

Weston Weekly Leader.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1885.

CONGREGATIONAL singing will soon be numbered among the lost arts. Even now it is crowded from the large cities and finds generous countenance in only the most rural districts. The people now render their song service of worship and praise by proxy: organs and choirs are fast taking the place of the congregational singing of the good old days. Some music sharp will be quick to answer that it is the fault of the people, that they should keep pace with the progress of the age. Without stopping to consider whether the congregation that could join heartily and harmoniously in Old Hundred or Devizes could weekly acquire a knowledge of all the chants, fugues and new tunes in which the choir indulges, it is not our purpose to consider. It is noticeable, however, that since a knowledge of technical music has been considered by many an essential of culture and refinement and a part of religious services, congregational singing has been on the wane. Those who are not musically gifted have become diffident about singing in public owing to the carping and critical propensities of those who are or consider themselves to be endowed with musical talent. It may be said that it is no great loss that the new method is preferable. Well, men throughout all ages have thought that music was an appropriate expression of praise to God, and we are told that angels in heaven employ the same means of adoration, but not by proxy. The tendency of modern church music is towards that which is so elaborate and artistic as not only to exclude the ordinary worshiper from participation, but to destroy the simple and solemn impressiveness of divine services. That music that gives a greater impetus to devotional thoughts must be an aid to religious exercises, but that which is distracting, challenging critical judgment by its lack of appropriateness, while it may form for some an attractive feature of church service can scarcely be regarded as conducive to devout feelings, and the latter is too often the case with church music in large cities. Smaller places aping this style succeed equally well in excluding the congregation from the song service but too frequently fail in supplying in return anything that is pleasing or artistic.

It is daily becoming more evident to the intelligent and independent observer that intense partisanship is the rock upon which honest administration of the government is apt to split. Prior to the last election there were many good citizens of both parties who honestly believed that a change of administration was necessary for the well being of the government. These were aided in their honest endeavor by office seeking hosts of the hungry Bourbon democracy and opposed by the spellmen of the machine Republicans as well as by thousands of patriotic Republicans who conscientiously believed that the Democratic party was not fit to trust. But the machine men and bosses were the most active then and they are today, and still insist that no change was necessary, that the government was honestly and economically administered, and they actually attempt to prove it by referring to the recent count of the money in the Treasury. Could any argument be more absurdly dishonest? Because the cash on hand tallies with the accounts is no evidence that appropriations have been judiciously or honestly expended. Immense appropriations have been made for naval purposes, but because the Treasury account is correct is no evidence that the money was honestly expended. Every man in the United States not thoroughly blinded by partisan prejudice knows that the most infamous frauds and squanderings were perpetrated in the name of our navy that scarcely has an existence. One instance out of hundreds with which every well-informed citizen is familiar. The famous Kearsage cost originally \$286,866 but in a few years no less than \$1,123,415 have been spent upon her for repairs, and she is now no more fit for service than she was when first laid up at Mare Island. What avails it that the balance in the Treasury is correct, and what partisan stupidity and wilful misrepresentation it is to attempt a denial of these palpable wrongs. The land frauds of the department of the Interior were just as gross; every branch of the government was honey-combed with corruption. A change for the better was necessary. A change has been made, but how much we are to be benefited remains to be seen. One thing

however, is certain; just as long as Democratic partisans continue to approve of every Democratic act, no matter how unworthy, and Republican partisans insist on opposing every action of the administration, no matter how meritorious, just so long will reform be hampered and delayed. A reform in criticism is as much needed as a reform in administration for of the two the former has been the more dishonest.

CENTREVILLE LETTER.

CENTREVILLE, June 4.

To the Editor of the Leader:

Weather could not be finer.

Our merchants are receiving new goods daily.

J. B. Eddy, Martin's right hand

baker, was in the city last Friday.

Rev. H. T. Burger preached two

excellent sermons in the M. E.

Church last Sunday.

I notice that Dr. Barker's sign

now hangs out on the corner of

Third street and Giles alley.

Rev. Frank Spaulding has been

quite sick over at North Yakima,

but is better, and is expected home

by Sunday night.

A revival meeting will begin on

Saturday next at the Christian

Church. Elder Wright of Palouse

City is expected to be present.

