

# The Daily Astorian.

Vol. IX.

Astoria, Oregon, Saturday Morning, June 28, 1879.

No. 51.

## TELEGRAPHIC.

### PACIFIC COAST NEWS.

#### A Heavy Fish.

VICTORIA, June 27.—A salmon that weighed 98 pounds when caught has been received here from the Skeena river fishery by Mr. Turner, mayor of Victoria. Its length is five feet eleven inches from nose to tail. It is said to be the largest salmon ever caught.

#### Fish Net Found.

A fishery net has been picked up in Fuca Strait. Entangled in its meshes were two porpoises and twenty or thirty salmon, all dead. It is supposed to have been lost from a fishing boat off the Columbia river bar.

#### Pinafore Once More.

EDITOR ASTORIAN:

Reading your comments on the wreck of "Pinafore" in San Francisco, and the comments of your Washington correspondent concerning it in that quarter, I am tempted to offer a few remarks, having witnessed the Operatta while in Boston last April. The opera is satirical—its shafts aimed at many follies and absurdities. Of the latter the hits at the Grand Opera are delightful. For instance, Little Buttercup tells us that she "mixed those children up." A strangely familiar catastrophe, that seems. Can it be that the witty satirist had in his mind the tragic Azucena in Trovatore, and the way she mixed up her hapless charges? She intends, in direct revenge, to burn up the Count's child, but by some mistake she precipitates her own infant into the flames. What a mixing up was there! Still whoever thinks of the absurdity while he is thrilled with the strains of Stride la vampa. The quasi-tragic instrumentation accompanying the duet between Buttercup and the Captain is another instance in point. The Captain's famous admission, "hardly ever," and his question, "Why is everything either at sixes or at sevens?" make us friends with him at once. "One touch of nature makes the world kin"—and there is much nature in both of these speeches. Who has not asked the Captain's question in one form or another? Hamlet exclaims bitterly, "The time is out of joint," it is the same song in another key. Sir Joseph Porter is delightful. If the self-made man will gaze at the mirror held up to nature, by the Admiral, he will get a glimpse at a failing of his own—namely, an overweening pride in his own creation. He glories in telling how, from the office boy, he rose to the top of the tree. One stanza deserves special mention.

"I grew so rich that I was sent By a pocket borough into Parliament, I always voted at my party's call And I never thought of thinking for myself at all. I thought so little they rewarded me By making me the Ruler of the Queen's Navée."

Being sent into Parliament appears to be the sequence of the riches. The stanza, however, needs no further comment—it is worthy of a modern Juvenal. A large class of liberals, who always manage to keep their own aristocratic privileges intact, might take a lesson from Sir Joseph. "The British tar is any man's equal excepting mine." He will not marry Josephine after her decline in rank. It is no use to remind him of his official statement that "Love levels all ranks." He replies: "It does—to a certain extent, only—not so much as that."

Some one remarks that Dick Deadeye is shown up as a villain, because he is the only one on board who has any common sense. If the poor fellow remarks that it's a queer world; it is shuddered at as a revolutionary sentiment. His only villainous deed is betraying the lovers. The duet with the Captain, in which Dick

announces that the lovers are about to "fly," is as fine a bit of satire of Grand Opera as the piece contains. Ralph and Josephine are going "immediate," yet there seems to be plenty of time for the refrain, "Sing, hey, the merry maiden and the jolly tar," and also to repeat the whole "business" of the scene, if we clap long enough. Ralph and his lady are not quite the peers of the piquant company in which we find them. Or is it that the lovers are so absurd *per se*, that their antics on this particular occasion are less noticeable? What an obliging crowd the chorus are! How invariably they sympathize with the last speaker? Similar-minded choruses are not known in serious opera. The grand finale, "O joy, O, rapture unforeseen; for now the sky is all serene," follows the model of all light operas. It is imperative that all operas should come out all serene—or that every thing should be direfully at sixes and at sevens.

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