

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

"Onyx" wants to form a musical society. That's what the cats in our neighborhood have done, and we are not in sympathy with organized efforts of this character.

The fishery retaliation bill is now law, and the Canadian government is responding to it by raising the tariff on various articles imported from the United States. So much for retaliation.

Albany should celebrate the 4th of July this coming summer. It is our turn. We speak early so as to shut off all the small places round about, like Corvallis and Salem.—[Albany Democrat.

The growing importance of every town and city in the Willamette, Umpqua and Rogue river valleys demands that regular trains be run every day in the week on the Oregon and California railroad.

P. T. BARNUM says that if the prohibitionists want to run for president he cannot refuse as he is the greatest show on earth. He says that he isn't a prohibitionist, but that need not make any difference.

A member of a London library lately wanted to borrow Rider Haggard's story, "She." It was out at the time, but a few days after he received a postal card which ran: "She has come in and will be kept for you until the 8th." His wife read the card, and for a time there was a tragic air about the house.

The seducer of a respectable girl at Turner deserved the death blow at the hands of a brother of the girl. It was a rash act, and one not justified by law, for one man to attempt to take the life of another, but we predict that no jury will be found to convict the brother of a crime for avenging an outrage upon the virtue of his sister.

GOVERNOR PENNOYER severely criticizes President Cleveland's veto of the river and harbor bill. The pocket veto is a sort of "federal interference," as it were, with the reserved rights of this state.—[Benton Leader.

Benton Leader man should remember the supreme court reporter bill, and not be sarcastic. It is an expensive luxury under the present administration.

THEY are having much the same fight in New York as we will have here on the prohibition question. The battle cry of the prohibitionists is "free rum or no rum." A New York paper remarks that it should not be much trouble for practical people to choose "between high license and low saloons." It should not be much trouble for the people of Oregon to choose "between high license and low saloons."

LET the "prohibitionists" say what they will, they cannot convince the people that they are in favor of high license, or any such law as the Keady law. They want "free rum or no rum," and a prohibitory amendment will give them both—the former in the cities and towns, and the latter in the few remote places in the country, where such a law as the Keady law would be effective.

"BRICK" POMEROY and Watterson should get close enough together to throw some cold water on each other. Both are sadly at odds with Cleveland but the former seems to have it the worse. He says that the administration "is a sort of high jinks combination between jacksassism and egotism," and "that there is no more of genuine popular democracy in it than there is of pure ice in hell."

AND now comes East Portland and claims to have a greater number of school children than Salem, by almost 900, that place claiming 3000 persons who are of school age. This paper would just call the attention of that enterprising burg to the fact that "we" have the asylum up here, now, and that she had better cut that list of her census roll before the roll wears out. We don't include the asylum inmates among our school children, up here.

SENATOR HEARST proposes to suspend coinage of the silver dollar on the plain ground that it is a nuisance, just like a misplaced brass band or a busted sewer. Why did not some one think of this before? Silver coinage has agnized the finances when it is plainly suppressible under the law against loud noises and bad smells. Now, let us see Mr. Hearst beat down on the fishery question, and appeal Canada by bringing her within the law of domestic relations.—S. F. Alta.

IT is asserted, and truthfully too, that the Granite Mountain mine, which is owned principally by St. Louis parties, pays more in dividends than all the banks in St. Louis combined. By reason of the success of the Granite, which has now a representative value of \$26,000,000, St. Louis has become the center of mining and its citizens are controlling valuable mines in New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Montana and Idaho. From a slow, plodding commercial city, it has become an active, wide-awake metropolis, reaching out for new fields of enterprise and a trade second to no western place.

THE Corvallis Gazette says that "prohibition is one of the cardinal principles of the republican party." This paper would like to see the Gazette's authority for that statement. The foundation principle of the republican party is "the right of the majority to rule," and it was on this principle that the republican party in its conventions declared itself in favor of submitting the proposed prohibitory amendment to the people. If the people of Oregon in November next vote in favor of prohibition, then the republican party will favor the enforcement of that law. But it is not likely that the people of Oregon will prove themselves so foolish as to give up absolute control of the liquor traffic; for even with the favor of the republican party, as in other states, to secure the end aimed at.

