

Shere Ali and Yakoob.

If the events which are now transpiring in Afghanistan are to be regarded as real and genuine history, Shere Ali is not entitled to rank high, either as a diplomat or a soldier. He brought on the conflict with the British, but appears to have made no defense of his territory worthy of the name. The force of the Khyber pass was little better than a skirmish. No attempt whatever was made to block any of the other passes. Shere Ali himself, without striking a blow, is said to be in flight. It is certain that he has abandoned Cabul, and that the son Yekoob, whom he detests, is in power there.

There is not one of our Indian chiefs who could not make a better stand than the Ameer of a hardy and warlike race numbering six or seven millions. The campaign of the Modocs in the lava beds was brilliant and audacious in comparison with the feeble resistance in the Hidu-Koosh. Sitting Bull looms up as a Napoleon by the side of this Afghan potentate. The latter has done little or nothing but run away from a field on which he threw down the gauge of battle.

But there is one fact that should not be forgotten in this connection. It may not throw light upon the subject, but it is at least suggestive. The English have always found it easier to get into Afghanistan than to get out of it. In case of disaster the passes become a difficult line of retreat. An English column, all but one man, was massacred in its vain attempt to gain the other side. The terrible blow was inflicted when the invaders were full of confidence, and believed that the country had quietly submitted to their rule.

Building Societies in England.

Building societies in England, although probably developed from the same idea or principle of co-operation as our Philadelphia societies, carry on a different kind of business. They have ordinary stock, preferred shares, and accept money on deposit from persons who have no interest in the societies as members. The money, as with our societies, is lent chiefly to members, the loan being secured by bond and mortgage. Like other schemes of co-operation, such as stores and warehouses, they have been very popular in the manufacturing districts of Great Britain. An imperfect board of trade return shows the existence in England and Wales of 561 societies, having 224,427 members. Six hundred and seventy-two societies (not all included in the board of trade returns) hold securities or cash valued at \$115,000,000, of which forty millions of dollars belong to depositors and other creditors, and the balance to members, either as capital stock or profits. The returns show that 533 societies have a balance of unappropriated profit, amounting nearly to three million dollars, while 115 societies have lost, or are deficient about forty-five thousand dollars. In Scotland there are thirty-one societies, with assets of about five and a half million dollars, and yearly receipts of four million. In Ireland there are eighteen societies, with three and a half million dollars assets and yearly receipts of nearly three millions. There are no exact returns

about Philadelphia societies, but they compare very favorably with those of England, since the number of societies is about the same and the aggregate assets have been estimated at about one-half the assets of the societies in all England.

A Grain Firm Failed.

The unprofitable character of the export grain business this season, which has already led to the failure of two houses engaged in the trade, is shown in the failure of Ammon, Caspari & Co., a firm doing business in San Francisco, with a branch at Liverpool under the style of Caspari, Ammon & Co. The liabilities of the firm are believed to be small, and the trouble arises in the Liverpool house, and is said to be due to the non-fulfillment of contracts on the part of their customers. We shall be most happy to chronicle the fact of their recovery soon. They were largely interested at Astoria.

Costly Carelessness.

The amount of bonds and money lost by carelessness almost exceeds the limits of belief. Repeated instances have been brought to the attention of the treasury of large losses of notes or bonds by fire and other causes. Only recently a man presented for redemption, bonds that would amount to a number of thousands of dollars. He hid them in the earth at the bottom of his smoke-house for safe keeping, and forgot where he had placed them. Fall came and he commenced to smoke hams. A fire had been burning a number of days before he remembered that he had placed his bonds there. He extinguished the fire and found the bonds had been completely baked. They could, however, be identified, and new ones issued for them. Instances have been reported where bonds and notes have been stored for safe keeping in old stoves in the summer, and forgotten until after fires had been kindled in the fall. Recently there was presented for payment at the treasury, an old obligation for the District of Columbia for \$100, the accumulated interest upon which amounted to \$112. It had been found in an old trunk here. The treasury officials remember a great number of instances which have come within their observation, and estimate, therefore, that the actual loss of greenbacks by fire and carelessness amounts to \$29,000,000.

