

The Daily Astorian.
ASTORIA, OREGON:
TUESDAY.....FEB. 15, 1881
J. C. IRELAND.....Editor.

The South American Trouble.

Lima surrendered to the Chileans on the 17th ult., after a severe battle, and its fall was promptly followed by the capture of Callao. The Peruvian cause is now hopeless, although a guerilla warfare might long be maintained in the mountains. Defeat has followed defeat in quick succession ever since the Chileans captured the iron-clad Huascar, in the autumn of 1879. The struggle which has brought on Peru all the devastations of a war in a merciless spirit originated in a breach of the treaty made between Chile and Bolivia some years ago, by which the first was guaranteed certain mining and guano privileges in a territory lying along the geographical boundaries of the two countries. In consequence of these privileges Chilean merchants and capitalists organized effective measures for the development of the resources of the territory in which the mines and guano were deposited. From that time the towns of Antofagasta, Mejillones and Caracolas assumed considerable importance, and the success of the Chilean merchants seems at first to have been favorably regarded by the government of Bolivia. Later, however, upon the plea that certain contracts had been fulfilled by them, the Bolivian congress imposed an export duty on the nitrates of the district of Atacama, where the mines are located. This action was in direct contravention to the treaty, which guaranteed that there should be no augmentation of the export duties for twenty-five years. Chili remonstrated, and as no satisfaction was immediately given, she sent an ultimatum to Bolivia and followed it up by taking armed possession of Antofagasta and the whole district of Atacama. This act of hostility was met with a declaration of war from Bolivia in February, 1879. A secret treaty between Bolivia and Peru involved the latter republic in the quarrel, despite the earnest efforts of her diplomatic representative in Chili, and of her President, Senor Prado, who vainly apologized by stating that the treaty was the work of a former government that had been repudiated by his country. On the 6th of April war was declared against Peru. The early days of the struggle were characterized by the burning of seaport towns belonging to Peru, and by marine engagements in which fortune alternated between the two republics until the capture of the Huascar and the death of her brave commander, Miguel Grau. Thenceforward Chili has been uniformly successful in every engagement. Her army has distinguished itself for the gallantry it has displayed, as well as by the skill with which it has been managed. The Peruvian and Bolivian forces were driven irresistibly before it. Pisco, Larapaca, and the supposed invulnerable town of Arica in turn were captured. The attack on Lima was projected some time ago. The victorious army was commanded by General Boquedano. We hope that the United States government will again proffer its mediation in the interest of humanity, for any prolongation of the war would be a crime against modern civilization.

Among other prominent names mentioned in connection with the speakership of the next house is that of Hon. John A. Kasson, of Iowa. As second man in the contest, the New York Times correspondent says his name has been very much more widely advertised than any of his competitors. He has served with great distinction in congress; was, in fact, by many regarded as the leader of the house. That he was one of the most clear-cut, incisive, and quick-witted speakers who ever sat in it there can be no doubt.

Senatorial Separation.

Not sadder than the separation by death of a Darby and Joan, who have climbed life's hill together, will be the parting of two rugged old cronies of the United States senate, who, though belonging to widely different political schools, yet were held in friendly relations by hooks of steel. The David and Jonathan of the bible were not divided in their deaths, but in our day and generation Thurman is taken and Edmunds is left. Both Edmunds and Thurman have been regarded on all sides as great constitutional lawyers. They have been drawn together oddly enough, and in leaving the senate Thurman's greatest regret may be that it forces him from the fellowship of Edmunds, while among those who stay and those who come afresh, the green mountaineer will look in vain for so comfortable a crony as the gentleman from Ohio. The picture which Howard Carroll draws of the grave tricks and solemn manners of these two old souls when athirst for the near companionship of one another and the jug is so neat as to justify reproduction at length:

The two senators almost invariably take in company that refreshment and little stimulant which they may find necessary during a long and tiresome session. On such occasions their movements are quite as eccentric as they are amusing, and to the initiated, well understood. When the opportunity offers or the spirit moves, one or the other of them—it is sometimes one and then the other—will solemnly and slowly rise in his place and look slyly and significantly toward his brother senator. Then the latter will in a moment be seen also to rise in his place. Then they go out of the chamber, always from different doors, and always solemnly and slowly. In the same manner they go, by different stairways, down to their committee-room. There they meet, enter together, and the door is closed upon the outside world. What they do upon the inside can only be surmised, but it is noticeable that when they have been so closeted for a few moments they invariably return to the senate chamber looking very much refreshed and strengthened. Sometimes one returns before the other. At such times, if it happens that a vote be in progress, and Edmunds being absent, Thurman's name is called, that gentleman, with the utmost gravity, though a close observer may notice a sly twitch in his eye, always replies: "Upon this question, Mr. President, I am paired with my honored friend, the senator from Vermont. If he were present he would vote no—I should vote yes." Exactly in the same fashion, if the great republican senator be the first in the chamber and Mr. Thurman is absent during roll-call, the tall, straight form of the latter may be seen slowly rising, and there comes in deep tones from the close-cut and scarcely moving lips, the words: "Upon that question, Mr. President, I am paired with my honored friend, the senator from Ohio, if he were present he would vote yes—I should vote no." "Then, slowly the senator from Vermont takes his seat, and shortly after, when his honored friend, the senator from Ohio, is again in his place, and has used his now historical banana handkerchief, they exchange glances and go back to work."

This picture would be pleasant even to a howling teetotaler if he could be brought to recognize the frailty of poor human nature.

George Eliot is called by the Athenæum probably the most accomplished woman the century has seen. She had a complete mastery of French, German and Italian, and serviceable knowledge of Latin, Greek, Spanish and Hebrew. She was widely learned in science and philosophy, and deeply read in history; and she had an intimate knowledge of music and painting.

Opium is smuggled into the Sandwich islands in tin cans labeled Boston baked beans. Another method of introducing the prohibited article is to bore cedar fence posts and pack the holes with it. The Chinese are adepts in this kind of trickery, and they clandestinely peddle large quantities of opium and rum among the natives.

The Colorado farmers are in serious quandary. They have grown more wheat than there is market for, and the transportation tolls to market places are said to be so great that they cannot afford to send the surplus away.

The value of punctuation was never more forcibly illustrated than in the case of an apology which was made in parliament years ago by an Irish member, who, addressing the speaker, said: "I called him a liar, it is true, and I am sorry for it." This careless clerk punctuated in such a manner that it read as a reaffirmation, thus: "I called him a liar; it is true, and I am sorry for it."

The democrats have been alleging that there was great abuse of the franking privilege during the late presidential campaign. Hon. Marshal Jewell, who was before the house select committee the other day, testified directly to the contrary, saying that the republican national committee used no franks whatever, but, on the contrary, expended in New York city \$10,000 for postage and \$4,000 for expressage on political correspondence and documents which they distributed.

The senate committee on privileges and elections are still hunting for the individual who gave away the Chinese treaty. After the employees are examined, senators will be called upon to tell what they know, and if nothing is ascertained from them—which is quite probable—correspondents will be investigated. Mr. Hayes says he long since learned to remain placid over the "giving away" of important state secrets, satisfied that no remedy was at hand to prevent it or to ferret out the offenders. The senate committee had better follow in his footsteps and employ their valuable time in attending to matters of far more importance to the country than the question as to who stole the Chinese treaty.

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Astoria, Feb. 14th, 1881.

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