

After an absence of about five weeks attending to legal duties in Yamhill county, we are again seated in our arm chair in our Sanctum and hope for a few weeks at least to be able to remain at home and perform our editorial duties.

The lack of editorial matter for the last few weeks and for any mistakes which have appeared, we ask pardon and ask our readers to please excuse. While attending that court for three successive weeks with not to exceed two days rest and that even was fully made up by the labor we were compelled to perform by candle light. We feel the need of rest.

Several important criminal cases were tried. Two men, a Mr. Markham and Russell were tried for burning a flouring mill. Markham was convicted and sentenced for ten years. In the case of Russell the jury failed to agree, and the case was adjourned to next term, he was, however, convicted upon another indictment for larceny and sent to the penitentiary for one year.

A Mr. Bruce, a man of about forty years of age, was convicted upon a second trial of an attempt to poison the family of a Mr. Torrence, consisting of father, mother, two sons and two daughters.

The only motive brought to light by the testimony was, that Bruce loved Cory Torrence, but Cory refused to love Bruce, and Bruce sought to exterminate the family by the use of a bottle of strychnine which it was supposed he emptied upon a plate of boiled beef which stood in the pantry, of which the father took one mouthful and swallowed it before the strychnine was discovered. The father survived, the balance of the family was saved, and Bruce went to prison for ten years. The girl Cory was fourteen last January, but her remarkable appearance would induce the opinion that she was twenty one at least, and for shrewdness and cunning upon the witness stand, we have never met her equal. No ingenuity of counsel could disturb her in the least degree, and when the shrewdest efforts were made to disturb her equilibrium, she would simply smile and answer each time and as often as desired with a correctness and clearness of perception really astonishing. We hope that no lover will succeed in poisoning that girl until she shall arrive at womanhood at least, so that the world may know that it was left for North Yamhill to produce the cleopatra of the nineteenth century.

Then came the case of Joseph Coxen for the murder of Benjamin Hasbrook. This is one of the most mysterious murders ever perpetrated in civilization. Hasbrook was a good citizen of about 35 years of age, he had a wife and two children. Mrs. Hasbrook is the daughter of Nathan Oonour of this county, is of the age of about twenty years and of fair education, talent and appearance. Coxen is a man of about twenty-five years of age, of medium height, fair complexion, black curly hair, low forehead, slender in stature and a Englishman by birth, with good address and well educated.

The testimony disclosed the fact that Hasbrook and lady had lived upon the most agreeable terms; Hasbrook and Coxen were partners in business and had been for about five months, and were shown to be upon the most intimate terms.

On the night of the 5th of February about eight o'clock, Mrs. Hasbrook swore, Coxen heard some suspicious noise at the barn and starting out said to Hasbrook, "if there is anything wrong I will call you." In a few minutes Hasbrook and wife heard some one whistle, then heard a noise as though some one was in distress. Hasbrook hurried out calling his dog with him. In a minute or two more she heard a gun shot and all was still, then she heard some one halloo. In a minute or two Coxen came to the house procured a cup of water and stated that Hasbrook was hurt, he said to Mrs. Hasbrook that he had encountered two thieves at the granary who had stabbed him, Coxen, in the left side,

and that he then returned to Hasbrook's body and poured the water upon his face, then returning to the house met Mrs. Hasbrook and told her that Hasbrook was dead, Mrs. H. fell instantly to the ground and was assisted by Coxen into her room, when Coxen locked the doors and went immediately for the neighbors. Hasbrook kept a gun in the granary, and that gun was found ten or twelve rods from the granary thrown into a brush patch, its contents discharged, and it was evident that Hasbrook had been shot with his own gun.

It was clear from the testimony that there were two tracts leading from near the granary made that night which were the tracts of neither Hasbrook nor Coxen. Mrs. Hasbrook declared in open court that no word of disagreement was ever known between the prisoner and her husband, that they had worked together all that day, near the house, Hasbrook was found lying on his face about four rods north of the granary, shot in the side and back with large bird shot. It is not known that he ever spoke after he was shot, a ax was found near him which it is supposed he held in his right hand at the time of the fatal shot, out of the handle of which was extracted a shot in open court. It was admitted on the trial by the counsel for the State, that Coxen was a man of excellent character. It was shown that the stabs which Coxen said he received from the thieves at the granary passed through his coat and vest and then came in contact with two small diaries, which Coxen said were in his vest pocket. The books were produced in court and had the appearance of being struck through by the blade of a knife, one cut passing through both the books and the other through but one, neither of which entered the body of Coxen.

