

# The Daily Morning Astorian.

VOL. XXII, NO. 34.

ASTORIA, OREGON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1884.

PRICE, FIVE CENTS.

## "SYMME'S HOLE."

The Son of the Theorist Defends His Father's Hobby.

A venerable-looking old gentleman, with fast whitening full beard, thick gray hair, eyes bordered by spectacles and the respectable dress of a well-to-do farmer, lectured at Liederkranz hall last evening. The old gentleman was the exponent of the most visionary of theories in regard to the Arctic regions. He was Mr. Symmes, son of John Cleve Symmes, who in 1824, published a little book promulgating a theory. The multitude know it only in connection with "Symmes' Hole," the grotesqueness of that idea fastening it firmly upon the popular mind. Twenty-three people, including three reporters, were present to hear the lecture. Mr. Symmes had announced that it was to be upon the Greely explorations as bearing out his father's theory. He was evidently disappointed at the smallness of the audience, and several times feelingly referred to the fact that he was unable to make the world acquainted with his peculiar views. He spoke as follows:

"I come before you in obedience to my father's dying request, that I would keep an eye on Arctic explorations and see how they would bear out his theory. I have done so. I have watched the explorations of Lieut. Greely, and they certainly bear out what the world of scientists has long called a visionary idea. They found that theory, as exemplified in this lecture, is the true magnetic pole, and was then gladly sold at \$1 a volume. Now it can be got nowhere for less than \$12, if, indeed, a copy is anywhere for sale. I know of but one man in this city with one, and he would not take \$50 for it.

"According to my father's theory the earth is hollow, globular, and open at the poles. The shell of the earth is about 1,000 miles thick, and the distance from verge to verge of the shell at the openings is about 1,500 miles. The edge of the verge is about 70° north latitude, and it is the coldest place on earth. When you advance over that you can see very clearly, and the temperature becomes much warmer. At about 80° north latitude is the true magnetic pole, and when you get at 82° the pole is behind you. You are then going south, and will see large flocks of wild birds, and great numbers of wild animals. This is very different from the Newtonian theory, which places the magnetic pole at 90° north latitude, which is now supposed to be surrounded by eternal ice and is the coldest spot on the globe.

"Now, for the proofs. Greely in his explorations found the weather to be growing warmer as he went further north. People will believe Greely, but not Nordenakjok, Tuttle, Sarben and Wiggins. They went very far north, and found a land on which grew big trees, where there was water and large rivers. Nordenakjok thought it was Siberia. Wiggins found the same country inhabited by a strange people. How could he have found these people if he had not been going south and if it had not been in the hollow of the earth. Where could they have come out if they had continued to go if not at the south pole? Capt. Wiggins, Tuttle and Sarben all saw these people, and they asked them how they came there. It was a wonderful country, with multitudes of game, elephants, mastodons, gold mines, men seven and eight feet high and women nearly as large. They asked him how he came there and were very friendly.

"Greely made several excursions. The further north he went the milder became the climate, and once he saw a valley sixty miles wide and full of game. Don't that compare with Symmes' theory? The next trip he took he found the further he went the milder became the weather. He waded brooks and swam rivers. How does that compare with Newton, who says this is a place of great cold? And yet people don't believe in Symmes. They won't come and let me convince them. I stand solitary and alone, the only believer.

"Newton says the pole is surrounded by the ice; Symmes by an open sea. Explorers didn't know what to do when they found the magnetic pole. On Capt. Farry's third voyage he took reindeer, and thought to gain the north pole over the ice or perish. He found the weather growing warmer, the ice thinner and streams of water abundant. At 80° he found the water flowing with a stiff current. How could that be if it didn't go in at one pole and out at the other? Look at the fish always going south and never returning. At 82° 40' Capt. Farry couldn't find a cake of ice strong enough to bear him up, and the sun was so hot it melted the pitch in his boots. When he got past 80° the compass flickered and pointed behind him. He was passing the magnetic pole. And so it was with Capt. Ross, Dr. Kane, Capt. Hull and others. They all found an open sea.

"Capt. Symmes, then a resident of Newport, petitioned Congress to send him out on an expedition, but was ignored. Had he gone he would have found the open sea and that country where Greely says he spent two such pleasant years. He said it was the paradise of the North. Capt. Symmes said that the magnetic pole was at 80° the land which he called Symmesonia.

