WILLAMETTE FARMER.

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RELIGION IN PERSIA.

A remarkable movement has for some time been going on in Persia, which indicates that even that country is not free from a religious tumult like that which has been agitating so much of the more civilized world. Trouble of no ordinary kind has long been existing between the Grand Vizier and the Moolas, but no explanation could for a long time be attained. The *Times of India* now undertakes to say that all is due to the origin of a new creed, which seems likely to produce a momentous change in the religious future of the East. This new faith, known by the name of the "Zuzdani," has secretly but rapidly spread throughout the Persian Kingdom. The creed supports doctrines vastly contrary to the Moslem faith. The Zezdanies do not believe in any prophet. They only worship the Almighty. There are no religious ceremonies stipulated for the new religion. The principal doctrines are praise of the Supreme Being, truth, and virtue. The new faith has spread so far its influence that several savans, noblemen, and even Princes have joined it. Now it appears that the present Sadre Azm, or Grand Vizier, is also an advocate of the new religion—a fact of which the big Moolas and priests of Persia appear to be cognizant. It need hardly be said that these priests and Kazees are afraid of the consequences of the spread of this religion, which bodes destruction to the Moslem faith and practice. They now watch with eager eyes the turn high officials may choose to take. It was the Sadre Azm who prevailed upon the Shah to visit Europe. The natural deduction from this way that the Vizier had, or for the matter of that may have still, a great influence on the mind of the Shah. The priests and Kazees see that were this influence to be allowed to continue, the Shah may in time be induced himself to embrace the new faith. Why, then, the surest way to avoid the difficulty was to remove the Sadre Azm—and it is known how far they succeeded.

OLDEST WORKED WOOD IN THE WORLD.

Probably the oldest timber in the world, which has been subjected to the use of man, is that which is found in the ancient temples of Egypt. It is found in connection with stone work which is known to be at least four thousand years old. The wood, and the only wood used in the construction of the temple, is in the form of ties, holding the end of one stone to another in its upper surface. When two blocks were laid in place, then it appears that an excavation about an inch deep was made in each block, into which an hour-glass-shaped tie was driven. It is therefore very difficult to force any stone from its position. The ties appear to have been the Tamarisk, or Shittim wood, of which the ark was constructed, a sacred tree in ancient Egypt, and now very rarely found in the valley of the Nile. These dove-tailed ties are just as sound now as on the day of their insertion. Although fuel is extremely scarce in this country, these bits of wood are not large enough to make it an object with the Arabs to heave off layer after layer of heavy stone for so small a prize. Had they been of bronze, half the old temples would have been destroyed ages ago, so precious would they have been for various purposes.—*Journal of the Farm.*

THE CULTIVATION OF FRENCH FIELDS.

From Havre to Paris (says a correspondent) there is scarcely an acre of uncultivated ground, with the exception of the parks belonging to large estates. The villages all look very old, the houses are of gray stone, with sharp-pointed roofs rising one above the other, with a little old church half fallen to decay in their midst. Every house has a flower garden, even to the railway stations. It looked so pretty and so strange to see so many flowers in November. The little gardens were one mass of color—purple heliotrope, tea-roses, scarlet geraniums, marbuds and pinks; always framed in with the dark, glossy, green leaves of the ivy, that grows everywhere with the greatest luxuriance. There are no fences around the fields; they are simply laid out in very straight rows, and planted with different kinds of vegetables, with occasionally a grass-plot or small field of grain between; the different shades of green give a most beautiful effect to the landscape. There is not a stone or a stick to mar the perfect smoothness of these fields, nor an inch of ground left uncared for. They are intersected at intervals by roads bordered on either side by rows of tall poplars; roads so smooth, so hard and white, that one longs to gallop over them.

BONE DUST BRICKS.

An Australian paper, speaking of the vast quantities of the bones that have been accumulating in Melbourne since the meat-preserving occupations have been commenced there, says: The Midlander, bound for London, has on board a shipment of one hundred tons of bone dust prepared in an altogether novel manner for exportation, and one which promises to come into extensive use. To facilitate this trade, an apparatus has been contrived for compressing bone dust into half its original compass, reducing it at the same time into a form very convenient for shipment. By means of strong pressure the crushed bones are molded into cakes of six inches square and three inches thick, something like flooring tiles, each case weighing over four pounds. These bone dust tiles are just adhesive enough to admit their being handed freely—thrown about like bricks, if necessary—and are yet so free that when required for use they can readily be crushed, or melted by the application of a little hot water. A ton weight of the manure measures 26 cubic feet and contains 252 of the cakes.

BEST TIME TO CUT TIMBER.

