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THE ASTORIAN.

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CITY INTELLIGENCE.

—See fourth page for Poetry, etc.

—Mr. Wm. Clark formerly of this city, is soon to return here to remain permanently.

—The steam tug Varuna is to be laid up for necessary repairs and to receive her new propeller.

—The pile driver owned by the Farmers' Company is again in operation. The boiler was almost wholly reconstructed.

—“A movement in the right direction” is that Astorians propose having a hand in some of that Columbia river fisheries—aint it.

—John Woods left by steamer yesterday to look after interests he is about to invest in at Bruceport, which are held at present in San Francisco.

—James O'Meara and Ben Holladay were passengers by the Oriflamme yesterday. Mr. O'Meara will spend the winter in Washington city.

—Geo. W. Hume has removed his family to California, and will hereafter spend much of his time in that State, still retaining his interests at Eagle Cliff, in which Mr. Devlin is now part owner and superintendent.

—Megler & Jewett's improvements at Brookfield move on apace. When the steamer Annie Stewart passed there, Friday evening about four o'clock, thirty-two piles had been driven for the wharf. Twenty were driven that day, and eight remained to be heard from by dark. How about coal oil at Brookfield? Have they really struck it?

—Several changes have lately taken place in the medical staff of the Military Department of the Columbia. Dr. F. W. Sparling of Cape Disappointment is to be relieved by Dr. F. S. Sterling of Fort Stevens, who in turn is to be relieved by Dr. Huntington of Lapwai. Dr. H., was formerly stationed at Fort Stevens. Dr. Sparling is to report at headquarters.

—MULMUTUM IN PARVO.—Charles Binder of this city has laid upon our table a wonderful and remarkable specimen of the Cabbages grown in his garden—being none less than thirteen heads on one stalk, the whole larger than one ordinary head—except such as is used about the Farmer Office, in Salem. We think, however, that the smallest one of these many small heads contains more than the one large head in the Farmer office, alluded to.

—Messrs. Leinenweber & Co., of this city will soon commence additions to the Hemlock tannery which will double the present capacity of the works, and enable them to turn out one thousand sides a month. The sole leather tanned by them, samples of which were sent to a heavy shoe manufacturer in Pirmasens, Bavaria, has been heard from, and is pronounced A No. 1 article. Only for the stringency of the money market, and general uncertainty of business in Europe, owing to the crisis, the Bavarian house write Messrs. Leinenweber & Co. that they should order a large quantity of this leather for their uses there.

—The new steam tug Sedalia is to enter upon business to-day for the first.

—The new schooner building at Deep river by Charles Stark, will be named Industry.

—H. A. Shaw jr. has just completed a neat key-board for the new Parker hotel.

—The reliable sloop Mary H., has at last met a mishap. She sprung a leak recently, and is laid up at Skipanon for repairs.

—Police Commissioner Hallock, of Portland, who has been down to the Seaside for several days returned yesterday, homeward bound.

—The harbor filled up with shipping considerably on Sunday. The day closed with seven steamers and six sailing vessels at the docks, or anchor in the harbor.

—Sam M. Smith, esq., of Portland, who came down on the Oriflamme to see Mr. Holladay off for the East, returned to Portland by the Dixie Thompson yesterday.

—The latest news from Miller's creek is that the famous hunting boat Joe Meek had arrived, and the trappers had secured two coon-skins the first week. Several Mink to hear from.

—Leinenweber & Co., have purchased circular saws etc., to be attached to their steam works at the upper town for the manufacture of boxes of all kinds, wood sawing, etc. One by one we thrive.

—Mr. George Ayres, of the Seaside stables at Clatsop, leaves for New York Saturday to bring several head of blooded horses and other stock, to be added to Ben Holladay's stud at that famous resort.

—Through the industry and perseverance of the ladies of the First Congregational Church of this city, the meeting house is now handsomely seated, and a part of the materials for the cushions is on the way.

—Rev. Mr. Jennings, late of the Bishop Scott Grammar and Divinity School at Portland, officiated at Grace (Episcopal) Church in this city Sunday evening. He left by the Oriflamme for California.

