

The Daily Morning Astorian

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ASTORIA, OREGON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1883.

PRICE, FIVE CENTS.

EASILY ACCOUNTED FOR.

The red sunsets have set the curious world aflame to conjecture the cause of the strange phenomenon, and, curiously enough, while it is found to follow the earth in its revolving round, and has been observed in the east, in Europe, India and Australia, each locality has its Sir Oracle to explain the causes that have produced the after-sunset glow; and curiously, too, nearly all have found some local cause to account for the strange effect. A local quinine is said to have accented it to the smoke of burning forests. Just where these forest fires are burning is not stated. Some one has accounted for them by reason of the atmosphere being filled with meteoric dust. We do not quite know all about meteoric dust, nor where the meteors have been rubbing against each other; nor have we seen any special meteors kicking up a dust anywhere in the heavens; nor do we recall the fact that in the year of the great meteoric display there was any particular dust raised. Some scientists have suggested that the display is caused by a reflection of the sun upon Venus. The sun and Venus, so far as we know, have been upon friendly terms for long ages; they have traveled the universe together, and we do not believe that the sun, although we know he has spots on his character, has never reflected upon Venus. We are quite sure he would not do such a thing, and we are quite sure that her spotless reputation would not permit any reflection upon the part of any of the luminaries to put her to blush. We have no evidence that the world is on fire anywhere. We should be very much ashamed if we were compelled to say that we did not know the cause of this very splendid display of pyrotechnics. We do know. The editor knows everything. The red glow now observable upon our western sky as the sun sets below the horizon arises from the reflection of the sun's rays upon an impalpable dust now involving the world in its embrace. The universal heavens are filled with this dust, invisible, and not in itself luminous. This dust we know as "cosmic dust," which is in process of formation into a new sphere. The particles of a new world now flying in space are in process of being gathered together, concentrated as it were, by the great creative force of attraction, and will in process of time become a new world. The meteors now gliding with seeming eccentric movement, the comets with their luminous tails, are all part of the same general movement. All these forces will come together; meteoroids, forming the nucleus of a new sphere, will soon gather around them all this impalpable matter, this cosmic dust, and into space will leap a new world. When this thing does not happen, the falseness of our hypothesis will be demonstrated. We are happy in the thought that before the time it will be proved. In the meantime, we complacently assume our place among the wise savants who are endeavoring to guess this conundrum.—*Argonaut.*

Christmas.

"Christmas!" How many tender and loving associations cling to that word. As the spring by the wayside may be overgrown and embowered in fragrant flowers and evergreen ferns, so may the memory of Christmas be wreathed in precious recollections. The path of life may be through green fields and beautiful meadows, symbolic of prosperity and happiness; yet this will be a scene of superlative freshness. And the way may be hard and rocky, the journey toilsome, full of trouble; yet by the side of our spring is a goodly resting-place. The memory looks back to happy days, to easier journeys, and refreshed by even a brief respite, goes on to new duties rejuvenated. And still the path may be through desert wastes, where the work of the day brings nothing of cheer, with naught beyond or about but dreary nothingness, until, behold! we come upon the spring, creating a perfect oasis in the midst of the sterility. The oasis prefigures the recollections of Christmas to the dreary mortal. Let him dwell in it for a time, let him drink of the waters of better memories, and perchance take a new lease of manhood for his onward and upward life. Viewed in such lights, what a boon to humanity is Christmas. From the infant just lisping the name of the patron saint—Santa Claus—to the venerable man, the Christmas time is one filled with good-will, peace, plenty.

Capture of Sontay.

PARIS, Dec. 21.—Admiral Peyron, minister of marine, has received the following from Sontay, dated the 17th: "Sontay is ours; the outer works were carried by assault at 6 o'clock on Sunday evening. The attack began at 11 o'clock in the morning. The assault was made at 5 o'clock in the evening, with a bravery above all praise, by the foreign legion, together with the marine infantry and sailors of the flotilla, who assisted in the bombardment. The citadel was evacuated during the night, and occupied on the morning of the 17th without fighting. We do not know whether the black flags, rebel Anamites and Chinese have fled. It is impossible to learn their losses. We lost about 15 killed, including 1 officer; 60 wounded, including 5 officers."

Thirty-Eight Lives Lost.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—Survivors of the steamship *St. Augustine*, which was burned on Sunday in the Bay of Biscay, state that 38 men were on board, when four boats pulled off. It is feared that all are lost, as when the steamer was last seen a heavy sea was running, and the vessel was all on fire and there were no other boats.

