

Morning The Daily Astorian.

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FACTS AND NEWS.

New York city has 800 rag pickers. Minnesota is suffering from a scarcity of girls.

Four churches in Montreal now use the electric light.

Fig brandy is a new California drink.—*Eastern Paper.*

It is a penal offense to steal a dog valued at \$5 in Kentucky.

It is against the law to blow a steam whistle in San Antonio.

It is stated that there are 600 lunatics at present in the Texas jails.

Women can be notaries public in New York state. There are several such.

New York city contains more than 100 buildings above eighty feet high.

The Indians have cost the government \$70,000,000 in the last ten years.

Between the ages of fifteen and forty, a woman can grow seven crops of hair.

Cotton seed oil is said to be much better than any other for use in the student lamp.

Brooklyn proposes to spend \$150,000 for repairing the streets during the present season.

Two slaves, formerly owned by Jeff Davis, now own his plantation, for which they paid \$200,000.

New York city has twenty-five widows whose wealth is estimated at from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000 each.

The Enlargement of Sovereignty.

One of the most interesting questions of the near future will relate to the sovereignty of the continent of Africa. For nearly two thousand years it has been a neglected continent. To-day we know little more about the interior of that continent than a Roman historian taught about its geography and resources before the advent of Christ. The continent has been crossed midway; the sources of the Nile and the Congo have been explored, settlements have been made by the English about the Cape of Good Hope. The French have taken possession of Algeria and practically of Tunis. There have been geographical explorations, and most important discoveries by Livingstone, Baker, Speke, Stanley and others. But Africa is not relatively so important to the commercial world as it was 2000 years ago. Carthage has disappeared, and Alexandria is a less important city than it was when the Latin historian wrote of it.

The geographical enterprise of the last twenty-five years was the inception of new commercial enterprise. Every book of travels has been eagerly read, probably because the reading world has always been fond of adventure, and more because geographical explorations suggested commercial ventures. The world is not relatively so large as it was before the time of steamships and locomotives. A former generation read with thrilling interest the travels across the continent of Clarke and Lewis, who reached the head waters of the Columbia, and later by Fremont, who crossed the continent to California. But when three or four continents lay between the country to which we no longer read with interest these early adventures. There is still left an immense territory in Alaska to be explored. To-day we know little of the third river in rank within the limits of our country—not so much, indeed, as is known of the Upper Nile, and nothing of a great river which exists in tradition still farther north. Over a territory nearly as large as that now occupied by the states of the Union there is hardly the shadow of government. That is the direction in which future enterprise will be extended. It is a vast reserve, of which nearly all that we know has been gathered from a narrow strip along the coast. There will be no questions about territorial sovereignty there, because the country has been bought and paid for in honest coin. The questions of sovereignty, if any arise, will relate to the country along the borders of the southern Pacific coast states.

FOUR EARLY RESIDENTS OF MARYSVILLE.—George Gorham relates that when a mere boy he studied law in the office of Judge Field of Marysville, Cal., and boarded with a family in the village, where he met a strange foreign-looking young man named Jones. Next door lived an Irishman named Murphy, who was in the habit of beating a bright, attractive-looking daughter of his whenever he was out of sorts, and the boarders at last got up an indignation meeting and told Murphy that he must stop ill-treating his child or they would punish him. Lawyer Field was subsequently called to be justice of the supreme court of the United States, Gorham ran for governor of California and afterwards became secretary of the United States senate, where he met Jones, who was the millionaire senator from Nevada, and Mary Murphy, the Irishman's daughter, became the wife of Sharon, the California millionaire. Thus the four former residents of Marysville met recently at Washington under such altered circumstances and reviewed their early days in that small California town.

IMMIGRATION STATISTICS.—The tide of immigration continues, but not in such volume as last year. The number for March of this and last year is about the same. For the nine months ending March 31, 1883, the total number of immigrants arriving at the chief points was 339,214. This year, for the same length of time, the number is 304,535. As has been the case for many years, the Germans lead with 105,634. England and Wales follow with 44,209. Canada is next with 40,735, and the Irish, who for two decades after the great famine led all the rest, now show but 24,154.

Keene's Early Life.

W. C. Budd was for many years associated with Keene on the San Francisco board. He describes him as a rather cold man, not given to much sociability, but one who is not inclined to forget a favor. Budd gives some interesting points in Keene's California career. He was a printer's apprentice in early youth, and about the first money he earned for himself was as a school teacher in Shasta county, Cal., and as editor of the *Shasta County Courier* at a salary of \$15 a week. He went to San Francisco in 1835 and clerked awhile, and also took a hand at speculation in a pious way.

Finally he came out as a curbstone operator, and about 1870, attracted by his sharp eye and snappy way of doing things, some of the regular brokers on the San Francisco mining exchange gave him occasional busi-

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