Dr. Hartig, who has made numerous experiments to determine the point, states that March and April are the best months in which to cut timber for building purposes, as it then contains its lowest per cent. of moisture, which he states to be forty-seven per cent. During the three previous months it has fifty-one per cent., and the three following ones, forty-eight. He further states that properly seasoned timber should not contain more than from twenty to twenty-five per cent. of moisture, and never less than ten per cent. If the moisture is removed to a still greater extent, the wood loses strength and becomes brittle. An English authority states that if trees are felled as soon as they are in full leaf, and allowed to remain undisturbed until the leaves dry up and fall off, the timber will be found well seasoned, the leaves having exhausted all the moisture.

INFORMATION ON OREGON WANTED.

I think of going to Oregon. Can you inform me if we can raise the English or rather the Irish thorn hedges there? Is it true as some represent that it rains every day for from three to four months in the Fall and Winter? Can you or any of your subscribers let me know how much it would cost to take eleven of a family from Chicago to Portland, six of us being adults, two above three and less than eight and none below two years of age?—*D. C. P., Wisconsin.*

Will our Oregon correspondents note and answer the questions about their State and the railway fare? The English thorn and Irish thorn will both thrive in Oregon. They are two very distinct species, the English thorn or hawthorn being a *cratægus* while the Irish blackthorn or sloe is a *prunus*.—*Western Rural.*

HIDE-BOUND TREES.—Trees that have long stems exposed to hot suns or drying wind, become what gardeners call "hide-bound." That is, the old bark becomes indurated—can not expand—and the tree suffers much in consequence. Such an evil is usually indicated by gray lichens, which feed on the decaying bark. In these cases a washing of weak lye or of lime-water is very useful; indeed, where the bark is healthy, it is beneficial thus to wash the trees, as many eggs of insects are thereby destroyed.

TIDE MARSH IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY.—There are vast quantities of tide lands bordering the Sound in many places to the northward of the Snohomish river. Most of this land has already been secured by settlers. The soil is a black loam of great depth and fertility, but there are days in every month when they are overflowed by the tides to the depth of two or three feet. This, of course, would kill all except the natural vegetation; and to render the land available for cultivation, dikes have to be constructed. Our informant says that he and a neighbor had constructed one about 150 rods in length, inclosing their two farms, giving them about 150 acres. Snohomish and Whitcom give promise of becoming the richest agricultural counties in the Territory, in a few years, and their tide lands will contribute in no small degree toward enabling them to reach this preeminence.

News Items.

The *Oregonian* says that on Sunday last, the O. S. N. Co.'s steamer Fannie Troupe ran on a snag at the mouth of Cowlitz river. And soon sank in about five feet water at low tide. Attempts will be made to raise the sunken boat. Owing to the muddy water, the extent of the damage cannot be ascertained.

At the annual election of Dalles Grange P. of H., the following persons were elected for the ensuing fiscal year: Robert Mays, Master; J. H. Phillips, Overseer; James Fulton, Lecturer; J. S. Bolton, Chaplain; A. McBaker, Steward; Louis Davenport, Assistant Steward; E. S. Perham, Secretary; M. M. Cushin, Treasurer; Mrs. C. Driscoll, Ceres; Mrs. E. J. Bolton, Flora; Mrs. M. Stillwell, Pomona; Mrs. M. J. Brazee, L. A. Stewart. The Grange numbers thirty members and is prospering finely.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Dalles Military Road Company, held on the 2d inst. at the Dalles, O. S. Savage was elected President; O. Humison, Vice President; William Grant, Treasurer. The following gentlemen were elected Directors for the ensuing year: O. S. Savage, O. Humison, Al. Zieber, M. C. Nyeand M. Sellers.

A sailor, named Wm. Anderson, on the bark Pekin, on Sunday, fell and broke his right leg. The man is to be taken to the Marine Hospital at Astoria for care and attention.

The annual report of the President of the Portland Library Association shows that the Society has run in arrears during the year to the amount of $1,533, expenditures $4,436. The total number of books loaned from the Library during the year was 15,480, of which 11,819 were works of fiction. W. S. Ladd and P. C. Schuyler were unanimously re-elected Directors.

The Jacksonville *Sentinel* has entered upon its nineteenth volume, and is much improved in appearance.

The *Scatter* says a Grange was organized at Phoenix, Jan. 20th, by Deputy W. W. Baker, with the following officers: John M. Harris, Master; Perry M. Sam Colver, Jr., Lecturer; Jno. Reid, Steward; Wallace Baldwin, A. Steward; D. Pat Dolan, Chaplain; T. W. Herrin, Treasurer; John Coleman, Secretary; Mrs. M. G. Dees, Ceres; Mrs. R. C. Taylor, Pomona; Miss S. E. Sanders, Flora; Miss M. A. Harris, L. A. S. Number of charter members, 24.