The new hotel mentioned last

week is nearing completion. I am

told that L. McIlwain will be the

landlord. Good enough; Mac is

just the man that can run a hotel.

I notice that hitching posts, good

substantial ones, have been placed

on two sides of the Christian

Church. This will be quite a

saving to fences in that neighborhood.

Knowlton & Willy have planted

seventy acres of beans. Frank

had such good success with beans

last year that he was encouraged to

go to the business on a larger scale

this season.

Banta & Co. have painted the

front of their drug store a deep, dark

blue color, which gives that side of

the street something of a mournful

appearance, but then it will soon

fade out and look better.

D. G. Clark, Deputy G. M. of A.

F. & A. M., addressed the members

of that order at this place last

Tuesday at 10 o'clock a. m. Not being

present myself, I can't say whether

he is a success as an orator or not.

Our road supervisor, Mr. Robley,

is opening the road from town to

the depot. This will be a great

convenience, as many of our merchants

are now getting their freight via

Pendleton instead of Blue Mountain.

In my letter before the last I said

I would perhaps have something to

say about those of our merchants

who advertised, and would perhaps

send you some poetry. Well, upon

second thought I concluded that

such stuff would be of no interest to

your many readers, so will say

nothing about them. As to poetry,

I could find plenty that was good to

copy, but no good place to make it

fit in.

Dan Briggs, who lives at Mr.

Pags, on Spring Hollow, met with

a serious accident last week. While

running stock on the reservation

his horse stepped in a hole and fell,

precipitating Mr. Briggs in such a

manner as to cause a fracture of the

right collar bone. The Spring Hollow

medical adviser was called in,

dressed the wound, and the patient

is doing as well as could be expected.

After a long and painful illness

Mrs. Whiteman, wife of our esteemed

friend, J. B. Whiteman, died at

2:30 o'clock last Thursday morning.

Mrs. Whiteman was beloved by all

who knew her, and although she

had not been out for months before

she departed this life, she is greatly

missed by her friends. Mr. White-

man, in his bereavement, has the

sympathy of the entire neighbor-

hood.

Quite a number of our citizens

visited Walla Walla this week;

among the rest Mr. A. McDonald,

our harness man. He has not

returned yet. Some of the boys say

he will not return alone. He said

nothing to me about it before leav-

ing, so I don't know how that is;

but judging from the fact that he

re-papered, painted and furnished

throughout one of the best dwellings

in town before leaving, I think

there is some truth in the rumor.

Wednesday morning J. M. Giles

was seen to step on the sidewalk

opposite his old barn, draw his field

glasses, elevate them to an angle of

about 60 degrees and stand viewing

the immense space above the old

stable. When asked what he was

looking at he replied that he was

"just watching those masons at

work on that brick building there."

Of course we all laughed, and so did

Giles, but later in the day, when he

got into that saloon room with M. A.

Rounds, he did not feel quite so

funny.

Geo. Hansel came down town

Saturday morning with hands in

his pockets up to his elbows, smil-

ing as blandly as though he had

just come in possession of a large

fortune, and when asked by Banta

& Co. to go to work (they were in a

hurry to get the hotel finished), he

replied that he did not have to.

When asked why, he replied, "Why,

we're getting a boy at our house this

morning that weighs eight pounds."

Of course they let him off from his

work. Mother and child getting

along nicely under the care of Dr.

Sharp.

Quite a number of our farmers

are planting corn this season.

When they begin to realize the ad-

vantage of diversified farming more

of them will follow suit. If you

have a merchant that is willing to

charge you three prices for goods

and carry you from one year's end

to another on the prospect of a good

harvest, you may just put in all your time working for that merchant, and he will keep your nose on the grindstone; while, on the other hand, if you would raise a few acres of corn, beans, clover, potatoes, sorghum, hangerian seed, buckwheat, or many things that would bring in a few dollars cash during the year, you could be independent of the merchant and hard times would be a thing of the past in this grand old county of Umatilla.

SELDON.

GENERAL NEWS.

London now claims a population

of 5,200,000.

Times are improving in England,

Ireland and Scotland.