—Mr. Van Dusen returned from a flying trip to the valley Friday evening. He reports everybody, individually and collectively, happy, and business on all sides betokens a heavier crop of cereals next year than has ever yet been harvested in the Wailamet.

—The public will be pleased to hear that the accident of Friday evening which deprived Mr. James Wm. Welch of his team of noble work-horses, did not stop his business. He had another team and was ready for orders by noon of Saturday. Business will be carried on under the firm name of J. Wm. Welch & Co., Frank Hobson partner. We wish them every success.

—The payment of small debts will do more to keep business up than anything else.

—Politeness is the religion of the heart, as piety is that of the soul. It is good nature in action.

—It is suggested that the immense door-plates worn by the ladies on their belts might be utilized by engraving thereon the wearer's name, age, residence, fortune, or expectations, and stating whether her heart is free or engaged.

—Domestic industries in these United States are now greatly demoralized—in many instances paralyzed—by the recent panic; and the Buffalo Republic predicts that the worst is to come. We might print columns, and still be unable to give a complete list of the failures, suspensions, etc., causing the close of operations all over the East, which has thrown many thousands of operatives out of employment. If the bulk of those thus discharged were to come out to Oregon they would find plenty to do at living rates, with better prospects ahead than they ever had.

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Last Thursday we found time to pass nearly two hours in our Public School. We had hoped to visit the school in company with the School Board, and to hear their views for the future, etc., for we feel assured that no one can have an official connection with the schools in any place, or study their character and influence for any length of time, without being more and more impressed with their importance toward them. It is indeed an affecting experience, more so than words can describe, to watch over them from year to year, to go again and again to the school and look into the faces of the pupils, study the development of their minds and moral natures and follow the successive classes from one stage to another in their course, till they leave the school and enter on the active duties of life. Here they are during the most impressive period of their whole lives. Here they are fitting themselves for future happiness and usefulness. Who can be aware of all this and not feel as though he wanted to do the utmost possible for these youth? How can he help coming to regard them with a strong affection? How can he fail to be exceedingly anxious to say such things in their presence, and to have exerted over them, both in school and out, such influences as shall do them the greatest possible good?

We were pleased at the cheerful obedience of the pupils. There was no parade of government, there was the absence of everything that resembled irksome restraint. As we looked upon the school, we said these youth feel that they have duties to perform as well as rights to enjoy, that liberty is not license to do as they please; they repudiate the foolish dogma that submission is not necessarily degradation, and assent to the truth that when yielded to rightful authority submission is an honor. Their judgment and conscience respond to every appeal of truth and duty, their feelings and sentiments are firm and decided in favor of law and order, and uncompromising in their indignant rebuke of all that is low, and base, and untruthful. It is plain that no one should be allowed to attend such a school that claims the right to violate those rules by which each one is placed in the most favorable conditions, possible, for successful study; for it is not just that the regulated liberty of all the rest should be sacrificed to the lawless license of that one.

What pleased us most was the marks of thoroughness in all the instruction. There was no haste, no attempt at show, no inclination to skim over a task, to shirk labor, to get along without hard work. Thoroughness is an absolute essential to permanent success in any business; and the education that neglects it, or is founded on a lack of it, is disastrous and worse than nothing, while the education that gives it, however simple it is, however little ground it covers, is foundation for the best character and the highest attainment. Let it ever be borne in mind that an inwrought, deep-seated, self-moving habit of accurate seeing and hearing, studying and reasoning, thinking and working, is the great end of all elementary training—a habit anchored in the depths of the mind, affecting the use of all the senses, controlling all mental action, and which time cannot eradicate, nor the turmoils of life weaken—which can only be destroyed by the destruction of the mind itself. The youth who has this habit is educated, whether he has mastered the principles of one book or ten—he who has not this habit is not educated, though he have by heart the libraries of the world.

