The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

THURSDAY..... DEC. 1, 1881

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

Coast Defenses.

The recent publication in the San Francisco Argonaut of a supposed descent of a foreign fleet upon the California coast, and in the New York Fiction of a prophecy concerning the bombardment of New York, has suggested vividly the defenseless condition of our seaports. The Swedish inventor Erricson, who succeeded in producing the Monitor, nineteen years ago, which vessel revolutionized naval warfare, has invented a new system of coast defenses in the shape of a torpedo gun boat, which he calls the Destroyer, and which is the worst engine of destruction ever floated. The vessel is built wholly of iron, is 130 feet long and twelve feet wide, with a draft of eleven feet. When in full trim and ready for offense or defense, she is almost entirely under water, the deck appearing just above the surface. She carries but one gun, thirty feet long, with a sixteen-inch bore. The torpedo or shell is twenty-five feet six inches in length, sixteen inches in diameter, weighs fifteen hundred pounds and has a charge of two hundred and fifty pounds of explosive material in the forward end. This tremendous missile is placed in the gun and fired under water, the machinery opening a valve in the vessel for its discharge at the moment the shell leaves the muzzle. It cuts directly through the water at a velocity of three hundred feet per second, and will go seven hundred feet. It leaves no track, and the submerged sound is unheard by the enemy. There is no device known to nautical science to see it, avoid it or provide against its discharge when it contacts with a hostile hull. The supposition is that two discharges would sink any vessel that floats. The Destroyer has engines of one thousand horse power, can move faster than any iron-clad afloat, the heaviest shot but glances from her turret, she can sail into a hostile fleet of iron-clads hiterto deemed invulnerable, and silently send them all to the bottom in thirty minutes without receiving any injury herself. It is claimed that one such vessel can defend an ordinary harbor, and if so the country is once more safe.

It is reported that the Southern Pacific railroad company is making arrangements for the establishment of a line of steamers between Liverpool and the Gulf of Mexico, to connect with the road, and that the company has ordered 700 combination immigrant-wheat cars, which will carry grain from this coast to the Gulf and passengers, coming back. The report further states that the rate from Liverpool to San Francisco will be $35.

One thing is to be urged by the people of this section upon the attention of the Congress that meets on the 5th inst. and that is the necessity of declaring the Astoria land grant forfeited, and thus unlocking to settlers and would be railroad builders the immense tract of valuable country now held under cover of a pie crust promise.

In America, when a bank cashier steals $2,000,000 he is put in jail, and the ladies send flowers to the poor fellow until the governor finds time to pardon him out. In China a freak like that costs the cashier his head, and though it may not be much of a head it is a sore loss to him. Singularly enough, too, bank defaulters are quite rare in China.

Bob Ingersoll assserts that religion is "losing its grip" in this world. If so, it's singular that such papers as the New York Herald and Chicago Times will publish from six to eight columns of minion, giving full religious intelligence, as such papers always publish just what people want to read.

The soothsayers and alarmists have turned their attention to other selections from the stock of worries on hand, and since the world refused to come to an end on the 24th ult., as they predicted, they come to the front now with a prophecy that the earth is drying up. If they would but follow such a glorious example!

The value of the world's cotton manufactures is placed in government statistics at $1,348,310,000, of which $561,170,000 is manufactured in Great Britain, $233-280,000 in the United States, $106,920,000 in Germany, $120,-060,000 in Russia, and the remainder in fifty-two other countries.

NEW TO-DAY.

A CARD.

ASTORIA, Nov. 56, 1881

Mr. Editor:

I have read with interest lately, articles in the Daily Astorian charging members of the police force of our city with immoral conduct as men, and wrong doings as officers.

In my judgment the articles referred to have been timely and to the point, but not as severe as the facts warranted.