The following items are from the Coos Bay *News*, Feb. 4th:

The body of a man who was known as James Oxley alias Benjamin Smith was found on the ocean beach near Empire City a few days since. He was the mate of the tug who lost his life at the time Capt. Elliott was drowned, Dec. 23d, 1872. Capt. Elliott's body has not yet been found.

The snow is five or six feet deep on the mountains between Coos Bay and Roseburg.

The passenger train of the Oregon and California Railroad, bound south, ran off the track a few miles beyond Oakland on Saturday evening, the 31st ult. No blame can be attached to the conductor or engineer for the accident. The track had been undermined by heavy rains, and could not withstand the pressure of the weight passing over it.

M. Wilkins is Master of the Grange lately organized at Willamette Forks.

J. F. Brown, Eugene City, has been commissioned Notary Public for two years.

The Dalles *Republican* says a young man named Joseph Babb, from Salt Creek, has been adjudged insane and sent to the Asylum.

The Mormons are at it. Many cattle in the vicinity of the Dalles are being troubled with a disease in the feet. In some cases the hoof comes off. Wash the legs and feet of the animals, and, if affected with mud fever, the disease may be prevented.

The Jacksonville *Sentinel* says that on the 1st inst. while A. Malone, of Table Rock precinct, was driving some stock, one of the horses fell with him, and before he could regain himself the horse rose and left upon the unfortunate man with his dragging him the distance by his coat, which stuck in the stirrup. Fortunately his coat pulled off and released him from his perilous position and probably saved his life.

Some of the citizens of Coos county are planting oyster beds as an experiment.

The *Oregonian* says that Hon. A. J. Dufur, who has been appointed agent for the Umatillas of this State, arrived in our city last evening from Wasco county. He comes to make preliminary arrangements for entering upon the duties of his agency. He expects to open an office for business in Portland about the first of March.

Workmen are actively engaged in getting out the timbers for the New vessel now being built at South Bend, upon Bay. It will be not only the largest but one of the finest Rubbed vessels ever built on the bay.

One hundred and ninety-three vessels arrived at Coos Bay during the year 1873, and the same number have sailed. There was transported from Coos Bay 42,000 tons of coal and 11,000,000 feet of lumber during the same year.

The Jacksonville *Times* says that the late rains have swollen the creeks and streams considerably, and from all parts of the country we learn that the miners have water enough to keep them busy for some time. Should the rain continue, a large amount of gold dust would be taken out, which is needed to enable business to move.

Mrs. Ambrose Bryant has been sent to the Insane Asylum, from Multnomah county.

Officer Motley, of Prineland, arrested a man named Daniel Baker, at Carrollin, on Monday evening, who it seems is an escaped convict from the Nevada Penitentiary. He had been living in Corvallis about two years, and only three months since married a highly respectable young lady of that place. Baker, who has two others, were sentenced in January, 1871, to thirty years' hard labor in the Penitentiary, for robbing Wells, Fargo & Co. and the mail at White Pine, and in September of the same year two of them made their escape. Baker will be taken back, but his young wife is overwhelmed with her misfortune.

The average hop yield in Oregon is placed at four pounds per acre.

Oregon has one hundred and fifty acres devoted to nut raising. Oregon hops find ready sale at the highest market prices.

A Grange has been organized at Willamette Forks, Lane county, with sixteen charter members.

The *Democrat* is informed that the Pioneer and Newport roads are absolutely impassable for wagons or horses, owing to the temporary crossing in Beaver Slough bottom having been washed away by high tides.

Mr. A. D. Hart, his brother Reed, and Messrs. Fred. Gray and Geo. Kortheuer, of Linn county, have formed a partnership for the purpose of erecting a first-class grist mill at Corvallis, on the old site near the mouth of Mary's river.

The Superintendent of the O. & C. R. R. offers a reward of $500 for the arrest and conviction of the men who placed obstructions on the railroad track on the night of January 26th, between Woodburn and Gervais.

Postmaster Sterling, of the Oakland postoffice, informs the *Plaindealer* that from July 1st, 1873, to January 9th, 1874, he has issued 181 money orders amounting to the aggregate to $2,858 50. The fees on the same footed up $17 70.

The mercury stood at an average temperature of 36 deg. (freezing point is at Baker City during the week ending January 31st.

The winter term of the Baker City Academy closed on Friday, Jan. 30, having been scholars than ever before attempted.