The station-house and platform at Tenino have been neatly and substantially fitted up by the two railroad companies. The waiting room is well finished and painted and kept warm and comfortable. A shed roof extends from one train to the other, so that freight and passengers can be transferred without exposure to the rain.

The United States had her smash, and England watched and waited. The believers in "free trade" had a standing finger pointing wondrous prosperity, and the solidity of everything financial in the kingdom. Recent events have in some measure, crooked the finger, and spoiled many of the finest calculations of the free-trade mathematicians.

It is rather audacious on the part of so thin-legged a man as Carl Schurz to tackle a little warrior like Phil Sheridan, but at his desk Carl was ever the most valiant of swash-bucklers. The skill, gallantry, and endurance displayed by Carl Schurz, when a Major-general, in sitting on court-martial and boards of survey and inquiries of one kind and another, put down the rebellion. Give Carl a pen and he will charge right into the jaws of death, right into the gates of hell. Give him a sword and his legs will become so entangled therewith that martial progress is impossible.

The Ocean is a Cemetery.

[WRITTEN FOR THE ASTORIAN.]

"The Ocean is a Cemetery." O surging, ceaseless, melancholy swell, Thy tones are funeral tones! thy waves a cell. A sepulcher of countless sheeted dead! While o'er thy corals, undulating bed Thy billows beat a bitter, solemn knell For souls in heaven and spirits damned in hell. Thou canst not ope thy ravenous jaws and yield The petrified remains thy waters shield; Tho' Eternal hand must first unbar the tomb, And penetrate the deep, unlighted gloom! Thy darksome cavern and thy ragged bed Shall hide the whitened bones of myriad dead; Thy unrelenting, terrible embrace Vast, silent armies of the human race Infold, and strong as snow shall wield its power. Till Gabriel's trumpet proclaims the final hour. When rattling bones enrobed in former clay, Shall leave thy caverns and behold the day! And till that time, in undisturbed repose, Thy storms shall lull, thy billows o'er them close.

Couldst thou thy gloomy prison halls Unloose thy slimy prisoners watery thralls, Set free the forms incarcerated there, Put sight within the fleshless socket's stare, Those idle tenements with life invest, Give locomotion for their palsied rest, What mass now living could outcount the hosts Of those renewed, reanimated ghosts? But palsied still that lifeless clay shall be, And unmolested till eternity Succeeds to time, asunder tears the chains, And resurrection free those dead remains! Then rock them, ocean, in thy briny arms, And sing their endless dirge in frequent storms. Yes! rock those sleepers, from their deep repose Thou canst not roase them by thy mightiest throes. Ah! cradle, heave them in thy lengthened swell, Employing for their lullaby, their knell!

A wealthy Pittsburg merchant is reported as having said: "I always feel happy when I am advertising, for then I know, that waking or sleeping, I have a strong, though silent orator working for me; one who never tires, never sleeps, never makes mistakes and who is certain to enter the households from which, if at all, my trade must come."

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

EXECUTORS NOTICE.—The County court of Clatsop county, Oregon, having appointed the undersigned executor of the last will and testament of F. Ferrell, deceased, all persons having claims against said estate are requested to present the same, with proper vouchers at my office in Astoria, within six months from this date. GEORGE FLAVEL, Executor. January 6, 1879.—3-w34

WILSON & FISHER DEALERS IN HARDWARE. LUBRICATING OILS, COAL OIL, PAINTS AND OILS. Sheet, Round, and Square Prepared Rubber Packing. PROVISIONS, MILL FEED, GARDEN SEED, GRASS SEED. Which will be exchanged for country produce or sold at lowest prices. Corner Chenamus and Hamilton Streets ASTORIA, OREGON.

Notice to All Concerned.

Men and Boys Must be CLOTHED! As well as to have toys for Christmas. Christmas is Over!

N. LOEB HAS NOT Surrendered! And now invites the attention of everybody to his Full and Complete Stock, Consisting in part of A FULL LINE OF CLOTHING FOR MEN AND BOYS. Gents Furnishing Goods; Large Stock of Family Groceries; Canned Fruits, Etc.; Watches, Jewelry, Marine and Opera Glasses, etc.; Besides a choice lot of TOBACCO AND CIGARS, Wholesale and Retail. Call and see. N. LOEB. MAIN ST., ASTORIA, OGN.