THE Goshish disposition of the editor of the Oregonian, in hypothetically dancing on the graves of dead men, is not worthy of emulation. This disposition was displayed in the death of Hendricks, and also in the death of Beecher. The eccentricities of genius are often as numerous as the failings of mediocrity; but it does not look well to traduce the names of the dead. Propriety and good feelings are always shocked by such cowardly conduct, and it has always been so. The writer regards the editor of the Oregonian as a man far above mediocrity in ability. He is a man of brilliant attainments and in many respects a great man. He has the force of character and the ability to be a great leader, but he him-

self has many faults, and a few eccentricities. When he takes up his journey into the undiscovered country, is it his wish that his faults shall be heralded to the world by the press? Does he want his editorial brethren to play the ghoul act on his grave? We think not. Remember the old proverb, "De mortuis nil nisi bonum."

Boston is the publication place of another important literary work. The author goes into the food question as connected with "spiritism," and proves to his own satisfaction that mediums who understand themselves and know how to secure the cheerful cooperation of the spirits of the departed, can fast so long as they see fit. He holds that Dr. Tanner could not have fasted forty days and forty nights had he not been braced up by the spirits, and that it is just as easy for an accomplished medium to go without anything to eat for six months or a year as it was for Tanner to fast his forty days. The suggestion is a very valuable one to nations about going to war. All they have to do, if a city is threatened with a siege, is to throw it into a stiff garrison of spiritualists and let them hold it till Texas freezes over, without asking for rations. Had this been known twenty years sooner, Paris would not have been starved into capitulation by Bismark and Von Moltke. The uses that this discovery can be put to are manifold. Arctic explorers will not have to burden themselves with tons of grub. Theatrical managers can run an entire season on railroad passes, and waste no money on hotels. The problem of the journalistic profession, how to live until the newspaper gets on its feet, will be close to a solution.

A CYNICAL VIEW.

Frank M. Pixley, editor of the San Francisco Argonaut, is liable to say most any thing, except a word in favor of those whom he is pleased to term the "poor's political Irish;" but whatever he says is well said. His present opinion, or what was his opinion up to the time of going to press last, upon politics in general, is as follows: "And now is coming the period when our sixty millions of people are to be again precipitated into the quadrennial contest over a presidential election. Shall we retain the present democratic administration in power, retain the suspicious party that asked the opportunity to examine the national treasury and overlook the entries in our national books, or return again to power the party that carried us successfully through our national dangers, restored the country to peace and prosperity, and did not steal anything in doing the work and handling the money? Over this question, which is one of more sentiment than importance, we must plunge ourselves into the vortex of a whirlwind political maelstrom, and with passionate and angry struggle and violent gestulation make believe that we are contending over something that is of real consequence; we must stir up old prejudices, open old wounds, revive old resentments, to determine first, whether Cleveland, or Hill, or Win. T. Coleman, or some better man shall have the democratic nomination; whether Sherman, Blaine, or Ingalls, or Stanford, or Harrison, or some dark horse of unknown speed and pedigree shall be entered by the republican party for the presidential race. When these contests are over then we shall all go at it, hammer and tongs, tooth and nail, claws and hair, to determine which one of two equally patriotic, equally intelligent, and equally honest men, shall be elected President of the United States; a hundred thousand men in office will agitate themselves, and spend their money and their time to hold their positions, while five hundred thousand outsiders will neglect their avocations and demoralize themselves by getting drunk and howling themselves hoarse at public meetings, while listening to speeches they do not hear; the country will spend enough to give every white man who wants it a forty-acre farm and a cow, and every darky five acres and a mule. When the election is over we shall all go to Washington and all engage in the humiliating application for some appointment which will be the biggest kick in our life and get are sent home with a flea in our ear."

SOME INDUSTRIAL DIFFERENCES.

