

THE POST-INTELLIGENCER.

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AMUSEMENTS TODAY.

SEATTLE THEATER—Boston Lyric Opera Company. THIRD AVENUE THEATER—"A Stranger in a Strange Land." GRAND OPERA HOUSE—"Old Jed Prouty."

SEATTLE, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25.

The Christ That is to Be.

Today the heart of the Christian world is full of tenderness. The legend of the Christ child is potent, linked as it is with the sacred and well-beloved associations of every household. Millions of little ones appeal to us not only through the strong human tie, not only because of the innocence, dependence and trust that evoke its best from disillusioned manhood and womanhood, but also because of the babe by whom centuries ago new hope and promise came to a worn world and a species groping wearily after the elusive best. Today we give of our best; the gifts that mark affection and remembrance; the greater offering of hearts softened by the touch of joy and hope and the heavenly influence of happiness conferred.

In memory of the Christ that was and is we do these things. For He is in the world more mightily now than in the years when His life touched with flame a moribund civilization, and foretold the over-sought harmony of human and divine. That life is still the greatest source of inspiration that ever smote the rock of human harshness and selfishness. The ideals that He set on high immutably, dimmed and smirched as they often are by the smoke of life's strenuous conflicts, still find their holy of holies in the human heart. For two thousand years their white light has flooded the sordid, struggling world. And though it has not yet conquered in the long and mighty travail, there is no symbol of such power and majesty, none that sways so irresistibly with the conquering weakness of suffering for love's sake, as the sign of the cross.

Visibly is the kingdom of Christ coming on the earth; but it is the triumphing reign of a dispensation better understood. For too many of these centuries, and in too many of the churches where anthems sound today, the central thought of Christianity has been holiness. With its racial bent toward individualism, the Teutonic stock has centered its deepest meditations and its most powerful efforts on the idea of personal purification, personal salvation. What shall "I" do to be saved was the keynote of too many a faith. The renunciation of the world for a stagnating life of pious solitude, the choice of the world if thereby he who elects it might win his sure way to paradise, were and are accepted modes of satisfying the religious nature and following the example of the purest life the world has known. And all the time there pressed upon life and upon the same selfishly weeping soul the old query: If a man love not his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

The central thought of the Christianity of the future will be, helpfulness. Religion involves the greatest and purest of all democracies. It is not enough that here and there a great one should see the holy vision, or that congregations of the faithful should find the keys of heavenly gates. A faith is worthless that feels itself alien to the smallest or commonest of life's affairs. A faith that fails man anywhere, that denies the entire supremacy in the daily life of universal love and universal helpfulness is not the heritage of the Christ that is and is to be. The feeling that draws the household together today, the yearning tenderness, the certainty that this anniversary will lack completeness unless we have helped some one else to happiness, must be the supreme and universal law, must constitute the essence of our daily life, must take precedence of ritual and dogma, before the kingdom of the Lord can come or His will be done on earth.

This is the lesson of history as well as of scripture. Science cries it in her halls, and commerce finds it interlined upon the pages of her ledger. It resounds from the echoing voices of the centuries and rings from the bestry of the human soul. There is one high moral law to which the material world as well as the spiritual must one day make its last obeisance. Because we hold these things apart, dream of one life of the flesh and another of the spirit, seek with foredoomed failure some reconciliation of selfishness with the flame upon that altar of the soul in which self must be consumed before any eye can catch fleeting glimpses

of the Holy Grail, ages pass and civilizations rise and fall and splendors molder, and behind every human institution stands an avenging angel with the sword whose touch is decay.

What we should reverence today is not a doctrine or a scheme or a token, but a life. The world is not regenerate by systems, but by acts. They who explain these things by parables insult and deny Him. In the spirit and deed of that life which began twenty centuries ago, made its literal model, and there alone, earth will find peace and man happiness and the human herd insensibly into the divine. It is a hard saying; so that only the few scorned and rejected have followed it unalterably and found the unspeakable. But it is the law of the kingdom of Christ that is to be; it is the true and eternal interpretation of the great Christmas text, "No man cometh to the Father but by Me."

For the first time in the history of the state there will be no senatorial election at Olympia. Several other states will be more fortunate, or unfortunate, as the case may be. The legislatures of Montana, Minnesota and Nebraska elect two senators each.

Seattle's Building Record.

