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LAST BATTLE OF THE CIVIL WAR

An interesting bit of personal and general history, is the fact that Colonel David Branson, now a resident of this place, is the man who fought the last battle and gave the last order to cease firing, at the close of the war of the rebellion, and did it at the mouth of New Mexico's great river, the Rio Grande. The battle was fought on May 12th and 13th, 1865. Col. Branson was sent out from the general camp on Brazos Island with a mixed command of about three hundred men from the second Texas cavalry, dismounted first Missouri, colored, and the thirty-fourth Indiana, to capture a herd of cattle for the use of the troops. While out he was attacked by a force of about six hundred Texas cavalry with artillery, under General Slaughter and General Ford. During the fight a war-ship arrived off the harbor with the news of the surrender of Kirby Smith, the last of the confederate forces in the field, and consequently the end of the war. General Barrett, the commander of the garrison, ordered Colonel Branson to cease firing and return, which being impossible on account of the pressure of a superior force and the well known enmity on their part toward the colored troops and southern white union troops, the engagement was continued, though the unionists retired, fighting, toward the island. General Barrett came to the rescue on the 13th with a small reinforcement, and the fight back to the island occupied all that day. Near sunset, as Gen. Branson was crossing the ferry with the main body, the attack was renewed upon the rear guard, in command of Captain Coffin. Colonel Branson had just gone back to the guard, and the enemy were repulsed; the last battle of the war was over.

Then it was that Colonel Branson, who had been informed of the good tidings brought by the war-ship in the offing, and fully comprehended its importance and the historical significance of that day's work with himself as a modest though conspicuous figure in the closing scene of the great tragedy, gave the order to "cease firing," with probably deeper feeling than he ever before gave a military order, and gratefully sheathed the sword that had for four years been the symbol of command through the bloodiest war of the ages, never again, he hopes, to draw it in a deadly conflict with his fellow-man. Turning to Captain Coffin, he sentimentally and with an animation he can never feel again, remarked: "That winds up the war," when the Captain replied with equal emphasis, "Yes, and I thank God we are alive." The impressive scene closed as the sun was sinking behind the sand-hills on the western bank of the Rio Grande and the Gulf of Mexico, and was witnessed by interested crowds of men perched in the rigging of eighty men-of-war and other shipping anchored in the offing and flying the flags of nearly every nation on earth.—*Albuquerque Journal.*

The passage of the bill by the English house of lords permitting a man to marry his deceased wife's sister, ends a controversy which could have scarcely been more bitter had it been a proposition to marry a live wife's sister. But prejudice, after fifty years of agitation, has given way at last, and as soon as the house of commons passes the bill an Englishman may have the same rights and privileges in the United Kingdom which he now enjoys in its colonies and in the United States.

"The indications given of approaching changes of the weather by pains and muscular aches amongst those so afflicted, are often wonderfully active; but some of the best of these natural barometers we have lost since the people have been using St. Jacobs Oil."—*Vennor's Montreal (Can.) Weather Bulletin.*

Davy Jones' Locker.

Every one has heard of "Davy Jones' locker," yet few know who Davy Jones is and what his locker consists of. Old sailors are of the opinion that the locker is at the bottom of the sea, off soundings. Its mouth is between two gigantic mountains, whose sides gradually recede like those of a funnel, for hundreds of miles. All currents tend thitherward at a certain phase of the moon, and thus every lost ship and every drowned sailor eventually drifts into the great submarine mouth. When angered by offenses against his unwritten laws, such as setting sail on Friday, carrying dead bodies, killing cats, dropping water buckets, and the like, sailors believe that Davy will personally appear and demand satisfaction—sometimes being satisfied with the sacrifice of one man and sometimes pulling a ship and its crew down in his locker. Many sailors aver that they have seen Davy Jones.

The N. Y. Times utters a word of caution about the indelible, or ink pencils, which have come so much into vogue lately. A most useful implement to the business man, this innocent looking pencil can easily be converted into a treacherous friend, and on no consideration should be used to write the signature of anyone. The composition of the pencil is a peculiar combination, highly poisonous in itself, and—herein lies the danger to signature writers—competent to give off two or more impressions on damp paper—not tissue paper, be it understood, but ordinary writing paper. Attention was directed to this peculiarity by an astute official of a mercantile bank, and subsequent experiments proved the easy practicability of making a clear copy of the filling in of a check with this ink pencil. First the writing of the check is transferred upside down, of course, to a slip of damp paper, and from that transferred right side up to another sheet of damp paper. Tested recently in the case of a check written with the ink pencil and sent in from the country, simple hand pressure obtained a very perfect copy of the transferable parts of the document.

A well-known Paterson, N. J., mechanic named William Sutcliffe is building a steamboat with a wooden boiler, which will be placed in the Passaic river above the falls in a few days. The boat is a propeller, sixteen feet long. The boiler is made of a new ale cask and is said to be able of standing a pressure of 200 pounds to the square inch. It has already been satisfactorily tested at forty pounds pressure. This novel boiler is fitted with flues and the fire, instead of being under, is on top of it, a drought being supplied by a tube from underneath. Mr. Sutcliffe is a thorough and practical mechanic, holding a responsible position in one of the Paterson locomotive works. It is the first time in history that an attempt was ever made to raise steam in a wooden boiler, and it looks as if the experiment would prove a success.

