

WHY?

In her Thursday night lecture at Ross' opera house, Mrs. Mary Lathrap, with considerable force of expression, said that a man owning a home in Astoria should be ashamed to attempt to fasten a portion of his taxes on the saloon business.

Prudhon, the great communist, says "Property is robbery." Mrs. Lathrap, the great prohibitionist, says virtually the same thing, only she gets there by a different route.

If a man is to be punished by excessive taxation for the crime of accumulating property, of working hard for his family and providing a home, of putting away something for his declining years, what incentive is there to self-sacrifice? Pleasure, ease, human inclination say "dress well, live well, spend your money, have a 'good' time."

Let him who buys the liquor pay well for his indulgence: let the consumer help pay the burden of tax, for it is the consumer, be he rich or poor, that really pays the restricting tax on liquor sales known as license; and thus place a premium on the sober, the temperate and the self-denying man, the man who is a prohibition law unto himself, and who calls for no prohibition law "Hold me, or I'll get drunk."

THE ASTORIAN'S proposition, which Mrs. Lathrap and others think so silly, is that the saloon should be made to pay its full share of municipal expense. It should not be allowed to go free and saddle all the tax, all the burden, all the expense, on property, on sobriety, on what is usually believed to be the solid wealth and mainstay of the community.

The prohibitionists virtually say the liquor traffic should not be taxed. THE ASTORIAN says it should. The prohibitionists virtually say that a man should be taxed heavily if he has a home. THE ASTORIAN thinks that the element that makes proportionately the most expense in courts and police protection should be made to pay its full share of the taxes thus made necessary, and is willing to leave the matter to the calm, unbiased judgment of any thinking person, only saying to those who uphold and applaud Mrs. Lathrap's proposition that they should not in judging anything, mistake their prejudices for their principles. People sometimes get their prejudices and principles mixed.

In the annual report of the commissioner of the general land office, regarding surveys in Oregon, the commissioner says: "The surveyor general has made three contracts for surveys of Indian reservation boundaries, and for subdivision of reservations for allotments to Indians. He has also entered into contracts for surveys, payable out of the appropriation for surveys of public lands. About two-thirds of the area of Oregon has been surveyed. Further surveys are needed to keep up with the progress of settlement. In many instances lands settled upon are in small valleys where the greater part of the land is mountainous and unfit for cultivation, or else containing more or less timber. Some of these lands are in a country covered with dense undergrowth, in which no competent surveyor will attempt to make surveys at the rates allowed by law."

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A SHOWER OF METEORS.

The Scene Witnessed Annually in October.

The path of the earth on the 18th and 20th of the present month does not lie through a solitary waste of space, where its unimaginable speed is the only existing motion for hundreds of thousands of miles, an isolated exception to the surrounding quiet.

To-night and Thursday night the earth encounters the ring of Orionids, which rank next to those of November 12th and 13th, in size and brilliancy.

Besides these circling streams it also encounters them singly, and in isolated groups, so that it is now considered that the interplanetary spaces are, comparatively speaking, crowded with these bodies, which are named meteors, and differ from the planets principally in size. Though any approximation to the number really in existence could not be attempted, it is at least known that the earth does not travel many hundreds of miles in untroubled solitude.

As these objects, though undoubtedly shining by borrowed light, like the moon and planets, are too small to be distinguished, and too far apart, even in groups, to shed a combined light, it may excite surprise that we are aware of their existence. To understand this matter fully it must be remembered that the earth's atmosphere, which envelops it to a height of at least a hundred miles, or about one-eighth of its diameter, is matter, though in a very rarefied condition. When impelled by the laws of gravity these celestial travelers wing their curving flight to some point of space already occupied by the earth, they necessarily collide, first with the atmosphere, which they generally penetrate at the rate of about thirty miles in a second. But the earth being also moving, the friction is of a twofold nature; and the opaque intruder generally ignites and is consumed before half way through the atmosphere.

Then star-gazers or casual observers see the destruction aloft in the form of a falling or shooting star, which in seeming size and distance, resembles those remote suns that are billions of miles beyond the pathway of our planet.