The building record of Seattle for the past year is probably the most remarkable ever made by a city of this size, under normal conditions. The figures for November, with comparisons made for the same period with other cities of the United States, afford a fair index to the work of the entire year. Those figures show that but two cities in the United States exceeded Seattle in the number of new buildings commenced during the month, and those two cities have each a population twelve or fourteen times as great as ours. In amount expended in building, Seattle occupies twelfth place. Some cities with a comparatively small number of buildings put up show an expenditure considerably greater than that in Seattle. The inference, warranted by these statistics, is that the cities which show a greater expenditure, coupled with a showing of a very much smaller number of buildings, have made up their large totals by the construction of a few large and expensive buildings, while Seattle's showing is of a large number of comparatively inexpensive buildings, for the most part dwellings.

So far as Seattle is concerned, this conclusion is absolutely correct. Seattle's building boom has been in the direction of putting up homes to shelter the new population which has been flocking in within the past year. The most expensive building erected during the year has been an apartment house, for example; but the aggregate of expenditures has been in the direction of relatively inexpensive dwellings.

During the year there have been in the neighborhood of 1,400 buildings erected within the corporate limits of the city, and the building in the suburbs has been in the same proportion. No statistics have been compiled of that suburban building, but it is clearly within the truth to say that not less than 500 new buildings have been erected immediately adjacent to the city within the year, in addition to those within the corporate limits.

The figures in the city engineer's office show an expenditure for building in the neighborhood of \$1,500,000, which would make the average cost of each building constructed during the year a trifle in excess of \$1,000. The correctness of this estimate is open to question. It is the practically uniform rule, when applying for a permit, to underestimate the cost of the building to be constructed, as an inspection of the records will readily show. The actual expenditure for building during the year was probably in excess of two millions of dollars.

It is not the aggregate of expenditures, however, which is the noteworthy feature of the year's building operations; but the fact that, without exception, every building which has been erected during the year has gone up to meet an immediate and urgent demand. Speculation has entered into it in but the slightest degree. A very large share of the buildings erected have been homes built for personal occupation. Of the buildings designed to be rented, the great majority have been engaged long before they were surrendered by the contractors. In numerous instances families have moved in before the buildings were finished, being compelled by the sheer necessity of finding shelter for themselves to put up with the discomfort of having the finishing work done while living in the houses. In hundreds of houses there are today two or more families, and apartments designed for offices in many buildings are today temporarily occupied by families. After all of the building which has been done, the year closes with as great a scarcity and as brisk a demand for houses to rent as it opened with.

During all of the disagreeable weather of the past and preceding months, building operations have scarcely slackened, notwithstanding the expense and discomfort attending work during the stormy weather and heavy rains. It is a conservative estimate that the new buildings erected during the year are sheltering at least seven thousand people, and that the addition of the city's population during the same time has been several thousand more than this.

Mr. Bryan is reported to have said that until Mr. Cleveland explained what the first principles of Democracy were it would be unnecessary for him to reply to the recent paper of the former president. The old inclination to say something was too strong, however, and Mr. Bryan promises to show wherein Bryanism is in no respect different from the old faith of the fathers.

British Touchiness.

The utterances of the London Times concerning the amended Hay-Pauncefote treaty evince a foolish sensitiveness which we hope will not be shared by the foreign office. It says, "the amended treaty is a bargain to which we cannot agree, and to which no reasonable American who takes the trouble to reflect upon our side of the question can expect us to agree." In the name of all reasonable Americans, we ask, "why not?"

Assuming that the unamended treaty was acceptable, as it appeared to be, there is but one change in it as approved by the senate to which Great Britain could possibly offer an objection. The changes in all were three. One provides specifically that the acceptance of this treaty shall abrogate the Clayton-Bulwer agreement. As this was known to be the reason for opening negotiations, it ought not to be surprising or offensive. Another cancels the article which provided that, when the treaty was completed, the other nations of the world should be invited to agree to its terms. As its subject matter deals solely with affairs on this continent, and as Great Britain, by virtue of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, is the only country that we are bound to consult, the fear that such a concession would impair the force of the Monroe doctrine was a natural one. Certainly there is no such love for England in any country on the continent that she need get into a huff because we do not wish to make them parties to a treaty with her.

The third amendment is that which gives to the United States such power to protect its interest in the canal as was conferred on Turkey when the Suez canal was built. Here, again, while Great Britain might have preferred the other course, we find no reason why she should be touchy. If this canal is built, it will be through territory acquired by us, and with money furnished not by private capitalists but by the people of the United States. It is not unreasonable that they should wish to exercise certain police power over what is, in every sense, their property. We claim to be "reasonable Americans"; and as such we not only expect Great Britain to accept the amendments, but we should like much to hear one reason why they are objectionable.