We wish, at this time, to say a few words in regard to irregular attendance, because it is the great difficulty with which the schools of the whole country have to contend. While the pupil is absent the class has been making progress, and the work of yesterday has to be added to the work of to-day. The class has to wait a couple of days, or go back and spend a week in review for his benefit. If he is a chronic absentee, about the time everything is going on well he will stay out a week or two again. If the public knew how much of the teachers' time is wasted, how many thousands of dollars are lost to the State, and the different school districts in making good the willful waste of irregular attendants, there would be a universal demand that the schools should not be allowed to suffer; but that all the penalties should fall upon those who cause them. When the pupil is impressed with the idea that school duty is of less importance than other duties, and only to be attended to when there is nothing else to do, his day of improvement is past. To get rid of him altogether it is only necessary to demand just as much of him as of his classmates and give him no more help, and make no discount on account of his many absences, after some grumbling in school, and much fault finding out of school, he will leave and return no more where occasional receive no favor.

When we commenced to write, we intended to say something about the school house and grounds, but we reserve that for another occasion.

TELEGRAPH DISPATCHES.

The Price of Gold.

PORTLAND, Nov. 17.—Gold in New York to-day, 106½; Portland Legal Tender rates,—90 buying, and 91½ selling.

Miscellaneous News.

The U. S. steamer Kansas sailed for Santiago de Cuba on the 14th.

The Attorney-General has decided that liquors cannot be introduced into Alaska without the consent of the War Department.

A famine prevails in Greenland, caused by a failure of the fisheries. In one village alone, fifteen persons have starved to death.

Indian Inspector Kimball has suspended Superintendent Milroy, of Washington Territory. The reason for this action is not made known.

All sailors of the United States on the receiving ship Tabine were dispatched to New York for service on vessels in Cuban waters.

The yellow fever has broken out again at Bainbridge, Georgia. There are six new cases. There were two deaths at Memphis from the fever to-day.

The revolutionary government near Toluco, Mexico, which pronounced against the new constitutional reforms, has been dispersed and the movement suppressed with a loss of 550 lives.

Large numbers of German immigrants who are unable to find work offer to work their passages back to their homes from New York. Many have already been taken back.

The British Government has instructed its Consuls at Havana and Santiago de Cuba to watch the proceedings against the Virginian captives, as it has been informed that one of them is a subject of Great Britain.

The trial of Col. Steffel at Versailles for using language, while giving testimony in the Bazine court martial, disrespectful to public procedures, was concluded. He was found guilty and sentenced to three months imprisonment and costs.

It is stated by one of the Chicago papers that a mother and sister of General Ryan, who was killed by the Spaniards in Cuba, reside in that city, and that he has a brother living in Will county, Illinois.

Every soul found on board the Virginian at the time of her capture, has been put to death. According to this statement not an American witness of the affair is left alive, one hundred and eleven persons were killed.

The Directors of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company are making investigations to ascertain where seven million dollars earned and spent annually by the company goes. President Bradbury hopes to obtain a loan of \$500,000 upon the company's real estate in California.

A report from Washington states that news has been received there of the slaughter of the remainder of those taken on the Virginian. The further statement that the United States Government has sent warlike dispatches to Minister Sickles to the Spanish Government is generally regarded as an invention.

Walter Stuart of New York has every reason to believe that his brother, Colonel G. Stuart, is among the passengers of the Virginian, and will pay liberally for any information concerning his fate. He makes this proposition to the Cuban patriots: “I will subscribe \$50,000 to every \$150,000, if they will raise 1,000 men, well officered, able bodied, and all having seen service, and put them aboard of a suitable vessel that the Cubans shall furnish, properly equipped and provisioned, at some point on our coast that I may select. As a guarantee to perform what I propose, I will put up a forfeit of \$100,000, to be used for the benefit of families who have lost their protectors by the Spanish butchers.”

Our Government is now waiting to hear what the Spanish Government will do in response to an earnest protest against the outrage. It can be stated on authority that the President himself did not, as reported, write a dispatch to General Sickles, directing an offer of our co-operation to be made to the President of Spain in movements to control the Cubans. Nothing of the kind has ever been suggested.

LOCAL NOTES, ETC.

