

The Daily Astorian

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ASTORIA, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1885.

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A THIRTY REFORMER.
Evidence that St. John was in the Political Market.
DES MOINES, Ia., Jan. 3.—The following letter from J. S. Clarkson, editor of the State Register and Iowa member of the Republican national committee was sent by him to the Chicago Tribune to-night:
DES MOINES, Ia., Jan. 8, 1885.
Editor Chicago Tribune—In reply to your direct inquiry if I knew personally as to whether or not St. John offered to withdraw as a candidate for president for a money consideration, I can answer now only as to the fact without yet being at liberty to make public the details. To my knowledge he did have overtures made through a friend from his own state, by which he offered, if paid \$25,000 in cash, to withdraw as a candidate altogether, or to stay in the field and "feather" his speeches, as it was put in the Kansas phrase, to the help of the Republicans. He was asked, in order to prove the sincerity of his offer, to withdraw from Ohio the last week before the October election in that state. He did this, under the plea that he said he would give, getting a sore throat, and with the friend I have mentioned, went first to Pittsburg, next to Philadelphia, and finally to New York, where he hoped to meet some one on the part of the Republican national committee, who would be ready to make the deal and pay the cash.

On the 29th of October, through his friend, in a letter still in existence, he makes a claim for what is alleged to have been earned by him in getting a sore throat in Ohio, one week, for the benefit of the Republican party. This letter and other facts of detail, which will convince any fair-minded person of the real character of St. John and show to the country what a thrifty Christian he is, will be given to the press whenever he shall ask and persuade his friend, who was the medium of his overtures, to give his consent to have them made public. I may add that neither the national committee or any one acting for it ever made an overture or proposition of any kind to St. John. All that it did was to listen and discuss the opportunities and propositions made to it through the medium which he employed to reach it. Several other members of the national committee and some other gentlemen connected with the Ohio campaign had frequent conversations with St. John, and he and they are conversant with the facts and details of it as myself. They know that St. John's friend was in constant telegraphic and frequent personal consultation with him, and that things which were demanded of St. John as to his movements in Ohio were pledged by that friend and carried out by St. John. In many ways ample evidence was thus afforded us, including the exchange of telegraphic correspondence between them and shown to several persons, proving that this friend was acting with St. John and under his authority. One other person is in possession of more written evidence than I have.

J. S. CLARKSON.
A gentleman from Cathlamet reports that a terrible accident occurred there on Sunday. A two-year-old son of David West was amusing himself by playing with some bottles in the upper portion of the house. Suddenly Mrs. West heard a heavy fall and hurried upstairs to see what the trouble was. To her horror she saw that the blood was fairly spouting from the jugular vein of her child. He had fallen on top of one of the bottles and it had broken, and the jagged glass had cut a great hole in his neck, through which he was rapidly bleeding to death. The horrified mother caught the unfortunate child in her arms and endeavored to stanch the flow from the wound, but all in vain, as inside of five minutes his life blood was all drained, and he died quietly in her arms. The parents are inconsolable over their loss and it has cast a gloom over the entire community.

"A Quarter of a Cup of Tea."
"Yes, madam," said the Dominie, "just a quarter of a cup of tea, if you please, and half a slice of toast. That is all I can eat before preaching this evening, for my dyspepsia is so bad." The poor man preached an awfully dry sermon, which put his hearers to sleep. But why should a minister have dyspepsia as long as Brown's Iron Bitters is to be had at the drug stores? The Rev. Mr. O'Leary, of Newbern, N. C., says, "I consider Brown's Iron Bitters one of the best medicines known."
During 1884, 4,000 miles of railroad were constructed in the United States, of which Oregon built 218, being seventh on the list.

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THE REMARKABLE STORY TOLD BY A NORWEGIAN CAPTAIN.
Capt. Laursen, of the Norwegian bark *Vega*, which is now at the Newble street wharf discharging her cargo, says a Philadelphia telegram told the following story of his trip to this port to a Philadelphia Times reporter today: We were in latitude 50° north, and longitude 45° west, within perhaps 350 miles of the eastern coast of Newfoundland when we sighted an iceberg. The weather had been foggy and we had been creeping along under short canvas. Suddenly a mountain of ice loomed up and we drifted toward it. The iceberg was as clear as crystal, with the exception of a great dark mass in its center, a fathom or so above the water's edge. From a cleft in the side of the berg a slender column of vapor ascended. At once directed my binocular glasses upon the dark mass, and discovered that the black blotch in the center was moving. Soon it could plainly be seen with the naked eye and my men became greatly excited. In half an hour we were near enough to get at the truth, and you may scarcely credit it, but that iceberg was not swarming with seals. There must have been \$20,000 worth of sealskins in that berg. The vapor that came from the top of the iceberg was caused by their breathing. Without exaggeration, I think there were between two and three hundred seals there. The berg was evidently hollow, and the water we could see the seals plunge into every now and then was the ocean. The wall of ice that separated us from the seals appeared to be but a few feet thick, and I think it had only been there a short time. Very likely it formed after the seals were there, for it is not probable that they would come up in such numbers from below and voluntarily make a place like that their home. They no doubt gathered there from different parts of a big floe, and had been floating around for months, unable to change their quarters. After sailing around the berg without finding an opening, we hoisted the bark to lay off that iceberg as long as we dared, hoping that it would split or crack in some manner to give us a chance to get at the seals; but nothing happened, and we had to sail away.

MOST DELIBERATE SUICIDE.
Some time since a German named Schroder bought a place about a mile and a half from Clackamas station. He was an intelligent, well educated man, about 30 years of age, who traveled about the country a great deal, and at times made his home at his place. Yesterday some of the residents in the vicinity, passing near his cabin, which is situated in a secluded place, noticed a black flag floating from it, and going near saw a notice fastened to the door, stating that the occupant had committed suicide. On entering the body of Schroder was found. He had shot himself with a pistol, and as was found from documents on the table had been dead two weeks. He had made a will and left instructions in regard to the disposition of his body, and also a statement of the causes of his putting an end to himself. He had been troubled with some disease of the eyes, and had lost the sight of one of them, and was expecting to lose the other, and did not care to live bereft of sight. He had dug his grave on his place and directions were given where to find it. He ordered that his body be buried in this place, and in another place bequeathed it to the medical fraternity, and requested that some German physician take out his eyes and examine them and find out what it was that ailed them. He stated that he had bought this place to die on, and on one sheet of his paper was written, "In twenty minutes more the deed must be done." From the statement of his affairs it appears that Schroder owned some property in this city, and had several hundred dollars in one of the banks here; also some property at Coos bay.
This is certainly one of the most deliberate and pre-determined cases of suicide on record. The only thing that would lead one to infer that Schroder was not in possession of all his faculties and perfectly sane when he committed the deed is the fact of his having dug his own grave and left orders to be buried in it, and then bequeathing his body to the medical fraternity. He was buried yesterday in the grave he had dug, and as his neighbors laid him away, they doubtless wondered what could have been the man's feelings when he was digging it.—Oregonian, 13.

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