

DEATH OF PIONEER

HENRY WINSLOW CORBETT PASSES TO THE GREAT BEYOND.

Was One of Portland's Foremost Citizens—Father of the Lewis and Clark Expedition—His Life Was Crowded with Affairs of Business, State and Philanthropy—End Was Peaceful.

Portland, April 1.—Henry Winslow Corbett, for over half a century a foremost citizen of Portland, is dead. The end came yesterday morning as the dawn crept over the eastern hills. While the light of the new day was drawing on the life of one of Oregon's greatest pioneers was ebbing away.

So slowly did the waning taper of life go out that they who grieved at the bedside could scarcely perceive when it flickered last. The angel of death touched Mr. Corbett gently, and he went as he had wished to go, easily and painlessly.

The end of Mr. Corbett's life so soon was quite unexpected. His health had been failing for three months past, and that he was on a downward slope was evident. The vital forces were spending themselves fast. Last Saturday the family saw the first manifestation of the approaching end. "I'm very sleepy," said the patient, but complained of no bodily suffering. The heart which for over 76 years had supplied the sentinels of the brain with life's fluid was growing feeble and the sentinels were drowsy.

Henry Winslow Corbett was born at Westborough, Mass., Feb. 18, 1827, and was the youngest son of a family of eight, six of whom reached maturity. His parents were Elijah and Melinda (Forbush) Corbett. Mr. Corbett's boyhood was passed in Washington county, New York, where, until he reached the age of 13 years he received an ordinary common school education. At that age he began his business career in a store at Cambridge, remaining two years as clerk and a part of the time attending Cambridge academy. He then went home, and, after a short term at school, secured a clerkship at Salem, the county seat. After a year there he went to New York City and secured a clerkship in the dry goods store of Williams, Bradford & Co., serving there seven years. During this period he firmly established himself in the confidence of his employers, so that in October, 1850, they furnished him the necessary capital to ship a general line of merchandise to Portland, Oregon, by way of Cape Horn on the bark Francis and Louise. He arrived in Portland March 4, 52 years ago (1851). At that time Portland contained about 400 inhabitants and five small stores.

As soon as Mr. Corbett had gained a good financial start he began to take a prominent part in those enterprises which he saw were needed to develop the resources of the country. In numerous business, public, church and charitable enterprises Mr. Corbett held a prominent position. He was a director of the Oregon Railway and Navigation company, always casting his influence in behalf of liberal management and to secure the lowest rates of transportation possible with good and quick service.

He was largely instrumental in the original board of trade, and for several years was its president, and was active in the chamber of commerce. In all the important measures of these bodies Mr. Corbett was foremost in counsel and hearty co-operation. Mr. Corbett was chairman of the committee of one hundred, which took a prominent part in municipal affairs during the hard times of 1893-95.

The Lewis and Clark centennial exposition was the last great creation of Mr. Corbett and was in many respects his favorite enterprise. His heart and soul were in it, and he gave to the management of its affairs more time and attention than to his own private business. It was his purpose to make the success of the exposition the rounding out of his long business career, and he would have succeeded if his life had been spared.

Mr. Corbett is justly entitled to the honor of being the father of the exposition. Without his help and influence the local company could never have been financed, nor would the state have been so generous in its treatment of the undertaking.

Will Be China's Banker.

New York, April 2.—News has reached official headquarters here from St. Petersburg to the effect that an agreement either has been or is about to be arranged between the Russian and Chinese governments for keeping all the funds of the latter at the Russo-Chinese bank in Peking. If this agreement is carried out, as the Russo-Chinese bank is in reality a Russian government institution, it is not impossible that a protest will be forthcoming from British institutions, which have been keeping most of China's funds.

YAKIMA INDIAN LANDS.

Effort Being Made by Commissioner to Settle Long Standing Dispute.

Washington, April 1.—Representative Cushman has been advised by the commissioner of Indian affairs that steps are soon to be taken looking to negotiating a final agreement with the Indians of the Yakima reservation whereby they will surrender all claim to lands lying between the west boundary of their reservation and the crest of the Cascade mountains.

Ever since the treaty of 1855, defining the boundaries of the Yakima reservation, there has been a dispute as to the lands actually belonging to the Indians. In that treaty their reservation was to extend westward "to the crest of the Cascade mountains," but in the subsequent survey marking the boundaries of the reservation the west boundary line was laid off a considerable distance to the east of the mountains. The Indians have all along maintained that they were erroneously deprived of the intervening tracts, but no satisfactory agreement has ever been made with them. Only last year they refused an offer of \$175,000 for the lands, saying that was not a sufficient recompense for their loss.