—Last Saturday greenbax had a relapse and gold was considered convalescent. Drs. Jay Cook & Co. and Vanderbilt, are at present engaged in making a diagnosis of the case. Dr. Cook & Co. got off a good joke the other day when they proposed to settle with 15 cents money and 85 cents in Northern Pacific Railroad bonds on the dollar. This incident reminds us of the way Jo. Allison settled with his creditors in 1863—when he told them all to “wait.”

—Sam Clarke, for fear of running short on his “patent insides” is fearfully scrimping of Farmers now. Wonder if Sam is to be kept during the season of 1874 as the greatest Ass in the State? There is not much ground for hope of improving stock by that means, sure. His ears are too short for the mule, and he lacks some other requisites, but so far as innate meanness is concerned—deception, bull-headed stubbornness, and so on, Sam is pretty well filled.

—The weather clerk has been particularly favorable to Capt. Mudge, and others concerned in the construction of the Astoria Farmers' Company's wharf and warehouse. Every year but this, an old weather sharp informs us there has always been pouring rain storms prior to the present date—but he 'spose he's got to stick it out this fall, for a real soker of a day, till Mudge gets that 'ar roof on! Heaven it is said favors those who favor themselves. Astorians may truly be thankful for delightful days thus far in which to advance various new buildings and other improvements now in progress.

—Not long ago says the Springfield Union, a young man of this city had a most favorable opportunity to enter a business house in this State, at a large increase over his present salary, with a prospect of soon getting a place in the firm. His recommendations were first-class, and the officers of the institution were decidedly pleased with his appearance. They, however, made him no proposals, nor did they state their favorable impression. A gentleman of this city was requested to ascertain where the young man spent his evenings, and what class of young men were his associates. It was found that he spent several nights of the week in a billiard room, on Main street, and Sunday afternoon drove a hired span into the country with three other young bloods. He is wondering why he didn't hear from the house concerning that coveted position.

—The Washington correspondence of the Chicago Tribune, alluding to the matter of Mrs. Surratt says: Mrs. Surratt was a convert to the Catholic Church, and not reared in it. Her conversion did not dissuade her from keeping the lowest kind of cross-roads tavern, where her tenant, John Lloyd, said that no man could live without getting drunk. This house was a relay from the beginning for carriers of quinine, spies, and sneaking villains of all sorts; and the company her son kept for her in Washington was of the class of Atzerodt, who had a family of bastard children, and stolid ruffians like Payne. Her piety was expressed in such sentences as that “Lincoln ought to be in hell.” She asked prayers “for her intentions” opening the gate for the retreat of the murderers; and yet the Government she hated so vilely had never robbed her of a penny, an acre or a slave. Ignorance, vile associations and persistence in foolish doing brought this woman to her end. Her wretched son has shown the quality of his dignity and breeding by delivering a public lecture for gate money on the crime for which he sacrificed her; and he is now writing a book, catch-penny in character, like himself, to rob his mother once more of her melancholy repose.”

—An attempt equal to the swamp-land grabble has lately been made about Astoria and vicinity. The shore of the Astoria peninsula is from fifty to three hundred feet wide, and is covered twice in every twenty-four hours with the tide. This shore, or strip between high and low tide, each holder of the land reaching down to high tide supposed himself the owner. But now comes A. B. and C., under and by virtue of an act of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, for the disposal of tide lands,—that the encroachments of the sea might be arrested—and they apply to purchase of the State, miles of this shore, embracing the front of this city and several sections of land above and below. As some of the shore has been appraised on these applications at \$2,500 per acre, it may prove a good thing for the school fund, should the Commissioners recognize the claims, but it will be rough on the farmer who will have his mile of landing taken away from him, obliging him to buy the right of way across the strip between high and low tide to the Columbia river, and still worse for owners of town lots to lose the adjacent land, as they have always supposed it to be appurtenant, for wharfing privileges. We would suggest that some enterprising chap apply for the ten-inch strip of gravel in front of the city of Portland, which must be alternately covered and bared with the rise and fall of tide in the Wailamet river.