The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

TUESDAY.....JULY 29, 1884

DIFFERENCE IN PHRASING IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

THE following peculiarities in speech in England and America are noted by observers:

An American takes a passage "on" a boat, an Englishman takes his "in" it; a "railroad" in America is a "railway" in England; the American "locomotive" is the English "engine;" the former "switches off," the latter is "shunted" to a side track; our "depot" is the English "station," for they use depot only in its original sense, as a magazine where stores are deposited; we send by "mail," they by "post;" the "baggage" of an American traveler is the "luggage" of an Englishman; one "buys a ticket for" the end of his journey, the other is "booked for" his destination. If we take a hack we mean a coach, but the English hack is a riding horse. In shopping the same difference exists. An American "hardware merchant" is an English "ironmonger;" "dry goods" here are there known as "haberdashery;" and though we may buy "calicoes" at our "stores," we must not fail to ask for "prints" at the London "shops." Again, in dress, the Englishman wears "trousers" and "braces," the American "pantaloons" and "suspenders;" an Englishwoman may appear in a "gown," the American wears a "dress;" only a child in America puts on a "frock," but in England it is the name of a man's garment. A "levee" in England means, correctly, only morning receptions. In America it may be attended at night. The language of country life varies widely, or the same words are used with various meanings. "Lumber" in America is wood for building, and is a source of ample revenue; in England it is worthless, and is used merely for trash that is cumbrous and in the way, as the dismembered relics of old furniture in an unvisited lumber room. The plain tables and shelves of "board" here are "deal" tables and shelves in the old country.

THE supply of scandals in the New York newspapers has increased perceptibly since the "war of rates" began, the idea seeming to be that cheap journalism to be successful must also be nasty. Not only is the country scoured for vile private scandals, which would never otherwise extend beyond the narrow limits of the towns and villages in which they occur, but the newspapers themselves are engaging in the detective business, and in a larger and more thorough way peforming the function which formerly belonged exclusively to the police courts. So soon as a scandal comes to light anywhere nowadays many of even the great metropolitan dailies let loose a horde of reporters on its trail. They investigate it in all its ramifications, interview all the parties to it, secure statements from both sides, and publish the whole nauseating story to the world, omitting no filthy detail which can be obtained. The most conspicuous portions of our leading morning journals in all our large cities are given up to this kind of news, and the search for it becomes more eager each day.

THE assertion that nothing in nature is wasted has been exemplified by an ingenious Philadelphian, who buys old rubber overcoats, shoes, belts, car-springs and hose, and manufactures them into toys for the children, and chewing gum for the girls. The dainty overshoe which in winter protects the tiny foot of a fair maiden may next summer be transformed into a toothsome morsel for her pearl-lined mouth. The waterproof coat which protects the philosopher from the rain may eventually prove a boomerang in the shape of a ball in the hands of a small boy, and cause floods of tears when the lad is punished for throwing it at the original wearer. The manufacturer of these metemorphoses should not stop here. Let him apply his inventive genius to the evolution of wornout presidential booms. They possess such resilient properties that they could easily be converted into elastic consciences for politicians who wax fat on unfilled promises.

THERE is already a tremendous boom in campaign medals. The fiery heat of the preliminary skirmishes has induced the manufacturers of these significant decorations to turn out an unusually large supply. They expect to sell several hundred thousands of them. Boys will wear them, enthusiastic young men will sport them, and even middle-aged and old campaigners will pin them proudly on the military side of their waistcoats. The ladies, of course, will purchase medals, and wear them, too, upon special occasions. Perfect impartiality in the matter of size will be shown in the medals of the different candidates. The classic countenances of Blaine and Logan and the noble features of Cleveland and Hendricks will separately be placed upon a piece the size of a silver dollar.

THE watchword among the campaign highwaymen of Washington is, "Your money or your place."

IT is difficult for the Emperor of all the Russians to enjoy himself. There is no Ilwaco for him, no Seaside, no Tillamook. If he ascends to the roof a dagger awaits his coming; if he descends to the cellar a bombshell stares him in the face. He is liable to find arsenic in his soup, strychnine in his pot-pie and Paris green in his pudding. He cannot even smoke a pipe without running the risk of blowing off the dome of his head; and as for attending a picnic, or anything of that kind, he might as well go drown himself in the Neva. He was going, poor man, to Warsaw to seek a little change, but the plotters had gone there ahead of him. The plans for his last boom had been laid. Astorians, as they enjoy themselves, can think over these matters.

