

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1888.

HELPED AN ELOPING COUPLE.

A letter to the "Old Man" which made the traitor father of the young man ashamed of himself.

The other day there was a newly married couple at the hotel where I board, a great, nice-looking six-footer of a boy, about twenty years old, with a frank open face, and he had a handsome little wife, as lovely as possible in all her manners. It was rumored that they had eloped, and I couldn't help thinking of a case where I helped an eloping couple out of their trouble a few years ago. One day there came into my office a young man and a girl, looking sort of scared. The boy introduced himself to me, and it appeared to me that they had known him when he wore short pants, and his father was one of my best friends. The boy introduced the girl to me as his "wife," and they both colored up at the word and looked awfully scared. The boy said he had come to have me help him out of a scrape. I asked him how much he wanted, and pulled out my pocket book, for I made up my mind they should go ahead with their honeymoon if it took all the money that I had. He said it wasn't money that he wanted, and then the girl opened her rosy mouth, and with tears in her eyes said they wanted me to soften the heart of Charley's father, who was mad because they had eloped, and threatened that Charley should never come home, and that he would never recognize him again. I never was much at softening hard-hearted parents, but I told them to tell me their story, and I would see what could be done. It seemed that Charley's father was a rich—well, I will say lumberman, and he was a widower. He had wanted Charley to marry a daughter of his partner, and come home and keep house for him, but Charley wasn't built that way. He didn't like the girl his father had picked out, and the more he tried to like her the more he couldn't. He had got muddled on this little girl that was with him, and her father was a shoemaker, and he got full sometimes. Her father had once been a rich shoe manufacturer at the east, and had given her a good education, but he was poor now, and discouraged, and got drunk. Charley's father had never seen this girl, as she lived in a neighboring town, where Charley had met her at a sleigh ride. I thought the thing over a few minutes, and asked the girl if she loved Charley. I can see now how her eyes flashed when she took Charley's hand and kissed it and said, "O, dear, yes." I asked her if she could be happy with him if his father never give him any of his wealth. Her eyes flashed again, and she said they didn't want any of his wealth, but they just wanted him to forgive them, and be friendly. I talked with Charley some, and then told them to go to the hotel and enjoy themselves one day or two, and not worry a bit, and I would send for them when I had some good news. I made her wipe her eyes and nose, and brace up, and give me her picture and they went away. The next day and wrote to Charley's father about as follows:

DEAR OLD FRIEND:—I was astonished yesterday to meet your son Charley and his charming wife. I had not seen Charley for seven years, and he has grown up to be a magnificent fellow. His wife is a little darling, and how these boys manage to blunder on such splendid girls, I don't know. With my recent thirty years ago, for bunnings around, it is a wonder to me that Charley didn't pick up some "chippy," that would make you tired to look at. But he has drawn a prize, and don't you forget it. I made them go up to the house, just for old acquaintance sake, and my whole family is "gone" on your daughter-in-law. She can knock more tunes out of a piano than a professional, and she is a charming, affectionate, lovely girl. I asked them about you, and both of them began to cry, and they finally told me they had married against your will, and that you had best bet off. Well, you know your business best, but a man that will go back on two such children as they are, is a condemned fool and I can whip him with one hand tied behind me. However, we won't quarrel about that. What I want is to tell you that they are going to settle down here in Milwaukee. I have got a furnished house in it, and I am going out this afternoon with Charley, hunting for a job. He may have to start in driving street cars, or some such thing, but he will get there all the same. If he don't own the street car line before he gets through, he will be unworthy of a father who began driving oxen for a lumber company, and wound up by owning the saw mill and all the pine in the woods. Charley's wife is out riding with my folks this afternoon, and no old wile like you need have any call to be ashamed of her. She wouldn't do discredit to the White House, old man. I write this to you so you may not worry about Charley, for I will see him through. Of course it is not right to elope, but you ought to have thought of that thirty years ago, when you stole the last girl a man had, and who made you a good wife, though she worked herself to death raising children for you to go back on. I notice you didn't let any old folks saw off on to you any wife you didn't want. Well, Charley is here, and we are going out to tramp for a job of mule punching. If you come down to the convention next week, come up to the house, and we will go over and see Charley and his wife, and take dinner with them. You have no call to be any meaner than nature intended you, and you can go over and be introduced as a friend of mine. I'll bet you ten dollars you will fall in love with Charley's wife at first sight. By the way, I enclose you a photograph of the girl Charley married. I stole it out of her satchel. I wouldn't wonder if we took Charley and his wife to Chicago, to attend the opera, the last of the week, as she is fond of music, and she is such a singer herself. Telegraph me if you come down to the convention. Your friend, Geo. W. Peck.

The letter went off that evening, and about 10 o'clock the next morning I received the following telegram: "Never mind about setting Charley up at housekeeping. He don't need any job driving street cars. I guess I can run my own family. Tell Charley and my daughter I will be in Milwaukee to-morrow morning." (Signed) W. L. ROBB.

I went over and told Charley and his wife what I had written, and the answer I had received. She thought I had spread it on rather thick about her beauty and accomplishments, but Charley didn't. The next day the old man came, and I had the pleasure of introducing him to his new daughter, and he was the tickledest father in the state. It was a question which was the proudest of the girl, Charley or his father or me. He wanted to be around with them all the time, and he carried her satchel, and helped her on with her cloak, and looked ten years younger. He went home first and arranged the house, and they have been keeping house for him ever since, and only a few days ago he was telling me that my grandchildren were all right enough, and all that, but that I ought to see his grandchildren, and I am going up in the pine country some day to see

them. He said the only objection he had to the children was that Charley and his wife had named one of them after me, because I got them out of that elopement so nicely. And that is the story I was reminded of by seeing that nice young couple of elopers at the hotel the other day.—G. W. Peck.

