

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON: SUNDAY, JAN. 29, 1882. J. F. HALLORAN, Editor.

Begging the Question.

In the New York Maritime Register of the 11th, we find the following: "Our remarks, in a previous issue, condemning the excessive port charges on Columbia river have excited the Oregon press. They cannot refute them, for there are too many witnesses to exist that extortionate charges exist. Our remarks were based upon such proofs. We have always defended Portland and the Oregon river, but we are careful of their interests most when we point out the existence there of evil practices and bad customs which can be removed. Instead of being excited over the charges made, would it not be well to endeavor to remove whatever abuses exist, and to devise means for preventing their recurrence. We must warn shipping against Portland, if the charges at that port continue excessive."

In thus talking, the Register but adds mendacity to incorrectness of statement. In the first article, it made charges that were based upon the alleged correctness of a letter written by British ship masters. In that letter the heaviest and only reasonable ground for complaint was in reference to the life service, something that the Columbia river controversy has nothing to do with.

It is said that the annual income from the tithings demanded by the Mormon priesthood from their followers reaches \$4,000,000. "It is thought by the Gentiles," says a correspondent of the Boston Herald, "and intimidated by the saints themselves, that a portion of the tithing fund has been employed, and very effectively employed, in securing favorable legislation in the national Congress. The departed Brigham was wont to speak very contemptuously of Congress, boasting that he cared nothing for it, because he could influence its votes with money, whenever he deemed it desirable. And there is reason to think that his boast was not wholly idle."

CONGRESSMAN COX, just back from Egypt, tells a funny story of being on the Nile when the boatmen, who were devout Mahometans, would lose their reckoning, and not knowing the points of compass, would not know in what direction Mecca lay, towards which they must turn their faces in prayer. Having a compass with him, Mr. Cox good-naturedly corrected their bearings for them, and not infrequently had the honor of running a Moslem prayer-meeting. They always passed, of course, a vote of thanks for the able manner in which he conducted their religious services.

SEATTLE has had another spasm. The Chronicle gives air to a report that the Vesuvius has been wrecked on the Columbia bar; our delightful contemporary says: "All hands, report says, were saved," and adds that "many more improbable things could easily occur." Yea, verily: it is not even outside the limits of improbability that our contemporary would be fair enough to acknowledge that the report was a canard, and that it knew it to be so when it gave it publicity.

The latest phase of gossip about cabinet appointments is the statement that Ex-Governor Booth of California, may get the Secretaryship of the Interior, instead of Sargent. The difference between the two men is that Booth is as eminently fit for the position he would honor, as Sargent is unfit.

To be successful, our commerce must command the service of heavy draught ships that can carry 3000 to 3500 tons.—Willamette Farmer. Correct! What is needed is such improvement of the bar as to give a permanent 26 foot channel.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

THE Mormon question thrusts itself upon Congress in a very positive manner, and like Banquo's ghost it will not down. Doubtless a majority are against the infamous institution of polygamy and willing to see its political power destroyed, yet somehow there is a disposition to handle the subject rather gingerly. I shall not be surprised if the present agitation ends in smoke and inaction, as all previous attempts have done. It takes something like an earthquake to inspire Congress to do its duty in dealing with any great evil which possesses power and influence. The plan proposed by Delegate Maginnis of Montana, appears to be the least violent and effective of any suggested so far. His proposition is to let Congress divide the Territory of Utah, incorporating the western part with the State of Nevada, the south-eastern part with the State of Colorado, and the small northern part with Idaho and Wyoming. Congress has abundant power to do this, and it is evident that when it is done the Mormon power will be broken. A part of the Mormon population will then be citizens of Nevada, and will be there only a minority of the whole State, and part become citizens of Colorado in a minority there. The small remainder will form a part of Wyoming or Idaho. The main portion of the Mormon population would thus become citizens of States which have already established constitutions and laws, to which the Mormons would be amenable. It is held that such a division of Utah and distribution of its parts would not only be perfectly legal and proper, but would have the advantage that the new boundaries would be natural instead of artificial. The Wasatch Range which now runs through the centre of Utah, would then form the boundary line between the States of Colorado and Nevada. Is there any reason why Utah should not thus be blotted out of the map?

The indications at the present time are that the most important result of Speaker Kiefer's unfortunate concoction of the committee will be a change in the system of their selection. It is not improbable, from the present temper of the House, that Mr. Kiefer is the last Speaker who will have the exercise of so much power, or the opportunity to abuse it, and that in the future the committees will be made in much the same manner they are in the Senate. It is even hinted that the committees for this Congress may yet be reorganized; but this I think unlikely, though there is so much feeling on both sides of the House that the movement could be carried if properly inaugurated. Mr. Orth, who gave the Speaker such a cutting rebuke in open session, is not the only Republican who feels outraged or who recognizes the motives and the moving spirit of the whole scheme. Mr. Waite, of Connecticut, is another old and prominent Republican member who has taken decided exceptions to the course of the Speaker and written a letter declining to serve under the circumstances. There are curses loud and deep all along the line. The arrangement of Committees is a matter entirely within control of the House, and it is only by usage and courtesy that the Speaker has been heretofore given that authority. Whenever a majority of the members so determine, it is in the province of the House to undo his work and take the matter into their own hands. If such action were to be taken now Mr. Kiefer could not complain.

