

An Iron Rod for Bismarck.

It has now become a fashion, and by no means a bad one, says the Glasgow Herald of January 13th, for the admirers of eminent men to present them on a far advanced anniversary of their birth with something supposed to be specially appropriate. What should be given to Prince Bismarck on the 1st of April? If we were to judge from the kind of reception given to nearly all his recent actions, the measure to repress socialism, his declaration against tariffs, and last and worst, his bill to put down parliamentary freedom of speech, we should say that a rod made of iron would be most suitable for the day and man. Have we, after all, been mistaken in the chancellor, and has he been born under the same star as most men who have entered the world on the 1st of April?

Let us Have Light.

The National Marine bank, of Oswego, an undoubtedly solvent institution in consequence of the low rates of interest which rules at the present time and heavy taxes paid to the general government and otherwise, has by a vote of its stockholders decided to close business and surrender its charter. This single fact is conclusive testimony against the theory that National banks are sources of unlimited profit to those who hold stock therein. It is not to be presumed if the managers of the Oswego institution were in the receipt of double interest as is frequently claimed, they would surrender privileges securing them greater returns than could be obtained from other investments.

The Chinese Bill.

A Washington dispatch of the 22d, of the Standard, says the president and secretary of state are extremely reticent on the Chinese question; but it is believed by many that the bill would have been signed but for the senate amendment requiring the president to give notice to the Chinese government of the abrogation of article five and six of the treaty. It is held that by this notice we would surrender all rights of protection for Americans traveling or trading in China, and release her from any obligation, even not to enslave our citizens.

Our Washington Letter.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—One can imagine old "Boreas" chuckling to himself and with a long drawn icy breath saying: "Well, I've given them a taste of winter now." So he has, for the "polar wave," as we designate cold weather here, has passed quite across this continent; from late accounts has swept over the eastern also.

WEATHER BUREAU.

An old gentleman said the other day, and with some truth too, "we never had such sudden and severe changes, until this 'pesky' weather bureau was organized; I don't see the good of it at all." Indeed, landmen are indifferent, while the poor mariner at sea is none the wiser or better off for the weather reports. Alas, while weather bureau has been signaling with great energy, how many shipwrecks are we compelled to read of during the past three months.

SAILORS.

A noble set of brave fellows, with big hearts as well as hands, ever ready to help the unfortunate, even to the detriment of himself and the depletion of his purse. That God will prosper the efforts of those who are actively engaged in the "Seaman's Friend Society," which will meet the sailor upon his arrival in port, give to him his aid, protection, and comfort, is a prayer which rises from the hearts of the sailors' friend, but from none more earnestly and beseechingly than from the "sailors' God." Ah! had she not the "sailors' God" to entreat for her loved and precious child, tossing on the sea, far from her and home; her life would be one of entire wretchedness, instead of a hopeful, watching and waiting to clasp her heart the stalwart, manly form, in whose bronze face she sees the familiar smile, but looking

very unlike the thin fair browed lad who sailed away from her months and months since.

THE HOLIDAYS.

The busy hum of their approach was in our ears for weeks before they were actually upon us. Uncle Sam, not to be outdone by other uncles, was most kind to his employees, paying off five days ahead of time, ordering abstinence from office duty, except for two hours daily during holiday week. Of course the entire day of 25th of December and 1st of January. To the young, is there more perfect happiness found during the year than at Christmas tide? But alas, as the years flit by, shadows of the past come creeping up to obscure and dim the present,—but in the desire and effort to make these days of happiness to her precious children, the motherhood of the civilized world finds placid and calm enjoyment; not so very placid either, in practice, for mama is ruffled much in her effort to make one dollar do for five, if her purse be slim. And on the other hand, all her wit and wisdom is brought into the effort to make acceptable and new, gifts to those who have become cloyed with excess. The mama with the full purse is not placid either. How many mothers will travel in memory, back to the times when on the early Christmas eve, the youngsters well tucked into their "trundle bed" sung, with the admonition, to "shut-eyes, go to sleep, quick," so Santa Clause may come on his way to the homes of all good children. She sees the little "stockings hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there," she hears again in the grey dawn of the morning, the rush and patter of bare feet, sees the clattering, shivering crew as they gaily seize upon their full stockings and scamper back to their warm bed to examine their treasures. And if later, any of those feet have traveled the road that leads to death, God pity and help her. The loss of a child's faith in "Santa Claus" is a great pleasure of his life dropped out.

