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THE ASTORIAN.

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D. C. IRELAND, Proprietor

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Any friend who feels an interest in the prosperity of this region, is authorized to act as Agent for this paper, in procuring subscribers.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

—The Roswell Sprage has arrived at San Francisco.

—The schooner Hera sailed from San Francisco for Astoria on the 6th.

—THE ASTORIAN will be printed only twice a week during the freeze. On Tuesdays and Saturdays.

—The weather is lovely notwithstanding the ice-olated situation of Astoria at the present date.

—Skates, Skaters, Skating everywhere, on all the ponds,—but nowhere more excellent than on Smith's lake at Skipanon.

—We wish some Colossus of Roads would come along here and construct and equip about sixty-five miles from Astoria to Cornelius.

—In this little game of freeze-out in Oregon the Wallamet valley holds the stakes; Portland holds the best hand, but Astoria has got the s(c)hips.

—The Varuna and Annie Stewart from Brookfield and Oak Point on Thursday report Woody Island channel closed with pretty stiff ice. The Akbar was left at Oak Point by the Annie Stewart.

—Astoria is outside of the world in more than one way at present. She is frozen out, you understand, but most emphatically is she outside because the Globe is within her corporate limits. Ask Fred Colbert about that.

—The barkentine Webfoot arrived at San Francisco on the 7th. She experienced heavy gales and confused sea the entire passage down, stove boat, and lost and split sails. The Rival and Orient also arrived, on the 4th.

—The Oriflamme arrived Friday from San Francisco with about 80 passengers and an average cargo. She was unable to proceed to Portland, and will return to San Francisco. This will probably be the last steamer, until the ice blockade is raised.

—Wm. Headington took a plunge bath at the Farmer's wharf Tuesday—pretty much after the style of Jay Cooke & Company going into bankruptcy—involuntarily. He resumed operations on the dock soon afterwards, however, but little worse for the mishap.

—Thinking of our present condition and prospects we are reminded of that anxiousness throughout the East lately, when people were waiting for banks to resume. Ask a steamboatman when he expects to resume, and he will tell you: "Idunno," with serious expression, such as a man might be expected to wear on his face just after he had found out that he had been eating a wormy apple.

—One of our ice-olated correspondents says the only thing which agitates his District this Winter is the delinquency of the party who was to haul the first cord of wood to the school house to keep the feet of the rising generation from freezing. His failure to keep that agreement makes things a little unsettled, and a district meeting and neighborhood row is likely to grow out of it.

"BEHOLD THE SPECTACLE!"

—The vessels in Astoria harbor at present, December 12th, noon, are the St. Michel, Tongoy, Wm. H. Meyer, Mary E. Ray, Aruco, and Sidlaw, bound up—the Cutwater, bound out. The latter is nearly loaded, but has two more lay days, and if the balance of cargo does not reach here—which is not possible, by the way—she will sail for Liverpool. The balance of the vessels on our list are in the Wallamet, except the Akbar, which is at Oak Point. Communication with Portland has been cut off since Tuesday, the 9th, and there is at present no prospect for resumption of business soon. Experienced persons in the river trade, predict that it will remain closed six weeks, and quite probably two months. A time sufficient at all events to bring people to a realizing sense of the situation of a State like Oregon ENTIRELY cut off from communication with the sea, when forty miles of telegraph, and sixty miles of railroad would place her commercial status on a par with the world. Well may anyone exclaim: "Behold the spectacle."

State Board of Equalization.

It will be seen by the following letter of the Secretary of State to Col. R. R. Spedden, that the State authorities at Salem have concluded, in view of the facts of the case, and certain exigencies, to allow the assessments of the various counties to stand by the decision of the various County Boards of Equalization. This letter has been placed on file in the Clerk's office for Clatsop county. It will save this county about \$1,000:

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,
SALEM, OREGON, December 1st, 1873.
R. R. SPEDDEN, Esq., County Clerk of Clatsop County, Oregon:
Sir—Owing to the recent decision of Judge Mosher at the Benton County Circuit Court, annulling that part of the work of the State Board of Equalization which increased the assessments of various classes of property above the rates established by the County Boards of Equalization, and the exigencies of the State and county finances admitting of no delay in the collections, I am compelled to charge up the amounts against the several counties according to the original assessment rolls. The assessments, therefore, so far as the State is concerned, will stand upon the action of the County Boards of Equalization. Yours Respectfully,
S. F. CHADWICK,
Secretary of State.