The chief occasion of British sensitiveness, as we gather from the comments of the London press, is entire ignorance on that side of the water of the conditions under which treaties can be concluded by the United States. They argue from their own precedents. This is obvious from their expressed irritation against President McKinley. They seem to think it improper and unworthy of him to have yielded to the wishes of the senate. They have no appreciation of the fact that the constitution makes the senate co-ordinate with him in the formation of treaties; and that any government which enters into treaty relations with us must deal not only with the president, but with the senate of the United States.

European nations make treaties through their cabinets. The foreign office conducts negotiations; and if the government approves, the nation is bound. But the president of the United States alone has no more power to make a treaty than he has to pass a tariff bill or declare a war. So the senate, in amending the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, was not playing a game of politics with England and the American vote, was not laying down conditions for the executive, was not insulting the secretary of state, but was performing a plain constitutional duty. It was acting as entirely within its sphere as Lord Pauncefote was in his. An understanding of this point, if Great Britain could be made to understand it, might quiet the nervous irritability disclosed by the comments of the Times. Aside from this, there is no discoverable reason why she should ride the high horse when the amended treaty is presented to her for consideration. She may also recall, in proper season, that whether the Hay-Pauncefote treaty stands or falls, the American people have declared that the Clayton-Bulwer treaty must go.

A reader of the Post-Intelligencer submits to us this difficulty: In a very popular boarding house yesterday, in this city, there were forty-four people who did not know what we are now asking you to publish in your next issue, and we have no doubt that hundreds more of the people reading your paper are just as ignorant as we are.

What is the accepted origin of "Kissing under the mistletoe?" And what first gave the right to a man to kiss a girl when he found her under the mistletoe?

We have to advise our correspondent that the best things of this life are wisely taken without too much analysis or explanation. No one knows the origin of the custom and the privilege. There are innumerable legends connected with the mistletoe in England, but the origin of most of them is totally unknown. So the right to kiss a lady "under the mistletoe bough" has come down to us from a remote period, that sent with it no account of its beginning or significance. The inventive genius of ancestral man doubtless taxed itself to frame some condition under which a privilege so desirable and so rigorously denied by custom might be acquired as an indefeasible right. Possibly the ladies were obliged to acquiesce by the assertion of superior physical strength;

Politics and Reform.

The spectacle of the Seattle Times, acting as the mouthpiece of the mayor and filling the role of apologist for the present municipal administration is quite intelligible if not edifying. Nine months ago the Times was bespattering the same man with abuse that passed all bounds of political or public propriety. It was publishing local articles so virulent and so offensive, such extravagant exaggerations of the conditions then actually existing, that even its own constituency rebelled. Now it comes to the defense of policies and acts infinitely worse than any then in evidence, and a flat contradiction of the assurances that were made to the people.

The simple and publicly understood reason is that municipal administration is nothing more than a game of politics. If there is a political point to be made, an election conveniently near, or offices to be filled, it is interested. If it believes that there is political capital to be made, the

possibly it did not require brute force to secure their acquiescence in something not without the charming thrill of danger and capable, with demure cleverness, of such adjustment to events as would make it not altogether an unwilling sacrifice.

Bryan and the Popular Vote.

There have been several tables of the official presidential vote published, and one of the latest is from the Omaha Bee, which is printed in another column. In this, as in others that have been published, the vote of some of the minor parties is lacking, but the general result is shown and the figures are sufficiently approximate for use in drawing conclusions on the result of the last campaign.

According to these figures, McKinley received 7,207,209 votes in 1900, as compared with 7,107,304 in 1896. Bryan received 6,355,027 in 1900, as compared with 6,533,080 four years ago. McKinley made a very noticeable gain over the vote of 1896, while his competitor lost. McKinley's plurality of 1896 was the largest in the popular vote ever given to a presidential candidate except in the case of Grant in 1872, when the successful candidate had a plurality of about 753,000. This year McKinley carried the country by a plurality of more than 850,000, in a campaign where the aggregate vote of the two great parties was 13,562,236. This was an increase of between 90,000 and 70,000 over the vote of the last preceding election.

