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# East Oregonian

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1900.

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—AT—

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### THE LAW OF FORCE.

Under natural law God governs rocks by force, animals by fear, savage men by self-interest, good men by reason, the best men by love. The law in the lowest realm is the law of force. Under it the weak go to the wall and the strong survive. In the low animal stage the weak perish and the strong survives and multiplies. But when the savage mother identifies her babe with herself for reasons of self-interest, she wishes every part of herself to survive, and so lifts the shield to protect the babe. In time, the babe in its weakness survives, and the strong mother perishes. When men saw that this was a form of progress, then they reared up the state and set up laws to protect and preserve, not simply babes, but the weak, the slave, the serf and the debtor.

A law was made to give the slave his freedom after seven years, so the serf survived. A law was made forbidding the creditor to take the sleeping blanket from the debtor, or to take his spade or sickle when these were his only means of life. In time the state did more; lifted the shield above the blind, the deaf, the aged, and the weak survived more and more. Then Christ came, declaring that the law of force never blossoms until the strong perish that the weak may survive. From that time the teacher has made sacrifices for the ignorant pupil, and since then the reformer and leader have perished that the multitude might survive. Christ perished on a cross to save others. Lincoln and Lovejoy died that slaves might be free, and there are others who are straining and striving, in many instances intuitively, that others may have greater freedom and happiness.

Men, big minded men, do not know or realize what great force presses them forward. They stumble, they even fall, but they go forward in their duty and to their death. Only the small man, the narrowly selfish man, sets himself up against "this divine law of conservation of energy" and makes the futile attempt to put himself on a pedestal, imagining that his fellows will set the same value upon him that he sets upon himself.

Moral: The man of worth sets no value upon himself; he does not capitalize political preferment and political honors; he does not attempt to ravish the state, for he realizes the state has done much for him, and he respects the bridge on which he depends. But the spirit of most men who make a business of seeking office, while pretending that they will serve the people, is to cut their own throats, provided there is "anything in it," and here lies the danger of the state's decay.

### THE JUDICIAL OFFICE.

The judge means justice, and justice means order and liberty. One unjust, unfair, untrained judge, one judge who can be secretly influenced to favor a wrong cause; one judge who can be "fixed" or bought, means a break in the great dam which society has erected against disorder, despotism and oppression. In voting for candidates for judgeships there should never be a moment's hesitation in rejecting any man whose career has to be explained or defended. The candidate should be, and must be, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion. The fact is, in voting for judges, only a fool is a partisan.

The position of judge is the noblest office in a free country. The man who holds this office, be he the most obscure justice of the peace, or chief justice of the highest court in the land, or of any grade between, is exalted as no other office can exalt a man. He may hold the scales between man and man. He may be called on to decide between right and wrong. He is the mouth of the law. Only he who has the best qualifications for this high office should be supported at the polls, irrespective of all other virtues and vices. The party counts for nothing, the person counts for little; the candidate's mental breadth of view, his capacity to administer exact justice counts for everything!

To be a just judge is to be the worthiest of men. A just judge commands respect by deserving it. To be learned also, and dignified and gracious and considerate and gentle in the judicial office, is to intensify popular respect and to gain popular affection. But, above all and beyond all, the prime qualification of a judge is love for justice for the sake of justice. That lacking, a judge is but common clay.

There have been many judges, whose names were unknown beyond a narrow circle, who were uncouth in person and speech and not greatly versed in the learning of schools and colleges, but they were nevertheless respected and loved in life by all who knew them, and their memories revered after death, simply because they were gentle and they were, above all, just. Men of this stamp and type dignify the bench. They exemplify our meaning when we speak of the judicial office as the noblest and most sacred in a free country.

Just as the worst vices are but the opposite of the truest virtues, just as the lowest hell is said to be directly beneath the highest heaven, so is the judicial office, that noblest office of all, capable, through the prostitution of its powers, of being made the most contemptible. It is not more true that the just judge is among the worthiest, than that the unjust judge is among the most despicable of mankind. And even as the just judge, by the very goodness of heart, which makes him wish to be just, is prompted, also, to be considerate and gentle and kind, so the unjust judge, from lack of justice in his heart, is apt to lack also the minor graces of his office.

