

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

The only Republican Daily Newspaper on Wasco County.

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SATURDAY - DECEMBER 4, 1897

THE REAL QUESTION.

Whether or not Marcus Whitman shall go to history as the savior of Oregon, is not, after all, a momentous question. The sources from which all weighty events flow are more or less wrapped in uncertainty, and that only a half century should pass since Whitman did what his friends claim for him, and that the truth should be lost in shade, is not remarkable in view of the fact that oral testimony of matters long in the past is always of uncertain value. It will probably never be known just what niche in the hall of history Whitman should occupy. Whether he, like Washington, should be called the father of a country, or whether he shall be classed a nervous enthusiast who made a needless journey across a frozen continent, will, we say, never be determined. His friends will say one thing; his enemies claim another, and those who study the matter dispassionately, with a view to learning the truth, will be perplexed by the conflicting evidence presented, and leave the matter as one incapable of solution.

But what matters it now just what results followed from Whitman's unselfish endeavor? The truer test of a man's character is to judge him by his intentions rather than by the results which follow his actions. If Whitman left his home in the beautiful Walla Walla valley, bade farewell to his loving wife, and braved the perils of that lonely ride across the plains and mountains of a frozen country; if he did this thinking he was serving his country as a patriot should, then his name should be written in the list of the nation's heroes and his fame cherished as we would a precious heirloom.

Whitman thought Oregon was in danger. That was enough for him. His was a mind that took but a little while for decision, and his deeds, no matter whether they were essential to the salvation of Oregon or not, are worthy of the adulation of successive generations. Whitman is a type of man that all can honor. Happy the day and age that can recognize his merit. Let his name be remembered as one who would willingly give all for his country, and may his real monument, which is the Christian college established in his name, grow in greatness and usefulness till the work which Whitman mapped out be completed.

The illness of President McKinley's mother means, probably, that death is near. A woman worthy of all respect and love, she is known to be, and her greatest happiness must be in the consciousness of her son's fitness to guide a perplexed nation in troublous times. Like the mother of the Gracchi, she can say: "My sons are my most precious jewels."

Since so many persons are anxious to confess the murder now charged to Durrant, the authorities should take a few of them at their word and give them what they seem to want. It would save the expense of maintaining such people in insane asylums later on.

When the Hawaiian annexation treaty comes up in the senate the country may look for a wide divergence in discussion. Every question has two sides to it, and this is one of them. That there are certain advantages to be gained from annexation is undoubted. In the event of a war with an oriental country, which in our opinion will be the next

great conflict, the Hawaiian islands would be of immense benefit as a naval station, yet it must not be forgotten that after this government has spent much money in arranging a depot of supplies at the islands, it would be an easy matter for a foreign nation to swoop down and capture them unless we kept such a military and naval force there as would cripple us in other quarters. The suggestion, too, is a good one that the United States has troubles enough at home without seeking any complications abroad. That Hawaii would be a great gainer by annexation is undoubted, but we should not become too philanthropic in this sordid age and give away more than we get.

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that Contain Mercury.
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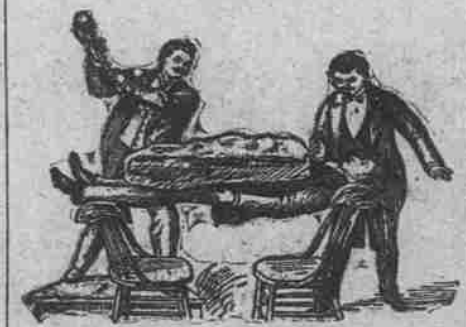
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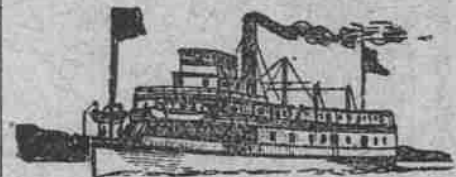


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