CITY BOOK STORE, MAIN ST., ASTORIA. CHAS. STEVENS & SON Invite the attention of purchasers to their stock, just laid in

The Finest Selection! The Cheapest Prices! The Greatest Worth! RECEPTION POCKETS; LADIES' DIARIES AND PURSES COMBINED; COMB AND BRUSH POCKETS; CUTLERY, JEWELRY, CHARMS, ETC., ETC.; LADIES' FANCY BOARD, ETC.; GOLD PENS AND PENCILS; PAINT PENCILS, GUTTA PERCHA GOODS; EXCELSIOR DIARIES, BLANK BOOKS, STATIONERY, ETC. All goods sold at lowest cash prices. CHAS. STEVENS & SON, City Book Store to Main street, two doors from the Pioneer Restaurant, opposite the bakery of Mrs. C. Bird.

BUSINESS CARDS.

O. F. BELL, ATTORNEY AT LAW, Notary Public and Commissioner of Deeds for California and Washington Territory. Astoria, Oregon. OFFICE—Corner of Squemoqua and Cass streets, up stairs, over E. S. Larsen's store.

J. W. ROBB, C. W. FULTON, ROBB & FULTON, Attorneys-at-Law, Collecting and Real Estate Agents. Rooms Nos. 1 and 2, Dr. Welch's new building, Squemoqua street, Astoria.

F. D. WINTON, ATTORNEY AT LAW. Office in City Hall Building. ASTORIA, OREGON.

DR. W. D. BAKER, (Late Surgeon U. S. Army.) Office—Corner Chenamus and Main sts., over White House store, Brown's building

DR. I. M. SEVERN, Graduate University of Pennsylvania. PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON. EXAMINING SURGEON OF PENSIONS. Office—Larsen's building. Office Hours—8 A. M. to 10 A. M. and 6 P. M. to 8 P. M. At night can be found at Turpin House. ASTORIA, OREGON.

DR. F. CRANG, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, ASTORIA, OREGON. Office—Room No. 7 over C. L. Parker's store, Opposite Dement's drug store.

B. F. DENNISON, F. J. TAYLOR, DENNISON & TAYLOR, ATTORNEYS AT LAW. ASTORIA, OREGON. OFFICE—Up stairs in Parker's building, corner Chenamus and Benton streets.

OTTO DUFNER, WATCHMAKER AND JEWELER. HAS REMOVED TO Main street, Parker's building, ASTORIA, OREGON.

J. STEWART, Stone and Marble Cutter, ASTORIA, OREGON. All kinds of building work, and monumental work attended to promptly and to order. Satisfaction guaranteed.

DR. J. W. OLIVER, HOMEOPATHIST. Having permanently located in Astoria, tenders his services to the citizens of this place. OFFICE—For the present at his residence in Col. Taylor's house, Cedar street.

HUGH STOOP, CARPENTER AND JOINER, AND GENERAL JOBBER. ASTORIA, OREGON. Houses built to order, and satisfaction guaranteed. Shop on Squemoqua street, next door to the Episcopal church.

Special Holiday Notice!

E. S. LARSEN, Wholesale and Retail Grocer.

I will sell for CASH for the next two weeks any article in my line at GREATLY REDUCED PRICES. This I propose to do in order to give everybody a chance to celebrate Christmas and New Year for very little money.

My stock of GROCERIES is complete Fresh and desirable, and not excelled by any house in the state for PRICES, QUALITY OR QUANTITY. The largest and most complete stock of CROCKERY, GLASS, and YELLOW WARE. A choice assortment of CHINA TEA SETS, MOTTIE AND MUSTACHE CUPS. REAL BOHEMIAN VASES. And a complete stock of PLATED WARE. Latest designs and best make in the country. JUST RECEIVED. EGG JUMBLES, COCONUT CAKE, PLAIN AND FANCY CANDIES Also a great reduction in COFFEES AND SUGAR. Also, a great variety of WOOD AND WILLOW WARE. All of which I will respectfully offer for your inspection and purchase. Yours truly, E. S. LARSEN, Astoria, Oregon, Dec. 17, 1878.

