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It is easy enough to be prudent. When nothing tempts you to stray— When without or within, no voice of sin, Is luring your soul away; But it's only a negative virtue, Until it is tried by fire, And the life that is worth the honor of earth, Is the one that resists desire. —Ellis Wheeler Wilcox.

The voters of Oregon, who adopted the initiative and referendum amendment, by a majority of five to one, rejoice in the decision of the supreme court, upholding the amendment. Thus the politicians are once more defeated in their efforts to muzzle the people, in whom should rest all final power of determining the justice of legislation. Their judgment can be trusted. The politicians need not fear that the common people, in whom the initiative and referendum lodges uncommon authority, are going to ruin the state by any unwise legislation, proposed through the initiative, or by nipping any legislative mistake in the bud, through the referendum.

The United States can imagine something of the extreme hatred which Colombia bears toward this government, because of our ready acknowledgement of the right of Panama to secede, by recalling the bitter hostility exhibited by the Northern states toward Spain, when she recognized the belligerency of the Southern confederacy, at the opening of the civil war. It is a parallel case, and no amount of explanation or denial can soften or smooth over the facts. Although the treatment of Panama by Colombia offers vastly more justification for secession than any Southern state had, yet the same great principles underlie the acts of South Carolina and Panama.

Because one dissatisfied and perhaps disappointed woman in Colorado says that woman's suffrage is a failure in that state, the opposition papers have discovered that the entire system is an evil to be annulled by every other state. Women are only humans, and nobody expected them to revolutionize politics in Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado or Utah, at least within a decade. If their votes serve as a check on the unspeakable corruption of politics in Western states, the system is a success. If they oppose their husbands and exercise a will and a ballot independent of the present political factions, it will be worth trying. Female suffrage is not a panacea for all political wrongs. Some of the practices of the male voter are beyond the reach of any such terrestrial influence. But if the mothers of the land make any worse

muddles of politics than the austere fathers have, the inventive genius of wire pulling and hoodling will have to soar to new heights in hunting methods which the wily mothers must pursue. Men have tried all known combinations of corruption.

The most important municipal event in the history of Pendleton, from the standpoint of public improvements, was celebrated last night in the acceptance by the council of the new sewer system. This sewer system is adequate to accommodate a city of 20,000 people, comprises about eight miles of first class sewer lines, ramifying all the principal portions of the city, laid in first class condition, built of first class material, put together in a workmanlike manner, and, while it represents an expenditure of about \$50,000 to the city, is of incalculable value from a sanitary and economic standpoint. The citizens should now show their appreciation of its worth by making connections with the sewer as rapidly as possible, and by filling up the filthy cesspools in the back yards. It is the greatest stride made by Pendleton, from the stage of a frontier town to the plane of a metropolitan settlement. Other great advances have been made in the past, but this outstrips them all. It is permanent and conducive to better improvements and more investment and is something to be proud of. The next step is a paving for Main street, which is almost as much needed as a sewer system. The people are willing to pay for such useful and necessary improvements.

Dr. George C. Lorimer, of New York, one of the most prominent divines in the United States, in arraigning the people for the decline of the religious sentiment, and the increase of the skeptical and atheistic tendency in American life, says: "I hold that if Protestant churches were as interested in the education of their children as the Roman Catholic church is, there would be no religious problem in our country. I do not see why all sects cannot come together and teach reverence to God and that there is one great judge and one great religion. The church is the natural guardian of the home, and it is the hope of the home. In 'higher' life the family is lax. You find men and women who come together, are married, have a few days honeymoon and then there is a divorce. Perhaps the divorce is hardly put away in the safe when one or both marry again. This heinous blot on our age and country is being repeated every day in our so-called higher circles, and is contributing greatly toward destroying home life in America."

Beginning immediately after the holidays, the East Oregonian will publish in the Saturday issue, during the winter months, a brief historical sketch of the different Pendleton churches from the date of the organization of each, written by the pastors of the different churches. There are nearly 1,200 church communicants in this city included in the seven church denominations represented here and these articles will be made special features of the Saturday issue of the Daily East Oregonian, appearing also in the Weekly and Semi-Weekly editions. Pendleton is particularly blessed with having a list of able, progressive and original ministers and these papers will be of special interest, because of this.