The imperious and tyrannical conduct of the Chief of the force, his own acknowledgement, made nearly three years ago, that he had taken hush money; his neglect to enforce ordinances against the lowest dives in the city, where robbery after robbery has been committed; his *reinstating* on the force men who have been removed from it for *drunkenness*; his refusal to remove officers from it after the fact had come to his knowledge that they had been *assisting* in and *accessory* to the ruin of an *orphan* girl, stamps him as a man utterly unfit to hold any official position whatever; the drunkenness of some of the force and the licentiousness of others, and the connivance of the whole force, with the exception of Mr. Beazeley, at each others vices, points equally upon the others, the broad arrow of condemnation. It is said by some, and to their shame be it spoken, that the keeping of the present police force in power is necessary to insure the success of the Republican party next June. Out upon an argument, if it can be called by so dignified a name, that would keep corrupt men in office to secure temporary political triumph, for such a triumph must necessarily be but temporary. I am a Republican; yet, I would a thousand times rather see my party beaten, than march to victory under the leadership of men whose record reads as does that of this police force.

Our martyred Garfield and his wife have lifted the family into the high plane of honor and esteem it should always occupy. Where would be the *family*, if principles such as this police force evidently hold were to become the rule in America? Where? In the lowest depths of degradation. Do not let us forget fellow citizens, both Democrats and Republicans, that *civil service reform* is the order of the hour; and that that reform is based upon the principle that only *good* men should be kept in office. Is a self confessed thief the only man capable of filling the office of Chief of Police? When the present Chief admitted three years ago that he had taken money to conceal violations of the law, did he offer any excuse? I believe he did; he said *another man told him to do it*, and this confession was made before the Common Council of this city and is therefore public property, as is also every public act of every public officer. These men will not escape criticism. We may differ in politics, but on the question of having honest men or dishonest men in office; independent men or trucklers; "Men who know the right, and knowing dare maintain," or knaves and moral cowards; men with not only high intellect, but also broad intelligence founded on investigation and knowledge, none of us will differ.

Citizen.

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Sheriff's Sale.

By virtue of an execution issued out of the Honorable District court of the 2d Judicial District of Washington Territory, on the 27th day of October, 1881, and to me directed, in favor of the Territory of Washington, plaintiff, and William T. Harrington, defendant, commanding and directing me that out of the personal property of the said defendant, or if sufficient cannot be found then out of the real property of said defendant in Wahkiakum county, Washington Territory, to satisfy the sum of one hundred dollars, with interest, at the rate of ten per cent. and costs, accruing costs and expenses, I have levied upon and will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on Saturday, 31st day of December, 1881, at 2 o'clock P. M. of said day, at the court house door, in town of Cathlamet, Wahkiakum county, Washington Territory, for cash in hand at time of sale, all the right, title and interest of the defendant, William T. Harrington, in and to the following described real property, to-wit: S W ¼ of N E ¼ and E ½ of N E ¼ and N W ¼ of S E ¼ and E ½ of S E ¼, lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, section 9, T 9, R 8 west, 389 acres; lots 1 and 2, Sec 16 T 9, E ½ of S E ¼; lots 5 and 6 Sec 9, R 8 W, 258 acres. W. W. MARSHALL,
w-5t Sheriff of Wahkiakum Co., W. T.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Administratrix Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed by the County court of Clatsop county, Oregon, administratrix of the estate of George W. Siferte deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present them to the undersigned at her residence at Skipanon, Oregon, within six months from this date.

EVELINE SIFERTE,
Administratrix.

Skipanon, November 25, 1881. w-4t

Headquarters Department of the Columbia, Vancouver Barracks, W. T., Nov. 26, 1881.

Written proposals will be received by the undersigned, at Vancouver Barracks, W. T., until March 31st, 1882, for the right of exclusive seining on the Fort Stevens, Fort Adams Military Reservation, during the next fishing season. The right to reject any or all bids, as may be deemed best, is reserved by the undersigned.

O. D. GREEN,
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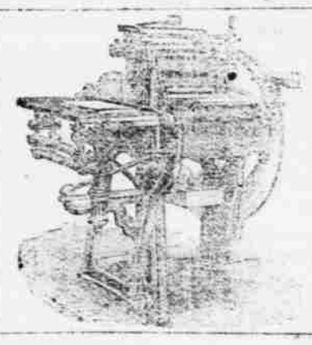
JOB  JOB

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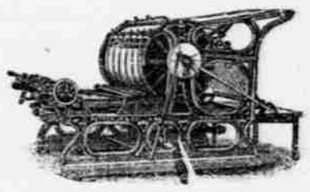

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