This morning I saw a letter from the father of Clara Louise Kellogg, in answer to a letter of inquiry, addressed to him by Clara Louise's uncle, who live in this city, as to the truthfulness of the rumor that is widespread and circumstantially dilated on throughout the country, to the effect that the popular can-

trix is soon to marry a Mr. Whitney. Suffice it to say that the letter was by no means a confirmation of the rumor. I think Clara Louise will continue to sing and popularize English opera for some time yet, before she steps her pretty foot off the lyric stage and retires to sing soft lullabies in the quiet realms of sweet domesticity, notwithstanding the amount of interesting advertising she is getting this winter over her alleged intention to set the wedding bells a ringing. By the way, the Hon. Wm. Pitt Kellogg, Louisiana's staunch Republican Senator, is of the New England Kellogg family, although he has been West all his life, and commanded a regiment of Illinois cavalry during the war for the Union. It is hoped that by the time this letter is in print the Guiteau trial will be ended and the assassin under sentence of death. The closing arguments are now in progress, and Guiteau himself has prepared a speech which he proposes to deliver to the jury. He wants the last say and pretends to believe that his address will settle the matter in his favor. Grave doubts are expressed, however, whether he will deliver it after all, even if permitted by the court. Heretofore he has prepared various speeches, and when the time came, and he was told to stand up and deliver what he had to say, he declared that he had nothing to offer. It is doubted whether he has the moral courage to face the jury. He is a very timid and cowardly fellow, in spite of his bluster when he is in his seat, and he never rises, but drops into his chair as he is brought in, and stays there till he goes out again. He has never voluntarily risen in court since the day Bill Jones shot at him. In an interview at the jail the other day with Mr. Reed, one of his counsel, the assassin proposed in all seriousness that after the jury had acquitted him he should take the lecture-field. He declares that in a year he would have \$50,000, and would pay his counsel handsomely. Mr. Reed said: "Suppose now that the jury should find you guilty, and the judge sentence you to be executed. Have you thought of that?" Guiteau said he had not, but the Lord would be with him; the Lord would go right up on the gallows and stand beside him through it all.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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Administrators Notice.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the undersigned has been appointed by the County Court of Clatsop county, Oregon, Administrator of the estate of Aaron Morton deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same to the undersigned at Astoria, Oregon, within six months from this date. G. G. SMITH, Administrator. Astoria, Jan. 25, 1882.

Consignees Notice.

NEITHER THE CAPTAIN NOR THE UNDERSIGNED are Consignees of the British ship "Edderside," will be responsible for any debts contracted by the crew while lying at this port. RODGERS, MEYER & CO., Astoria, Or., Jan. 25, 1882—37

Notice.

THE FIRM OF PAGE & ALLEN is this day dissolved by mutual consent; the business heretofore conducted by A. V. Allen, is hereby notified to settle their accounts without delay. A. V. ALLEN.

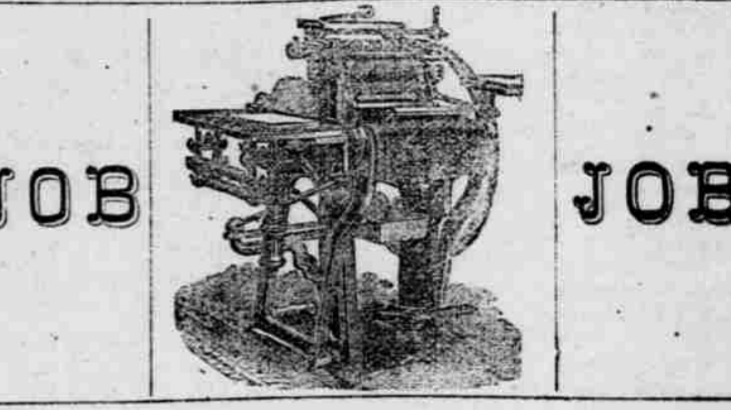
Sheriff's Notice.

THE STATE, COUNTY, AND STATE TAXES for the year 1881, are now due and can be paid at my office at the Court House. C. H. TWOMBLY, Sheriff and Tax Collector.

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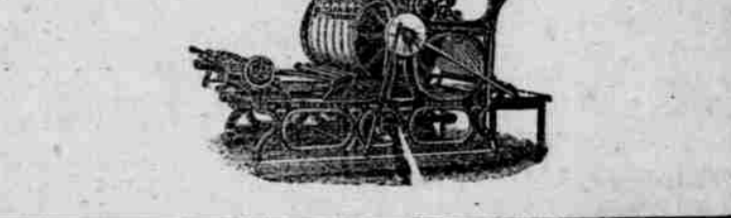
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