DRIFTWOOD.

Wiltshire's Magazine gives the following story of Joquin Miller, who, at the time, was making one of his many sojourns somewhere on the outskirts of civilization: "All the members of our party were fond of coffee, and when one day the strainer was missing, instead of making a 20-mile trip over ice and snow to the nearest store where a coffee strainer could be bought, I took a new tin cup

and riddled the bottom of it with the point of an awl. "This served, or would have served, the purpose admirably but for a serio-tragic accident. Our whole supply of liquor was reduced to about a gill of wine. By common consent this was set apart as the poet's, who, as the oldest member of the party and the most renowned, was to have first consideration.

"Mr. Miller appreciated the honor, but determined that so precious a draught should not be quaffed until a fitting occasion warranted it. One evening, it chanced to be the same day that I had, unknown to my comrades, improvised the coffee strainer, there rode up to our door a young and strikingly handsome woman mounted on a good horse. "The poet was visibly impressed. The background of ice and snow, the setting sun, the lone and radiant horsewoman, flushed by her ride, all stimulated his chivalry and his love of the beautiful and unique. This is the time, if ever, for the drinking of that last drop of wine," said he. "Here, in the ends of the earth, with the sun leaving us to the darkness of an illimitable desolation, a woman appears to remind us that there is hope, life and beauty in the world.

"Madam," continued the poet, with vast dignity, holding in one hand the luckless tin cup that I had punctured, and in the other the bottle with its final contents, I pour a libation, and I drink to your health and happiness." So saying, he upturned the bottle, looking away from the horsewoman just long enough to make certain that there was no slip between the bottle and the cup. "Then, as the wine began to flow, he turned his eyes again to the young lady, and, while the precious beverage trickled through the punctured tin cup, the poet of the Sierras, all unconscious of his loss, gave utterance to an eloquent apostrophe which included in its picturesque rhetoric the charms of woman, the glories of nature and the potency of wine.

"At the climax he raised the cup to his lips and tipped back his head. The strainer was, of course, absolutely empty. The poet gazed at the perforated bottom, and then, as the truth of the catastrophe flashed upon him, he forgot all about the feminine charms and natural scenery, and broke forth into a volume of oburgation startling even to men accustomed to the strenuous vocabulary of the frontier. It was not profanity, but rather a poem of passion. As it was not recorded, a masterpiece of inventive wit was lost to the world. At the first volley of the poet's ricocheting adjectives the young woman fled."

"He whose footsteps never stray Beyond the vantage of his birth Is but a lodger for a day In this old wayside inn of earth. Tomorrow he will take his flight And set out on the ways beyond, From world to world, From star to star, An alien and a vagabond."

There was a wedding in an Eastern city recently and a mob of people rifled the church of the decorations, blockaded the street and climbed on the carriages in an attempt to see the bride, all of which leads an observing newspaper man to remark: "There are certain traits of human nature too firmly rooted to be affected by the philosophy of the Declaration of Independence."

Another observing and somewhat pungent newspaper man moralizes thus on a different subject. "The course of recent events on the Isthmus of Panama has a tendency to make the Jameson raid look respectable. The new republic swims into the ken of an astonished and also an amused world, without a battle, and, encouraged by the instant receipt of ten millions of dollars."

Tutullia, Dec. 20.

A bill appropriating \$130,000 for Italy's exhibit at St. Louis has just passed the chamber of deputies.

A SEVERE COLD

Is nearly always followed by serious complications. Protect the system from sudden Colds, Chills or attacks of Malaria, Fever and Ague by taking Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. It is the best safe guard in existence and at this season of the year no home should be without it. It will also cure Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Nervousness, Insomnia and Kidney Troubles. Be sure to try it. Ask your druggist for our 1904 Almanac.

HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS.