The socialistic candidate at a recent election in Philadelphia received only a few hundred votes. He represented the principles of Henry George touching land tenures. The small vote is accounted for by the fact that in Philadelphia every industrious workman is ambitious to own his own house and lot. The various building and cooperative societies have made that city, beyond all other large cities in this country, one of homes for workingmen. When they have by years of industry acquired a homestead the socialistic doctrine that there should be a common ownership of land is not at all palatable. The workingman knows that he has honestly earned every dollar he has put into his homestead, and he knows that his right to it is superior to that of the state or of any individual. When he has reached the status of a homestead owner he is in no mood to be divested of his rights by some fine-spun socialistic theory. He knows that he is a better man and a better citizen because he has slowly worked out this result. That is the reason that in a city distinguished by workmen's homesteads, there is only a handful of in-downers of socialistic principles. And probably the few who did vote for them were not the owners of homes and were too shiftless and thriftless ever to own any.

IN New York there is a great floating population, who do not own homes and never will. They desire the very thrift and industry by which homes are finally won. They could roll up a large vote for Henry George, because they were in sympathy with the principle of destruction to individual property rights. In a social revolution those who are at the bottom might come out on top. The idea of a general distribution is a favorite one among thousands of idlers who are waiting for something to turn up. The contrast of Philadelphia with New York in the matter of socialistic views is a striking one. It cannot be accounted for in any other way than the one here suggested.

LISTENING recently to a discussion on the status of the English laborer contrasted with that of the laborer in this country, the differences were brought out in a striking way. The English artisan works for moderate wages. He is, in most instances, a thorough workman. He has served a long apprenticeship. He takes pride in his work, and rarely shames it. He is not sure of his position—that is, he is not subject to any crushing competition. He is the successor of a long line of artisans. His children will succeed him. They will be his heirs, so to speak, of all the work offering in that particular vicinity. But they will never get out of that particular groove. They inherit a vocation and they must accept it. There may be other vocations more desirable, but the conventional law is so strong that they cannot go over the line and enter upon any other calling. The artisan has a desire of security, from the absence of all competition, and from the certainty that he will have a share of all the work in his vicinity. But outside of his special vocation—the well known groove which his feet have worn a little deeper—he is a very helpless man. He can do one thing well, but he cannot do many things well. That is the difference between an English artisan or workman and an American. The latter will sometimes do poorer work, he does not feel very bad if occasionally he scamp a piece of work. But his field is larger and he is bound down by no conventional laws. He does not care a copper whether his ancestors followed the same calling, and he has little concern as to whether his children will succeed him in that particular line of work, or will choose some other and possibly more profitable vocation.

THE American skilled workman is not generally a specialist. He is not confined to a particular department of skilled industry. The carpenter may turn his hand to cabinet work, and the latter may become a carpenter, building his own house. In a recent company of immigrants from the eastern states, none of them had any particular vocation beyond farming; it was said that every one of them was competent to build his own house, and to do good work in that line. Moreover the American artisan expects competition. He inherits nothing. There is no conventional law by which the patronage or work of the vicinity shall be given to him. If he can do as good work as any one else, and a little cheaper by contract, he will get the job. The artisan in this country has vastly more resources, because he can do many things, even if he does not always do a variety of things well. He does them well enough to meet the particular exigency. And whenever it comes to the best work, any other country, behind the artisans of any other country, he has made the best watch for the money, the best sewing machines, the best reapers and mowers, the best clocks, and cutters so good and cheap that it has been sold in England at a profit. He makes a better ax, a lighter and better

road wagon, better plow for all work, better all around carpenter tools and faster sailing yachts. Beyond all others the artisan and working man in this country can turn his hand to many things; and for this very reason he cares less for the competition which would bring a European mechanic in his own country to the verge of starvation. If he does not find sufficient encouragement in his particular vocation, he will switch off to some other track. He knows that somewhere there is work for him to do, and he is bound to find it.

These differences are the more striking ones. In no European cities has such long lines of workmen's homes been secured as the fruit of their own labor as in Philadelphia. When a great city is dotted all over with the homes of citizens and workmen, that phase of radical socialism which proposes to destroy all individual property rights in the very foundations of the home will never make any great headway.

THE ADVICE HE NEEDED.

