

Tri-Weekly Astorian

ASTORIA, OREGON:
D. C. IRELAND, Editor.
SATURDAY, Nov. 15, 1878

—It is rumored that the managers of Italian opera in New York are feeling the money-pressure as severely as men who traffic in more solid articles. Italian opera a la Strakosch and Maretzek is delightful and magnificent, but expensive to boot, and heads of families, as well as nice young men, look askance at the elegant programme of foreign artists with unpronounceable names this season.

—Of Miss Mattie Stevenson, a volunteer nurse from Towanda, Illinois, who fell a victim to the Memphis epidemic, the Memphis Appeal says: "We may raise, and we will raise, a white shaft to commemorate her heroism, but in our hearts, from now henceforth, she will be with every one of us next to the dearest on earth. Let the shaft be raised, and let it be the highest, the tallest, the most conspicuous in our beautiful city of dead, and let the name, 'Mattie Stevenson,' be graven deep and deep down, where it will remain to defy the corrosions of time and, tell how she laid down her life for the poor of Memphis."

—Bancroft & Co., of San Francisco, have the Diamond edition of the poems of John G. Saxe. It comprises the entire body of his poetical creations and is felicitously dedicated: "To my best friend (a diamond edition of a woman) by her Husband." Saxe himself, artistically considered, has something of the brightness and preciousness of the diamond. He still holds his own—still occupies the proud eminence of being America's wittiest poet. Others have written more brilliant things, but who has written so uniformly well! Who has written so much that it is pleasant to remember and repeat, so little that one cares to forget! It is at least thirty-five years since "the Proud Miss McBride" was given to the world, and it still holds its place as one of the most perfect poems in the language. Had Saxe written nothing else, his position in literature would have been fixed.

—A Yankee named Pease has taken possession of one of the largest of Bonin Islands, a group lying five hundred miles off the coast of Japan, and has raised the American flag over his dominions. The San Francisco Bulletin says they would make a desirable station for our navy in Eastern waters. They were uninhabited till 1826, when a settlement was made by some sailors. In 1853 Commodore Perry recommended them as an available depot for the steamers which he thought would some day ply between Japan and California. Subsequently Pease visited the islands and took possession of the largest, called Peel Island. He commenced raising sheep, and has become prosperous by trading them off in Japan. Mr. Pease, who is flying the stars and stripes, is ready to make a formal surrender of his right, title and interest to the people of the United States for a suitable consideration; amount not stated. It is not known whether Japan assumes any sovereignty over the Bonin Islands, but it is intimated that if the United States desire them no objection would be raised by the Government.

—Andy Johnson's pilgrimage to Washington last month was a matter of much concern to the dear people. Politicians concluded that he went to tell what he knew of the hanging of Mrs. Surratt, considering that the load was getting too heavy for him, and that his deposits with the busted First National Bank were really only secondary considerations. As our Capt. Crandall, of the Salem Statesman, told Nez., on objecting to seeing the old cent carrying his own trunk when leaving Salem from Washington city last week—your load will be heavier when you come back (alluding to a matter of conscience), perhaps; so it may be with the ex-President. The best thing for Andy to do is to avow his belief in the old Calvinistic doctrine, and declare that it made no difference whether she was pardoned or not, for he would have been subjected to the old Hudibrastic condensation—

"You can and you can't
You will and you won't;
You'll be damned if you do,
And you'll be damned if you don't."
Which would certainly have been the case either way.

The New York Tribune, on the October elections, says: The experience of the past dozen years has shown that a very little success is sufficient to demoralize the Democrats, and sufficient as well to revive their blunders and more than make good their defeat.

FEMALE DRESS AND SUFFRAGE.

