

The Daily Astorian. ASTORIA, OREGON: SUNDAY, OCT. 9, 1881. J. F. HALLORAN, Editor.

An Open Highway. "Speed the day when a steamer may take a cargo at the foot of the Rocky mountains and land it at Astoria; then the farmers of Eastern Oregon and Washington will not be compelled to pay half the price their products bring to get them to market. We intend to cry aloud and spare not till this end is obtained." So speaks the Falls City in closing an article on the subject of a free and open highway from the Rocky mountains to the ocean. So says every one who has the interest of the entire commonwealth at heart, who wishes to see this country assume the importance to which its geographical position and natural advantages entitle it. When selfish interests shall have been proved to be such by the stern logic of events, when petty jealousies and provincial carplings shall have been demonstrated to be actuated by unworthy motives, and long deferred rights shall have been conceded to a long suffering scope of territory, the development of the great basin of the Columbia will go on with an impetus and power that is to the present as "the first low rush of waves where soon shall roll a human sea." We shall continue to advocate and maintain that on account of the position and the commercial importance of Astoria's location, wheat afloat or in store at Astoria should sell at the same prevailing price as wheat afloat or in store at San Francisco, and this principle the near future will vivify and make manifest.

American Bible Society. The annual meeting of the Clatsop county Bible society, auxiliary to the National society, will be held this evening in the Congregational church under the direction of the district superintendent, Rev. P. C. Hertzler, assisted by the pastors of the several churches. Able speakers will probably dwell on the origin and worth of the Bible, the work of the society, and urge its claims. The work of the society is benevolent and undenominational. Its mission is endorsed by all the Protestant churches, and some require the preachers to take a collection in each congregation for it. Thus they are enabled to sell all their publications at cost and give thousands of the copies of the Scriptures to the destitute at home and in heathen lands. Last year the society supplied over 84,000 destitute families in our own country.

The Bible is an old book—parts of it distancing any other document about 300 years—and of great literary value, which, apart from its divine claims, is sufficient to awaken great interest in its contents. But this does not explain its circulation without money and without price. Homer and the Zendavesta of Zoroaster have created no organized effort like this. Because men believe the Bible to be the foundation of society, revealing the rule of life and the way to heaven, it is sold at a nominal price or given away.

But this also is one of the achievements of the present century. Prior to 1800, large portions of professing Protestant countries were without the Bible and it could be obtained only with great difficulty and at great cost. No Bible was published in the United States until the close of the revolution. It is probable that in 1880 there were less than 5,000,000 Bibles in all the world, a far greater number probably than were made during the thirty centuries from Moses to Luther. But since the institution of Bible societies in 1804, over 160,000,000 copies, in whole or in part, of the scriptures have been scattered abroad, in 250 languages and dialects, the languages of four-fifths of the inhabitants of the world.

Assuming the correctness of the statement of Andrew Jackson, "That book, sir, is the rock upon which our republic rests," how important is the mission of this society, and should be sustained, even if we were influenced only by patriotic motives. The newly revised English version so eagerly sought and read is probably creating a new epoch in Bible history, like that by the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai, and the publication of the authorized version in 1611. But of this time alone can tell. A WASHINGTON dispatch says within the last few days it has become apparent that the Pacific slope will ask to be represented in President Arthur's cabinet; the reasons are obvious. It would seem that the interior department is generally desired because so much of its business relates to that quarter. Among the names most frequently mentioned are ex-Senator Stewart and Senator Jones of Nevada, Geo. C. Gorham and ex-Senator Booth, Cole and Sargent, ex-Senator Mitchell, besides some others. A Sun special states positively that Jones has been offered the secretaryship of the interior and declined.

"Tis said that one of the peculiarities of William Black, the English novelist, is that he often forgets what he has written, and, indeed, was once heard to admit to some remarks apropos of the Prussians in the late Franco-Prussian war, and could not be convinced that they were quoted from one of his own works until the book was brought to him and triumphantly displayed. In this idiosyncrasy of William, he differs slightly from certain editors who, after reading an item forget that they have not written it, but quietly appropriate it as though it were original. In his speech at Tacoma last Tuesday, Villard spoke in plainer terms than at other places. Referring to the prospect of Tacoma being a wheat shipping point, he said: "You cannot expect wheat to come here unless you have facilities, in the first place for storing and handling it, and in the second place capital to attract it." That is applicable to other places than Tacoma, and, as Cap'n Cuttle would say, "the force of that remark lies in the personal application of it."

THE NEW YORK REPUBLICAN state convention which met last Wednesday most emphatically expressed the sentiments of the majority of the republican party all over the country in its overthrow of "the machine." Conkling and Co. were beaten "by a large majority," and the spoils system has received its death blow in the Empire state. The special session of Congress which convenes to-morrow, will require considerable mutual concession to accomplish anything. 'Tis believed that the Democrats are willing to concede the presidency of the senate to the Republicans, provided they can have the secretaryship and half of the committees.

JOHNSON and Heriff, proprietors of the Walla Walla Union, have bought the Morning Journal of that place, merging it into the Daily Union which will commence publication to-morrow morning. The school fund of Georgia provides that the common schools shall be open three months in the year, which is not bad—for Georgia. CHENOWETH is now running the Falls City as a semi-weekly. The beer product of California has swollen from thirteen million gallons in 1875 to nearly twice that number in 1880. Fifteen thousand five hundred bales of hops were grown on the Pacific coast in 1880. A Kentucky girl was struck by lightning and killed while dressing for her wedding, and the hard-hearted Cincinnati Enquirer says there is such a thing as a girl being too attractive.

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