

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON: SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1882

J. F. HALLORAN, Editor.

An Old Complaint.

"The Simple Cobbler of Agawam," in 1617, says: "My heart hath naturally detested four things—the standing of the Apocrypha in the Bible; foreigners dwelling in my country to crowd our native subjects into the corner of the earth; alchemized coins; toleration of divers religions, or one religion in segregate shape." It is curious says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, to find the first generation born on the soil discussing the same problems that still torture us. The author is evidently sound on the currency question, and likes good money. But if he felt crowded in 1617, what a pinch would there be now for him. Young America has always been fond of spreading herself. But think of the air put on by the 2,000 or 3,000 native-born citizens, that they could not tolerate immigration. The colonies were hardly in communication with each other. Plymouth Colony was not yet fifty years old. The Indians hemmed them in to the very coast. They did not know the land as far as the great lakes, except through French report. The whole white population of the land would have found abundant elbow room on Long Island. We have twenty cities to-day that each one outnumbers the whole nation of that day—or rather the commonwealths. Yet the people were intolerant of foreigners. We can easily imagine the line of argument. There was little or no voting except as pertained to town meetings. There could therefore have been little trouble about suffrage. But the moral character of these interlopers was a very serious affair. It is not to be supposed that the pure sons of Puritans wished to be contaminated with their second and third cousins brought up in the darkness of England and Holland. The religious difficulty was even more serious, for many of the new-comers were Quakers, Catholics, Anabaptists, and New Lights. Religion and morality being all one, it was a trial that overtasked even the pious Cotton Mather to endure this froth of the old countries. Witches and Quakers and Catholics had a hard time of it. Some of them went up in fiery chariots like Elijah, others fled into the wilderness. More took themselves to the shelter of Lord Baltimore and William Penn. We may suppose that the wages question to have also interfered with the welcome of foreigners. If there were fear to do the work, there was little work to do; and to have wages lowered then was quite as serious an evil as in these times. Many, if not the majority, were adventurers who came over to better their fortunes in some way and then return to their own countries across the seas. They did not bring their families, but came to live off the land and exist as a threat against pure morals and the honor of Puritan households. Who knew to what enormous proportions this influx might extend? The crowded cities, the strongholds of crime would pour their tide upon the land to the utter overwhelming of its institutions. In those days the ancestors of James G. Blaine, not having come in the Mayflower, were among the dreaded new-comers. The prophecies of "The Cobbler" and the pathetic diatribes of Mather were fulfilled to the letter. New England is now in the possession of foreigners. Its farms and factories are run by those "who crowd the native into the corners of the earth." But this does not to-day seem a good reason for endeavoring to stay immigration. We look with considerable pleasure and a good deal of hope to a vast increase of foreigners in 1890. We shall be glad if all the starving

Europeans and religionists of all sects and no sects come, we shall be glad to welcome them. The more production the more comfort. We have moved forward in spite of dangers. We are more free, more stable in our institutions than ever before.

Unhappy Slaves.

THE system of selling convicts into servitude creates a most unhappy class of slaves, for to their case the care which an owner takes for the preservation of his property does not apply. The interest of their master is solely to get as much work out of them as possible.

The state of Kentucky has been trying the system of leasing out convicts, under stipulations which were intended to secure proper treatment. A joint committee of the legislature have made an investigation of the condition of several hundred convicts sent from the penitentiary in June, 1880, under lease to contractors building the Big Sandy Railroad. They found that the men slept twenty to a room, upon bunks arranged in two tiers. The only light came through a grated opening eight inches wide and four feet long, and it was too dark to see anything distinctly. A half barrel of water and a tin basin to a room were the sole provision for cleanliness. While by law the convicts are only required to work ten hours a day from April 1 to Nov. 1, and eight hours a day the remainder of the year, the practice was to work them twelve hours a day, one gang going on at 6 in the morning, and not being relieved until 6 at night, the gang going on then laboring until 6 in the morning, even on Sunday. The contractors declared that they paid the men for their extra time, but it was found that the amount allowed them was only 12 1/2 cents a day, paid in orders on the contractor's store. Moreover, all time consumed in waiting for blasts to explode or lost by sickness was deducted. The committee found men working in a tunnel, standing in mud and water, in almost total darkness. Dinner was brought to them in tin cans, and they ate it without knife or fork, standing where they worked, chilly and with wet feet. The committee say that the food was coarse and insufficient in quantity. The committee found the atmosphere of the tunnels stifling, and so painful to the eyes and nose from the smoke of giant powder, that they could not endure it more than a few minutes at a time. The men suffered a great deal from fevers and pneumonia, and the sick were neglected to such an extent that the mortality amounted to twenty per cent. Punishment was frequent, cruel, and often brutal. Men were driven by force into a saving tunnel, there to be maimed or killed by falling rocks. The dead were placed in boxes and laid where earth was dumped in the course of building the road.

