

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON: TUESDAY, MAY 6, 1884.

MAGNETIC storms of great magnitude, according to astronomers, are now agitating the surface of the sun. The inhabitants of that luminary are probably holding conventions of some sort.

Mosses on Capel emits a reporter "the intellectual mosquito." Perhaps the average interviewer is a fierce wretch who buzzes while he thirsts for gore.

The discovery of a new, or rather a very old, necropolis in Egypt by a French savant gives an additional interest to that country apart from that which it now possesses as the theatre of Mr. Gladstone's curious foreign policy.

The campaign for the presidential nomination would be a tame affair were it not for the picturesque figure from Maine. Alone of all the candidates defeat seems to have no terrors for him. In 1876 he was knocked down at the head of a host. In 1880 he went down with another army. This year he may sink with the same array. But he fights all the same. Obliterated almost in New York, the home of Arthur, he comes up next day to write a partial representation in Ohio, the stamping ground of Sherman, and carries off three-quarters of a delegation as far south as Maryland. He is in for the fight, and he may be relied on to fight all the time. He has been caricatured as the "tattooed man" and is said to be angered thereat; but none the less will he sport his plume all round the horizon, and wherever there is a Blaine man beat his "tattoo" to a more or less popular tune.

SOME interesting experiments have lately taken place on the other side, their object being to note the effect of pouring oil upon "troubled waters." The way the experiment was carried out was to convey the oil by means of a pipe some distance outside the mouth of the harbor and then let it float to the top. They are said to have been eminently successful, there being no "white horses" where the oil appeared, only a gentle swell, and it acted as a break water to all inside. People seem to be under the impression that this is a new idea, but it is not so. The expression, "pouring oil on troubled waters," is as old as the hills, and it was often used for this purpose by the fishermen on the inland lakes of Palestine before the days of our Saviour. There is a story told of a wise man of the east who, when a certain king was about to proceed on a sea voyage, presented him with a small barrel of oil, which he said was magical. His instructions were to pour this on the sea if it became rough and it would immediately calm. This the king did, and as he had the desired effect, he doubtless enriched the magician on account of a very simple contrivance. Capt. Cliff, who arrived at Tacoma last Tuesday, with the T. P. Oakes, reports using oil with the happiest results while rounding Cape Horn.

Enslaved literature, like that of every nation, is not an accident, but a history; not a crystallized gem, but a ripening fruitage; not a Cleopatra's needle, whose graceful symmetry would be approved by an absolute standard of beauty, as well in the gardens of Paris as in the deserts of Egypt. It is rather a majestic tree whose grand proportions may be admired at a glance; but to really know it, we must trace the tap-root to its avaricious fibers down in classic veins, deep among the rocks of ages; then ascend its tortuous path up through the carboniferous strata of mediæval times; follow out the mammoth roots of fable and song, far and wide in the deposits of the barbarian upheaval of the Saxon inundation, and of the Northman drift; next see the sacred shoot bursting to light from the rich mould of the reformation; then, leaving unnoticed the whole underbrush of scribbles and sprouting imitations, see the strong trunk of firmly knit growths wrapped in the rough bark of old English, twisted and whipped in the winds of public opinion, scarred by the lightning of battle, and gnarled by the warring elements of revolutions, till it spreads its luxuriant branches in the sunny air of intellectual and religious freedom, and bends under the abundant fruits of modern civilization.

NEW TO-DAY

Net Lost.

ON THE NIGHT OF THE FOURTH OF May, at the lower end of Sand Island (north side) about 150 fat salmon, 1 to 40 mesh South 1/2 inch, were branded J. A. & C. T. & Co. Finder will please communicate with C. Timmins & Co.

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A. TWOMBLY, Sheriff Clatsop County.

Astoria, Or., March 18th, 1884.