Renewed efforts are to be made through a special agent of the department to procure a mutually satisfactory agreement this summer, and in that event congress at the next session will be asked to appropriate the amount called for in such agreement to quiet the Indians' claim. The department is thoroughly convinced that the equities of the case are with the Indians.

TO SELL WRECK OF THE MAINE.

Cuban Harbor and Coast Will Be Cleared of Wrecked Battleships.

Washington, April 1.—The Cuban cabinet at a recent meeting decided to call for bids by advertisement, both in Havana and abroad, for the removal from Havana harbor of the wreck of the battleship Maine and the removal of the wrecks of the several Spanish war vessels lying on the southern coast of the island. Bids will also be invited for removing the wreck of the Merrimac from the entrance to Santiago harbor and the Spanish cruiser Alfonso XIII, which is grounded on the north coast, near Havana.

It is the expectation of the Cubans that a neat sum will be realized by the transaction, as bidders will not be paid for the work, but will be required to pay for the privilege, on condition that the recovered ships and material shall pass to them. There are a number of bidders awaiting the opportunity to submit proposals, among them C. F. W. Neely, notoriously associated with the Havana postoffice.

It is reported that the Spanish government seeks to recover some of the ships now lying on the southern coast, but all bids must be made by individuals or firms. Offers from the Spanish government will not be entertained.

"THE GREATEST COUNTRY."

Czar's Tribute to United States in Discussing St. Louis Fair.

St. Petersburg, April 1.—The czar today received Thomas W. Cridler, the representative of the St. Louis exposition, at the imperial residence at the Tsarskoe Zelo and expressed his personal interest in, and sympathy with the objects of, the St. Louis exposition, the scope of which he discussed with Mr. Cridler for a considerable length of time. The czar referred to the friendship existing between Russia and the United States, and said he hoped to see that friendship more firmly cemented. He seemed much impressed by the magnitude of the exhibition plans and said he wished to congratulate America on its marvelous development, saying to Mr. Cridler: "You have the greatest country."

The czar promised to carefully examine a memorandum submitted to him by Mr. Cridler, showing the economic reasons for the participation of Russia in the exhibition.

SIGN AMENDED TREATY.

President Palma Sends Orders to Cuban Minister at Washington.

Washington, April 1.—Ratification of the Cuban reciprocity treaty will be exchanged at the state department today. Senor Quesada, the Cuban minister, called upon Secretary Hay and officially notified him of the ratification of the treaty by the Cuban senate, as reported in the news dispatches. As there is only one copy of the treaty in Washington, the other being en route from Havana, the exchange of ratifications will be constructive, rather than actual, Secretary Hay accepting as sufficient the assurance that the Cuban treaty has been dispatched to Washington. No date has been set for the assembling of congress to take action on the treaty.

Silver Bought for Philippines.

Washington, April 1.—The secretary of the treasury today purchased for account of the Philippine coinage 350,000 ounces of silver at an average of 49.8c an ounce. The silver is to be delivered in equal parts to the mints at Philadelphia and San Francisco.

CREVASSE WIDENS

FORCES AT WORK AT HYMELIA ARE MUCH DISCOURAGED.

May Give Up Fight of Trying to Close Gap in Levee—Great Area Will Be Inundated and Vast Damage Done—Funds Almost Exhausted and Private Contributions are Called for.

New Orleans, April 1.—The carrying away of additional cribbing at the Hymelia crevasse early this morning brought the forces that have been at work there to the verge of abandonment of the attempt to close the break. Later in the day, however, it was agreed to continue the undertaking, though all hands are likely to be called off if the terrific current washes out the new lines of cribbing which were started from both ends of the levee late this afternoon. In no event can the work be completed inside of a week, and unless ample money is given, the next disaster to the cribbing is likely to mark the end of the struggle.

The levee board today let it be known that it was at the end of its resources, and that, unless the planters and railroads could assure subscriptions amounting to \$50,000, it would be compelled to throw up its hands. Doubtless double that amount will be required to complete the job.

By evening it was said the break was close to 700 feet wide, with the ends steadily melting away. Two ridges between which the levee caved have prevented the water from spreading rapidly above and below, but the mighty torrent is filling the lakes and bayous to the rear and in the next fortnight the whole basin from La Fourche to the lower limits of cultivated land in Plaquemine is likely to be under water, causing inestimable damage and much suffering.

The Texas & Pacific railroad is now hopelessly involved, with water running over its tracks and with little hope of an early resumption of traffic, if the crevasse is permitted to run until low water comes.

The Howell crevasse is beyond control, and this has suspended all traffic over the Napoleonville branch of the Southern Pacific.