ST. JOE STORE The Center of Attraction For the Holiday Buyer of Useful Articles

Ladies' Fur Department

Table with fur items: Electric Seal Collars from \$2.50 to \$6.75, Canadian Otter Collars from \$3.50 to \$7.50, etc.

Ladies' Coat, Suit and Skirt Department

Table with clothing items: Ladies' Louis XIV. Suits, worth \$22.50, selling for \$12.00; 1 lot Ladies' Suits, worth up to \$13.50, selling for \$5.00; etc.

A line of Misses' and Children's Coats and Jackets, up from... Ideas from our Dress Goods Department... Cheviot Etamines, Etamine Velles, French Serges, Cecillians, Scotch Suitings, which are undisputably the

Best for Least Money

to be found by the Holiday Buyer. Our assortment of Christmas Novelties in Handkerchiefs, Gloves, Belts, Pillow Covers, Umbrellas and Pretty Dressing Sacques are equally as good and at prices 22 1-3 per cent lower than elsewhere.

Hats

Our Hat stock is large and varied. We are in this line for style and low prices.

Clothing

We are selling Clothing, quality considered, cheaper than any firm on the Pacific Coast. Many will testify to this who have bought them.

Remember, we GIVE AWAY, on Dec. 24 \$100 in Gold Dec. 25 AT 5:30 P. M.

- First Present, \$60.00 in gold. Second Present, \$25.00 in gold. Third Present, \$15.00 in gold.

A ticket and 133 1-3 cents worth of goods for every one dollar you spend with us this week. Wishing one and all a glorious Xmas Yours for business.

Lyons Mercantile Co

LILLIAN D. NEWMAN French Beautifier

Has located temporarily in Pendleton, in the parlors at the ARLINGTON, formerly the Strahon, Main street, where she will be pleased to meet the ladies of this city and talk to them of the new culture of Beautification. German Hair Tonics and Face Cream for sale.

Special Attention given to Developments and Physical Culture. Feet treated and Corns, Bunions and ingrown Nails removed. MISS NEWMAN comes here highly recommended by lady citizens of Baker City and La Grande. Office Hours, 3:30 to 9 p. m.



The above is the picture of a house purchased by Co-Operative Guaranty Realty Co., of Baker City, for which Rihorn & Swaggart are agents.

All kinds of real estate sale.

RIHORN & SWAGGART Room 21, Taylor Bldg.

Advertisement for BYERS' BEST FLOUR, The Standard of Excellency, PENDLETON ROLLER MILLS, W. S. Byers, Proprietor.

Walter's Flouring Capacity, 150 barrels a day. Flour exchanged for wheat. Flour, Mill Feed, Chopped etc., always on hand.

Money Back if you fail to cure Rheumatism, A. C. Koepfen & Bros. Agents.

Presents that are Useful as Well as Beautiful

Wrist Bags and Purses A complete assortment of all the fashionable ideas. We buy direct from the manufacturers, and can sell at a price that will suit the public.

Cut Glass Is also one of the pretty things we have for Xmas. Everything from Bonbons to Punch Bowls. Cut Glass is always acceptable. It is rich in appearance and prices will be a pleasure to purchasers.

CASH GIFTS We will give away New Year's Eve THREE CASH PRIZES— 1st GIFT \$30 IN GOLD 2nd GIFT \$15 IN GOLD 3rd GIFT \$5 IN GOLD Every dollar purchase entitles you to a ticket on the \$30 gift. Every 50c purchase entitles you to a ticket on the \$15 gift. Every 25c purchase entitles you to a ticket on the \$5 gift.

Perfumes We have an elegant line of Alfred Wright's, Paul Reiger's, L. T. Piver's, Rogers & Gablet's and Colgate's. We also have their lines of Toilet Water and Sachet Powders. Fine collection of Fancy Bottles.

Miscellaneous Toilet Cases, Triplicate Mirrors, Hand-painted China Steins, Manicure Sets, Statuary, Fancy Pictures, Gold-plated Picture Frames, Fancy Lamps.

PENDLETON OREGON TALLMAN & COMPANY LEADING DRUGGISTS