There is more or less significance in these figures. Mr. Bryan made claims that he would receive a vote of over "six million and a half," and for several days after the election his supporters, while admitting that he had been defeated, claimed that he had received a popular majority. He and his supporters might have been sincere, but it turned out that he and they were totally ignorant of American sentiment, and the overwhelming defeat of this year has shown that the people are now more opposed to the principles and policies advocated by the Bryan Democracy than they have ever been before. The vote this year for the two great parties was greater in the aggregate than in any previous campaign, and the loss of popular support sustained by Mr. Bryan well warrants the comments which have come from Mr. Cleveland and others in the last few days.

It has been the rule in the United States until this year that when two presidential candidates of great parties confront each other twice in succession, the one who was beaten in the first instance would win in the second. Adams beat Jefferson in 1796 and was beaten by Jefferson in 1800. John Quincy Adams defeated Andrew Jackson in 1824, and was overcome by Jackson in 1828. Van Buren defeated William Henry Harrison in 1836, but when 1840 came around and the log cabin and hard cider campaign of that year was closed, it was found that his opponent of four years before had won a great victory. His grandson, Benjamin Harrison, defeated Cleveland in 1888, but was worsted by Cleveland in 1892.

This rule, which had been sustained for a century, was broken in the recent contest between Bryan and McKinley; and at the same time the usual rural presidential voting in the states of New York and Indiana was interrupted. These commonwealths have been oscillating from one party to another for a quarter of a century, and it was Bryan's turn to win in 1900. He was defeated, however, and worse than in the previous campaign. The reason for it all was that the American people would not tolerate Bryan or what Bryan represents. He was not the candidate of the best that there is in American Democracy, and because of that fact the traditional rules of presidential campaigns were overturned. Had Bland or Boies or Hill been nominated in 1896, the Democracy would now possibly be united and working along the old lines; but with the nomination of Mr. Bryan came the effort to cater to all that is repugnant to the American people, and his second rejection ought to convince those who have followed him and glory in the fact of being Bryanites that his cause is one that will never triumph, and that his future candidacy is something absolutely out of the question.

Gov. Pingree is a man who generally insists on having his say, but he has just been cited to appear and show cause why he should not be punished for contempt of court in bitterly attacking the judiciary. When the court shall have passed upon the matter the governor may conclude that he had one say too many.

The estimate of cost is a trifle large, a little matter of some \$46,000,000 too large, in fact.

THE BATTLESHIP CONTRACTS.

If Messrs. Moran Brothers, of Seattle, do not get to build Uncle Sam a battleship, it will not be because their own state and state have not pulled for them handsomely.—Port Angeles Tribune-Times.

Indications are that Moran Bros., of Seattle, will not secure a battleship contract, all of which is to be deeply regretted. It is evident the pull of the Washington delegation is not very large.—Wallia Wallia Statesman.

The Moran Brothers' shipbuilding company are anxiously to get one or two of the war vessels to build. Puget sound industries are bound to come to the front, especially in the line of shipbuilding. There is room and will be opportunity soon for one of the greatest shipbuilding plants in the world on the sound.—Clallam Bay Record.

Deaf, Dumb and Blind.

Has this city a mayor? Is he alive, at large, and awake? If we have a mayor who is alive, at large, and awake, we should like to know whether his attention has at any time been called to the state of public morals in the lower east side of this city and whether he has ever considered his official powers and duties in relation thereto.

Cutting Down the War Tax.

Hartford Post. The people will not kick on the reduction of these taxes. When it comes to that, however, the people did not kick very hard when the taxes were imposed. Some of them were rather vexatious, but they were borne with admirable temper on the whole.

types are busy. But as for bettering unbearable conditions, as for reforming evils that need no political turnover, as for the spirit of good citizenship that busies itself with other things, the Times has no use for them. It simply cannot understand them at all. Everything must be marked political grist that comes to the mill. This is a not unfamiliar phase of American journalism, but neither is it admirable. It is a petty game that uses the highest interest of the whole community as one of its counters. The most becoming quality for a newspaper which conceives of municipal reform as available only for political uses is the grace of silence.

The market for American locomotives has been extended to Europe and Africa, and the exports of this character will also be increased by an order just received from Chile for 400 freight cars. The better American wares are understood the more popular they become and the larger the demand.

The German government has protested against Turkey making a deposit with the Cramps for a warship until an old bill due the Krupp concern is paid. If the sultan is to be allowed to do nothing until these old bills of his are settled, he might as well go out of business.

