

The Daily Astorian. ASTORIA, OREGON: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1885

"JUDGE" DAWNE, of Alaska, was in Montreal last Saturday. He is supposed to have taken passage at Halifax for England. A detective is on his track.

VANDERBILT'S physician says the millionaire died of overwork. Poor fellow! all he got was his board and clothes, just like any of us. Shrouds have no pockets.

The present English cabinet has unanimously refused to receive or make overtures for an alliance with the Parnellites. This makes it a deferred matter and calls for a continuance on Parnell's part of the policy that has made possible his present success.

MISS ALICE FLETCHER, the student of Indian household customs, says that among the Sioux, when one family borrows a kettle from another, it is expected that when the kettle is returned a small portion of the food that has been cooked in it will be left in the bottom. The language has a particular word to designate this remnant. "Should this custom be disregarded by any one, that person should never be able to borrow again, as the owner must always know what was cooked in her kettle." A white woman, on one occasion, returned a scoured kettle, intending to teach a lesson in cleanliness; but her act became the talk of the camp as a fresh example of the meanness of the whites.

The Philadelphia Press of the 14th suggests that the discussion of the Chinese question, which the united Pacific coast delegation will press upon congress, be accompanied by an inquiry regarding the desirability of the United States continuing its present liberal policy towards immigrants of all nations. It is stated that 20,000,000 of acres of public lands available for settlement remain undisposed of in Dakota. In four or five years this remnant will be absorbed. While there are claimed to be special objections against Chinese immigrants which do not weigh against those of other nationalities, it will be well if an effort to exclude the former leads to serious consideration of the whole subject of immigration.

GEN. NEWTON, chief engineer of the United States army, superintending the work at Hell Gate, says: "The importance of the suggestions recently made by Tilden, regarding the present need of harbor defenses on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts can not be over estimated. As I have before said, persons are greatly in error who imagine that by diplomatic delays war may be avoided until proper preparations for defenses can be made. The modern system is to make war sudden, sharp and decisive, and to make the beaten party pay the expenses. Our important posts should be protected by guns of the greatest power, mounted on reversible turrets and steel armored casemated batteries. The monster guns now made can pierce an iron-clad two miles distant. The destructive power of guns is increasing beyond the buoyant power of ships, so that vessels can no longer carry armor upon them sufficient to resist penetration. We have the advantage on land, that we can make our batteries of whatever material constructed, sufficiently thick to resist the most powerful guns that can be built. If the weight of guns progresses in the near future as much as in the past, we will be using guns on land which cannot be utilized on board ship. It will take ten to twelve years to put our coast in an adequate state of defense." The general thinks our harbor mines and torpedo system entirely inadequate against recent improvements in the art of countermining and resisting and removing torpedoes.

The term "visionary" has come to be a synonym for impracticable schemes. The "visionary" man is one whose dreams are not realized. Yet the world could not easily dispense with the men and women who dream dreams and see visions. No one is more necessary to the so-called practical man than the idealist. Those who hastily and flippantly disparage the idealist forget that the greatest practical achievements of the age first existed only as dreams. The locomotive, the steamboat, the telegraph, the telephone, were once intangible dreams. They were seen in visions before they could be embodied in realities. What more imposing triumph of mechanical skill than the Brooklyn bridge? Yet it was while crossing in a ferry-boat that the great engineer saw an image of that bridge swinging in the air. It is not in having visions that the error lies, for the man who has not intellectual and moral vision goes through life as blind as a mole. The difficulty with many visionary men is that they have not energy or faith or skill enough to realize their own dreams. It is in comparatively few men that we meet that union of imaginative power, practical sagacity, and personal force that makes them capable of incarnating their own visions.

Of all the plans for regulating the succession to the presidency in the case of the death, resignation or inability of the persons designated by the constitution, that of Senator Hoar seems most to commend itself to conservative citizens. His bill, which was passed by the senate last year, but which was not voted on by the house, vests the succession in such members of the president's cabinet as are eligible to the presidential office under the constitution, beginning with the secretary of state. The chief merit of the bill is that it provides a number of successors in accord with the general policy of the head of the administration, thus minimizing, as far as possible, possible political dangers growing out of physical accident. The act of 1792, by which the succession is regulated at present, provides only two successors in case of the death of the president and vice-president, viz.: the president of the senate and speaker of the house, and there may occur cases when neither of these officers is in existence. The Hoar bill, on the other hand, provides seven possible successors, whose places generally speaking, are always filled. The interests of public tranquility will undoubtedly be better subserved by the Hoar bill than by the act of 1792. Under that act cases may occur, as for instance in the present conjuncture, when the death of the president and that of his probable successor would in each case involve temporary changes of political control in the executive office, while under the Hoar bill such a change would be under ordinary circumstances an utter impossibility. There should be no difficulty in securing the passage of Senator Hoar's bill early in the present session of congress. It passed in the senate last year, and there should be no opposition to it on the part of the majority in the house this year.

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J. R. GILSTRAP, Secretary.
Astoria, Or., Dec. 12th, 1885.

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