Courts are, therefore, much what the judges choose to make them. Unjust and unfit men for judges subject courts to the dislike, the distrust, and finally the contempt of the people. The courts are thus brought into disrespect, and their power to protect society destroyed. But just and able judges raise them to their true dignity, by imbuing the people with a confidence in their administration and inspiring them with a respect which no extraneous influences can attack or destroy.

In voting for a candidate for judge charge your mind with your duty and consider well the sacredness of your suffrage!

### GOLD SANDS OF CAPE NOME.

In the direct line of navigation, about twenty-five hundred miles northwest of Oregon and Washington and about one hundred and seventy miles southeast of Siberia, lies Cape Nome, the new El Dorado, which has given one of the most interesting contributions of recent years to the history of gold and gold mining. In the sands of this bleak coast, forming the southern face of the peninsular projection of Alaska which separates Kotzebue Sound on the north from Bering sea on the south and terminates westward in Cape Prince of Wales the extent of the North American continent, are hidden, perhaps, countless millions in gold particles so fine that great skill is necessary to separate and gather them from the rocky granules. Whence comes this golden sand which for centuries the sea has been depositing at Cape Nome and of which each receding wave still leaves its contribution? Professor Angelo Heilprin, late president of the Philadelphia Geographical society, partly answers this question and gives much interesting matter besides in the April Popular Science Monthly.

* * *

Professor Heilprin spent some months of last summer and autumn studying the physical conditions of Cape Nome. Prompted by the reports of marvelous wealth which was being found in the sands of Golovnin bay, and the many conflicting stories which reached the east, he went to Alaska so that he might satisfy himself which were nearest correct and at the same time add to his scientific knowledge. Those who reached Cape Nome in the early part of last summer, timidly venturing their fortunes to share in a possible discovery, found, on their arrival at the tundra-bound shores about Cape Nome, that miles of territory had been located as claim sites, that sluice boxes were in full operation, and that sackfuls of gold dust and nuggets had been carefully laid to one side representing "outputs" of tens of thousands of dollars. A new mining district had suddenly sprung into existence, and before two months had passed—that is, by the early days of September—a full front of tents and frame houses took possession of what continues to remain a dreary and desolate expanse of ocean beach—sufficiently pleasant in the quiet, balmy days of summer and autumn but woefully exposed to the hurricane blast of the arctic winter—and gave shelter to from 3000 to 4000 adventurers where formerly a few Indians and Eskimos from the still farther Northwest and King's island constituted a straggling and accidental population. This in brief is the initial history given by Professor Heilprin of the Cape Nome or Anvil City mining region, which he believes will almost certainly call to it this spring 15,000 to 20,000 additional inhabitants.

* * *

This great influx of fortune seekers will be drawn more by the gold-bearing beach sands than by the prospect of locating placer claims or discovering placer deposits. From these sands, by rude and simple methods, were taken in little more than two months last year gold to the value of more than a million dollars, and what the possibilities for the future may be no one is wise enough to tell. How strong must be the desire for riches that prompts men, yes, and women also, to go to such an out-of-the-way, dreary spot! The entire region is treeless, and the nearest approach to woodland is in the timber tract of Golovnin bay and its tributaries, about forty miles to the northeast. The ground is covered merely with a growth of flowering herbaceous plants, grass and moss, with a somewhat scantier admixture of the dwarf birch, arctic willow and crowberry. The surface is pre-eminently swampy during the warmer periods of the year, and walking over it means either wading through the water or risking continuous jumps to and from the individual clumps of matted grass and moss—the so-called "niggerheads."

* * *

That the gold found in these sands was deposited there by the sea, Professor Heilprin seems to consider probable. These sands are merely the ordinary materials of the beach, loose and incoherent, like most seashore sands, and particularly defining horizons three to six feet below the surface. In regular stratified layers, with fine and moderately coarse gravel, they embrace four or five distinct layers of fragmented garnets—called "ruby sand"—and it is from these, and so far exclusively from the bottom layer of three to five inches thickness, that most of the gold is obtained. Each ruby band nearer the top seems to contain less and less gold. That the ocean is today depositing this ruby sand is unmistakably shown by the great patches of it lying on the surface, and its incoming in the path of nearly every storm. And even these surface sands are mildly gold-bearing, showing that the gold, despite its high specific gravity, may be buoyed up and wafted in by such a light medium as water, when it has been reduced to sufficiently minute particles, or scalelike forms. And this gives excuse for the accepted belief among locators that the sand gold is a deposition or precipitate from the sea. The surrounding tundra—a marshy plain—is a part of the ocean floor, and it, too, doubtless, contains much gold, perhaps even very much. The length of sea strip worked last summer was about thirty-five miles; but the full extent of these auriferous sands remains unknown, report claiming for them reappearance throughout the entire coast as far as Cape Prince of Wales.