The committee instance the case of one convict, too weak and ill to labor, who, according to testimony, was beaten to the point of death. Any person in charge of a gang could inflict punishment at discretion, and the swabstick used in blasting was the favorite instrument for the purpose. The committee declare that the testimony was an unbroken record of cruelty, and conclude that civilization and humanity demand the immediate repeal of the law establishing the leasing system.

NEW TO-DAY.

THE BRITISH BARK WANLOCK IS now loading on the berth for London direct. Freight and particulars, apply to P. L. CHERRY, (Over Wells, Fargo & Co.) Astoria, May 6, 1882.

Stephans Varieties!

A LIVELY ENTERTAINMENT. Have a new bowling alley, the largest and best in town. Admittance free.

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GO TO M. D. KANT,

THE "BOSS"

Men's, Youths' and Boys' Clothing!

GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS!

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FINE DRESS SUITS.

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LATEST NEW YORK FASHIONS

D. A. McIntosh

Merchant Tailor, Clothier and Hatter.

MRS. DERBY.

New and Choice MILLINERY,

Desires to call the attention of the Ladies of Astoria to the fact that she has received a large assortment of the LATEST STYLES OF

Hats, Bonnets, Trimmings, AND FANCY GOODS.

Corner Main and Squemoqua Streets.

Notice.

MR. L. E. SELIG IS NOW DELIVERING School Assessment Blanks for School District No. 1. Parties will please fill out blanks and return by the undersigned, in ten days after their receipt.

Notice.

THE DELINQUENT TAX ROLL FOR the year 1881, together with a warrant from the County Court for the collection of the same, is in my hands. Delinquent taxpayers will please settle at once and save costs.

Valuable Lot for Sale at Auction.

Tuesday, May 9th—11 a. m.

FOR ACCOUNT OF WHOM IT MAY concern, I am instructed by the Trustee of the ESTATE OF M. J. KINNEY, Esq., to sell at Public Auction, at my saleroom, for account of whom it may concern, Lot four (4), 1/4 Block forty-four (44) in McClure's Addition, as laid out by Cyrus Olney, to the highest bidder for cash.

Home Mutual Insurance Co., OF CALIFORNIA.

J. F. HIGHTON, President. CHAS. E. STORY, Secretary. GEO. L. STORY, Agent for Oregon.

Home Mutual Insurance Co., OF CALIFORNIA.

Capital paid up in U. S. gold \$300,000.00. I. W. CLARK, Agent, Chenamus street, Astoria, Oregon.

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Opposite Parker House, Astoria, Oregon.

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General Storage and Wharfage on reasonable terms. Foot of Benton street, Astoria, Oregon.

A. G. STINSON & CO.,

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At Capt. Rogers old stand, corner of Cass and Court Streets.

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Architects and Builders,

All kinds of House work done at shortest notice.

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PARASOLS. Worth Price.

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CLOAKS. Misses' light-colored school coats, 7 00 3 00

Misses' dark-colored school coats, 7 00 3 50

Misses' push school coats, 10 00 5 00

These are Spring Styles, and all wool.

MISCELLANEOUS. Marseilles Spreads, large size, 3 50 2 00

All-linen Towels, 37 25

Ladies' Hose, all colors, 25 10

Ladies' Palmoral Skirts, 1 50 1 00

Unbleached Table Linen, per yard, 40 25

Unbleached Table Linen, extra wide, p'ry'd, 50 35

Ladies' Corsets, all sizes, 1 25 75

Also a few more Remnants Dress Goods at 10 and 20 cents a yard.

Remember, these Bargains are Limited in Quantity, so come early and secure them.

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Open all the Year. Performance Every

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Comprising all the latest

SONGS, DANCES AND ACTS.

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The theatre is crowded nightly, and all

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Mr. Hill as a entertainer for the public's

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wishing to spend a pleasant evening and

see sparkling wit and beauty without vul-

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The company comprises the following well-

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MISS FANNIE WALTERS.

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All of which will appear nightly in their dif-

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