

## The Santiam News

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L. W. CHARLES

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### PERIL OF A POET.

When Swinburne, Caught by the Tide,  
Was Almost Drowned.

Algernon Charles Swinburne, the English poet, was a superb swimmer and fearless in the water. Yet as a young man he had a very narrow escape from drowning.

Swinburne was a daring bather, and he loved to go to Etretat because the opportunities for swimming in the sea were so excellent there. On a certain Friday in the late summer of 1886, about 10 o'clock in the morning, the poet went alone to a solitary point on the eastern side of the plage, the Porte d'Amont (for there is no real harbor at Etretat), took off his clothes and plunged in as was his wont. A few minutes later a man called Coquerel, who was on the outlook at the semaphore at the foot of the cliffs on the eastern side of the bay, heard cries for help and piercing screams.

He climbed up on a chalk rock and saw that a swimmer, who had been caught by the tide, which runs very swiftly at that place, was being hurried out to sea in spite of his violent struggles. As it was impossible for Coquerel to do anything else to help the drowning man, he started to race along the shore to Etretat, when he saw the Marie Marthe, one of the fishing smacks of the village, come round the point. Coquerel called to the boatman and directed him to the drifting and shouting man.

The captain of the smack very quickly understood the situation and followed the poet, who no longer struggled, but supported himself by floating on the surface of the tide. The water was hurrying him along so swiftly that the boat could not pick him up until it had reached a point a mile to the northeast of the eastern point of Etretat.

The fisherman, whose name was Vallin, drew the poet out of the water. Captain Vallin was not much less astonished at his capture than the Icarians were at theirs, for Swinburne displayed his usual vivacity. The weather was glorious. The rescuers rubbed the poet's body with their horny hands, and then they wrapped him in a spare sail, over which his mane of orange ruddy hair was spread to dry. He began to preach to the captain and his men, who surrounded him in rapturous approval, the doctrines of the republic, and then he recited to them "by the hour together" the poems of Victor Hugo. They gave him some food, and in the course of the morning the Marie Marthe, with her singular supercargo, tacked into the harbor of Yport.—"Portraits and Sketches," by Gosse.

### Florida's Silver Spring.

Underground drainage in many parts of Florida has given rise to many springs at places where streams emerge from subterranean channels. The number of such springs is very great. In size they vary from mere seeps to discharges which give rise to creeks and rivers large enough to float good sized passenger and freight steamers. The best known and largest is the Silver spring in Marion county, which gives rise to a large stream of remarkable clearness and beauty. The water emerges from a basin over thirty-five feet deep, and the spring is so clear that objects on the bottom are distinctly visible.—Chicago News.

### It Puzzled Her.

A negro woman went to one of the telegraph companies and requested that a watch which she carried be sent to her son in a nearby city.

"We would like to accommodate

you, but we can't send a watch by telegraph," explained an amused clerk.

"I dun send him foah dollahs de odder day dat way, and I suah would like to send him dis heah watch. If you all could send de money, why can't you send de watch?" argued the persistent negro.—Louisville Times.

### Bonanza Defined.

A certain congressman had a disastrous experience in gold mine speculations. One day a number of his colleagues were discussing the subject of speculation when one of them said to this western member: "Old chap, as an expert, give us a definition of the term 'bonanza.'" "A 'bonanza,'" replied the western man with emphasis, "is a hole in the ground owned by a champion liar!"—New York Globe.

### The Great London Fire.

The great London fire started in the house of a baker named Ferrynor near the London Tower on the evening of Sept. 2, 1666, and continued for three days and nights. About two-thirds of the city, including a vast number of public buildings, the cathedral, the Royal exchange and about 100 churches, was destroyed.

### Kaffir Greeting.

"Saku bona" are the first words a stranger learns of the Kaffir vocabulary. The expression is the common form of salutation used by the natives, and its literal translation is, "I see you." It is considered a mark of respect not to give the greeting immediately, the delay showing the reverence in which the native holds his visitor.

### Accurate.

"See here, landlord," said an angry tenant after he had signed the contract for a year, "this house is full of sewer gas."

"Yes, that's what I told you."

"Told me?"

"Yes. You asked me if there was gas in every room, and I said there was."—London Answers.

The following have seen fit to take advantage of the News \$1 subscription offer recently—W. D. Crabtree, J. N. Weddle, Paul Bartnik, G. M. Finley, A. L. Geddes, C. D. Osborn, J. A. Richardson, J. B. Couey and G. E. Kalk.

Ladies Calling Cards printed or blank for sale at this office.

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Bran, per ton.....	25 00
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Chop, oats, per ton.....	25 00
Butter, (Country) per roll.....	40
Eggs, per dozen.....	18
Chickens, per pound.....	13
Geese, per pound.....	9
Turkeys, per pound.....	17
Ducks, per pound Pekin.....	10
Ducks, Indian Runner.....	8
Beef, per pound, live weight.....	5 to 06
Pork, dressed.....	9 1/2
Pork, live weight.....	8
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