The river remained stationary today in front of this city, marking 20.3 at nightfall. The rise yesterday, however, was .2 of a foot. An inspection of the local levees give no cause for apprehension as to their safety.

THE HAGUE PROTOCOL.

Minister Bowen Will Urge Quick Action by Allied Powers.

Washington, April 1.—Minister Bowen hopes to begin work during the present week with the diplomatic representatives of the Venezuelan blockading powers on the protocol for sending to The Hague arbitration tribunal the question whether these nations shall have preferential treatment in the payment of claims of their citizens against Venezuela.

Mr. Bowen heretofore has submitted to the British ambassador the draft of a protocol for the purpose stated, a notable feature of which is that the Czar of Russia shall name the members of the court. It is known that the allies intend to offer some amendments to the draft prepared by Venezuela's representatives, but their nature has not been made known, although one of them is believed to be regarding the proposition relative to the Czar—as there is thought to be some objections on their part to that monarch assuming the function of naming the members of the court.

Mr. Bowen is anxious to have the work completed as soon as possible, and will urge this on the allies' representatives. According to the terms of the protocol of February 14, the first payment of the 30 per cent of the customs receipts of La Guayra and Puerto Cabello for the month of March are to be paid to the representative of the Bank of England at Caracas on April 1. This will form the nucleus of the fund with which is to be paid the claims of the various nations that are to be adjudicated by the mixed commissions which are to sit at Caracas.

NO BIBLE FOR FILIPINOS.

Catholic Priest Objects to Circulation of Hurried Translations.

New York, April 1.—Father O'Brien Fardow, preaching in St. Patrick's cathedral on "The Catholic Church and the Bible," attacked the distribution of Bibles in the Philippines.

"It is looked upon as a great boon to the Philippines," he said, "that after we have rid them of Spain's rule of 'superstition,' we are going to give them 'the open Bible,' and are shipping carloads of these quickly thrown together translations. Every one knows that persons who have never had more than a year or two acquaintance with this almost unknown language are incapable of giving expression in it to God's word as it should be done. I suppose these Bibles will take along with them America's heirloom, the institution and increase of divorce, unknown as yet to these people."

UNCLE SAM GOVERNS HIS CLOCKS BY OBSERVING ONE OF THE FIXED STARS.



THE United States government does not make use of the sun in reckoning time, but instead one of the "fixed stars" as they are called. Every clear night an astronomer with a big telescope looks at certain of these stars and makes his calculations, from which he can tell just when the sun would cross the 75th meridian. One of the great clocks in the observatory is called the transmitter, because it transmits or sends out the signal that keeps standard time. This clock is set and regulated by the star-time and then every day at 3 minutes and 15 seconds before 12 a switch is turned on and the beats of the pendulum of this clock are sent by electricity over the wires to the telegraph offices in Washington and New York. When the telegraph operators hear this sound on their instruments they know that the noon signal is about to be sent out and they at once begin to connect the telegraph wires with other towns and cities until in a minute or two the "tick, tick" of the clock at Washington is heard in hundreds of telegraph offices. The beats stop at 10 seconds before 12 as a notice that the next tick will be the noon signal, and so on to give the operators time to connect their clocks. There are time balls in a great many cities—usually on top of some prominent building, where they can easily be seen. The one at Washington is on the roof of the State, War and Navy Department Building, at the top of a high pole, ready to drop the instant the signal comes over the wires. In the government offices at Washington and in many places in other cities there are large clocks connected with the observatory by electricity. These are so arranged that when the 12 o'clock signal is flashed over the wires the hands of each one of these clocks spring to 12, no matter what time the clock may show; in this way hundreds of clocks are set to the correct time each day.

Well, the moment the sun is supposed to cross the 75th meridian the telegraph instruments give a single tick, the time-balls drop, the clocks begin to strike and everybody in the district knows it is 12 o'clock.

OF LITTLE THEY GIVE MUCH

Poor human nature is at least as robust in the slums as it is among the brownstone fronts. Good and evil go together in the tenements, says Jacob Rits in "The Battle With the Slums," and oftentimes the evil is prominent merely because it is nearer the surface. Here, as elsewhere, the good outweighs the bad. Two or three simple stories which Mr. Rits tells are sufficient to make one accept his optimism.

I remember, he says, a tenement at the bottom of a back alley, where I once went visiting with the pastor of a mission chapel. Up in the attic there was a family of father and daughter in two rooms that had been made out of one by dividing off the deep dormer window.

