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WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 1901.

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"THANATOPSIS" WAS ENOUGH.

John Howard Bryant celebrated his 94th birthday on Sunday at Princeton. He is an author and poet of some note, but is chiefly known because his brother, William Cullen Bryant, wrote "Thanatopsis." The incident illustrates the fact that glory may be borrowed and that light reflected shines very brightly. But, the most important suggestion in this connection is that William Cullen Bryant wrote "Thanatopsis" when he was yet a mere boy, and that during his after life, while he wrote many things, yet all of them taken together would not have elevated him to a place among the world's great poets.

This is an assertion that will be combated by hosts of competent literary critics who will argue that others of Bryant's poems entitle him to his high position. Yet it cannot be denied that the very great majority of poetry readers, if asked to name something written by Bryant, would upon the instant reply "Thanatopsis," whereas, hundreds would think for a time before calling to mind any other of Bryant's works.

Certainly, "Thanatopsis," written though it was by a boy, spoke a message to every human heart, a message so plainly told that not a man or woman ever lived, sane in mind, who would not instantly recognize that it gave forth an universal philosophy.

It is not a disparagement of Bryant to say that his "Thanatopsis" was almost his only great work. It was enough for a man to produce so marvellous an interpretation of the human life and its relation to the future, told in language so sublime. Had he never penned one additional word, and rested content with this, the result of boyish effort, his name would have been written in a list that is not long and can easily be remembered by a good reader of literature.

JIM CORBETT IN TRAGEDY.

Worthy as it may be that a man possess a high ambition, nevertheless the announcement that James J. Corbett, the pugilist, proposes soon to teach the great tragedians how to enact the immortal plays of Shakespeare, is of an amusing nature. Associated, as Corbett's name is, with "side-stepping body blows," "poking the other fellow in the jaw," and such features of a prize fight, it will be many a day before people who worship at the shrine of Theopis accustom themselves to the presence of Jim Corbett as the chief priest of the temple of histriony.

In the interest of high art and to encourage a young man who would write his name beside those of Booth, Barrett and the others great, the following suggestion is offered by the East Oregonian, with the humble desire that from this obscure corner of the world some small force may be added to the mighty power that is to enable a slinger to vault into the centre of the circle of famous tragedians:

Shakespeare's tragedies were written of a time when swords were the weapons of those who fought, when armor was worn and when chivalry was essential to the character of a gentleman. Requirements such as these will seriously handicap the "Gentleman Jim" from the San Francisco athletic clubs, and he must do something to compel a change in his favor. Therefore, let him employ a literary man to get out, not an expurgated edition of the plays, but an adaptation such as will substitute for the cavalier of former times clad in armor and wearing at his side a blade made by the famed workers of Damascus, a

character of a modern devotee of the art of sparring. Let him depict this character as stripped and trained ready for a "scrap" for the world's championship, instead of being merely anxious to fight for his lady love or defend a great principle.

Thus may Jim Corbett equip himself for the stage in a manner to obviate many insuperable difficulties, difficulties (as relating to actors) that are only removable by men of brains and culture.

THE POLITICAL CALDRON.

Salem Capital Journal: Milt Miller, who dispenses Pink Pills for Pale People and debility tablets to his Lebanon drug store, is lovingly mentioned by democratic papers as a candidate for governor. As all the sore-top and buffalo-chip politicians in the republican party have decided that Geer is not a fit man to hold the place for another term, it is well to consider the possibilities of a soda-water statesman of different political persuasion. As we size it up, Geer is a goner, as far as the republican party is concerned. He has all his life lambasted democrats and populists as fly-up-the-crook generally, so that he need expect no nomination from them. The Hi Plummer wing of the republican party has got it in for him so bitter, that if they can't beat him for nomination they will defeat him for election. Geer seems to have nothing but the respectable (?) elements of the party to fall back on, and the chances seem strongly favor the Hi Plummer wing assuming its rightful control or burning down the state house in the attempt. So the people might as well look forward to the possibility of being governed by the enlarged wisdom that is in a country drug store. The republicans ought to like it, for Milt everlastingly disgusted with a little biref authority, he acted as body guard and chief master of ceremonies to Bryan at Lebanon. He kept people at a distance of several rods from Bryan, and successfully that scores of old wive horses had to be glad they could ride on the same railroad with the Great Commoner, to say nothing of getting onto the same train. A reporter found a couple of good democratic ladies begging and imploring lordly Milton for a glimpse of their hero. But he was firm as iron that no one should get within a stone's throw of the man he had stowed away in a back bedroom, and who was never known to refuse to see anybody when he was awake. He escorted the democrats to the back alley, got them through a barb and into a back door when one of Milt's guards wasn't looking, knocked at Bryan's door and he received the ladies in the most cordial and pleased manner in his shirt sleeves, with the democratic simplicity of a true Western gentleman. The ladies were delighted and no one was hurt, but those were the only ladies that were permitted to see him that day, and it took reportorial strategy to bring that about. What this state needs is a governor who will stand on his dignity and not let a common herd get at him whenever they take a notion. A governor who isn't the least bit exclusive and doesn't have a conviction it when some one catches him in his office with his coat off, or in the back yard sawing wood, is not really to be compared with a demagogue who can stand people off at their proper distance. If it hadn't been for him placing a kind of Swiss guard around Bryan some old woman might have rushed in and kissed him on the northwest corner of that Platte river mouth of his, and then it would have been all day with the presidency. By all means, let us have a dignified dispenser of paregoric for governor.