At the Congress of the strong-minded women, which has just closed its session in New York, it was maintained by the Rev. Celia Burleigh that "the present dress of women is ugly, unnatural and immodest, and unless woman can be emancipated from its tyranny, even the ballot can do nothing for her." This intimate connection between woman's dress and woman's vote has, we presume, not hitherto struck many people. The Rev. Celia does not allude, of course, to "Grecian bends," or to dresses cut low in the bosom and high at the opposite extremity of the female form. She does not mean the extraordinarily expansive and trailing skirts, nor the little gatherings of ribbons and flowers on the female head, which the sex persist in calling a bonnet. Neither is it the taste for laces or for diamonds and other expensive adornments which have always so pleased and set off the sex. That some of these fashions have seriously hurt the interests of womanhood perhaps might be reasonably granted. But that is not what this female reverend means. Her ideas of a change of dress are altogether more radical in their character. They are, if women are to vote as men, why not dress more like men? In other words, she covets our horrid masculine pantalons in lieu of these beautifully flowing skirts which have so long entranced the vision, even when by the inexorable decree of fashion they were not in view, and had their existence entirely in imagination. The idea of Rev. Burleigh is to abolish all the outside distinctions of sex so far as possible by assimilating dresses. Now, we can contemplate with a certain sort of complacency our women having the ballot, but we must say that it would be shocking to us to see them discard their beautiful dresses in order to adopt any thing resembling that which incases the lower part of man. We rather imagine that if the sex is condemned to the alternative of the ballot or adopting our trousers, they would say, let the ballot go. That is a part of our dress which has never been a favorite with females. They have often had head coverings which they called hats. They have not been averse to wearing collars and neckties that have a near affinity with those worn by masculinity. They have even gone so far as to accept our fashion of coats, with metal buttons, trimmings and adornments to match. But they have fought shy of our bifurcated garments, and we must say that we admire their taste. We can not exactly see how the putting on of breeches is to accomplish any particular good to woman, or how her present dress is in the way of her advancement. Woman can be clergymen, doctors, lawyers, editors, clerks in public offices and stores, printers, telegraphers, and wear skirts just as well as if they put on breeches. If they intend to go to sea, and become sailors, or carry hods for bricklayers, their present mode of dress will be seriously in the way. But we do not understand that those employments are seriously contemplated even by the most advanced of the strong-minded among the sex.

Women have dressed differently from men ever since the expulsion from Eden, before which occurrence there was a surprising agreement in their attire, a fig-leaf being amply able to answer as dress for both. We have no idea that Mrs. Rev. Burleigh has an intention to return to this primitive condition of mankind, and unless she does she has both immemorial female and masculine tradition to contend with.

—The second volume of Lamons' Life of Lincoln will probably never be published, so discouraging was the reception of the first. Yet there was more truth in it than in any life yet published—that was the difficulty; too much truth for the present state of the public stomach.

—The Lamb-Davenport suit having passed the highest judicial tribunals in the United States is being "tried over again" by the Portland press. We bet on Davenport's side.

—The San Francisco Commercial Herald, a paper of wide influence and extended circulation says: "Receipts of both Wheat and Flour from Oregon are continued, while the direct exports from the Columbia river show a considerable increase over past seasons, and this will no doubt continue to be the case in the future, particularly as the fact becomes known that ships of the largest class can load at Astoria without lighterage." That is correct, Messrs. John H. Carmany & Co., and we thank you for this much of recognition. There is considerable in that sentence: "Particularly as the fact becomes known that ships of the largest class can load at Astoria without lighterage." This particular fact is scarcely known in the State of Oregon, just because of petty insignificant town site speculations—but, through the columns of journals such as the commercial Herald, and Liverpool Mercury, this truth will be known sooner or later outside of Oregon; where we want it should be known, when we will show a considerable increase over past seasons in grain products of the State.

NEW SCHOOL BOOKS.—I have just received all the different kinds of New School Books required to be used in this State, that can now be found in San Francisco. Also, Slate pencils, Blotting pads, a good assortment of Stationery, Drawing paper, CARD BOARD, Perforated board, Ink, (Carmine, Purple and Black). Likewise a new stock of Crockery, Clocks and a large assortment of Lamp Chimneys, all of which will be sold cheap for cash.

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