# The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

FRIDAY.....NOV. 18, 1881

J. F. HALLORAN.....Editor.


## The Irish Question.

THE present struggle now going on in Ireland between armed power and coercion on one hand, and delayed justice on the other, is attracting the attention of the world. The people who for seven centuries have fought against oppression are now making a demand unprecedented, and adopting a course undeniably politic. The cause of Irish independence is on trial before humanity, and it must be admitted that their present system of warfare is more conducive to success, more indicative of ultimate triumph than any since the days when "Silken Thomas flung King Henry's sword on council board, the English thanes among." Macaulay once sarcastically described the Irish as "a people who were more interesting than prosperous;" and a more modern epigrammatist defines them as "a people who govern all countries but their own." To be an independent nation, to govern themselves, is the ultimate object of the "no rent," and "justice" agitation that now makes of that island an armed camp. Twenty generations of persecution and prosecution, of subjection and suspension, of cruel wrong and merciless oppression, have been unable to subdue their spirits or dispel their dream of liberty. This country has stood "the Niobe of nations." When other lands were rejoicing in the light of liberty, she sorrowfully laid away her banner the sun-burst, and hoped on. From the days of Henry II and Strongbow, down through seventy decades, till now in these closing lustrums of the nineteenth century she asks for tardy recognition of her claims. In battle, in the fulness of his pride and strength, little recks the soldier whether the hissing bullet sing his sudden requiem or the cords of life are severed by the sharp steel; but a slave with rusty chains upon him, must, unless he has a slave's heart, prefer death to lingering dishonor. It is unfortunate for Ireland that she is in such close proximity to the governing country. It long ago became necessary for England in her French and Spanish wars to hold the sister island in subjection, and even to-day the independence of Ireland would be a constant menace to the English flag in case of foreign war. Smarting under a sense of injury and burning with impulsive zeal to free themselves from the hated power of the English, the Irish people have naturally forgotten at times that the retention of sovereignty by England was necessary to her own preservation. That Ireland will one day be free is just as certain as that England will one day be a republic.

This spasmodic shooting of landlords and resistance of authority, unhappily too frequent, however justifiable they may seem from a private point of view, must necessarily tend to withhold a certain amount of sympathy and indirect help from millions who would be glad to see Ireland free in common with the downtrodden of every race and clime, but who very justly condemn any such attempt at "wild justice" as is weekly telegraphed across the sea.

An exchange observes with a good deal of solemnity that "the naval weakness of the United States is something phenomenal. Our seaboard cities are at the mercy of even a Spanish fleet, and we have neither forts nor ships that could save San Francisco from the Chinese flotilla of gunboats recently constructed for the Celestials in the British navy yards." Yes, and the worst of it is that Hunt is going out of the Cabinet, which adds fresh complications to the horrible condition into which our unhappy country may at any time be plunged.

## The Great Constitutionalist.

On the 18th of January, 1782, occurred an event which gave to the United States one of her greatest statesmen—the greatest, indeed of his day and generation—Daniel Webster. Three months before, Cornwallis had surrendered. The life of Webster began, it might be said, with the sealing of American independence at Yorktown, and through all the years of his subsequent manhood down to the closing scene at Marshfield, he consecrated his massive intellect and consummate patriotism to the maintenance, the amplification, the indissolubility of that independence. The country owes much to Webster which it has never thought of repaying. It has not even paid him the recognition of a place among the statues of the Capital where he wrought his triumphs and achieved his fame. It seems to have forgotten that he was the central figure of that tremendous struggle for the perpetuity of the republic, of which the ominous tremors were felt for forty years prior to the civil war. He was the unfaltering and peerless defender of one constitution, one flag, one people—the equally uncompromising foe to nullification and secession. So far as the issues upon the question could be fought out in the arena of civil strife, they were settled at an early day under his national leadership. It was his restless logic that conquered in debate. Out of the depths of his matchless eloquence also flows like a never-ceasing inspiration the true music of the union. It will soon be in order to commence talking of celebrating the centennial anniversary of his birth and giving him a monumental commemoration of his virtues. And that is all it will amount to.

It has been fairly demonstrated that for a certain class of freights railroads cannot successfully compete with water transportation. Our canals and rivers, imperfectly improved as they are, are destined to transport the bulk of our heavy produce to the seaboard, and already act in the direction of lowering railroad freight rates below the point at which a profitable business can be conducted. Railroads can act as feeders to the great waterways and can always control certain classes of business. Where there is no water competition of course they have the whole field to themselves. The lighter kind of freight and all that requires quick transportation they will hold. But they can only transport the vast agricultural products of the interior at a loss where they meet with water competition.

The above, from the St. Louis Globe Democrat, is as true of this Northwest coast as of the Mississippi valley.

Much animosity has been aroused in Canada between Christians and unbelievers by the recent seizure of Paine's and Voltaire's works in the Toronto Custom House. Collector Patterns admits that there is no law to sustain his act, but declares that it was done in the interest of morality, and deserves the approval of all good persons. On the other hand, $500 has been subscribed to enable the importer of the books to fight in the courts, and a general agitation on the subject of religious liberty has been commenced, while the clergy are as vigorously responding with attacks on Paine, Voltaire, Ingersoll and Theodore Parker. Numerous converts to the churches and greatly-augmented sales of anti-Christian literature are the immediate results.

Official estimates of the amount needed to run the Post office department for the next fiscal year show that that branch of the government is about self-supporting; a deficiency of but $920,077.95 being reported between the estimated receipts and expenditures for 1881–1882. It is just possible though that in straightening up after casting off the heavy load of star route corruption, etc., that an unwise economy may impel the government to be too penurious. Already complaints are being made of inadequate postal service all over this coast, and the fact that corrupt lobyists manipulated former compensations to suit themselves, constitutes no good reason for cutting off these routes altogether.

New England mills have started to manufacture some nice fresh Confederate bonds, so that those who failed to secure a lot in the recent rush can—if they but have patience—soon be supplied with some quite new and just as good.


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### Summons.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE State of Oregon, for Clatsop County.

A. E. Huston, plaintiff, vs. William Huston, defendant.

To the above named defendant William Huston: In the name of the State of Oregon, you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint of the above named plaintiff filed against you in the above entitled suit, in the above entitle court, on or before the first day of the next term of said court, which will be on Tuesday, the 3d day of January, 1882. If you fail to so appear and answer for want thereof the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief prayed for in said complaint, which is a decree dissolving the bonds of matrimony heretofore and now existing between the plaintiff and defendant. This summons is published by virtue of an order made by his Honor, Raleigh Stott, Judge of said court, at chambers on the 15th day of November, 1881.

C. W. FULTON,
42-46-Fr Attorney for Plaintiff.


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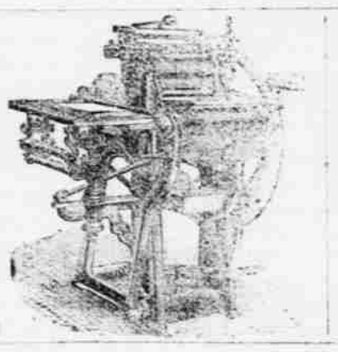
JOB  JOB

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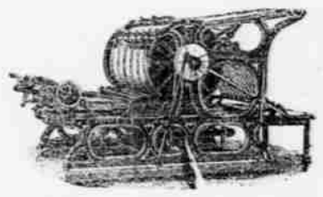

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