The following from the New York World, headed "Two Silent Vetoes Needed," will show whose advice President Cleveland heeded in withholding his signature from the river and harbor appropriation bill. It was the advice of the selfish New York press, against the interests of this whole country west of the Rocky mountains: "President Cleveland can do his country, his party and himself a great service by withholding his signature from the Mexican Pensions Appropriation Bill of \$6,000,000 and the River and Harbor Bill of \$10,000,000. The first will establish the worst precedent for pensions ever erected in this country, by giving an annuity to old soldiers solely because they have arrived at the age of sixty two years, without regard to services, disability or financial condition. It pensions the hale and the rich

with the feeble and poor. The president's party will find it impossible to justify the pensioning for service merely of soldiers of the Mexican war, many of whom participated subsequently in the rebellion, and denying pensions to Union soldiers who are incapable of earning a support. For political as well as for public and economic reasons the appropriation should be negated, as the first step towards repealing the law. The River and Harbor bill is a mere wholesale, log-rolling grab for the surplus, and should perish on general principles."

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY.

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Base-ball and boxing are favorite pastimes with a number of the boys, just now. They believe in muscle, as well as brains.

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There will be religious exercises in the chapel at 3:30 to-day. These services are free to all, and are very profitable to those who attend them.

Miss Susie Harrington and Mr. W. T. Rigby each read an excellent essay at chapel, on Thursday. Miss Sallie Newton was present to enjoy them.

Miss Georgie Thorne, who is taking private lessons in penmanship, looked through the society hall on Friday, and was well pleased with what she saw.

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Several of the young men have left school this week. Some of them will teach, while others will engage in other employments. Most of them expect to return next year.

Miss Dell Jory will not attend this semi-term, on account of trouble with her eyes, but expects to return next term. Her absence is much regretted by the business people.

Miss De Forest, assisted by Miss Halle Parrish, will give an entertainment in the chapel on the evening of April 6th. This means a genuine treat for the lovers of elocution and music.

The "Ole Folke's Concert," to be held in the opera house, next Friday evening, will be an enjoyable occasion, and will, doubtless, be well patronized by the pleasure-loving people of Salem.

F. W. Royal and Wm. Matthews preached at the revival meetings, in the M. E. church, during the week. The boys are doing good, and getting experience for their future work by these efforts.

Mr. M. S. Adams, of Dayton, Oregon, a delegate to the S. S. convention, witnessed several recitations at the chapel on Tuesday. Mr. D. T. Riddle read an interesting essay on System at Chapel, the same day.

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J. L. Norton Carroll, residing at Far Rockaway, Queens Co., N. Y., was so crippled with inflammatory rheumatism, of ten years' standing, that he had to use crutches. He was completely cured by taking two Brandreth's pills every night for thirty nights, and will answer any written or personal inquiries.

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T. J. CHERINGTON, Photographer.

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Advertisement for CASTORIA for Infants and Children. Includes text: "Castoria is so well adapted to children that I recommend it as superior to any prescription known to me." H. A. ASCHER, M.D., 111 So. Oxford St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Advertisement for Fishburn, Schomaker & Co. STANDARD FENCE MACHINE. Includes text: "Have secured the agency for this state for the STANDARD FENCE MACHINE." Includes illustration of the fence machine.

Advertisement for Ladd & Bush, Bankers. Includes text: "The oldest bank in the northwest outside of Portland." "Ladd & Bush, Bankers, SALEM." Includes text about general banking business and services.

Advertisement for Golden Medical Discovery. Includes text: "CURES ALL HUMORS, from a common Blotch, or Eruption, to the worst Scrofulous, Salt-rheum, 'Eyesore,' etc." "THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

Advertisement for Oil Cake Meal. Includes text: "FOR MILCH COWS." "FOR HORSES, BEEF CATTLE, SHEEP, ETC."

Advertisement for GRAEFENBERG'S CATHOLICON. Includes text: "Cures Female Complaints, A Great Kidney Remedy. SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS."

Advertisement for Pierce's Little Blue Pills. Includes text: "Pierce's LITTLE Blue PILLS." "ANTI-BILIOUS AND CATHARTIC. SOLD BY DRUGGISTS."

Advertisement for TAXES DELINQUENT. Includes text: "All county taxes for 1896 are now due and delinquent, and should be paid to the county sheriff at once to save costs." "3-15-dw-1m"