The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

SUNDAY..............MAY 31, 1885.

THE New Orleans exposition closed yesterday.

AN eastern crematory exploded the other day—gone up pyre.

DURING the month ending to-day, the national debt has been reduced $5,000,000.

CHAS. DENBY, of Indiana, has been appointed American Minister to China, Judge Wallace of California having declined the appointment.

YOKOHAMA was the scene of an extraordinary occurrence May 6. As the British men-of-war *Agamemnon Sapphire* and *Swift* steamed into port the Russian ship *Vladimir Monomach* commanded by Admiral Crown, commander-in-chief of the Russian squadron in these seas, piped to quarters, manned the guns and made every preparation for immediate action. It is stated that had so much as a rifle been fired from the Russian vessel the *Agamemnon* would have rammed her. No explanation of the affair was made by the Russian commander.

THE speculative spirit now and then leads to the acquisition of a fortune, which is noised abroad as due to the inherent capacity of the individual; but it will be found by those who watch the matter closely that very few fortunes are made outside of regular legitimate business. If a person is not qualified to prosecute an industry in which he has had years of experience and practice, it is very doubtful if he could succeed in another branch concerning which he knows nothing. Any substantial and legitimate business well followed will afford a livelihood and some surplus for future contingencies.

IOWA has many causes for congratulation, which fact she is not slow to perceive and publicly rejoice thereat. She claims to have a smaller percentage of illiteracy than any other state; to produce more corn, oats, grain generally, and swine to the population; to produce more cheese made on farms; that it is fourth in the total value of its butter and cheese and of its farm products; that a smaller proportion of Iowa women are in prison than in any other state; that only one state has a smaller proportion of men prisoners; that there are only five states with smaller state debts, only three with smaller proportional debt, and one with smaller state and local debt.

THE London *News* of the 30th announces "on the highest authority," that Russia's reply to England's counter-proposals was received in London the day before. The reply, the *News* says, involves the acceptance of the proposals, and practically settles, in a satisfactory manner, the whole question of the Afghan boundary. Both Maruchek and Zulfikar remain in possession of the ameer. The main features of the work of delimitation have been finally fixed, and the boundary commission will settle details. The negotiations, according to the *News*, have been conducted in the most friendly spirit on both sides. Editorially it says: "Gladstone has crowned his illustrious career by again rendering the country a signal service. We must not forget now that peace is secured, however near we came to war such as this generation has not seen. Neither mere obstinacy or skill in diplomacy could have averted it. The task required a combination of the highest qualities which go to make up the complex gift of statesmanship,"

THE report of our consul at Marseilles on the subject of American trade in Europe declares that our weak point is in not selling goods advantageously in foreign countries. This is an extraordinary assertion, but seems to be borne out by the facts. We ship to Brazil goods superior to the English, but fail to sell them, for we do not, as they do, wisely study the tastes of the natives. We make the same mistake in China, because they want something cheap, and we insist upon selling them pure and unadulterated goods. In Mexico the English and Germans get ahead of us because we do not supply them with what they want, and do not do business in the style they are accustomed to. The verdict throughout Europe, says our consul, is that we do not understand how to sell in a foreign market. This is startling when we consider the rivalry and competition that is waged between the American cities for the trade of a particular district. We seem to be satisfied with the trade of our interior, and care nothing for that of foreign countries.

A LONDON special says: There is a growing belief that trouble is brewing for Germany and England respecting Zanzibar. Complications have been caused by the excessive zeal of the agents of the East African company, who are said to have encroached upon Zanzibar trading posts. The sultan made of Zanzibar addressed a protest to Germany, England and other European powers. Encroachments were continued, however, and the sultan reprisals by sending 300 troops to seize the company's chief trading posts. The capture was peacefully effected, but the company sent an urgent demand upon the German government for force to compel restoration of their property, which they claim to own under valid treaties with various native chiefs. This has resulted in an order for a German squadron to proceed to Zanzibar to investigate the subject. The sultan is uneasy over this naval demonstration, and he warned England that he may possibly be compelled at any moment to demand the fulfillment of treaty obligations undertaken by Great Britain when she assumed the protectorate over Zanzibar.

NEW TO-DAY.