

THE MORNING ASTORIAN. Established 1873.



RATES.

By mail, per year \$6 00
By mail, per month 50
By carriers, per month 60

THE SEMI-WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

By mail, per year, in advance \$1 00

ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

THE FOOTLIGHT PERIL.

Blessed be Chicago and thrice blessed be her clubs! If it were not for them the outside world would not know a tittle of the things that aren't so or 1 per cent of the perils that it dodges by not being included within the corporate limits of Cook county, says the Post-Intelligencer.

"New Hitches While You Wait."

It is all due to amateur theatricals. Farther than the outermost star in cosmic space is from the totem pole be it from this journal to say one word in favor of amateur dramatic performances.

But the Chicago club which has taken this matter up so seriously seems to have scented the wrong trail. It assumes at the beginning of its argument that as most plays embody a so-called "heart interest" and as this variety of interest seems to demand a certain amount of osculation at some point in the drama, and moreover and whereas few husbands and wives are cast for the osculatory hero and heroine respectively, that trouble is due and on time.

Perhaps! Yt an unfortunately extended experience with amateur actors and actresses in action conveys the deep cut impression that their attempted manifestations of emotion are more provocative, of inextinguishable laughter than of any more tender feeling.

The kiss, three inches in the air from the damask cheek; the embrace, with the heroine pushing away the already shrinking hero, with self-conscious blushes on the cheeks of each, surely seems to afford small cause for jealousy.

And yet the hopeless idiocy of it all, the sneers of social ungenialities, the pitying encouragement of acquaintances and the loyalty, if forced, applause of friends, may well give rise to thoughts of divorce in the partners of those who have volunteered to make themselves ridiculous.

A CASE OF TEMPERAMENT.

The contemplated impeachment proceedings against Judge Charles Swayne for the federal court of the northern district of Florida assumes a national important inasmuch as the early or late adjournment of the present session of congress may easily hinge on the manner of the disposition of the case, says the Commercial. The majority report of the house committee, signed by republicans and democrats alike, recommends the impeachment of the judge; the minority report seeks to have the charges dismissed chiefly on the ground that he is apparently the victim of partisan democratic prejudice.

Judge Swayne is an intensely partisan republican by tradition, environment, training, conviction and choice. He is an appointee of President Harrison and has been on the bench in Florida 1 5 years. He was sent there from a northern state as a compromise selection, the Florida republicans being at that time divided in their choice of a district judge. Apart from all questions as to his ability and character, he is constitutionally unfitted to hold a position of that sort in the south. He is not a good "mixer"—a tactless, uncompromising person, as immovable in his personal prejudices and as harsh in his personal judgments as the veriest unreconstructed Confederate is on his side. The latter could never live quite comfortably in the north; Charles Swayne never could in the south. Unfortunately, too, he was the chief instrument through which the Harrison administration had to pursue its policy of punishing offenders against the federal election law in Florida, and in his manner of doing that he early incurred the intense hatred of the native Floridians. He never could gain their respect or confidence—he probably never tried—never cared. Another sort of man could have gained their esteem, their confidence, their love. Hundreds of

northerners do it. Southerners are the fairest people in the world, the most lovable—but you mustn't go at them wrong.

Judge Swayne, obviously, ought never to have been appointed to the federal bench in Florida. His chief, underlying fault appears to be in his temperament—and he isn't responsible for that.

PERSISTENCE OF SLANG.

"Shall we suicide?" asks the Boston Advertiser. Well, we feel like it when we find Boston making a verb of suicide.—Washington Post. And then the Ledger comments as follows:

The Post can only make a feeble and ineffective protest against the inevitable. Suicide is a noun that was long ago corrupted into use as a verb, and has been recognized as such by the dictionary-makers for years. The finical objections to its use as a verb will be no more effective than the protest against calling one's relatives "relations," thus confusing two terms which, if kept distinct, would be far more useful in the language than to give the abstract term "relation" an interchangeable meaning in the abstract or the concrete. A similar ineffective protest is constantly heard by self-styled purists against the use of the split infinitive. A writer in the April Harper's shows that the split infinitive has been used since the fourteenth century, and he calls attention to the fact that Macaulay, on the only occasion in which he made use of it, deliberately changed the adverb from before the "to" to a place between it and the verb in revising for a second publication the essay in which it appears. It is to be remembered that usage determines what is proper or conventional or proper in speech, and the slang of today becomes the established vogue of a later time. We may not like the split infinitive or the word "relation" used in the concrete, or the verb "suicide" but whether we do or not, the English-speaking people will continue to use them until it is absolutely forgotten that the correctness or good taste of any one of them was ever questioned.

It would seem to be about time for John Turner—"theoretic anarchist" is what he seems to like being called—to cut his sticks and go back whence he came, if perchance old England will have him. He is much too flippant on the subject of the assassination of rulers to be persona grata in this country, where the people choose their "rulers," or, more properly, their executive officers, to carry out the laws. Among other things Turner said when questioned point blank at his latest meeting that he did not believe in the advocacy of assassination, laying stress on the word advocacy. The implication that he does believe in its practice is irresistible and is born out by his further remark that "advocacy may incite others to act," and that he holds "the man who sits back safely and urges upon another to do something he thinks ought to be done, is a coward." It was just this sort of advocacy, or suggestion, or innuendo, by certain sensational press writers and public speakers that urged on the assassin who took President McKinley's life treacherously and without the shadow of cause. Send Turner home. He abuses the right of free speech and free thought as well.

Now that private capitalists look askance on the project of embarking money in railroads in the Philippines, Secretary Taft proposes that the Philippine government be empowered to build, own and operate, if necessary, railway lines. The capitalists who were urged to put money into these enterprises are among the most expert railroad men in the United States and if, as is apparently the case, they have serious doubts about the success of the proposed roads under private management, congress would do well to think twice before authorizing the Philippine government to go into the railroad business. When it becomes reasonably clear that railroads in the Philippines can be made to pay, private capital will not be slow to take advantage of the opportunity.

If General Miles must forfeit his allowance of \$8,250 a year as lieutenant-general on the retired list in order to run for president on the prohibition ticket, it is reasonably certain that he will come to a sudden halt in his mad political career.

Another express messenger has sacrificed his life in defense of his charge. W. J. O'Neill, who was shot and killed by the California train robbers, rather than open his car to them, was as great a hero as any that died upon the field of battle.

The Japanese attempts to block Port Arthur's channel appear more dashing and picturesque as each new detail is made public. But the channel is still there and Admiral Makaroff's squadron is outside.

People who have lost financial standing and good reputations by speculating in cotton will place a new significance on the verb to Sully.

March went out like a gentle zephyr kissing a sleeping beauty. So there.

An Appeal is Granted. SAN FRANCISCO, April 4.—Judge Morrow of the circuit court has granted an appeal in the case of the Utah-Nevada Mining company against Joseph R. De La Mar. In the first trial the case was won by the defendant. Valuable mining property is the subject of the litigation.

Buying Cruisers for Russia. NEW YORK, April 4.—Rumors are again in circulation, according to a Herald dispatch from St. Petersburg, to the effect that four ships of the cruiser type, built in Germany for the Turkish government, and also two cruisers, built by France, have been purchased by Russia at the price of \$20,000,000. All are to be delivered within a short period.

Teaching Men to Talk. NEW YORK, April 4.—Efforts are being made in a Newark, N. J., hospital to teach a man of 30 years of age to talk. The subject lost his faculty of speech through a blow on the head, delivered by thugs two months ago.

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