The trail of light that sometimes lingers in the path of the vanished meteor is the debris of its extinguished existence. As different races of men contend for territory, so, also, inanimate nature is in conflict in the realms of space, and the shooting stars are the record of the warfare written in fire. But the earth's atmospheric armor is not always invincible, and the invading hosts sometimes effect their own extensive annihilation by small retaliative triumphs. If the meteor is of unusual size, it passes through the atmosphere and reaches the ground before it is completely fused. These prisoners of war are generally, when captured, incarcerated in museums under the name of aerolites. One of the largest is now in the Academy of Sciences of Copenhagen, and weighs 50,000 pounds.

In their swift descent they sometimes avenge their downfall. A Franciscan monk was killed by a small aerolite near Milan, in the middle of the seventeenth century. No doubt many conflicting views were afloat at the time, as to whether it was a privilege or a punishment to be felled by a heavenly missile.

There are also accounts of a herdsman in Bordeaux and a fishing boat in the Orkney islands being the victims of meteoric force. But though the celestial exiles do not always bear destruction with them, their frequent fall is now a well-attested fact. The latest reported being that at Spokane Falls about two months ago.

A German writer estimates the fall of aerolites at about twelve daily, but few are discovered, as they either descend unnoticed, or in uninhabited lands, and the largest number probably record of all the deaths inflicted by the descent of meteors, the number would probably be too few to cause any apprehension; still, like the sword of Damocles, the possibility is forever overhead. The sudden, swift, silent movement of the falling stars is always startling and impressive. They seem, superficially, an incongruity in the clear still heavens, but are in reality a glimpse of distant space, from which we are otherwise hopelessly excluded. Examination proves that the aerolite, or falling star, that outlives collision with the atmosphere is not composed of any weird or mysterious substances as one might expect on account of its cosmical origin. On the contrary, its constituents, though differently combined, are entirely similar to earthly material. Iron is the predominant substance, being sometimes ninety per cent of the mass. The outside is frequently found to be intensely hot on its first contact with terrestrial soil, and the surface presents a fused appearance.

When a meteor survives fusion in the upper atmosphere, but is shattered by contact with the denser strata, which disruption is followed by a report like the discharge of firearms, it is then distinguished by the name of fireball. The ring of meteors through which the earth passes about the 18th of this month is habitually to illustrate any of these described forms, but is especially the trail of light which sometimes lasts for minutes and slowly fades away in varied hues. Astronomers think that the orbit of these meteors is very elliptical, and that any point of the unbroken stream takes about 124 years

to complete the circuit. Moreover, the study of comets and meteoric rings in the last few years leads to the conclusion that these ignited particles in every phase are the rekindled fires of former days; or, in other words, the scattered debris of comets of the past, or perhaps of comets still existent but gradually diminishing from division and disintegration.

NEW TO-DAY.

Ross' Opera House.

ONE GRAND EVENT! Monday, October 24, 1887.

Emerson's Minstrels

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Notice to Fishermen. ANY PERSON WISHING TO CONTRACT A Sturgeon at 1 cent per pound for all from 10 to 80 pounds, or 1/2 cent for all above 80 pounds up to 5 tons weight, apply for further particulars to R. T. HUMPHREYS, Central Market.

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Taxes Due, School Dist. No. 9, Upper Astoria. TAXES FOR THE ABOVE DISTRICT are now due and payable to the undersigned. WM. R. ADAIR, Clerk.

School Taxes. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE taxes for school district No. 1 are now due and payable at my office on Main street wharf and that the same will be deemed delinquent unless paid within sixty days from this date. J. G. HUSTLER, District Clerk.

Notice. THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WEST Coast Pkg Co. will be held in their office, in Astoria, on the 24th day of October, 1887, to elect directors for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting. By order of the President, S. E. MORTON, Sec.

Net Found. ABOVE BROWNPORT, LAST WEEK, a about 30 fathoms forty-mesh net: no marks. Owner will apply to GUS. STURE, Knappa.

FASHIONABLE DRESSMAKING. MISS M. L. RICHARDSON Has engaged the services of Mrs. A. Johnson, a competent and Fashionable Dressmaker just arrived from the East, and is desirous of having the Ladies of Astoria who wish well-made Dresses to call, see fittings and samples and decide for themselves. Case Street, three doors south of ASTORIAN OFFICE.

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