HOME PACKETS, ETC.—The steamer Annie Stewart, started up the river Wednesday with a vessel in tow, expecting to get as far as Oak Point; the tug Sedalia and Merrimac are at the docks in Astoria; the Varuna is running to the Cape, and the Astoria on the bar. Yesterday morning there were eight vessels at anchor in the harbor, seven of which are here for cargoes for foreign ports. Twenty-five or six others are en route here from different ports. The schooner Rough and Ready left Knappton on Tuesday with a cargo of lumber for Brookfield; the Elnorah went to Skipanon yesterday for a cargo of cattle for Hobson & Warren; the sloop Mary H. is now run by Mr. W. J. Franklin; the schooner Industry is here again with another cargo from Deep river. Charles Stark says Deep river is not closed. The schooner Buckeye arrived Tuesday from the Cape half full of water, damaged on a snag—and will be hauled out for repairs.

COUNCIL MEETING.—At a meeting of Common Council held last evening Mayor Kippen, Recorder Stevens, and Councilman F. Ferrel were present. The meeting adjourned until half past six o'clock this (Friday) evening, no quorum being present.

—Smoked Salmon, plenty of fresh beef and mutton, and *higu* potatoes and muck a muck at Gray and Donaldson's. Call and take a look at the Washington Market, whether you buy or not.

—Inasmuch as Mr. Shuster has not yet got away for Salem, he has concluded to remain in Astoria, and will take pictures until the ice breaks.

—Capt. J. H. D. Gray expects to leave for Portland to-day on horseback, via Nehalem valley.

—THE ASTORIAN, for this week at least, will reach Wallamet valley readers via San Francisco.

THAD BARR'S DOG.

Now that Astoria, the Astorian, and Astorians are shut out from the world for a season by an extraordinary winter, it is a good time to think of matters local—a good time to write up deferred items; and we know of nothing more interesting for a subject than Thad Barr's dog, "Boxer."

Boxer is about four years old; he is a yaller dog, but yet he is true blue. Last summer we were one of a party to go on an elk hunt where Boxer was expected to do the "tracing," but the cussed dog would not tree worth a scent. In fact he stuck to the trail of the man detailed to carry the grub, and on no pretence would Boxer desert his companions and take to the brush to hunt after Elk, Deer, Bear, Coon, Beaver, Rabbit, or other game. He was not fool enough to leave his sniff of grub in our possession for a "bird in the bush," to use an old expression. One of the party who was considerably on the shoot thought Boxer ought to be shot; and so long as grub was a scarce article on Grays river vowed "he'd not feed the cussed dog for him."

A. L. Marshall didn't think so. He had seen Boxer in a tight corner, and darned if he'd see Boxer injured for one apparent lazy day's hunt. As for ourself, we were "auld augsin'" with the Judge, and Thad was the son of the Judge, and "all things being equal," with only a slight acquaintance with Boxer, we did not exactly feel like condemning the dog for his action on the occasion; so, after due consideration the tamed fool was permitted to return to the settlement with us.

Boxer was a silent listener to this trial on his impeachment, and though he did not utter an audible sound to show his approval or disapproval of the arguments pro or con at the time, there was an evident preference on his part for "his friends" during the latter portion of the journey. He would stand in with us on a bad count, and when we got swamped in a Beaver dam slough—or some other dam slough—that dog knew the best way out to his favorites. He proved himself qualified to act as guide for those he respected, or quite the reverse for those of the opposite. He would work for hours at a time to carry his points and was very successful showing himself to be possessed of that principal of humanity.

At length home was reached—and Boxer came in for a share of the comments of the trip and that unsuccessful hunt. He carefully listened to it all, and seemed to understand it. He seemed to realize that grub was a precious thing on Grays river, and he seemed also to realize that if he partook of it he must do something by way of compensating his keeper for it. From that day he has been the most industrious dog on Grays river, as a few instances will prove.

