

EVENING CAPITAL JOURNAL

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1889.

PUBLISHED
EVERY EVENING EXCEPT SUNDAY.
—BY THE—

Capital Journal Publishing Company.
[INCORPORATED]

Office, Corner Court and Liberty Streets.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:
DAILY.
One year, by mail, \$5.00
Six months, by mail, \$3.00
Three months, by mail, \$1.50
Per week delivered by carrier, 15c
WEEKLY.
One year, \$1.50
Six months, \$1.00
Three months, \$0.50
One year, if paid for in advance, \$1.00
Six months, \$0.50

Postmasters are authorized to receive subscriptions.

Entered as second-class matter at the Salem, Oregon, Postoffice, June 21, 1888.

W. H. BYARS Editor
CLARE B. IRVINE Manager

A ROUGH PATH.

About as fast as bad, old institutions are abolished, new ones arise, become powerful and oppress the people. You cannot assuage any admitted evil without offending people who are making money out of it. Every reform, just like every labor-saving machine, takes bread or money from some person. Slavery has been abolished but other evils have grown mighty in its stead. Slavery was the monopoly of labor directly. Naturally the slave master-spirit seeks to own it indirectly. What is the difference between owning the laborer's body and owning the means whereby that body exists? What shall the lover of his kind do when confronted by these questions? Let him love the truth only and be guided by the plainest common sense. Let him say even as the great Luther said when intimidated by the persons of power on one side and tempted by its cunning flatterers and promises on the other, "God help me. Here I stand. I do no other."

LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS.

Meaning human life. We notice an article on this subject going the rounds. It concludes that as there was once no human life on this planet it is probable there is none on many other planets; that as man is but of yesterday compared with the age of the earth, there may be none on any other planet. But this is reasoning as though the number of planets is limited. Now, although we cannot comprehend infinity, yet we can make a few feeble steps toward approaching it. We see that nature, the universe, is infinite. No matter how far we go we still see beyond us infinite space overspread by starry hosts. Therefore, if but one planet out of many billions shall have human life on it, it follows there are an infinite number of inhabitable worlds. We are speaking of the infinite, remember. If there are an infinite number of worlds, then if all but one out of each billion were destroyed, there must be left an infinite number. Therefore, seeing we have one world inhabited it is probable that there are infinite millions of worlds inhabited.

The Astoria Pioneer has an article, "Past and Present," which exactly explains a thought of the writer, who, as a new-comer, some three years ago, was struck with the same ideas. There is a difference between the people of all this coast and those east. It struck the stranger at once that we here are much like islanders. Our ways and manners are those of a people who have long been isolated. But all this will be changed in time, and very soon, too, if we but face the inevitable and meet it. It was plain, also, that the last legislature manifested very little disposition to march abreast with the times save in the matter of road building. One might well ask if the majority represented a general public or the interests of a few merchants, stock men and speculators? The homestead bill, the laborers' bill, the bill to protect settlers against stock drovers, and many like bills, were promptly voted down. And to hear intelligent gentlemen use the arguments they did about such matters was perfectly surprising. In other states such sentiments would remain their own to eternal privacy. They actually do not want any but rich people to settle among us! The Oregonian is their holy gospel.

WHAT a wonderful work is that Elegy of Gray's! There is not a line in it, hardly, but has become proverbial. Just let anyone who is familiar with English literature take that Elegy and dwell a minute on each line, and he shall find that the expressions from "Knell of parting day" to the very last line are now stereotyped, as it were. Before that poem was published those expressions were unknown and now one can hardly find a page of literature composition but has perhaps several of them. They are simply perfect. They fell from the writer's pen like fresh coin from some mint golden, glittering, splendid, and have circulated ever since, and what is more, bear the handling well—their sparkling brilliancy never being diminished by use. Several of Gray's pieces have like expressions, such as "Ample room and verge enough" and the like now in common use. When the "God like Daniel" (Webster) came to die he asked that Gray's Elegy be read to him. It was the favorite of that glorious intellect and we may imagine him dreamingly passing into eternity while the words sounding in his ears, "For who to dumb forgetfulness a prey, This pleasing anxious being e'er resigned; Lift the warm precincts of the cheerful day, Nor cast one lingering look behind."

OPINION VS. LAW.

A great many former advocates of prohibition are admitting that it is a failure. Among others the Boston Congregationalist declares it is necessary to first convince the people until nearly all are agreed upon it. It is impossible to enforce a law unless the people are generally in favor of it. Public opinion is higher than all the law in the world and forever may it be so. What is a statute made by a few representatives but the formula of their own opinions or a bit of jobbery paid for in nine cases out of ten, as things go? How often do representatives misuse the really awful power of the law making. Far different is it with a law demanded by public opinion—the law of human rights. All the people in the world have no right to oppose even the wealthiest citizen. Public opinion down South demanded the enslavement of the colored person. It had no rights worthy of a moment's respect.

