

# The Daily Astorian.

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ASTORIA, OREGON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1885.

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## ABOUT FUNERALS.

Customs in Ancient and Modern Times—Great Men

Seldom did a great nation give itself so heartily to a public celebration of a great event as the American people gave themselves to the celebration of the obsequies of Gen. Grant. His funeral is destined to rank with the great funerals of history. In thus honoring its deceased hero, America followed an old and time-honored custom. From the earliest times it has been the custom to do honor to the illustrious dead, and the sentiment of immortality has been encouraged by pyramid and pillar, by monumental bronze, by church and tower. The monuments of the Old World—what are they in most instances but monuments to the dead? In Jerusalem, at Cario, at Westminster, by the banks of the Hoogley, and by the banks of the Ganges, what is it that most interests the traveler? It is the tombs of the illustrious dead—the tombs of prophets and of kings, of mighty warriors and of sainted men. A gray-haired Judge said to a reporter recently: "As a nation we are young in years, and therefore, not abounding in such monumental structures. But we are not ungenerous—we are not forgetful of our own great ones—and we are building wisely and well. We begin to have our sacred spots; and already the traveler takes pride in visiting the resting places of Washington, of Lincoln, and of Garfield. A fourth American shrine will henceforth be found on the banks of the Hudson."

Public funerals were common among the ancient Greeks, and many of the ceremonies which are still observed among us have come down from the earliest times. A public funeral was considered a great honor. In the days of Augustus Caesar they became more common than formerly. On the day of the funeral, when the people were assembled, the dead body was carried out, feet foremost, on a couch covered with rich cloth, with gold and purple, and borne on the shoulders of the nearest relatives of the deceased. Julius Caesar was borne by the magistrates; Augustus was borne by the Senators; Germanicus was borne by the tribunes and centurions.

**THE LITURGY OF FUNERALS.**

In the earlier times, both among the Greeks and Romans, the custom was to bury at night. Hence the prominence of the funeral torch in classical literature. Later, funerals were celebrated in the afternoon, but the torches were used all the same. Then, as now, the procession was headed by bands of music. It was customary, also, to bear before the corpse the images of the deceased and of his ancestors, and if the deceased had distinguished himself in war there was a display of the crowns or other trophies he had won. At the funeral of Sylla, it is said, 2,000 crowns were exhibited. The oration, also, is of very ancient date. In Rome the custom was to bear the body to the forum, where the procession halted and where the oration was delivered. During the oration the body was laid before the rostra. The body of Julius Caesar was placed in a gift pavilion, like a small temple; the robe in which he was slain was suspended on a pole, and on a movable machine was an image of the body with the marks of all the wounds. Cremation was common among the Romans of the republic. It gradually died out under the empire, and with the growth of Christianity interment became popular, the graveyard becoming an accompaniment of the church.

**SINGULAR PRACTICES.**

Some very singular practices connected with funerals, public and private, at one time common, are now no longer witnessed. In some parts of England it was customary, not so very long ago, to carry, as it was said, "the dead with the sun" to the grave. A West Hartlepool clergyman was struck one day by what he considered an extraordinary movement made by a funeral party. When the procession had reached the gate the entire party turned back and marched around the churchyard wall, thus traversing its west, north, and east boundaries. On inquiring the reason, one of the mourners quickly replied: "Why, ye wad na hae them carry the dead again the sun? The dead men aye go wi' the sun." A strong prejudice at one time existed against the north side of the church. It was supposed to be outside the sanctuary, and was called "the wrong side of the church." At one time, too, much attention was paid to the position of the grave. It must be due east and west.

In his "Domestic Folk Lore," Mr. Thistleton Dyer mentions a very pretty custom which at one time prevailed in some parts of rural England. At the funeral of a young unmarried girl, or of a bride who had died during her honeymoon, a chaplet of flowers was carried before the corpse by a young girl, and afterward hung up in the church over the accustomed seat of the deceased.

**SUPERSTITION.**

In earlier times the church was very hard on offenders against her laws. There was generally a part of the churchyard left unconsecrated for the special benefit of excommunicated persons. It was considered unlucky to meet a funeral, and there are many persons in rural

districts to-day who would walk a good mile out of the way to avoid such an event. One popular belief was that the ghost of the person last buried kept watch over the churchyard till the next funeral. These old superstitions are rapidly becoming things of the past.—[N. Y. Herald.]

