The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

FRIDAY.....FEB. 11, 1881

D. C. IRELAND.....Editor.

Rain Storms and Floods in Oregon.

Owing to the geographical position of Astoria, at the mouth of the great main artery which empties into the mighty deep itself, all that it receives from the numerous lesser rivers and streams which drain millions of acres of mountain and valley lands, to the north, east and south of us, we are peculiarly exempt from, and can form but a faint idea of, the mingled gloom, terror and sublimity of the impetous current and wild eddies of yellow and stormy floods which roar along the interior river channels, pile them full to the very brink and often with cruel and relentless force break through every barrier, submerging alike the cultivated lands of the rich farmer and the poor settler, for nature is "no respecter of persons."

So far this has been a very remarkable season of heavy rains and consequent high water, such as has not been known for many years, and may not be seen again by the present generation. And though our latest advices from the upper country are to the effect that the water is slowly receding, we are by no means sure that it has reached its limit.

The accumulations of snow in the mountain ravines must have been enormous, the warm rains have not yet commenced in the higher altitudes where snow falls till late spring time. With the melting of the snow every stream and rivulet tributary to the Columbia river will likely be brought to the condition of a raging torrent and possibly it will then rise higher than it has done for years.

It is impossible to estimate the loss which the storm and flood has already inflicted upon the agricultural and other interests of the state. Overflowed grain fields, ruined orchards, and drowned cattle, sheep and hogs, are a kind of losses rather difficult to figure upon until the waters subside. Nor is the injury already done by the storms confined to agricultural losses. Railroads have suffered extensively. Sections of the track have been swept away or overwhelmed by land slides. Bridges and culverts in many places are gone. Telegraph wires are prostrated and tangled up all over the country in inextricable confusion. But it is to the toilers, the tillers of the soil, our sympathies should be extended. Their individual losses may not be more than a few hundred thousand dollars, but it will mean the all of many an honest and industrious citizen.

Milk as Food.

American Exchange.

Unadulterated, undiluted, unskimmed, and properly treated milk, taken from a healthy cow in a good condition, and produced by the consumption of healthy and nutritious grasses and other kinds of food, contains within itself, in proper proportions, all the elements necessary to sustain human life through a considerable period of time. Scarcely any other single article of food will do this. When we eat bread and drink milk we eat bread, butter and cheese and drink water—all of them in the best combination and condition to nourish the human system. All things considered, good milk is the cheapest kind of food we have, for three pints of it, weighing 3¼ pounds and costing 9 cents, contain as much nutriment as one pound of beef, which costs 18 cents. There is no loss in cooking milk, as there is in beef, and there is no bone in it that cannot be eaten; it is simple, palatable, nutritious, healthful, cheap and always ready for use, with or without preparation.

A Norriston youth who was trying to master a bicycle, when asked his age, said he had been fifteen summers and about one hundred and fifteen falls.

What is to Come.

The press of the country seems bent upon certain parts of astronomical destruction this year. The Bulletin of the 31st, for instance, thus calls attention to what is to come:

The present year is a remarkable one in an astronomical sense. It is full of extraordinary astronomical phenomena, the appearance of which has been long anticipated and the subject of varied predictions. The planetary relations this year are interesting and important, as they will set at rest many theories concerning the influence of the various members of the solar system on one another. The planetary phenomena consist of unusual conjunctions during that period when these heavenly bodies are in perihelion—namely, at that point in their orbits nearest the sun. Some astronomers hold that the planetary phenomena of the present year have not occurred before in the world's history since the Mosaic creation. Some of the planets have already passed the point nearest the sun; others have yet to reach it. For instance, the giant planet Jupiter was in perihelion on the 25th of last September. The ringed planet Saturn was in perihelion a month earlier, namely, on the 20th of last August. The Earth was in perihelion on New Year's day. Mars will be in perihelion on the 26th of May next. Venus, which is at present such a beautiful object in the evening sky, owing to its brilliancy and close relationship to the planets Jupiter and Saturn and the silvery crescent of the young moon, will be in perihelion on the 6th of March, and then again on the 16th of October. The little planet Mercury, which completes his revolution around the Sun every eighty-eight days, will be in perihelion four times during the year, namely, February 21st, May 20th, August 16th and November 12th. Mars is in perihelion on the 26th of May. The two outside planets, Uranus and Neptune, will not be in perihelion until next year, that of Uranus occurring March 25, 1882, and Neptune, October 23, 1882. The presence of the intra-mercurial planet Vulcan, which was about a year or two ago reported discovered is yet so uncertain that its orbit has not been determined, and if it exists, its periods of perihelion cannot be determined. But the most remarkable features of the planetary phenomena are the frequency and multiplicity of conjunctions; that is, when they are in the same part of the heavens—in the same longitude or right ascension. And what causes some timid people considerable alarm is the fact that the greater number of the planets will at one time this year be in superior conjunction, that is, on the side of the sun most distant from the earth, and that at a period when they will be in perihelion or nearly so. There is not a month in the year but what two or more of the planets are in conjunction. But the most noteworthy of these planetary relations will occur in the months of July, August and November. On or about the 17th or 19th of July, most of the planets will be in the zodiacal sign of Taurus and almost in conjunction, with the Earth in the sign Aquarius. The planet Uranus will be the only one excepting the earth which will not at that period be in Taurus.

Strange phenomena are predicted in some quarters from this unusual relationship, as the attraction of all the planets excepting Uranus, will be on one side of the solar orb while that of the Earth will be on the other. On the 11th of August, Neptune, Jupiter and Mercury will be in conjunction, and Venus and Mars will also be in the same condition. On the 7th of September, there will be another double conjunction, namely, that of Neptune and Jupiter, and Saturn and Mars. But in the early part of November all of the planets will be on one side of the Sun. Neptune, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Earth and Mercury will be emerging from the sign Taurus and entering Gaminii. Venus and Uranus will be at the same time in Virgo. On the 7th of that month the planets Mercury, Earth and Neptune will be in inferior conjunction, and the planets Venus and Uranus in longitudinal line.

Another astronomical phenomenon of the present year has a direct relationship with the great Pyramid of Egypt, which, whatever other significance belongs to it, is pretty generally conceded to have been erected for astronomical observation. There are some pyramidal enthusiasts who go much further than this, and attribute an inspirational origin and prophetic meaning to all the lines, measurements and configurations of that remarkable structure. Some notable Egyptologists and astronomers figure in the list of adherents to such a belief. Among the latter is Piazzi Smyth, Astronomer Royal for Scotland, whose works on Our Inheritance in the Great Pyramid is familiar to most readers of Astronomy. But one of the most notable astronomical events which the Great Pyramid commemorates and which will this year be repeated will be the appearance of the star a Draconis in a line with the Great Gallery or entrance passage of the ancient structure. Such an advent has not transpired since the completion of the Great Pyramid which is computed to have occurred in 2,170, B. C. When that particular star reaches the position mentioned, it is further maintained that the celestial dial will have completed a cycle of over 25,000 years, or, in other words, the heavenly bodies will have resumed the position they were in at that remote period. Accompanying the chronicling of this particular phenomenon are various visionary predictions in which Piazzi Smyth and others indulge, such as important physical terrestrial changes, unusual atmospherical phenomena, and new phrases in religious beliefs. Possibly the words of the Roman Governor Festus to the Apostle Paul, namely, "that much learning doth make thee mad," may be applicable to them. But this fact is certain, neither the present nor many generations to come will witness as many wonderful astronomical phenomena ars are crowded into the present year.

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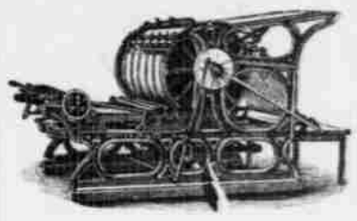
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