

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON: SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1881. D. C. IRELAND, Editor.

New York Letters.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW YORK, March 19.—This is the third day in New York, and though the weather has been as pleasant as could be desired; the first time in the history of the city, it is said, when it did not pour down rain drops on St. Patrick's day;—we find it necessary to start west without seeing many persons whom we desired to see, some upon important matters; A. F. Spaw, esq., for instance. To a stranger it is difficult getting about New York, but once acquainted with the various routes of travel and it is a very easy matter. We will illustrate: Last evening was set for a visit to the theater in company with two friends in Brooklyn. Madison Square, New York, was decided upon, the play, "Hazel Kirke." Took car at 6:30; Myrtle avenue for Fulton ferry, crossed the ferry and took the Elevated Railway about a block above the ferry on New York side, for Chatham square, changed cars, got off at 23d street, crossed Madison square to 5th avenue hotel, and theatre, reaching our seats at least twenty minutes before the play began;—and right here is where the laugh came in upon "Our American Cousin" from Astoria, who stood amazed at the idea of going eight miles or so, from Myrtle avenue to 24th street, to a theatre, and not ready to leave the starting point till after seven o'clock,—was something we were not used to, but soon learned that it can be done successfully. We will not attempt to describe the play, nor Madison square theatre, in this letter, suffice it to say that "Hazel Kirke" has far surpassed, in the number of its consecutive presentations in New York city, any similar play ever produced in America. It was presented at Madison square theatre for the first time on the 4th of February, last year—its continued run since then, and its unabated popularity is convincing evidence of its unprecedented success. Of the theatre, it is certainly the most beautiful in the world, warmed and ventilated by mechanical means, double stage, the most exquisite stage scenes and decorations; seats all commodious and accessible. The orchestra is grand, and instead of being placed in front of the stage, as in all other theatres we have ever visited, is here situated above the proscenium arch. The overture was given at 8:15 in consequence of the double stage, one above another, worked on elevator principles, avoiding all tedious waiting between acts. At eleven o'clock we left the theatre, and for a change took a Broadway bus, prepared to say that New York does most assuredly discount Washington in the matter of theatres;—to morrow we will see how Brooklyn churches will compare with St. Matthews, St. Augustine, and other churches at which we attended while in the national capital.

NEW YORK, March 19.—Col. Cook Talcott, the worthy and efficient chief engineer of the Astoria and Winnemucca railway has been very kind to us. During our stay at the Astor he has been a frequent and most welcome visitor. We feel under obligation to him for introductions to several prominent gentlemen, Mr. Bingham, one of Mr. Jay Gould's attorneys, Mr. Schenck, Gen. E. W. Serrell, and many others, gentlemen with whom it is a pleasure to mingle. Gen. Serrell is the officer who in war times surprised Charleston with the "Swamp Angel," famous in annals of the late war to preserve the nation, he has a daughter living in Walla-walla (Mrs. Lieut. Wainwright), with whom Mrs. Gen. Serrell is spending the winter. And also a grand-

daughter there whom he has not seen but of whom he is very fond indeed. Besides taking a lively interest in engineering Gen. Serrell finds time to elaborate upon the local industries of the nation and has just established at Greenwich, Washington county, New York, the Terra fabric mills, for the manufacture of Turkish towels and similar goods, known to the trade as Terry fabrics from the rough surfaces, a new industry comparatively in this country. Over 300,000 dozen a year are now imported from Europe and the demand is increasing. In England they are made by the old process, requiring one man and two boys to work one loom, but now they are made better in quality by means of patented inventions, and one girl operates two looms at once. The mills situated in Greenwich, are two hundred feet in length by forty feet wide, three stories high. Greenwich is in the centre of the great flax growing region, and last year one of the very large Irish linen thread mills moved their entire plant, machinery, operatives and all, to this village. This gives the Terry fabric mills a supply on the bobbin, directly at the door, saving the cost of transportation and the waste of reeling, as very much of the product is made of linen thread; not, however, all, for some of the most beautiful of pure white which is used for towels, vesting and cloaking is made entirely of cotton. The wonderful and beautiful patterns in colors, striped and flowered, both of towels and lap rugs, delight all that see them, especially lady housekeepers. When all the new machinery is in place which the present mill will hold the product will be 200 dozen towels every ten hours. This seems to be an enormous number, but as before said, is but about equal to one-fifth part of that now imported. Great success is predicted for the new enterprise. James Talcott, of this city, is the commission merchant for the mills, and an inspection of the beautiful goods on hand at his warehouse well repays a visit. D. C. I.

Rochefort on New York.

Henri Rochefort has written a book relating his escape from New Caledonia and his journey back to France via the United States. Of course, he has a great deal to say about our manners and the modes of travelling, but what he says about New York is especially interesting. "The diversity of quarters," he writes, "struck us most particularly; some all in verdure, others under a cloud of dust; some gay as the sunlight and some as melancholy as moisture; one quarter choking with people and the next solitary and silent as the grave. The whole thing breathes youth, but you have to take the purity of the air as a substitute for the purity of architectural line. The composite style of building produces frightfully ugly monuments; marbles of every sort abound, but bad taste throws its glaring veil on all these riches. The immense house of the four hundred-fold millionaire Stewart, lately died, is a model of intelligent luxury. It is like a monstrous table de nuit. * * * The want of order and arrangement which distinguishes New York, both astonishing and amusing. The streets are in possession of small dealers; enormous signs float in the wind; stumbling-blocks—encumber the pavements; the shop windows are an image of chaos. The confectionery shops for ladies are as numerous as the liquor shops for men. American girls have a passion for sweet stuff. They only leave one bonbon shop to go and sit down in another. We thought that the French women were the worst gourmandes of the old and new worlds. We have now to offer them our most humble excuses. * * * In the tramways we are not only surprised but absolutely disgusted with the extreme coarseness of the men. Not one of them thinks of offering his

place to a lady, though she may have to stand for a whole hour with no other support than a sort of bell rope, to which she is banging on." One day he and a friend offered their seats to two young ladies, but the ladies were so unaccustomed to such politeness that it was necessary to enter into a long discussion before they could decide on availing themselves of them, and during the discussion two fat "Yankees" slipped into the places and kept them in spite of every protest. "The American woman is generally well conducted and modest, but when she wishes to be the reverse her education, her intellectual superiority, and her native audacity make her the most seductive—that is to say, the most dangerous of adventuresses." To much of which may be added that Henri Rochefort is the champion liar of the universe—that Eli Perkins is far beneath him as ordinary mortals are beneath Eli, and that his superiority in this line is so well established in Paris that since his return, when a particularly bright genius is found dead in the Seine or over the charcoal brazier in his room, the general remark is "poor fellow; Rochefort was too much for him!" D. C. I.

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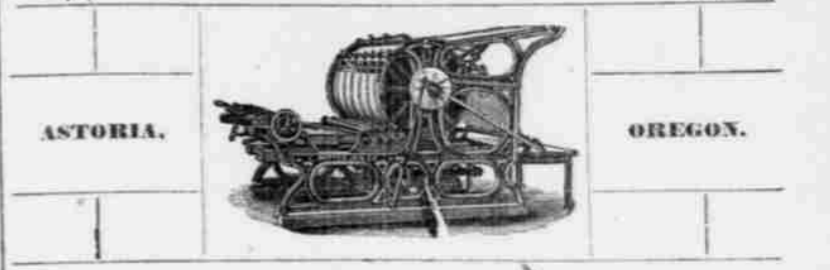
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