"THE GERMAN TREE" has invaded the land, taken the place of the "stocking," "chimney," "Santa Claus," now we have "the tree," "Chris Cringle," and the "Register!" Poor, indeed, the household which sets not up its "tree," but true to the American spirit to overdo, and out do, those we try to imitate, in place of the graceful little "German tree," we drag into our parlors, schoolrooms, and even into our churches, a tree whose top is often topped off that it may enter. After the tree is shorn of its fruit, we no longer value it and it comes to ignominious end on the ash heap; while the German tree, small, but shapely, is ornamented not only with gifts, but with many beautiful devices, such as mottoes, appropriate to the season, in golden or silver letters, on bright hued ribbon, which is thrown gracefully over the branches, and remains in the drawing room to be viewed and admired by visitors for weeks. Washington exhibited her share, beginning as early as the 23d, with a

"KINDERGARTEN FESTIVAL," at which tiny people recited in English and German; with one little gem, one could almost dignify by the name of the "Opera of the Seasons." In which the four seasons were represented in costume appropriate to each. The child singing sweet little airs about his season in a very charming manner; after this came the distribution of gifts from the tree, but in this case reversing the usual order, the children were the donors, and the parent the beneficiary, the gift in every case the child's own work, from boys as well as girls; as their names were called would advance with their faces wreathed in smiles, receive the article, card case picture frame, book mark, court plasters, handkerchief cases, tiny baskets, mats, drawings etc., etc., rush away among the expectant mamas and papas, drop the little love offering, receive a warm embrace then dart back to their seats to look on at the others. It was truly a charming little affair, so simple and free from any grand attempt at display. At the end a package was brought from underneath the tree directed to the teachers, as a gift from their pupils, great surprise and pleasure on the teachers part, great glee and satisfaction on the pupils, when a large fine photograph album was disclosed.

A word in favor of this lovely system of instruction for little people. There is something so gentle and so beautiful and modest, with a reverent love of God, and his works, which commends the system to intelligent people at once. Froebel the author asks mothers to begin with her infant at three months, and thus as the child advances in years through systematic plays and occupations, educate and develop the child's physical intellectual and moral nature. Their school room looks very bright and inviting, with the rows of tiny chairs and desks, occupying but a portion of the school house, for a good Kindergartner knows how irksome to these little creatures sitting still is; they ring the changes on their amusements as they term their methods of instruction and diversion; that the child may never weary with sameness, especially his Natural History taught thus. One of the amusements is called "pricking," the child is given the outline of some bird, animal or reptile on paper, which is placed on a tiny mat or rather cushion, on his desk, then with a sharp steel point inserted in a wooden handle the child pricks little holes, following the outlines on the paper; soon he has quite a pretty picture, then comes a little lecture on this picture, or rather the animal their picture represents, telling of its formation, habits, haunts, etc., thus with the animal actually before him on paper, the child listens with interest and stores up his lesson. Another and very favorite amusement is "claying," when each child's hand is slipped on an apron kept at school for this purpose, then with clay and water, moulds various articles, from a crazy tryping pan with a stick handle, to quite a shapely looking plum or apple, "vive mud pies." Another is weaving strips of bright and gilt paper, over (w) and under one, when soon under their nimble little fingers grow pretty mats, cornucopias, etc. "Only the little ones weave," an ancient gentleman of six summers informed me, when I asked him to replenish mine, made the year before. As the children advance in years, books are given them, regular lessons learned and recited, with drawing and instrumental music, also German is taught four days in the week, without extra charge. Terms are reasonable when one considers the expense of the appli-

ances and material used in this system, \$8 to 12 for term of ten weeks, with 50 cents additional for use of Kindergarten material. There are two real Kindergarten schools in the city, one taught by Mrs. Pollock on 8th street, and Misses Pollock and Noerr's on 13th street. Miss Susie Pollock, of the last named, is a graduate of the Normal Kindergarten seminary of Berlin, and instructs a normal class here. The schools are well patronized by the leading people here, and especially are these schools a "God send," I may say with perfect propriety, to those government clerks who are mothers of young children; she can go to her work with a mind at ease about her little one, feeling sure, when with his Kindergartners he is not only well and happy, but is learning something that will be of real value his life long. May the time soon arrive when this admirable system will be introduced into our public schools, that the masses may profit by what only reaches a few. A well educated teacher may graduate after one year's faithful study and practice as a Kindergartner. More anon. MOLLIE O.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Special Auction Sale

—ON— THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27th,

I am instructed to sell at the residence of the late George Duncan, Esq., near the O. S. N. Co.'s Dock,

- One Handsome Parlor Set; Black Walnut French Inlaid Marble Top Bed-room Sets; Dining-room Furniture; One China Dessert Service, Eighteen Pieces; One Black Walnut, French Inlaid, Hat-rack, with Mirror, and Marble Top Base. Very Handsome; Brussels and Tapestry Carpets, Stair Carpets, Hall Oil Cloth, Chairs, Rockers, What- nois, Lounges, Mirrors, White Blankets and Bed-spreads, Spring Mattresses, Engravings, Paintings, etc., etc.