## The Rise of the Postage Stamp.

It is estimated that every year about 50,000,000,000 letters are posted in the world. America leads, with about 2,500,000,000 and England follows with 700,000,000. Japan, which established a postal service only ten years ago, now mails annually 95,000,000 letters. Postage stamps are of a far more recent origin than many people imagine. Great Britain was the first country to issue them, and in 1840 a prepaid envelope made its appearance, designed by W. Mulready. Prepaid letter sheets were issued about the same time, there being two denominations, one penny and two penny. Before that time the postage was prepaid at the post-office, or, what was even more common, collected upon delivery. Now almost every country in the civilized world has adopted this method of prepaying postage. Strange as it may appear, Brazil, in 1843, was the first nation to follow Great Britain's example. It was not until 1847 that the United States began to use postage stamps, but several years prior to that time the postmasters at New York, St. Louis, Baltimore, New Haven, Providence and Brattleboro had issued stamps for their own convenience.—[Cincinnati Enquirer.]

## Late Medical Intelligence.

"How is Col. Faquier Beverly coming on this morning?" asked Gilbooly of an Austin physician.

"We tried to apply leeches to the back of his neck last night."

"He felt better afterward, I suppose?"

"No, he didn't, for the leeches refused to bite. They were of no use at all."

"What's the reason of that?"

"We are all mightily puzzled about it, but I know why the leeches refused to bite."

"What was the matter with the leeches?"

"There was nothing the matter with the leeches. The leeches were all right. There is something the matter with Col. Beverly. He belongs to one of the first families of Virginia, and has got blue blood in his veins, and that's more than the leeches could stand. It's too rich for them. At least that's the only way I can account for it."

## The Lullaby of Cold.

Fahrenheit supposed the absolute zero or temperature to be thirty-two degrees below the freezing point of water. Later physicians have found that it must be 492 degrees below Fahrenheit's zero. The temperature of the globe is known to fall in polar regions as low as 75 degrees below the Fahrenheit zero, and in recent experiments in the liquefaction of gases two Russian chemists have produced an artificial cold of 346 degrees below zero. The latter temperature—114 degrees above the theoretical zero point—is the lowest which has fallen under the observation of man.

## Humor and Melancholy.

A glance at Bill Arp's melancholy face, the other day, suggested the query: Why are all humorists gloomy? The greatest English wit and humorists lived lives of work and pain. Artemus Ward always seemed to be on the verge of tears. Mark Twain, who comes down this way nearly every winter, is the most despondent and uncomfortable looking tourist ever seen in this section. Josh Billings has the air of a man who has just seated himself on a tack. Petroleum V. Nasby looks fighting mad all the time. Mark Twain wears the injured look of a bad boy who has been pulled out of bed to see ungenial company. They are all alike. They don't seem to enjoy life. Why is it?—[Atlanta Constitution.]

## Something in a Name.

"I don't see much of my husband nowadays," sighed a West Side woman, dejectedly, conversing over the back yard fence with a neighbor. "He's working in the pail-factory."

"Where's that?" "I don't know exactly. It is somewhere down town. He calls it a 'bucket-shop,' but I think the name 'pail-factory' doesn't sound quite so harsh and disgraceful."

[Chicago Telegram.]

**Scott's Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites.**

For Children and Pulmonary Troubles.—Dr. W. S. Hoar, Point Pleasant, W. Va., says: "I have made a thorough test with Scott's Emulsion in Pulmonary troubles and general debility, and have been astonished at the good results, and as a remedy for children with Rickets or Marasmus, it is unequalled."

A good deacon in Ohio wittily says that absent members are like mud on a wagon-wheel; they add weight, but neither strength nor beauty.

Josh Billings says that if you have the rheumatism, you should be thankful that it is not the gout, and use St. Jacobs Oil.

## TAKE SIMMONS LIVER REGULATOR

For All Diseases of the Liver, Kidneys, Stomach and Spleen.

This purely vegetable preparation, now so celebrated as a Family Medicine, originated in the South in 1828. It acts gently on the Bowels and Kidneys and corrects the action of the Liver, and is, therefore, the best preparatory medicine, whatever the sickness may prove to be. In all common diseases it will, unassisted by any other medicine, effect a speedy cure.

The Regulator is safe to administer in any condition of the system, and under no circumstances can it do harm. It will invigorate like a glass of wine, but is no intoxicating beverage to lead to intemperance; will promote digestion, dissipate headache, and generally tone up the system. The dose is small, not unpleasant, and its virtues undoubted.

No loss of time, no interruption or stoppage of business while taking the Regulator.

Children complaining of Colic, Headache, or Sick Stomach, a teaspoonful or more will give relief.

If taken occasionally by patients exposed to MALARIA, it will expel the poison and protect them from attack.

A PHYSICIAN'S OPINION.

I have been practicing medicine for twenty years, and have never been able to put up a vegetable compound that would, like Simmons' Liver Regulator, promptly and effectively move the Liver to action, and at the same time aid (instead of weakening) the digestive and assimilative powers of the system. L. M. HURTON, M. D., Washington, Ark.

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