WILLIAM EDGAR, Corner Main and Chenamus Streets, ASTORIA, OREGON. DEALER IN CIGARS AND TOBACCO, AND THE GENUINE WOSTENHOLM and other English Cutlery.

STATIONERY! FAIRCHILD'S GOLD PENS! Genuine Meershaum Pipes, etc. A fine stock of Watches and Jewelry, Muzzle and Breach Loading Shot Guns, Revolvers, Pistols, Parlor Rifles, and Ammunition.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Washington Market, Main Street, Astoria Oregon, BERGMAN & BERRY. RESPECTFULLY CALL THE ATTENTION of the public to the fact that the above Market will always be supplied with a FULL VARIETY BEST QUALITY FRESH AND CURED MEATS! Which will be sold at lowest rates, wholesale and retail. Special attention given to supplying shins.

D. K. WARREN, C. A. MCGUIRE Astoria Market! Corner of Chenamus and Cass streets. ASTORIA, OREGON. WARREN & MCGUIRE, Proprietors (Successors to Hobson & Warren). Wholesale and Retail Dealers in all kinds of Fresh and Cured Meats! A full line of Family Groceries, CANNED FRUIT, VEGETABLES, ETC. Butter, Eggs, Cheese, etc. constantly on hand. Ships supplied at the lowest rates.

IT IS A POSITIVE TRUTH That housekeepers can do better by dealing with J. K. WIRT, on Main street, as he keeps the best of FRUITS, CANDIES, NUTS, LIQUORS AND CIGARS, SMOKED SALMON, BOLOGNE SAUSAGE, JERKED ELK MEAT, And also from Clatsop every other day FRESH BUTTER, EGGS, CHEESE, CLAMS, DUCKS, CHICKENS, And everything that is needed in the cooking line at the lowest living prices. Call and examine before purchasing elsewhere. J. K. WIRT.

Arndt & Ferchen. THE BEST BLACKSMITH AND Machine Shop. In the city. All kinds of Engine, Cannery and Steamboat Work promptly attended to.

GEORGE MACLEAN, BLACKSMITH. Water Street Roadway. Near Hume's Cannery, Astoria, Oregon. Horseshoeing and all kinds of Blacksmithing done to order. Satisfaction guaranteed. ALL SHIP AND ENGINE WORK A SPECIALTY.

E. S. MERRILL & CO., Blacksmiths and Machinists. Capt. ROGERS' OLD STAND Near Express Office, ASTORIA, OREGON. All work in our line, heavy or light, done with neatness and dispatch. Horseshoeing, Waggon and Farm WORK A SPECIALTY.

HAVING SECURED THE SERVICES OF Mr. S. A. Gaines of Ky., an experienced Farrier of 25 years in the business, and well known to Astoria horsemen, we are prepared to do shoeing in a manner to cure lameness or prevent it in horses entrusted to our care. All work warranted and at reasonable rates. A GIRL WANTED.—To do general housework in a small family. Address: P. O. BOX 75, Astoria, Oregon.

Astoria Steam Laundry. J. T. BORCHERS, Proprietor. Astoria, Oregon. No rubbing or scrubbing, and no thrashing your clothes too pieces. Buttons sewed on and clothes mended. Neat work at reasonable prices. Give us a call.

T. S. JEWETT, B. S. KIMBALL, Draying & Trucking. ASTORIA TRUCK & DRAY CO., Squemoqua st., between Cass and Main. Contracts for draying made and satisfaction guaranteed. Orders left at the Clerk's office or received by mail promptly filled. JEWETT & KIMBALL.

C. J. SMITH, (IN THE ASTORIAN BUILDING) HAS JUST RECEIVED A LOT OF NEW goods, consisting of MEN'S AND BOYS

CALF AND KIP BOOTS Buckie and Congress Gaiters, Women, Misses and Children's BUTTON BOOTS. Which will be sold at the very lowest prices.

J. H. D. GRAY, Wholesale and retail dealer in OYSTERS, by the SACK, Hay, Oats, Straw, Wood, Etc. General storage and Wharfage on reasonable terms.