GONE.

The death last week of the famous Ericsson takes from the stage of action one of those gigantic intellects to whom modern progress owes so much. It may be said that without such men as he all our knowledge would be practically vain. They have the genius to do the impossible, the very highest order of human intellect. The memory of this man will ever be honored, not by two continents only, the one of his nativity and of his adoption, but by humanity in general, and shall grow larger and brighter as the ages increase.

It makes one blush for his species to learn that a lot of ruffians invaded the White House the night before inauguration singing most offensive songs and using insulting language towards Cleveland. We are glad they belong to the East however, and doubt whether a western crowd could be found to act so unmanly and brutal. Several republican gentlemen called next day and expressed their abhorrence of the conduct of the brutes. Save us from such friends.

A GREAT WORK.

The Pioneer says that the work on the jetty is progressing rapidly, nearly two miles are done, leaving two and a half more to be made. The work done has a good effect on the channel, deepening and widening it and when finished, it will be the easiest bar in the world. It will cost about three millions to do the whole work, eight hundred thousand being appropriated.

HANGMAN'S DAY.

If it be illegal to sentence a man to be hung on any other day than Friday, several parties have been illegally executed in New York under David Hill's administration. Said Hill, on several occasions, reprieved the condemned and set other than Friday, saying it was in derogation of a silly old superstition that dishonors our day.

Wright's Blackberry Cordial will cure any case of Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Summer Complaint, and bring relief at once. Sold by all druggists.

DIED.

MESHER. At Silverton, Monday, March 11, 1889, of consumption, Miss Della Mesher.

TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS.

ED. JOURNAL.—Now that the examination has just been completed for this quarter, we would like to talk with you a while. Have you ever thought why you are examined? Have you ever thought that the examination system we now have is an imposition upon you? Have you never been aggravated over the matter? Why should you be examined? Properly to ascertain your fitness to teach. But our system of examination does not determine teaching ability any more than it determines your ability to herd cattle. You might as well be required to mow an acre of grass. It does not even determine scholarship with any degree of exactness. Many a good scholar would shrink from the tests to which you are subjected. Some teachers there are who are never examined and their work proves them to be good teachers. Some one may in the examination just passed, be graded 100 per cent in Grammar. Does that prove that such an one knows all about Grammar? If so, then he ought not to be subjected to examination in that branch any longer. But no one claims that the standings on a certificate prove conclusively one's scholarship. If any one thinks so, let him attend the next examination and have the scales scraped from his dazed imagination.

If you are examined and found competent, and licensed to teach, why should you be examined again in three or six months? There must be a reason for this arrangement. If you have taught three, six, or nine months and your patrons are well pleased, why should you be examined again?

If you have been examined and found competent to teach in the county of Marion, you may teach in any school. If capable to do the work in district No. 27, why should you not be competent in No. 36? We have known instances in which teachers of the lower grades have done better work than their predecessors or successors of higher grades. It is not the grade of the certificate that should determine the teacher's fitness for a particular school, but the grade of his work.

Why is not a teacher examined in Marion county competent to teach in Linn or Clackamas counties, when the state system is uniform? The same questions are used, but if you wish to teach in Marion county you must have a certificate from the superintendent of Marion county and this cannot be procured without an examination.

We do not object to examination, but we do object to the present system of examination. It must cost the teachers of Marion county not less than \$500 per annum for examinations and perhaps a much larger sum, besides inconvenience and loss of valuable time. Scores of teachers are pinching, and depriving themselves of much needed help in order to be able to attend these examinations.

THE OREGON STATE GRANGE.

The executive committee has arranged that Judge Boise, P. S. G. M., to give the address of welcome and W. A. Sample of Eastern Oregon the response.

Sister Hayes, wife of S. M. Hayes, will give the address of welcome to our California delegation.

The committee on literary exercises report progress. Many of those prominent in the Order will be prepared with essays and addresses.

The conference of the Sixth Degree will be a prominent feature of the coming session. A large class in Fifth Degree will also claim attention.

A state picnic is already being talked of. The location is not yet decided upon but will likely be on the banks of the Santiam at Jefferson. But if a more convenient or beautiful location can be had it will likely receive precedence.

Our visiting delegation from California are already making inquiries as to places of note, and what can be seen in a two weeks' stay. A better opportunity will not soon be had than the present of advertising the beauty and wealth of our state to the body of wealthy farmers, who are coming from our sister state. This delegation will represent every portion of California. They will return and go out among their Grangees and tell to thousands what they saw of our state. They will speak of our delightful climate, our grand mountain scenery, our billowy hills and the emerald wealth and beauty of our valleys.

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