It was shown that Coxen made some contradictory statements, the books presented a suspicious appearance, Coxen's track was found near the granary, then going down the hill to near where the gun was found. Coxen admitted from the first that it was his track, but said he followed one of the thieves down there. The people of the neighborhood, and in fact nearly all the southern portion of the county, became satisfied from all the surroundings that Coxen committed the murder, but could not see any apparent motive. The excitement ran high, thirty witnesses were subpoenaed for the State, and the excitement increased to the end of the trial.

For four days the trial progressed during which time the court room was filled with both ladies and gentlemen, all exhibiting unmistakable signs of deep anxiety. The prisoner sat within the bar with no more anxiety apparent than most of the bystanders, he exhibited no particular feeling showed no inclination of a troubled mind, he never annoyed or troubled his counsel during the trial, not even suggesting anything unless called out by his counsel, on being asked by one of his counsels at the close of the testimony if he was prepared for the worst, he simply smiled, and remarked that "life is sweet." He understood fully his situation. At three o'clock on Thursday the jury retired, and when at eight o'clock in the evening they returned into court, Coxen on being sent for was found sleeping quietly in his cell. He came into court with a manly step and took the seat he had occupied four long days, a few minutes the clerk read the verdict, "not guilty." For a moment all was silent as the grave, the prisoner remained unmoved; as we had acted as his senior and leading counsel in the management of his defense, we stepped slowly forward and asked that the prisoner be discharged, which was instantly done by the court, whereupon we advanced to the prisoner and taking him by the hand congratulated him upon his success, but he exhibited the same nonchalance that had marked his conduct all through the trial, and he uttered not a word but simply smiled.

Mrs. Hasbrook remained during the whole trial accompanied by her parents and one brother. The verdict was a righteous one; the jury could find no other upon the testimony and the law, because whether or not Coxen was guilty could not be determined from the testimony given on that trial by any unprejudiced mind. We hope that Coxen is innocent and that the guilty man may yet be found and made to pay the penalty of violated law.

FARMERS

The Farmers clubs throughout the State are progressing beyond what could be expected. There is a growing determination to put down monopolies formed for the purpose of draining the very substance of the people into the coffers of a few individuals, and this as it should be, for if the principle and practice were allowed to go unnoticed, the time would soon come when we as a people could no longer boast of a free government or personal liberty.

No people can remain free and permit monopolies to gain any considerable foothold within their jurisdiction for any great length of time.

It is contended by many, it is true, that a man or company of men ought to have the right to accumulate as much money as they please, so they accomplish that object in a laudable way. While we concede this to be true, we are entirely satisfied that no man or set of men in society ought to be allowed by the sovereign people to carry their financial operations so far as to encroach upon the common rights of individuals, and especially to push them so far as to amount to robbery against the best class of people in community, the farmers of the country; because upon them the whole country depends for thrift, stability and virtue. Allow monopolists to so manage the financial affairs of the country by means of controlling its carrying trade, such a manner as to discourage and dishearten the farmers, and your country is no longer worth saving and the name of popular government will soon become a hissing and by word through out the length and breadth of the land.

The wealth of any country is in its soil, and that soil however rich, will contribute nothing unless brought into requisition by the axman, the plowman and by the sweat of the brow of the laboring man. Consequently it has long since been universally conceded, that the farmers of any agricultural country are its bone and sinew, and the corner stone and foundation of its prosperity and perpetuity, hence to allow or permit in any manner that class of society to be checked in its progress by the operations of usurious financiers for the express purpose of personal gratification and individual aggrandizement would be self destruction and national suicide.

Let the farmers of Oregon co-operate with those of other States and hold in check the designing schemers of the country, maintaining always with a strong arm, their own dignity and rights.