One Kentucky man recently shot another for taking a drink of whisky and filling the bottle up with water. It's curious that it should be all right to put whisky in water, but criminal to put water in whisky.

The claims of some of the candidates for speaker of the next state house of representatives are as comprehensive and positive as some of those advanced by the more earnest partisans in the last campaign.

The Christmas dinner of President and Mrs. McKinley will, according to custom, be a quiet family affair, and the thirty-pound turkey from Dublin, Va., ought to furnish enough to go around.

A Brooklyn woman wants a divorce because her husband flitted with the servants. Probably he only wanted to keep them contented with their jobs.

A mail sack was opened in Helena yesterday and a good part of the contents stolen. Helena is getting quite a reputation for opening sacks.

Minister Wu says "the world is gradually coming to Confucius." This is the most euphemistic term yet devised for the invasion of China.

The last Christmas of the present century ought to be a merry one.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Garrulity of Age.

Very often the older a man becomes the better he likes to hear himself talk, and the less he cares to hear what he says.—Portland Telegram.

Sometimes the same is true with old newspapers—the Oregonian as a conspicuous instance.

As to Road Taxes.

The people who pay the money for road purposes should at least have something to say as to how and where their money should be spent.—Auburn Argus.

Yet, with a singular want of consistency, the Argus proceeds to argue that the people of Seattle who pay nine-tenths of the particular road tax in question, should have nothing to say as to where their money should be spent.

Are Not Christmas Presents.

If Seattle gets all that is promised her by the newspapers she will have to hang up a stocking for Christmas as long as the totem pole.—Aberdeen Bulletin.

Tacoma Has a Kick.

Tacoma harbor gets no recognition in the river and harbor bill. It should not have been expected while there is no recognition for recognition an able-bodied \$5,000,000 steal for the Seattle-Lake Washington Canal.—Tacoma News.

The News heretofore has insisted that the Tacoma harbor is the best on Puget sound. It is certain that the best harbor on Puget sound is not in need of government aid to improve it.

Just a Little Too Large.

Uncle Sam does business on a large scale, having recently given out contracts for building six armored cruisers and five line battleships, aggregating in cost \$50,000,000.—Arlington Times.

The estimate of cost is a trifle large, a little matter of some \$46,000,000 too large, in fact.

Mark Twain, American.

Indeed, yes, let us honor Mark Twain for his humor, for his integrity, for the glorifying example he has set, for his philosophy, his kindness of heart, and his gentleness of manners, but above all, let us not fail in paying our tribute to place among the laurels we are bestowing upon him that which should adorn the brow of our best citizen, in whom we find the incarnation of all the virtues of civic life.

Bad Showing for Cubans.

Louisville Courier-Journal. What good is there in the United States fighting a war to relieve Cuba of one set of plunderers when the Cubans immediately choose another set of their own? The only advantage is that in this case they have the power of selecting their own corrupt officials, but this is rather too

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR YOU TOMORROW. Albert Hansen 706 FIRST AVENUE. The Largest and Most Reliable Jewelry House in the Pacific Northwest. DIAMONDS, FINE JEWELRY, WATCHES, STERLING SILVER, CUT GLASS, UMBRELLAS, OPERA GLASSES, PURSES, EBONY. Not one or two of a kind, but a splendid variety of each to choose from.

DANGERS OF PROSPERITY. Security of Wealth Sometimes is Only Fancy. There is high authority for the statement that people often rejoice at that which should give them sorrow. It is frequently quite impossible to say what may be the ultimate effect of what appears to be good fortune. A woman up at Lexington recently inherited \$5,000 from an uncle. Most people would say that was good fortune. But the woman has lost her husband and probably her life, apparently on account of this good luck. Her husband quit work, doubtless thinking that his wife was able to support him. The wife then tried to get rid of him. He thereupon shot her, presumably mortally, and killed himself. So, after all, the inheritance was unlucky. Herodotus tells a story of Solon that when Croesus showed him his wealth and asked him if he did not consider him a very happy man, the Athenian sage replied that no one ought to be pronounced happy until he was dead. This offended the Rockefeller of the sixth century, B. C., very much, who thought Solon was a chump. But when the Persians got hold of Croesus, and were about to burn him alive, he changed his opinion and involuntarily exclaimed: "O Solon, Solon!" This excited the curiosity of Cyrus, who, on hearing the story, spared the life of the prisoner. Modern historians are inclined to question the accuracy of this story, but it ought to be true if it is not. At all events, the lesson it teaches is wholesome.