SEVERAL ladies propose this summer to take an active part in the proceedings of the Concord School of Philosophy. They will study the thusness of the thitherward and the thereness of the hereafter. They will dive into the depths of Emersonian philosophy and lose themselves in the mist of German transcendentalism. Such material and foolishly frivolous things as bonnets will receive no sort of attention unless to analyze the subtle influence which they exercise upon a weaker type of sex. Should any fair thinker in spectacles undertake to extract philosophy from ice cream or from that other curious extract of bliss known as flirtation, she will no doubt, be voted of too earthly and grovelling a nature for the association of culture. Yet the bonnet girls get husbands first.

NOT long ago the Legislature o the state of Maryland reduced the fee for a marriage license from four dollars to fifty cents in order to keep her young people from patronizing Virginia preachers. Now New Jersey has just reduced the fee in that state to twelve cents. What effect these measures will have upon matrimony in those states remains to be seen. In this state two dollars and fifty cents fee is required, the douceur to the dominie being optional with the groom. No matter what the fee may be it seldom proves an impediment to the man who has made up his mind to embark upon the voyage of matrimony.

THE government spends $50,000 a year for the repair of mail pouches; there are about 100,000 mail bags in use, and about 10,000 new ones are bought yearly. The weakest point in the mail sack is where it closes and opens. In closing the bag the staples are pushed through the slots, and project an inch or more. When the bag is thrown about, the staples soon bend and often break. It looks strange that this little item should cost the government so much money, and it seems as if our inventors ought to invent a new mail bag and obviate the objection referred to in the old one.

IT is said that the new torpedo boat of Capt. John Ericson will be one of the most terrible of all engines of warfare. This boat, now nearly completed, will be able to overtake the swiftest vessel afloat, can elude all missiles that may be hurled at it, and will carry a torpedo which can shatter and sink the strongest ship. The torpedo differs from all others, and the firing will be either by electricity or compressed air.

LARGE fortunes are rare in Switzerland, and the salaries of public functionaries very modest. The president of the confederation receives $3,000 a year, few judges more than $1,250, and there is probably no bank manager in the country who gets more than twice that amount. A man with an income of $2,500 is considered very well off indeed, and to have $5,000 is to be rich.

A MEETING of London gas engineers assures the world that the ethereal illuminant can hold the fort against any possible device in electricity. The price there is only 66 to 75 cents per 1,000 feet, and it is intimated that figures lower yet may be reached and still a profit preserved.

IN Kansas a trick to evade the liquor law is to have an obscure room stocked with drink and give keys to all customers. They enter at pleasure and get their drink, depositing the cash in a box. No one is seen to receive the money, and hence the great difficulty of conviction.

IT has been recently proposed to prevent petroleum fires by placing a bottle of ammonia in each barrel of the oil, on ignition, by accident or otherwise, the bottle would break, and the effect of the ammoniacal vapors would be to extinguish the fires.

JUDGING from the arguments adduced by politicians of both parties this country will not be supremely prosperous and happy until it has two presidents. Then the millennium will come in with a hurrah.

THE oldest vessel afloat is a ship of 900 tons, called the *True Love*. She is over 100 years old and is a merchant ship in active duty, sailing under the English flag. Her course must have run tolerably smooth.

A TOWN in Connecticut had a marriage, an elopement, a fire, a funeral, a circus, a murder and a thunder storm on the same day, and Deadwood is asked to take a back seat.

INVESTIGATION of the English civil service list shows some funny ways of disposing of public money. The most singular is the position at present held by a Mr. Charsley, who gets $4,000 a year "for labor in locking up the king's treasury in 1826."

GENERAL ROSECRANS is credited with having introduced more bills in congress than any other member of the house, leading the list with 160. Vance of North Carolina comes next, being the author of 120 bills.

NEARLY all the Southern papers charge from $2 to $10 per head for announcing political candidates. In this manner the press prevents a rush of over twenty candidates for each office.

LOGAN'S letter having been submitted to a committee of grammarians is pronounced all correct.

BEN BUTLER proposes to be inaugurated in a suit entirely made up of tanned greenbacks.

EVEN the opponents of Governor Cleveland admit that he is as handsome as a picture.

IT will be a cold day for many an Arctic explorer before the North Pole is painted red.