

# The Daily Astorian

VOL. XX, NO. 64.

ASTORIA, OREGON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1883.

PRICE, FIVE CENTS.

### AMONG THE GEOGRAPHERS.

Within another year much information about the Congo and the commercial enterprises developing there will be accessible. The whole course of the river, from its mouth to Stanley Pool, has been carefully surveyed and mapped. Stanley's furthest station now is at the mouth of the Ilemba river, about 1,000 miles up the river. He has established friendly relations with all the natives. Commerce in Central Africa is destined to find along the Congo the line of its most rapid development.

Prof. Nordenskjöld has believed, since he made the northeast passage, that in August every year, vessels from Europe could pass through the Kara Sea and reach the Yenisei river. If this were so, it would be a fact of commercial importance; but the experience of Lieut. Howard in the Dimglas and of the international polar party in the Varna confirms the older belief that it is not safe to count at any time upon the navigability of the Kara waters. Lieut. Howard has given up his trip along the Siberian coast and has returned to Valde on his way home.

James Stuart, a civil engineer in the employ of the London Missionary Society, is building a road between Lake Nyassa and Tanganyika. He has completed seventy miles of the road, and, as he expects to finish it soon, the society has sent to him a steamboat built in sections for transportation overland, which will launch on Lake Tanganyika. The Scottish Missionary society has two steamers now on Lake Nyassa. Goods can now be taken all the way from London to the north end of Nyassa by steamer, except at the rapids in the River Shire, around which they have to be carried by hand.

M. De Brazza has reached De Brazzaville. This is a small collection of native huts at the west end of Stanley Pool. It is on the north bank of the Congo, and Stanley's Leopoldville is almost directly opposite on the south bank. De Brazza's right to the place and to the adjoining territory is now disputed by the natives. Stanley has established so many stations and has succeeded so well in his efforts to win the good will of the natives that it is doubtful whether De Brazza will be able to compete with him on even terms in the work of opening the country.

The colonists who will leave England before Christmas to settle in New Guinea will be practically the pioneers in a land that is nearly as large as England, France and Ireland together. Next to Australia, it is the largest island in the world. Its soil is very fertile, it abounds in fine mineral harbors, and most of the country is healthful. Many of the natives are cannibals, but they have been friendly toward the whites, so far as their fears have permitted them to be. D'Arbertis, the Italian explorer, trusted himself alone among them for nearly a year, and from his reports and the records of Baccari, another Italian traveler, is derived the greater part of the information we have of this little-known land. New Guinea is north of Australia, from which it is separated by a strait only eighty miles wide, and Queensland is still agitating the question of annexing the island.

Most of the scientific parties that were stationed in 1879 or 1880 around the world, near the arctic circle, for the purpose of making simultaneous observations have returned home. The English party from Fort Rae, on Great Slave Lake, probably arrived in England a day or two ago. Germany has relieved her party who were stationed in Cumberland Sound, Davis Strait. The Swedish observers in Ice Fiord, Spitzbergen, have gone home after a successful winter's work. The Austro-Hungarian observers on Jan Mayen, 350 miles southwest of Spitzbergen, reported, upon their return, that last winter was a very mild season there. The Norwegians have relieved their party at Bøskoss, in Lapland, and our observers at Point Barrow have arrived home. The Dutch party that went out in the *Varna*, bound for the mouth of the Yenisei, never reached their destination. News has yet been heard of Lieut. Greeley or from the Russian stations at Moller Bay, Navaya Zemlia, and at the mouth of the Lena river. Scientists will be greatly interested in reading and comparing the forthcoming reports of these international observers.

The route by which Speke and Stanley reached the north shores of Victoria Nyassa is about 800 miles long. It starts from Zanzibar, and is at present the most practicable route to the lake. For years the Royal Geographical Society of London has desired to open a route some 150 miles north of Zanzibar, extending to the Victoria Lake in a straight line, and shortening the distance about 300 miles. It is difficult, however, to open this route, as the Masais, a great tribe living west of Mount Kilimanjaro, seldom permit strangers to pass through their country. No white man has ever crossed their territory. Last spring the Royal Geographical Society intrusted to Joseph Thompson the hazardous enterprise of trying to reach the Victoria Lake through the Masai country. In June his party reached the Masais. It was unfortunate for him that Dr. Fischer, the German explorer, had had a fight with the Masais a few days before. Thompson's efforts to establish friendly relations with the tribe failed, and he had to retreat. When last heard from his party had started on July 5 with a trading caravan 700 strong, and Thompson expected to push through the Masais to the Lake. This young man is a conspicuous figure among African explorers. Four years ago, when he was 21 years old, he was left by the death of Keith Johnson at the head of an expedition. Nothing daunted, he pushed on, and spent over a year exploring the country between Lakes Nyassa and Tanganyika, and the west coast of Tanganyika. He is a scientific traveler, and his labors were fruitful.