Pianos are being made at the present moment from oak timber 2,000 years old recently taken from the bottom of the Rhine, near Mayence, being evidently the remains of the bridge built by Drusus and mentioned by Caesar in his "De Bello Gallico." A Berlin firm has purchased most of the ancient piles, which owing to their hardened state and texture are admirably adapted to the above-named purpose and are said to admit of a remarkably fine polish.

A Sufferer from Rheumatism.
I lipped about for years with a cane, and could not bend down without excruciating pain. Parker's Ginger Tonic effected an astonishing cure and keeps me well. It is infallible. M. Guilfoyle, Binghamton, N. Y.

—Are you made miserable by Indigestion, Constipation, Dizziness, Loss of appetite, Yellow Skin? Shiloh's Vitalizer is a positive cure. For sale by W. E. Dement.

All surveys hitherto made on the extension of the Oregon and California railroad have been abandoned, and the old surveying corps disbanded. New preliminary and location surveys are now being made from the terminus near Redding to the Oregon line under the direction of Mr. Hood, assistant engineer of the Southern Pacific Railroad. The abandoned surveys are said to have cost the Railroad company \$700,000. It will take Mr. Hood at least eighteen months to finish the new survey, which is being conducted with great care. The country through which the survey is being made is one of the most difficult yet encountered by railroad engineers in this state. In many places all the work has to be done in ropes, the bluffs forming the side of the valley being nearly perpendicular. The benches on the river banks cannot be utilized, for the reason that they are subject to overflow during the flood season.

It is curious to read to-day, in a Baltimore paper published early in the century, that 139 slaves had been sold at auction for the benefit of the United States, and the proceeds, over \$50,000, placed in the treasury.



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Absolutely Pure.



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THE LATEST STYLES
IN
WALL PAPER
AT
B. B. FRANKLIN'S,
NEXT DOOR TO ASTORIAN OFFICE.

Notice.
I HAVE THIS DAY SOLD A HALF INTEREST in the business of salmunking to Mr. J. Hess, of this city. Mr. Hess has been with me in the capacity of foreman for a number of years and is fully competent in all the branches of salmunking. Hereafter the business will be carried on in the firm name of the Astoria Salmunk Co., J. Hess & Co., proprietors.

Take Notice.
I, THE UNDERSIGNED, HEREBY NOTIFY the public of Astoria, if there is any claim against the undersigned, the claimant please come forward before the 1st of August, and present said claim as I am going to take a trip to Washington, D. C., on the 1st of August.

For Sale.
FIVE HUNDRED CORDS DRY HEMLOCK WOOD, which I will deliver at the houses of customers for \$4 a cord. Draying or all kinds done at reasonable rates.



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THE GREAT GERMAN REMEDY
FOR
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Neuralgia, Sciatica, Lumbago, Backache, Soreness of the Chest, Gout, Quinsy, Sore Throat, Swellings and Sprains, Burns and Scalds, General Bodily Pains, Tooth, Ear and Hoadaehs, Frosted Feet and Ears, and all other Pains and Aches.

No Preparation on earth equals St. Jacobs Oil as a safe, sure, simple and cheap External Remedy. A trial entails but the comparatively trifling outlay of 50 Cents, and every one suffering with pain can have cheap and positive proof of its claims.

The Olympia land office is doing nearly two-thirds more business than is done by any other office on the Pacific coast. The Colfax office has made a claim as doing the most business; but the figures do not show it. The Puget Sound country, it will be seen, is settling faster than any portion of the northwest, and it is likely to continue to do so for some time to come.—*Transcript.*

SYMPTOMS OF A DISEASED LIVER.

Pain in the right side, under edge of ribs, increasing on pressure; sometimes the pain is on the left side; the patient is rarely able to lie on the left side; sometimes the pain is felt under the shoulder and is sometimes taken for rheumatism in the arm. The stomach is affected with loss of appetite and sickness; the bowels in general are constipated, sometimes alternating with laxity; the head is troubled with pain, accompanied with dull, heavy sensation in the back part. There is generally a considerable loss of memory, accompanied with a painful sensation of having left undone something which ought to have been done. A slight, dry cough is sometimes attendant. The patient complains of weariness and debility; he is easily startled; his feet are cold or burning, and he complains of a prickly sensation of the skin; his spirits are low, and, although he is satisfied that exercise would be beneficial to him, yet he can scarcely summon up fortitude enough to try it.

If you have any of the above symptoms, you can certainly be cured by the use of the genuine DR. C. McLANE'S LIVER PILLS. When you buy McLANE'S PILLS, insist on having DR. C. McLANE'S CELEBRATED LIVER PILLS, made by Fleming Bros., Pittsburgh, Pa.

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A FULL LINE OF

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Pacific Net and Twine Co.
SAN FRANCISCO, April 11th, 1883.

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Fishermen who have heretofore used this grade of twine for repairs, claim that the durability of the patch is equal to the balance of the net, after the latter has had a few weeks use. We think it will be money in your pocket to try it. For prices and samples apply to A. M. JOHNSON & CO., Astoria.

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ALL MODERN IMPROVEMENTS.
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He has Always on Hand FRESH Shoal Water Bay and Eastern Oysters.

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