Mr. Jos. Bolby, of Rye Valley, informs the Baker City Democrat that Frank & Co. are taking out very rich quartz rock from their ledge. The snow in the valley is from twelve to eighteen inches deep, and on the surrounding mountains from two to four feet deep.

At a meeting of the Baker County Construction Company, and other citizens of Baker county, held at the county seat on the 29th ult., Dr. J. M. Boyd was elected President; C. M. Foster, Secretary, and John Bratain, Treasurer. A committee of five, to circulate a petition addressed to the Congress of the United States, was appointed, consisting of W. H. Packwood, A. B. Roberts, John Bratain, Jas. H. Sloan and C. M. Foster.

The *Bulletin* says that J. M. Moore, of Oregon City, has received from the General Land Office a patent for his donation land claim, which covers the whole space occupied by the Canal and Locks at Willamette Falls. No legal proceedings were ever taken to obtain the right of way for the conveyance of the water power, but the title to the premises is therefore in the hands of Mr. Moore.

We learn from the *Oregonian* that the work on the Custom House at Portland is rapidly progressing.

Krumbein & Gilbert have completed the plans for Judge Mosher's new residence, and are to-day receiving bids for the work. Jack for Cash, Ankeny.

The bark Forward has received a cargo of salt, and will sail with her cargo of lumber, being only 64 days from Columbia river to Sydney.

The high freshet will soon be ready to show to the Oregon steamer.

The steamer Orifleme arrived from San Francisco.

Malfeasance in office charges have been made to the supervisors of Klamath.

The *Bulletin* announces the sudden death of Florence Amelia, wife of Dr. E. A. Shaw, of Portland, after a short illness from typhoid fever.

Albany wheat buyers are offering 90 cts. per bu. for wheat.

The steamers are still running up the Yamhill. The highest stages trouble the sheep in Yamhill county.

Wheat 85 per bushel at McMinnville. Eggs 20 cents per dozen at the same place.

The Methodists and United Brethren are holding meetings on the Willamina, Yamhill county.

Orrin Bennett, living near McMinnville, while out hunting a few days ago, discharged the contents of his gun in the calf of his leg.

On the 31st ult., Baker City subscribed $50 00 to the Blue Mountain University. Its grants has robber fled nine $10,000 for school purposes.

A man named Wm. Todd has been fined $100 and costs for clearing the railway ladies in Portland, last Tuesday. In default, he was sent to jail for sixty days.

THE DAHLIA.

A correspondent of the *Garden* explains the true origin of the Dahlia, first mentioned by Hernandez, in his *History of Mexico*, in 1651. But the first scientific description of the plant was given by the Abbe Cavanilles, from a specimen which flowered in Madrid, in 1790; and the Abbe named the plant after his friend, Andrew Dahl, the Swedish botanist. The Dahlia was sent to the Royal Gardens in Madrid, from the Royal Gardens in Mexico. It first flowered in Madrid in 1789, and was introduced by the Marchioness of Bute into England, in the same year.

But that plant soon perished; and the Dahlia did not reappear until 1808, when the old single variety, Coccinea, was flowered by Frazer, at Chelsea. Meanwhile, Cavanilles had sent the three varieties known in Madrid, to Paris, in 1802, and between that time and 1814, many varieties were raised. Humboldt sent home seed from Mexico, in 1804; and from this source the numerous varieties since obtained have been principally derived.

A USE FOR OLD OYSTER CANS.—The empty oyster can will no more haunt our sidewalks and streets, our yards and parks. Heretofore, science, after putting together the iron and tin that form it, could find no cheap process of separating them. Now we have but to bathe the can in hydrochloric acid to sever to two metals. The machinery required is simple and the cost of working over a ton of tin scraps is less than $30. The product will sell for $90. In a few months we may expect to see men cleaning our premises of their most unsightly incumbrance, save one, and actually paying us for the privilege. The one is an ex-hoop-skirt. Let somebody find out how to utilize that, and the American housekeeper will be content.

POTASH IN PLANTS.—A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* gives the following table, showing the amount of potash contained in 1,000 lbs. of ashes made by burning different kinds of wood: pine, 4 lbs.; beech, 14 lbs.; maple, 48 lbs.; wheat-straw, 4 lbs.; corn-stalks, 17 lbs.; oak-leaves, 24 lbs.; stems of potatoes, 55 lbs.; wormwood 70 lbs.; sunflower stalks, 19 lbs.; oak, 2½ lbs.; beech bark, 6 lbs. The remaining portion of the ash, consisting of carbonate and phosphate of lime, iron, manganese, alumina, and silicia, is an excellent fertilizer.

Sir Isaac Newton was called a lunatic in his day.