* * *

If these rich deposits of gold are brought by the sea, whence do they come? Are they carried with fragmentary garnet and other sands from the inhospitable shores of Siberia, from some golden island of the wintry seas or from the bottom of the ocean itself? These questions interest the geologist, the geographer and the curious; but to the adventurous prospector it is enough to know that the golden sands are placed for his delving on the barren coast of Cape Nome. What cares he whether they come from across the seas or from the ocean bed near by? He is content to find them where they are and puts up with a lot almost too dreary for the imagination that he may "rock" them and secure the yellow metal. Nor is he likely to be impressed by that vagary of Nature which prompts her to place her most precious stores in the most inaccessible parts of the earth, thus increasing their value by adding to the labor, hardships and dangers which men must endure to find them. Cape Nome has nothing to attract mankind save its golden sands, but that seems a magnet powerful enough to offset its almost countless shortcomings.


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### THE LIGHT OF EVOLUTION.

Evolution has thrown light upon the development of conscience and the growth of moral ideas. Early in his history man discovered that theft discouraged industry and thrift and favored idleness. One man refused the plow during long summer days, for a single hour of theft by night achieved the fruits of his neighbor's labor. Soon stealing was found to be an ax laid at the roots of the vineyard and orchard. In the interest of trade, therefore, men came together and made laws prohibiting theft—a law formerly recognized in the Mosaic code. Not otherwise was the evolution of truth and falsehood. Men found that falsehood destroyed trade and commerce. The sheik found it important to have herdsmen who spoke the truth. If the shepherd said that he had 100 sheep beyond the Jordan and 1000 beyond the Dead Sea and the sheik answered, "Maybe, and maybe not," and must needs go himself to count his flocks, the employer would have nothing to do but follow up his servants. Lying was found to be expensive for the field and shop and the street. At first the multitudes believed that truth was too precious a commodity to be wasted upon common people. But slowly the sentiment against falsehood waxed strong. Today men perceive that lying is inexpedient as well as wicked—that is, inexpedient except in making returns to the assessor, on entering the custom house when returning from abroad and when accepting ancient creeds with mental reservations—for in these realms lying is still held to be lawful. And in like manner the other moral principles were developed and registered in codes and constitutions.


## A TRYING POSITION

"My position is a *trying* one" was the joking remark of the cloak model of a fashionable firm. But there is less jest than earnest in the statement. It is trying to be on the feet all day, to be reaching and stooping hour after hour from morn until night. And that is a very meager outline of a business woman's day. With many such women the ordinary strain of labor is intensified and aggravated by a diseased condition of the delicate organs, and they become victims of that terrible backache, or blinding headache, which is so common among business women.

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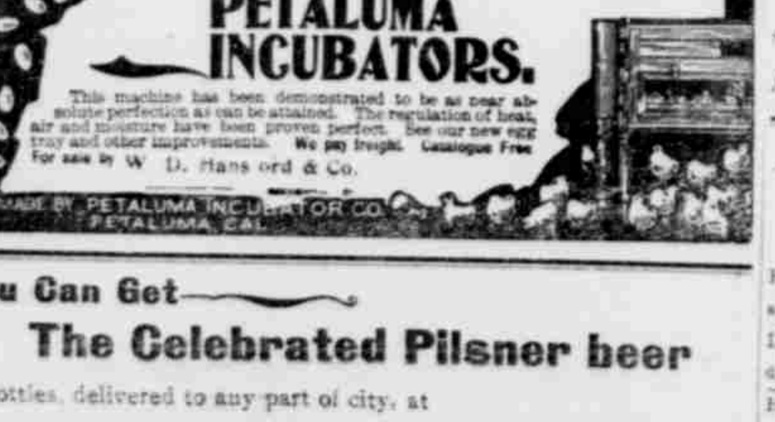




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