### ALICE CAREY'S SWEETEST POEM.

Of all the beautiful pictures That hang on Memory's wall, Is one of a dim old forest, That seemeth best of all; Not for its gnarled oaks olden, Dark with the mistletoe; Nor for the violets golden; But for the scene that below; Not for the milk-white lilies That lean from the fragrant ledge, Coquetting all day with the sunbeams, And sending their golden edges; Nor for the vines of the upland, Where the bright red berries rest; Nor the pinks, nor the pale, sweet cowslips, It seemeth to me the best.

I once had a little brother With eyes that were dark and deep— In the lap of that olden forest He lieth in peace asleep; Light as the down of the thistle, Free as the winds that blow, We roved there the beautiful summers, The summers of long ago; But his feet on the hills grew weary, And one of the autumn eves I made for my little brother A bed of yellow leaves.

Sweetly his pale arms folded My neck in his meek embrace, As the light of immortal beauty Sifted its rays on his face; And when the arrows of sunset Lodged in the tree-tops bright He fell in his saint-like beauty, Asleep by the gates of light, Therefore, of him the picture, That hung on Memory's wall, Is one of a dim old forest, That seemeth best of all.

### Important to Land Buyers.

A contemporary makes some valuable suggestions to persons desiring to enter land under the pre-emption, homestead and timber culture acts. No man should think of making an entry without first seeing the land he desires to enter—going over the land and examining the corners. The representation of persons already settled are to be received with great caution. Much land is kept out of the market by the untrue statements of settlers who want to take it themselves. A settler can not hold a pre-emption and a homestead at the same time, he is often disposed to prevaricate about the condition of the quarter section adjoining him which he wishes to take after he has moved up on the claim he already holds. Or he has a friend or relation who is going to take it when he gets ready. Frequently there are honest errors in regard to the number and the description of land, which involves the person filing or entering in much trouble and expense.

The proper way for any person to proceed, who is absolutely certain as to the description of the land he wants, is to go to the land office and get a plat of the township he wishes to locate in. The law of last March compels the district land officer to furnish these plats and fixes the fees, so that all uncertainty and mistakes may be avoided and no exorbitant charges made.

The land office circular says under the section of the act of March 3d, 1882, authorizing a charge to be made for plats or diagrams, the fees for the same are hereby fixed as follows: For a diagram showing entries only.....\$1.05 For township plat, showing entries, names of claimants, and characters of entry..... 2.00 For township plat, showing entries, names of claimants, and character of entry, number and date of filing or entry, together with topography, etc..... 4.00

It often takes months, frequently years, to correct a single mistake of one figure in an entry. It is no business of the land office to make out application to enter land, and when they do it is simply a matter of accommodation on their part. They are not responsible for any mistakes that may occur, or which you by your misinformation may make. A mistake in your entry involves the subsequent employment of a lawyer to help you correct it. It may require two years even with his help, to get the consent of the general land office to amend your filing or entry. By that time the land you want may be entered by somebody else, and you have had all your trouble and expense for nothing, and lost your land besides.

To correct an error in a land entry an affidavit is required, setting forth in full and with great particularity the nature and cause and character of the error. This must be corroborated by two disinterested persons, acquainted with the facts. Then this must be endorsed and recommended by the land officers. It then goes to Washington and hides its time. It may be two years before you hear from it. In the meantime someone else may have entered the land you want. There is no business in the truth of the old adage, "a stitch in time saves nine," and "the more haste the less speed," is better illustrated than that of entering government land. For the want of a knowledge and appreciation of this fact, occasionally a settler finds his house and improvements on another man's ranch; or by the mistake of one letter or figure, he is living forty miles from the land he entered, or he has double the amount of land he actually wanted, because his quarter section, instead of being the level and tillable tract he wanted, stands on edge, and has an option as to which side of the hill he will cultivate. Go slow, but sure, and get a plat.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.—The *Daily Union* makes the following public: "Our reporter in speaking with Mr. J. B. Weston, Supt. Car Works, Boston & Albany Rail Road, was informed by him that he had rheumatism in the shoulder and could find no relief until he applied the great pain-banisher, St. Jacobs Oil. 'I must confess,' he said 'I was greatly surprised at the good results.'" Most violent explosion of coughing ever stopped by HALE'S HONEY OF HORSERADISH AND TAR. PIKE'S TOOTHACHE DROPS cure in one minute.



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