Only a few weeks ago we published an item detailing the incident of a "hair breadth escape" of Thad with a black bear. We only knew at that date that Thad had met the bear in the timber and had a rough and tumble fight with it, finally coming out first best by killing the monster with his pocket-knife. Recent advices show that Boxer figured extensively in the hunt. It seems that Boxer was head chief in the scrape. He treed the bear, and Thad fired his first shot without a realizing sense of the situation, barely grazing the left ear of bruin, which so incensed him that he came right away down out of the brush and made for Boxer with outstretched arms, clapping the dog in a fond embrace, at the same time tearing away at his vitals with his hind claws as if to snuff out the last spark of existence without much ceremony. Thad then fully realized the situation and went for the Bear's hindmost legs, holding them off while he plunged his knife to the heart and made a corpse of the beast. It was indeed a rough and tumble—man, dog and bear together, transferring the scene of the slaughter several yards from the commencement of the struggle.

Since then Boxer has treed several Cougars and other animals. On one occasion he got a pauper up a tree and after almost exhausting himself, before assistance arrived went back and coaxed his keepers out with a gun to slay the animal, following it from tree to tree, and point to point, in the jungle, until it finally escaped; then he went home worried and worn out with the fatigue, so badly disgusted with the operation that he could scarcely be induced to eat his supper.

These frequent freaks have proven Boxer to be more than a mere animal, and to-day he rates first class as a dog in that settlement. He was from Astoria, and while here was considered of no particular account, but his talent had no means of development in the city, proving that the country is the best place for a good dog after all, even if he has to go hungry sometimes.

Arrival of the Oriflamme.

Four Days Later News from the Atlantic States.

The Steamship Oriflamme, Capt. Francis Connor in Command, arrived from San Francisco yesterday bringing news from the Atlantic States four days later than we had by the last steamer from Portland, from which we collate the following summary:

The telegraph of the 6th says, the Democrats have carried Texas by 40,000 majority.

Rufus Mallory has been confirmed by the Senate as District Attorney for the State of Oregon.

Senator Mitchell has introduced a bill providing for the erection of a Custom House at Portland Oregon.

Fifty members of Congress have declared their intention to make speeches on the bill to repeal the back pay law of last session.

Flour is firm in New York at \$6 50 @ \$9 per barrel. Provisions strong. Gold 109½ on the 8th. Prices in Chicago are active. Wheat 2 @ 2½ cents higher.

The machine shop connected with the extensive Bessemer steel works at Baldwin, Pennsylvania, was burned on the 7th. The other buildings were saved.

It is said there are no United States ships near Cuba and in case of a riot the American residents would be massacred. The Volunteer Council has come to a decision to surrender the Virginians and the remaining prisoners to a neutral arbitration. But no reliance can be placed on what the Council decides, as the volunteers will act on wild impulse.

A Havana dispatch says: General Burriel left Havana on Sunday for Santiago de Cuba, to resume charge of that department. Harmony has been restored between Castelar and Salmeron. It is said that the Havana steamer City of Merida, the fastest vessel on the coast, has been altered to a gun boat and transport, to be used in case of war. The Herald's Havana special says the American Consulate is quietly guarded by troops. An attempt was made on Thursday night to burn the Virginians, and regular soldiers have been sent on board to protect her.

A later dispatch reports that the Virginians would be delivered up in a few days. The Masons are taking the most energetic steps to repair the outrages committed on their brothers in Cuba. General Quesada has written a sterling letter to President Grant. It is an appeal of the Cuban Republic to the United States for recognition of its belligerent rights. The action of the Administration toward Cuba is reviewed, as also is the whole history of the revolution. He expresses his confident belief that if Cuban rights as belligerents were recognized, the early termination of the war would follow.

The Spanish question continues to agitate the public. The matter is becoming rather a grave affair. Minister Siskies is reported to have tendered his resignation in consequence of a disagreement with Secretary Fish. The Cuban authorities demand that the Virginians be delivered in Spain or at Porto Rico, at the discretion of Solar, the Colonial Minister, there to await arbitration. The Spaniards in Havana are greatly incensed, and the volunteers threaten war to the knife. They will refuse to submit to the orders of the Madrid Government to surrender the Virginians. War is imminent, and the populace of Spain will steer Cuba and defy America. The news that America would not press her claim for the surrender of the Virginians has been received.

The death of Bishop Armitage of Wisconsin is announced.

Congress will be asked to pass a bill of relief for the Polaris sufferers.

An unprecedented snow storm commenced in New York city on the 6th, and still continued on the 8th.