I have asked the people to come to hear me, but they will not. I am not to blame for holding up this old Kentucky philosopher, and I will do all that I can, though his theory beggared him, all his family and myself. I believe in it, and it will yet be proved true. Next spring Greely will go back, and either by him or some one else, Symmesonia will be discovered. —Louisville Courier Journal.

Encouraging Dairymen's Associations.

If Oregon's governor and other public men would take the interest in the dairy industry of this section that is indicated by the following extract from a speech recently delivered before the Dairymen's Association of Wisconsin by Governor Rusk of that state, new general interest would be awakened, and this now comparatively dormant resource of the great northwest would soon assume proportions scarcely second to any other in the progress of development. It is a noteworthy fact that but few of the public men of the Pacific coast take any interest in the agricultural development of the country. Gov. Rusk's enthusiasm is worthy of emulation. He said:

"Now, friends, I have wandered; I wanted to say that I am here to-day to meet and encourage you in this great business of our state. It is a great business—it must take the front of others that are passing away. The wheat growing belt has passed beyond us west and north, and we must turn our attention to other products. I say I am here to-day to encourage you in that enterprise, for I think it is the foremost in our state, and this society has done wonders in developing it. I am not a scientific butter maker or cheese manufacturer, I know nothing about it only what I have learned from your reports. All I know I have learned from the reports sent out by this association. I say that you ought to make your reports interesting to every farmer in the state, and they should be circulated broadcast and in that the state ought to assist you. Not only yourselves, but the entire state is interested in this matter, and instead of appropriating for your benefit \$500 to aid you in printing and circulating your reports, you should come up and ask for \$5,000, or any sum that you need and can expend in this way profitably. It is to the advantage of all the people of the state to have all these experiments tried tested and done at the expense of the state. The financial condition of the state is good, and now I will state, all you have to do is to ask your members of the legislature to appropriate it. I will approve the measure, if I am there, and will send you the money. If you will ask me to recommend \$5,000 I will do it. I am not sure but what I will do it whether you ask it or not. I want to see you prosper, until you can beat Canada, and beat all the world.

The Significance of Rings.

It is understood that a gentleman who desires to marry wears a plain or chased gold ring upon the first finger of the left or heart hand. When he becomes engaged the ring passes to the second finger. After marriage it passes to the third finger. If, however, the gentleman desires his lady friends to clearly understand that he is not "in the market" and does not wish to marry at all, he wears the signet upon his little finger. This will inform all ladies that he is beyond reach. With the ladies a plain or chased gold ring on the little finger of the left hand indicates "not engaged" or ready for an offer. When engaged the ring passes to the third finger of the right hand. When married the third finger on the left hand receives the ring. When a young lady desires to defy all suitors she places rings—one on the first and one on the fourth finger. A writer on the subject of rings says: "Though the ring of gold has long been looked upon as a necessity in the marriage ceremony, it is by no means indispensable, and civil marriages may be contracted without it. The Puritans abolished the ring, or rather, tried to do so; they looked upon its use as superstitious and of heathen origin. Quakers generally object to the ring on account of its heathen origin, but the ladies of that persuasion have shown a decided preference for its continuance on account of the invidious position in which a married lady might be placed for the want of it. Wedding rings are placed on the left hand to typify obedience. The converse is probably the reason why the engagement band is placed on the third right-hand finger of a fiancee, who still possesses a large amount of freedom, and frequently exercises her power in an arbitrary manner."

THE BLAINE HAT.

"You ask me the reason I wear a white hat. 'Tis for lightness I wear it, what think you of that? So light is its weight that no headache I rue; So light its expense that it wears me out two; So light its color that it never looks dusty; So light which I treat it, it never rides rusty; So light as its fashion, its shape and its air; So light in its turning, its twisting and twining; So light to a figure, so light to a letter, And if light my excuse you may light on a better."

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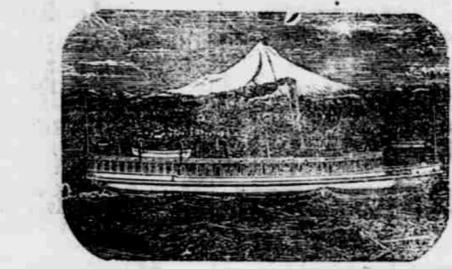
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