It was midwinter, but they had no fire. He was a peddler, but the snow had stalled his push-cart, and robbed them of their only other source of income, a lodger who hired cot room in the attic for a few cents a night. The daughter was not able to work. But she said cheerfully that they were "getting along."

When it came out that she had not tasted solid food for several days, was starving, in fact (indeed, she died within a year of the slow starvation of the tenements that parades on the mortality returns under a variety of scientific names which all mean the same thing), she met her pastor's gentle chiding with the excuse, "Oh, your church has many that are poorer than I. I don't want to take your money."

I found that in their time of dire distress they had taken in a poor old man who was past working, and kept him all winter, sharing with him what they had. He was none of theirs; they hardly even knew him, as it appeared. It was enough that he was poorer than they, and lonely and hungry and cold.

It was on the East Side that the children of Mr. Elsing's Sunday school gave, out of the depth of their poverty, \$54 in pennies to be hung on the Christmas tree as their offering to the persecuted Armenians. One of their teachers told me of a Bohemian family that let the holiday dinner she brought them stand and wait, while they went out to bid to the feast four little ragamuffins of the neighborhood who would otherwise have gone hungry.

And here it was in "the hard winter," when no one had work, that the nurse from the Henry Street settlement found her cobbler patient entertaining a lodger, although there was barely bread enough in the house for himself and his boy. He introduced the stranger with some embarrassment and when they were alone excused himself for doing it. The man was just from prison—a man with "a history."

"But," said the nurse, doubtfully, "is it a good thing for your boy to have that man in the house?"

There was a passing glimpse of uneasiness in the cobbler's glance, but it went as quickly as it had come. He laid his hand on the nurse's.

"This," he said, "ain't no winter to let a fellow from Sing Sing be on the street."

A Lover of Nice Distinctions.

The Siamese differ from other Orientals in a kind of youthful curiosity which has made them reach out for European ideas, whereas most Eastern races have repelled the West or been indifferent to it. A recent writer on Siam gives an account of the learning of the King of Siam who died in 1898. He was a trained Oriental linguist,

and corresponded in fluent English with many Englishmen of distinction. From the book by Mrs. Leonowens, English governess at the Siamese court, the writer quotes an account of his majesty's habits of study.

Before my arrival in Bangkok it had been a not uncommon practice to send for a missionary at midnight, have him beguiled or abducted from his bed, and conveyed by boat to the palace, some miles up the river, to inquire if it would not be more elegant to write "murky" instead of "obscure," or "gloomily dark" rather than "not clearly apparent." And if the wretched man should venture to declare his honest preference for the ordinary over the extraordinary form of expression, he was forthwith dismissed with irony, arrogance, or even insult, and without a word of apology for the rude invasion of his rest.

One night, a little after 12 o'clock, as his majesty was on the point of going to bed, like any plain citizen of regular habits, he fell to thinking how most accurately to render into English the Siamese word "phi," which admits of a variety of interpretations—ghost, spirit, soul, devil, evil angel.

After puzzling over it for more than an hour, and getting himself possessed with the word as with the devil it stands for, but to no purpose, he ordered one of his lesser state barges to be manned and despatched with all speed for the British Consul.

That functionary, inspired with lively alarm by so startling a summons, dressed himself with unceremonious celerity and hurried to the palace, conjecturing on the way all imaginable possibilities of politics and diplomacy, revolution or invasion.

To his vexation, not less than his surprise, he found the king in deshabille engaged with a Siamese-English vocabulary, and mentally divided between "deuce" and "devil" in the choice of an equivalent.

His preposterous majesty gravely laid the case before the consul, who, although inwardly chafing at the situation, had no choice but to decide with grace, and go back to bed with philosophy.

POPULAR IN HAVANA.

Wife of American Minister Leads in Hospitality at Cuban Capital.

Mrs. Herbert G. Squiers, who is the wife of the United States minister to Cuba, has attained an enviable social

position at the capital of the island republic. Minister Squiers is the most influential member of the diplomatic corps at Havana and visiting Americans have been charmed by the hospitality of the United States embassy.

Mrs. H. G. Squiers Mrs. Squiers is a New York woman. She was in Peking during the terrible Boxer uprising, her husband at the time being secretary of the United States legation. She herself took an active part in defending the legation against the terrible onslaughts of the Boxers.

A True Canvas-Back.

A good story is told of John Astley, a fellow student with Sir Joshua Reynolds in London and in Rome.

While walking in the Campagna Reynolds and some other students took off their coats; but for a long time nothing would persuade young Astley to take his off. At last he was prevailed on to do so, and the cause of his unwillingness to comply with the wishes of his friends was then revealed by an oil sketch of a waterfall painted on the back of the artist's waistcoat.