ANOTHER DECISION BASED UPON BIGOTRY.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in a recent case brought by Miss Burham to test her right to vote with all other freemen in this government of boasted freedom and equal rights, held that the word freemen in the Constitution of that State did not mean that women were freemen, but by implication declared them slaves, and consequently Miss Burham had no right to vote in Pennsylvania, because she was not a freeman, talk about the bigotry and superstition of the inhabitants of that religious city of Salem in the State of Massachusetts at a time not far back in the history of that people, when if a woman should be accused by a respectable gentleman of winking with one eye in a manner a little unusual, she would be unceremoniously led to the scaffold and hung as a witch, for fear that she might be possessed with a devil because she was a woman; but the bigotry of that day was no worse than that of today, with this exception, that at the present day it is exercised in a different manner. We are entirely unacquainted with the members of the Court who made that decision, and we are also unacquainted with Miss Burham, but we have a presentiment, and consequently venture the assertion, that she has a better intellect and a more acute and correct conception of the principles of equal justice and popular government, than either of the members of the court who acquiesced in that decision.

PERSONAL.—We received a call today, from Hon. George R. Helm, of Albany, and C. B. Stone, Esq. of Salem who are here to attend Court.

On April 18th Gov. Grover ived from managing editor the New York World, the following dispatch:

New York, April 18th 1873. Governor Grover: Will you greatly oblige us and our Eastern friends by indicating immediately to-day in a brief telegram the feeling of Oregon in regard to Modoc assassination and the policy prescribed by your judgement toward hostile Indians.

JACOB B. STILLBON, Managing Editor of The World.

To Which the Governor made the following reply:

Portland, Oregon, April 18, 1873 To the New York World:

The feeling of Oregon in regard to the Modoc assassination is that of the deepest sorrow and of intense thirst for swift retribution. The cold-blooded murder of eighteen of our citizens, caused us to expect this tragedy. There is not a hostile Modoc who is not guilty of murder unprovoked. Those who survive the impending battle should be apprehended and delivered for civil trial and punishment. Short of this, will entail further massacres.

L. F. GROVER.

PERSONAL.—We received recent advices from Judge W. C. Whitson, one of the associate Justices of Idaho Territory, by which we are informed that hereafter he will reside at Lewiston instead of Boise City. The Judge was our law partner at the time he received his commission for that honorable and responsible position, and we are proud to be able to chronicle the fact that he has presided with that dignity which belongs peculiarly to the bench, and to the entire satisfaction of the people of that Territory, and with great credit to himself. Judge Whitson is a good lawyer, an able, honest and incorruptible Judge. Would to God that could be said of all who are called upon to decide what is justice between man and man.

CHIEF JUSTICE CHASE.

This distinguished individual is dead, and has passed to the unseen world never to return to our view or to be seen again among the haunts of men on earth.

Simon P. Chase was a man of extraordinary ability, he was a good lawyer, a successful politician, and particularly distinguished himself during the rebellion in his exhibition of financial talent, and his name will live as among the great men of this republic during the first century of its existence. The Bulletin thinks the judicial mantle of Chase may fall upon George H. Williams, and we should not be surprised if this conjecture proves true, for in the nature of things like meets like, and the appointee will, in nine cases out of ten be, in intellectual grade a fac simile of him who appoints.

ANOTHER GONE.—Congressman Brooks is Dead.

One by one they fall before the onward march of times unerring scythe.

THE PRESENT STATE OF THINGS.—

About the time we were ready to leave town to attend court at Yamhill County, quite an excitement arose in the county which has continued to the present in relation to a startling disclosure made by one Charles Sutton recently an inmate of the State Penitentiary. The disclosure was made to our county officers and others, upon which statement by Sutton, Mr. A. H. Whitley and an old resident of Dallas were arrested. The evidence disclosed upon the trial was principally the statement which had been made by Sutton to our county officials, which was bad enough if true, but Sutton for some reason best known to himself refused to appear at the examination and was not found to speak for himself until the day after the examination, when he was arrested at Salem and brought back and placed in jail under heavy bonds; but for some unaccountable reason he soon made his escape and has up to this date evaded capture. It is reported that he has told diverse stories to divers persons at different times, and it looks very much as though he was attempting to blackmail somebody or everybody, and it is a great pity that he could not be secured and compelled to face the music and made to declare on oath in open court, which story is true and which is false, so that if he is caught in the commission of perjury he may be returned to the care of the Superintendent at the mammoth brick yard.

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