The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

THURSDAY.....DEC. 8, 1881

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

How Not to Do It.

PUBLIC attention is at present being directed to the unfortunate course of misinstruction pursued in many of the common schools of the country. Despite the efforts of many conscientious instructors, despite the protest of nature itself against the system of cramming adopted and maintained in numberless cases, the fact exists that tens of thousands of youth are yearly ruined by the system of overeducation carried on. Here is a sample of school work given a ten-year-old girl to memorize, "Rule for Short Division Rule dash one write the divisor at the left of the dividend: semicolon, begin at the left hand, comma, and divide the number denoted by each figure of the dividend by the divisor, comma, and write the quotient beneath, period. Paragraph.

"2. If there is a remainder after any division comma, regard it as prefixed to the next figure comma and divide as before period. If any partial dividend is less than the divisor, comma, prefix it to the next figure, comma, and write a cypher in the quotient period."

"Paragraph Proof period dash multiply the quotient by the divisor, comma, and add the remainder, comma, if any, comma, to the product, period." It reads more like a rule for producing idiocy than the correct result in short division, and is a fair illustration of the "cramming" process. If a census of mortality among school children were taken which would correctly include the cause of death, "crammed to death" would embrace a large percentage. Nor would it be any wonder. The immature mind is required under the penalty of personal disgrace, to perform tasks that an adult would refuse to do. The work done being an undue exercise of the memory, while the reason and judgment are left almost wholly unemployed, the tendency inevitably is to disarrange the plan of nature. One capacity is gorged; the other starved. The result is a deformed mind, without balance or self-control, and this deformity prepares the way for disease which is but the preface to death. The real and designed purpose of our schools is to prepare the coming man or woman for the practical duties of life. Discipline of the mind lies at the base of our scheme of education, and the question is "How may the greatest degree of mental discipline be attained." The processes of mental discipline when properly pursued are a delight to children, and the happiest hours of a child's life are passed while under the kindly tutelage of an intelligent and conscientious teacher, who really "teaches young ideas how to shoot." But that cannot be done by making parrots out of them. No intelligent boy or girl is content to know that a thing is so without knowing why it is so, what makes it so, but these processes become dry and distasteful drudgery when pursued through false and unnatural methods. The remedy lies in the reversal of methods, in throwing out of doors about two thirds of the text books, of going more in accordance with nature, of making the acquisition of knowledge an incident of a disciplinary course; the means to an end, and that end the power of independent thought.

THE first session of the Forty-Seventh Congress convened in Washington last Monday. In the Senate, David Davis, of Illinois, is President pro tem. In the House, Keifer, of Ohio, was elected Speaker and took his seat. S. J. Randall, of Pennsylvania, received the complimentary vote of the Democratic Representatives for Speaker. In the Senate a large number of bills were introduced, among them being one by Slater, authorizing the secretary of the interior to segregate 640 acres from the Umatilla Indian reservation, adjacent to the town of Pendleton, Ogn., lay it out in blocks, have it appraised and then offer it for sale in single lots at not less than the appraised value.

IT is rumored, says the S. F. Bulletin, that at the next annual meeting of the shareholders of the Pacific Coast Steamship company a new Board of Directors will be elected in the interest of the Villard combination. It is also stated that a segregation of the property belonging to the company is possible, and that the southern route, with the steamers running on it, the San Luis Obispo and Santa Maria Valley railroad, docks, etc., will be disposed of, and that Goodall, Perkins & Co. may become the purchasers. It is believed that Villard will not care to hold the route south of San Francisco, as it forms no part of his great northern combination scheme. The coasting business of the southern part of the State has for several years past been very profitable, and if disposed of will bring a good price.

THE Rev. O. B. Frothingham, whom the winds of doubt long since blew into the stormy waters of religious disbelief, announces that he has cast anchor, and says that while in no way a believer in christianity, he is not so much of a disbeliever as he has been hitherto. He says: "To sum up the whole matter, the work which I have been doing appears to lead to nothing, and may have been grounded on mistaken premises. Therefore it is better to stop." It looks like a case of death-bed repentance, as O. B. is getting pretty well stricken in years, and mayhap concludes that he'd better begin to pay assessments again if he expects to get a dividend. Bob Ingersoll will come in at the eleventh hour some day, just as his distinguished colaborer has.

For the first time in two and a half centuries an English Catholic sits in the House of Commons. 'Twas in 1829 that O'Connell succeeded in removing political disabilities from members of that faith, and now, fifty-two years after, a gentleman named Tewmingham has been elected to represent Berwick-on-Tweed.

MARRIED.

In Astoria, Dec. 6th, by Rev. J. V. Milligan, Miss Frances A. Arrigoni and Mr. Daniel J. McVicker. All of Astoria.

NEW TO-DAY.

LAND OFFICE NOTICE.—Land office at Oregon City, Oregon, September 5, 1881. Notice is hereby given that the following-named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before R. R. Spedden County clerk at Astoria, Clatsop county, Oregon, on Tuesday, December 27, 1881, viz: Beverly W. Gilmore homestead application No 2973, for the N ½ of N E ¼ and Add. Hd. entry No. 3394 for S ½ of N E ¼ all in Sec. 2, T 5 N of R 7 W. He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land viz: Joseph L. Moore, John Beneke, John W. Slaughter and Wm. H. Lewis, of Jewell, Clatsop county, Oregon.

49 w5d L. T. BARIN, Register.

Notice of Copartnership.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, HEREBY give notice that we have formed a copartnership under the firm name of Leinenweber & Cohn, to transact the business of tanning, in Astoria, Oregon.

C. LEINENWEBER.
A. A. COHN.

Astoria, Oregon, Dec. 6, 1881. d-30d

Notice to Creditors.

IN THE PROBATE COURT, COUNTY of Pacific, Territory of Washington. In the matter of the estate of Chas. Fost, deceased. The undersigned having been by the Hon. Probate court of county of Pacific, Territory of Washington, appointed administrator of the estate of Chas. Fost, deceased, all persons having claims against said deceased are hereby notified to present the same with necessary vouchers; also those indebted to same will please come to my residence and make immediate settlement within six months from the date hereof.

WM. A. CARRUTHERS,
w-4t Administrator.

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Address: J. F. HALLORAN & Co.
Publishers, Astoria, Oregon

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