The Brooklyn navy yard has dis-

charged all its employees.

Forty carloads of strawberries are

arriving daily in Chicago.

For the defenses in New York

harbor \$17,500,000 are wanted.

The Apaches, who were on the

warpath, have scattered in small

bands.

More than seven thousand horses

are used by the street car lines in

Boston.

Decoration Day was observed all

over the North and many portions

of the South.

There are 250 disabled ex-Con-

federate soldiers living in the poor

houses of North Carolina.

Rockford, Ill., has a curiosity in

a young negroess with a luxuriant

growth of auburn ringlets.

Many visitors to the New Orleans

Exposition wear watch charms said

"Liberty Bell."

Ten thousand iron workers have

been thrown out of employment at

Youngstown, Ohio, by the closing

of the iron mills.

A wealthy gentleman of Norwich,

Conn., has in his conservatory a

palm tree said to be 100 years old,

which cost \$1,000.

The number of hotels in New

York is increasing very rapidly, but

it is a noticeable fact that nearly all

of the new buildings are small.

The New York Assembly has

passed the bill exempting honorably

discharged Union soldiers and sailors

from the State civil service laws.

The pendulum of the new clock

in the Chicago Board of Trade

building weighs 750 pounds. The

dials are 10 feet 10 inches in diame-

ter.

The net debt of the United States

has now gone below \$1,500,000,000

for the first time since the war.

Twenty years ago it was \$2,700,000,

000.

The Jews burned the garbage

from Jerusalem in the Valley of

Gehenna. There is a proposition

to burn the garbage of the city of

Pittsburg by natural gas.

The Shaker Fraternity at Mount

Lebanon, N. Y., has received a

severe blow in the marriage of its

"head man" to a Shakeress. Hu-

man nature is asserting itself.

Sealing is over for the season.

The average of thirteen Victoria

vessels is 400 skins. The largest

catch by one vessel was 1,000 seals.

The season is regarded as unpropit-

ious.

The Egyptian obelisk, which was

for a time the wonder of New

York, and the impatience of which

cost Wm. H. Vanderbilt \$80,000,

has dropped almost wholly out of

notice.

Benjamin Runkle, who was

placed on the retired list of the

Army some years ago by order of

President Grant, has been restored

to the pension rolls with the rank

of Major.

The rope which was used to hang

a North Carolina negro is being

sold to negroes in the neighborhood

at the rate of 25 cents a stand.

The purchasers believe that the rope

will cure tics.

The subsidy which the Dominion

Government has promised to pay

the Allan Steamship Company for

the carriage of the British mails

amounts to \$126,533 33 per annum.

For this sum a weekly service each

way is promised.

Several thousand houses, ranging

in size from eight to twenty rooms,

and provided with every modern

convenience, are to be built in

Philadelphia. Besides a number of

French châteaux, several large and

costly churches and half a dozen or

more public institutions.

Australia has some large rivers

that are not known to many people

in this country. The Murray is

navigable 1,116 miles in New South

Wales and nearly six hundred in

South Australia. Murrumbidgee is

navigable 500 miles and the

Darling 1,758 miles.

It is said that the missionaries

have converted a small tribe of na-

tives in New Zealand who refuse to

read any part of the Bible except

that part of the Old Testament

which deals with war and slaughter.

They say that is good enough Chris-

tianity for them.

At Millford, Mass., constables re-

fused Post 24 of the G. A. R. en-

trance to the Catholic cemetery in

obedience to Father Cuddihy's

orders. Members of the post, how-

ever, climbed over the fence and de-

corated graves, after which they re-

turned. The decorations were sub-

sequently destroyed.

During May twenty-four vessels

cleared from San Francisco for Eu-

rope, with flour and wheat. There

were two full cargoes of flour, two

mixed cargoes of flour and wheat,

and twenty straight cargoes of

wheat. Value of these cargoes was

\$1,600,000.

STATE NEWS.

East Portland had an eight thou-

sand dollar fire last Saturday night.

The Astorian has coined a new

word. It calls young salmon, "sam-

lets."

Whooping cough and measles

prevail among young children at

La Fayette.

A young boy named Therkelson

was drowned near the railroad

ferry, East Portland, Monday eve-