers' examination, taking place today, naturally suggests the subject of the system under which these examinations are made. At the last quarterly examination two-thirds of the applicants failed to pass, the examination being a very difficult one. In conversation with a prominent educator of the state since that time he suggested that the examinations were being made harder steadily, not to increase the standard of efficiency, but in the interests of the normal schools. The normal graduates do not have to pass the state examination, and many of them could not, yet they are allowed to teach. They have a different examination entirely, and a much easier one than that provided by the state board. The examinations being much easier, those who feel some doubt about passing the regular examination are induced to take a normal course.

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Teachers' Examination.

Notice is hereby given, that for the purpose of making an examination of all persons who may offer themselves as candidates for teachers of the schools of this county, the county school superintendent thereof, will hold a public examination at the county court house in Dalles City, beginning Wednesday, May 12th, at 1 o'clock p. m.

Dated this 1st day of May, 1897. C. L. GILBERT, School Supt.

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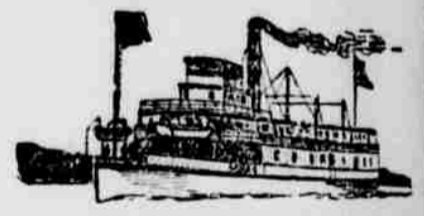
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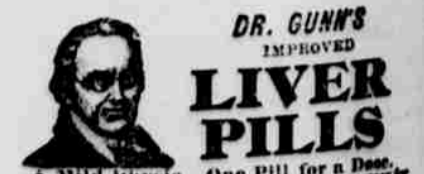
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