Salem Sentinel: The general consensus of opinion, gathered from correspondence, interviews and press opinions from every section of the state, is that Geer be able to carry Marion county (which he cannot possibly do) he would stand no show whatever for re-nomination by the state convention. It is clear that, for various and sufficient reasons, the people do not want him again. These words are written not to express a hope but as the calm conclusion reached after a thorough investigation and mature deliberation. The fact is, Eastern Oregon will demand the recognition so long deferred and the people will as one man respond to that demand whenever the counties of the vast inland Empire unite their demands upon one able, popular, progressive man for governor. The candidacy of that man, when he is decided upon, cannot be successfully opposed by the few scattering friends of the present incumbent. A Southern Oregon man in Salem the other day said everybody except Geer was being talked for governor out that way. And the same thing is true of Eastern Oregon.

Milton Eagle: Already are the political war horses getting ready for the next campaign and numerous candidates have been announced for the various state offices. There are two Eastern Oregon men in the field for governor. They are W. J. Furbush and Stephen A. Lowell. Both are residents of Pendleton and both belong to the republican camp. They are good men and either would be acceptable to the members of their party in this part of the state. It is thought by political wiseacres that Governor Geer can hardly receive a re-nomination. Edward Everett Young wants to be state printer. He is from Baker City and is editor of the republican, one of the principal papers of that section.

Athena Press: If Eastern Oregon

Republican newspapers are so stagnant and dilatory in demanding Eastern Oregon recognition in state politics, the Press falls to see where they have "theoretically" coming in the East Oregonian, or for that matter, any other democratic journal that has the ginger and backbone to call the attention of the party in power to the needs and rights, politically, of this portion of the state. The stand taken by the Portland papers and other democratic papers in Eastern Oregon, did not develop until after years of waiting for the republican newspaper craft to tender their aid and influence in securing just representation for Eastern Oregon in the political voice of the state. Not until it became an evident fact that the Portland and Western Oregon sack controlled, in toto, the entire republican press of the state, did the democratic papers make their call on the dominant party for what they consider right and justice. Gov. Geer and his associates in Oregon Republicanism to the contrary notwithstanding, will not deter the election of an Eastern Oregon man for governor of the state in the next election, nor can they undermine in any way the stand taken by the democratic papers of the great Empire State, Oregon. Every state in the union where one part bears the burden of taxation, so to speak, without representation, and the other part gets the benefits, manipulates the state political arena, and dictates who shall be who and what shall be what.

La Grande Chronicle: J. M. Church returned last week from Western Oregon. His visit during the past week was in connection with his work as trustee of the Oregon state agricultural college, at Corvallis, and had, consequently, to run the political significance. His alleged candidacy for the governorship, he says, is absolutely without foundation. He himself was entirely ignorant of the fact that he was being mentioned in this connection until he arrived in Portland and was taken in the reporters. His answer invariably was: "I am not a candidate for this or any other state office and will not be. I do not wish to be mentioned in connection with the office, for I could not be induced to accept it if it were tendered me."

Concerning other gubernatorial possibilities, Mr. Church said that he found the sentiment mixed. "The opposition to Geer is not so strong as the people of Eastern Oregon have been led to believe. There is opposition and there is lukewarm support among his friends, but as my own strong friends and I believe he will be nominated as the most available middle ground candidate who will best harmonize the opposing interests of the party. He will be supported by Multnomah county. As for the Eastern Oregonians, they are not so strong as is considered a possibility."

Yes, Eastern Oregon will be recognized, but it will not be given the governorship. Privately, I believe that Eastern Oregon's political representation is secondary to her commercial interests as affected by the open river question. If we can demand and receive recognition, without antagonizing Western Oregon, we may be justified in making demands, but if that demand merely results in antagonism, we are standing in our own light politically and commercially. It is not essential to our interests that we have the privilege of naming the governor, but it is essential to our commercial interests that we have an open river.

"One of the most regrettable things I have observed in recent Oregon politics," continued Mr. Church, "is the habit affected, particularly by republican papers, of criticizing every republican mentioned. It is not due to the distrust in the rank and file of the over-confidence which a big majority has inspired. But it is one thing which may turn the state to the democrats. The fact that there are many candidates mentioned for the various offices is proof of the vigor and strength of the party, and the fact that no man becomes a candidate is evidence of some ability, however poor. But when one paper criticizes a certain candidate, and another another, it seems to the people of the state that all republican aspirants are wholly bad, a fact which the democrats will not be slow to profit by."

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