The Customs officials at New York recently seized a \$4,000 bridal outfit from foreign parts, for non-payment of duties.

The New Bedford whaling bark Courier, Capt. White, was run down by a British steamer from Liverpool, off the coast of Chile, October 26th. Vessel and cargo a total loss, crew all saved.

Terrible destitution prevails in New York city, and it is reported that hundreds of homeless people walk the streets nights—unable to gain admission to the station houses and other places of refuge, which are overflowing.

The Price of Gold.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 9.—Gold in New York to-day, 109½; Portland Legal Tender rates,—90½ buying, and 91½ selling.

INEXCUSABLE AND BRUTAL.—Concerning the disaster which sent the French steamer Ville de Havre to the bottom, and caused the abandonment and loss of the Lochean, which ran into her, from absolute want of discipline, the Aita of the 9th says:—

The loss of life which followed the sinking of the Villa de Havre is chargeable, to a great extent, to the same cause, and apparent indifference, on the part of the officers and crew of the steamer, to the fate of the passengers and the remainder of the crew left struggling in the water. The captain of the steamer, instead of sinking with his ship, and then rising to the surface and escaping, got on board the Lochean with dry clothes, showing plainly enough that he did not wait for his ship to sink before he took good care to save "number one." Altogether, from first to last, the whole affair, on the part of the steamer, her officers and crew, was as disgraceful as it was disastrous. There would seem also to be no excuse for the responsible parties of either vessel, for the collision. There was plenty of warning. They were in sight of each other and seen fifteen to seventeen minutes before the meeting. Nothing but gross carelessness or indifference could have allowed the accident to occur, unless it was ignorance, and that is scarcely supposable. That disaster is said to be the first that has ever occurred to any vessel of the line to which the Villa de Havre belonged. But if we may believe the reports as to the conduct of the officers and crew of that steamer, and accept them as a sample of the others their freedom from collisions and disasters may be put down to good luck rather than to good seamanship. We have never known, heard or read of so unnecessary and inexcusable a disaster, nor of such a total want of humanity displayed, as by those officers of the steamer. How different the conduct of the brave and heroic Captain Herndon, of the Central America.

No more boats will be got through the Erie canal this winter. Over 200 boats loaded with grain are frozen in at various points.

The weather at San Francisco has been so rough that large vessels could neither discharge or load.

—King Coffee, the African whom Great Britain is putting forth her might to crush, drinks, at festivals, from the skull of Sir Charles McCarthy, whose head was cut off in 1824, when the Ashantees whipped the English.

—Mexico is anxious to join in the American Centennial celebration. If she would come up and lasso a few Pennsylvanian politicians she would get a royal reception.

—Cotton, sugar, rice and tobacco can be purchased in Mexico almost without a limit. Mexico cannot become a large buyer until she becomes also a large producer. At present, the trade of Mexico is largely in the hands of foreign merchants.

School Books.—I have lately received all the different kinds of New School Books required to be used in this State, that can now be found in San Francisco. Also, Slate pencils, Blotting pads, a good assortment of Stationery, Drawing paper, CARD BOARD, Perforated board, Ink, (Carmine, Purple and Black). Likewise a new stock of Crockery, Clocks and a large assortment of Lamp Chimneys, all of which will be sold cheap for cash.

I. W. CASE,
Chenamus st., Astoria.

When Wilkie Collins was about to step in front of the curtains at Syracuse one Saturday evening, he said to Mr. Hanchett, who was to introduce him: "Don't introduce me as the greatest living novelist. I've been introduced so a number of times, and I'd rather be simply Mr. Collins. You know everybody is the greatest living something."

Just Received.—A new stock of Waterproof, Flannels, Prints, all varieties of Hosiery, and all kinds of Gloves; also a new stock of Oil Suits, suitable for Winter wear, and Rubber Boots, fitted for wear and tare, and the celebrated Mackintosh Rubber coats. All of which shall be sold as cheap as the cheapest.

A. VAN DUSEN,
Corner Main and Chenamus streets.

Teacher Wanted.—A Teacher, Male or Female, to teach in the District School, in District No. 3, Clatsop plains, Clatsop county, Oregon. Communicate to the undersigned.

J. A. PACKARD,
Skipanon, Oregon.

For fresh Oysters, in every style, call at the PARKER HOUSE RESTAURANT.