Yesterday Evening's Sunset.

It is very rarely that one witnesses the celestial fires of sunset in the eastern sky. Such a remarkable spectacle was presented yesterday evening, however, shortly before the drapery of night was lowered. The heavens, save about a quarter section a little north of east, were clothed in an unbroken stretch of ashen, sombre gray from which vagrant raindrops fell. At the point indicated was a scope of clear, pale blue, as soft as the skies of Italy, with banks of lazy, fleecy clouds of diverse shapes and sizes. It was in this bright field, midway between the zenith and horizon, that the phenomenon presented itself. The beginning was a gradual suffusion of a golden shade. Increasing in vividness and dimensions, it found its climax in the burning brilliancy of polished copper. The edgings were of less intensity while the shafts of light pierced the snowy clouds, as by a great magician's touch, and converted them into billows of flame. A few moments later the storm-swept portion of the heavens frowned several degrees darker. The sinking god of day then threw mellow pigments into the fascinating evening picture. Instead of the blazing hues came a change as delicate as the tints of a sea shell or the blush of a maiden. The vestal clouds, emerging from their super-chastening of fire, radiated like liquid gold. But, alas, it was only for a brief period. The twilight deepened and the spectacle, as beautiful as it was extraordinary, faded slowly from view. By what celestial alchemy it was produced we do not know. The low, far reaching storm-clouds were as curtains, and it was behind or above them that the expiring orb of day shifted the scenes for the enchanting exhibition.

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The Tournament Prizes. As usual when anything is going on elsewhere of local interest to Astoria the "sting bloke" last Thursday afternoon, and the first news that THE ASTORIAN got from the directors' meeting was a delayed telegram at nine o'clock yesterday morning.

Following is an account of the prizes, etc., clipped from yesterday's Oregonian: A meeting of the board of directors of the Northwestern Firemen's association was held in the rooms of the Portland Volunteer Firemen's association yesterday afternoon. The directors present were: G. Kellog, of Seattle; J. Hoffman, of Albany, and P. W. Weeks, of Astoria. The finance committee reported that they would raise \$2,000 for tournament purposes, which will be offered as prizes as follows: Championship race—First prize, \$200 and trumpet valued at \$125, presented by Mayor Van B. DeLashmutt; second prize, \$150; third prize, \$100. Wet test—First prize, \$200 and a trumpet presented by the Exempt Firemen's association; second prize, \$150; third prize, \$100. Dry test—First prize \$200; second prize \$100. Speed race—First prize, \$100; second \$50. Hook and ladder contest—First prize, \$225; second, \$100. Tender contest—First prize, \$75; second, \$25. The board of directors notified the committee of arrangements that at least thirteen competing teams, aggregating 175 firemen, will take part in the tournament.

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FOR CONSTABLE, Regular Democratic Nominee. H. A. Smidt.

Political Speaking. The following named gentlemen will discuss the political issues of the day at the following places, and all are invited to attend: Seaside, Tuesday, May 22, REEM KANAGA. Skipanon, Wednesday, May 23, REEM KANAGA. Westport, Saturday, May 26, C. B. WATSON, REEM KANAGA. Olney, Tuesday, May 29, J. A. FULTON, REEM KANAGA. Knappa, Thursday, May 31st, C. W. FULTON, REEM KANAGA. The speaking at all of these places will be at 7:30, P. M. Precinct committees will please take notice. W. L. ROBB, Chairman County Central Committee.

Political Speaking. THE Democratic Legislative Nominees Geo. Noland and John H. Smith, Will discuss the political issues, holding meetings at the following voting places: Skipanon, Saturday, May 19th, 7:30 P. M. Westport, Monday, May 21st, at 2 P. M. Westport, Tuesday, May 22d, at 2 P. M. Fishhawk, Wednesday, May 23d, at 2 P. M. Mishawaka, Thursday, May 24th, at 2 P. M. Olney, Saturday, May 26th, at 2 P. M. Lewis & Clarke, Monday, May 28th, 2 P. M. Clifton, Tuesday, May 29th, at 2 P. M. Knappa, Wednesday, May 30th, at 2 P. M. Bear Creek, Thursday, May 31st, at 2 P. M. Upper Astoria, Saturday, June 2d. Committees in each precinct will please make due arrangements for the speaking. The Republican legislative nominees are respectfully invited to meet these candidates in joint discussion. ALFRED KINNEY, Chairman Democratic County Committee.

FOR REPRESENTATIVE, Prohibition Nominee. Dr. Aug. C. Kinney.

FOR COUNTY CLERK, Regular Democratic Nominee. C. J. Trenchard.

FOR COUNTY CORONER, Regular Republican Nominee. Frank H. Surprenant.

Watchmaker M. STUJINSKI, Jeweler.

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Regular Republican Ticket. Regular Democratic Ticket.

STATE TICKET. Congressman, BINGER HERMANN. Supreme Judge, W. P. LORD. Prosecuting Attorney—Fifth District, T. A. McBRIDE.

STATE TICKET. Congressman, JOHN M. GEARIN. Supreme Judge, JOHN BURNETT. District Attorney, JOHN H. SMITH.

COUNTY TICKET. State Senator, J. F. PAGE. Representatives, GEORGE NOLAND, JOHN H. SMITH.

COUNTY TICKET. Sheriff, H. E. NELSON. Clerk, F. I. DUNBAR. Treasurer, J. C. DEMENT. Assessor, JOS. SINNOTT. Commissioners, J. G. NURNBERG, F. W. SMITH.

School Superintendent, C. W. SHIVELY. Surveyor, J. W. GEARHART. Coroner, F. H. SURPRENANT. Justice of the Peace—Astoria Precinct, C. A. MAY. Constable, W. B. BOSS.

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