

SANTIAM NEWS SUPPLEMENT.

SCIO, OREGON, AUGUST 28, 1908.

HOLINESS.

Holiness is doubtless a very fine possession if one happens to get hold of the right kind. The wrong kind seems to be anything but fine. Two instances of the wrong kind were reported in The Oregonian the other day, and, judging from the consequences which it produced, we are constrained to say that as between bad holiness and bad whisky, give us the whisky. It would be decidedly less destructive than the holiness. Mrs. Morrison, of Salem, after taking on an oversupply of this mischievous stimulant, deserted her husband, fled from home, and carted off her goods and chattels under the protection of a policeman. How much more seemly would it have been had the policeman held this good woman in his arms while her husband applied that moderate chastisement which Blakelock says is lawful. To get rid of this pernicious species of holiness there is nothing so surely effectual as a good switch or a ducking stool.

Mrs. Morrison said in explaining her conduct that "God had commanded her to leave her husband. To live with him any longer would be a sin." Robert Laughlin, of Klamath Falls, who cut off his hand a couple of days ago in a fit of holiness, also said that he had been commanded to do it by the Almighty. It would be a queer deity who would command people to do acts so silly. How shall we account for these monstrous deeds done under the name of religion? Perhaps we cannot explain them completely, but it is hardly doubtful that the old-fashioned concept of the deity is more or less to blame. Following the accounts in the primitive books of the Bible the Almighty is popularly presented as an irrational being, vengeful, passionate, fickle and bloodthirsty. He is pictured with all the undesirable characteristics of an Oriental despot, and it is entirely in keeping with such a character that he should command people to do foolish and wicked acts, such as deserting a family or cutting off a hand. Mrs. Morrison and Robert Laughlin, in doing what they did, were simply carrying a popular idea of the deity to its logical outcome. It is no more unreasonable to command a man to cut off his hand than it would be to condemn him to everlasting fire.

For that state of mind which our Salem friends call holiness the true name is fanatical superstition. It is not religion, nor anything like religion, and the being whom it calls God is nothing better than a hideous caricature of the Almighty as he really exists. The deity who loves righteousness and mercy would not countenance such folly as Mrs. Morrison committed. Genuine religion tends to strengthen the ties between man and wife, not to break them. It aims to make men strong, healthy and happy instead of maiming them. In the last analysis there is very little difference between true religion and common sense. Did not the prophet Micah declare that true religion is "to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" What is this but the highest common sense? Certainly, if Micah was right, then the teachers who have put these outlandish notions into Mrs. Morrison's

head are wrong. They have been leading her to practice devilry instead of piety.—Oregonian.

STATE FAIR NOTES.

The Greater Oregon state fair (Sept. 14-19) will this year be the largest and best in the history of the Northwest.

McElroy's band, consisting of twenty-five expert musicians, has been engaged to play every day during the week of September 14-19 at the Oregon state fair at Salem.

Eight counties of Oregon have signified their intention of providing large exhibits for the state fair (Sept. 14-19.) The counties to participate are: Clatsop, Columbia, Clackamas, Marion, Linn, Lane, Benton, Multnomah and Yamhill.

College Maid, a guideless pacer, has been engaged as one of the many attractions at the Greater Oregon state fair (Sept. 14-19.) She has a record of 2:09 for a mile, without driver. Mr. Ervin, the trainer of the mare, says she will lower this mark if given a chance on Lone Oak track.

One of the features of the Greater Oregon state fair (Sept. 14-19) will be the herd of eight performing Shetland ponies, which is owned in Fresno, Cal. The ponies will be raced every day at the fair, with boy jockies, the distance to be one-fourth of a mile. None of the Shetlands is more than 42 inches high. The ponies will be at the service of the children during the day and a ride will be one of the delights of the big fair for the youngsters.

W. H. Carlyle, who has been engaged as dean of the livestock judges at the Greater Oregon state fair (Sept. 14-19,) is one of the most experienced judges in America, having served at the most important expositions. Among these are the Omaha exposition, the International livestock show at Chicago, the Charleston exhibition, the Canadian National exposition at Toronto and the St. Louis world's fair. Mr. Carlyle is dean of the Colorado state agricultural college.

"Meet me in the Corral" will be the password for thousands of pleasure seekers at the Greater Oregon state fair (Sept. 14-19.) The "Corral" is the amusement and concession street at the big exposition. Sideshows, stands and many of the restaurants on the grounds will be located here. Numerous free acts and features are being signed up. The "Corral" is a clean and legitimate attraction, no games of chance, immoral shows or fakirs being allowed.

Fattening Watermelons.

Yes, there are secrets in the trade, just the same as there are tricks in every thing else. If you want to grow a premium taker or a champion weight, all you have to do is to artificially feed it. The melons are good nurses, and will take all nourishment given them. The favorite way of growing heavy weights is accomplished by inserting a fannel string in the stem of the melon and running this into an old quinine bottle into which sugar-sweetened water has been poured. In a single night a healthy melon, after wound has healed where the stem was pierced,

will absorb over a pint of the sirup, and you easily can tell of its salubrity by the rich, green color. All melons but the one that is desired to attain corpulent proportions should be cut from the vine, as the strength of the vine will then go to the one melon. That, aided by the sugar treatment, will be sufficient to grow a premium taker at the country fair. Last year my largest melon, fattened on sugar and water, weighed 93 pounds. However, the eating qualities of the artificially fattened melons are not good, as the fiber is coarse and hard. But that does not matter when the judge at the fair looks at the melon. He never tastes the interior.—Carmi Correspondent Peoria Journal.

Women Help in Turkish Uprising.

The Sultan of Turkey, at the demand of the Young Turks, a new progressive party, and the army has issued a decree granting the people a constitution, a Parliament, freedom of the press and other reforms.

All over Turkey the women are discarding their veils and taking part in the street demonstrations with the men in celebrating the new liberties and the men cheer the unveiled women.

The dispatches say: "The most remarkable feature of the political upheaval in Turkey has been the participation of hundreds of thousands of women who emerged from the seclusion of the harems, tore off their veils and marched bravely through the streets. The command of the Koran that women should appear veiled was cancelled by a Moslem priest who issued his proclamation from the mosque. 'We will help make the world beautiful by this act,' the priest declared."

Without exception the innovation is approved, and one now sees the bright faces of the Turkish women instead of the gloomy veils that enshrouded them. This may truly be regarded as one of the greatest victories yet won for woman's progress. Verily, the world moves!

Silk Producing Plant.

At the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in Seattle next year there will be a novel exhibit from Japan—a complete silk-producing plant. There will be mulberry trees in large quantities, and the public will be enabled to watch the entire process of silk manufacture from the time the worms wrap themselves in their cocoons to the weaving of the thread into fabric. Every single step will take place in full view of the spectator. The exhibit will be so arranged that there will always be cocoons ready for unwinding, and constant demonstration will be given of the methods of the silk weavers. Seattle is much pleased with the plan, and has high hopes that the exhibit will lead to the establishment of the silk-making industry in Washington, the climate being said to favor the production of mulberry trees and silkworms.

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