ALSO: One First-Class Hallett & Davis BOSTON.

SQUARE GRAND PIANO, COST \$600 00.

Will be sold, without reserve, to the highest bidder. Sale to commence at half past 10 A. M. E. C. HOLDEN, Auctioneer.

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The A 1 SCHOONER HERA, MONSON, MASTER

Having most of her cargo on board, will sail as above on or about MARCH 1st, 1879.

For freight or passage apply to G. W. HUME, Cor. of Water and Olney street, Astoria.

MISS L. L. ALLEN, (Late of California). Offers her services to the people of Astoria and vicinity as a teacher of

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DEGS LEAVE TO INFORM THE PUBLIC that he is now prepared to make all kinds of clothing to order, or to renovate or repair clothing. Having had an experience of 25 years, I defy competition in the art of making old clothes look like new. My system is known only to myself, by which I can lengthen pantaloons without piecing, etc. For particulars see small cards. THOMAS CURRY, Tailor, steam-scourer and Repairer.

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Prescriptions filled with care Day or Night.

Manufacturer of Fishermen's Relief. A sure preventative of Chapped Hands, and cure for Fish Wounds.

OLD PAPERS.—We have a valuable lot of old papers on hand, just the thing for making scrap-books, or what housewives need for shelf covers. Will be sold in lots to suit purchasers at 50 cents per 100. First come, first served. ASTORIAN OFFICE.

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RECEPTION POCKETS; LADIES' DIARIES AND PURSES COMBINED; CUMB AND BRUSH POCKETS; CUTLERY, JEWELRY, CHARMS, ETC., ETC.; LADIES' FANCY BOARD, ETC.; GOLD PENS AND PENCILS; PAINT PENCILS, GULLA PERCHA GOODS; EXCELSIOR DIARIES, BLANK BOOKS, STATIONERY, ETC.

All goods sold at lowest cash prices. CHAS. STEVENS & SON.

City Book Store on Main street, two doors from the Pioneer Restaurant, opposite the bakery of Mrs. C. Binder.

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A FULL ASSORTMENT WHICH WILL BE SOLD AT THE

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Specialties—Chronic Diseases, Acute and Chronic Skin Diseases.

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CLEANING AND REPAIRING PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO. Benton street, opposite Post-office, Astoria.

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OYSTERS, by the SACK, Hay, Oats, Straw, Wood, Etc.

General storage and Wharfage on reasonable Terms.

ASTORIA CANDY FACTORY

AND OYSTER SALOON. HAVING ENLARGED MY STORE

have now on hand the largest and best assortment of plain and French candies in town, also, all kinds of

CAKES, CRACKERS AND BISCUITS. All of which I offer for sale at the lowest cash price, wholesale and retail at

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Fresh Eastern and Shellwater bay oysters served in every style.

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The public are invited to visit and leave their orders. Splendid Lager 5 cents a glass. Free Lunch every night. WM. BOCK & Co., Proprietors.

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The only Billiard Room in the city where no liquors are sold.

NEW TABLE JUST PUT UP. GEORGE ROSS has a cozy place and keeps on hand the best brand of Cigars. Also, soda, candy, nuts, etc. Opposite Altona Chop House. 95-11 GEO. ROSS, Proprietor.

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Best quality of LAGER BEER 5 cts. per glass "Choice Wines, Liquors, and Cigars always on hand.

The patronage of the public is respectfully solicited. Orders for Lager or Bottled Beer in any quantity promptly filled.

The best lunch the season will afford furnished day and night FREE.

Fishermen's Meeting.

PURSUANT TO A RESOLUTION passed at a meeting of Columbia river fishermen, held in this city on Monday evening last, a meeting will be held in Astoria on

TUESDAY, MARCH 4th, AT LIBERTY HALL. To make arrangements to oppose the license law passed at the last legislature, and all fishermen on the river are cordially invited to be present. By order of the meeting. J. G. ROBESON, B. A. SEABORG, Committee. Astoria, Oregon, Feb. 12, 1879. dawid

A RARE CHANCE.

I WILL SELL ANY OR ALL OF THE following described property, viz: 160 Acres, Sec. 22, T. 8, N. of R. 9 west, southeast quarter. Also, in Olneys Astoria Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, in Block 79; Lots 3, 4, 5, and 6, in Block 160; Lots 2 and 4, in Block 120; and Lot in Block 132; North half of Block 8—2 1/2 acres. DAVID INGALLS. Astoria, Oregon, Dec 1878.