The talent of turning men into ridicule, and exposing to laughter those one converses with, is the qualification of little minds and ungenerous tempers. A young man with this cast of mind cuts himself off from all manner of improvement.

The War in Tonquin.

A cable special from London says: The success of the French troops at Sontay leaves unaltered the position of negotiations between Marquis Tseng, Chinese ambassador, and M. Ferry, French Foreign minister. Marquis Tseng is awaiting a response to his communication sent to Peking, on the Sontay incident, but he freely expressed an opinion that the news of the capture of that place would not lead to a declaration of war between China and France, nor even to a rupture of the diplomatic relations. The government at Peking, he points out, has always maintained a clear distinction between the capture of Sontay and an attack on Bac Ninh. Dispatches received from Hong Kong discredit the reports that Chinese regular troops were at Sontay. The forces engaged in the defense of that place comprised 3000 Black Flags and 9000 Annamites. These were under command of Hoang Veiam, an Annamite. The fire from the French gunboats easily reached the inner defense of the citadel, and shells set fire to a pagoda and a storehouse inside the citadel, driving out the garrison. After the capture of the enclosure the defense ceased. The conflagration caused by the French shells left the interior of the citadel a mere shell.

The next movement to be made by Admiral Courbet will be against Hong Ho, where the forces which defended Sontay are assembling. The Austrian government has sent two war vessels to join the English, American and German squadrons for the protection of European interests in China. Admiral Dowell, commander of the British squadron, will make Canton the central station of the international squadron. The combined squadrons present the most powerful naval force ever seen in Chinese waters.

A special from London says: The most notable fact in the general estimation here of the capture of Sontay is that it took 4000 out of the entire 7000 French men, two days fighting, a loss of 253 men, and the enormous proportion of thirteen officers killed or wounded, to storm even the outer works. A resistance so determined is held, in spite of official denials, to prove the presence of Chinese regulars, and the probability of a prolonged and perilous campaign. Whether this conflict represents a pause or starting point in Franco-Chinese hostilities is still undetermined. While Marquis Tseng last Monday declared an attack on Sontay meant war he was seen on Wednesday evening in friendly conversation with Ferry. The smell of gunpowder, meantime, has united France behind the ministry. Bishop Frelpel, the fierce ultramontane opponent of Ferry and all things Republican, burst up in a jingo speech, while in the senate De Freycinet, Jules Simon and Victor Hugo supported Ferry, and 3000 officers and 30,000 soldiers have already volunteered for Tonquin.

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RHEUMATISM, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Lumbago, BRACKACHE, HEADACHE, TORTICOLLIS, SORE THROAT, QUINSY, SWELLINGS, SPRAINS, Sprains, Gout, Grains, FROSTBITES, BURNS, SCALDS, And all other bodily aches and pains.
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STEVEDORE COMPANY
Is prepared to contract with masters and consignees of vessels for the
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AT EITHER PORT.
Promptness and satisfaction guaranteed in all cases.

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New Store, New Stock
Toys, Fancy Goods,
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FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC
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A FINE ASSORTMENT.
Squemoqua street, next door to the Empire Store. n17-5m

M. D. KANT.
Great Knock Down! AND GIFT SALE!!
Immense Success!
Remember this is no lottery, nor have I any favorites to draw the prizes, everything is fair and square.

On New Year's Eve
I will put up for raffle three prizes.
FIRST:
1 Suit of Clothing, \$25.
SECOND:
1 Overcoat, Worth \$20.
THIRD:
1 Hat, Worth \$5.00.

To any person purchasing at my store
\$2 WORTH OF GOODS! \$2
OR MORE FOR CASH!
I will give a number for said raffle. I offer my goods at the lowest market prices, marked in plain figures.
I do this to reduce my enormous fall and winter stock of clothing and furnishing goods

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The Boss Merchant Tailor and Clothier

The Gem Saloon.
The Popular Resort for Astorians.
FOR THE
Finest of Wines and Liquors
Go to the GEM SALOON.
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ASTORIA IRON WORKS.
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GENERAL MACHINISTS AND BOILER MAKERS.
LAND and MARINE ENGINES
Boiler Work, Steamboat Work and Cannery Work a specialty.
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A specialty, and all work guaranteed.
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JAC. DUFFY has the Bar and Billiard room.

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JEFF'S CHOP HOUSE
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Concomly Street is the Best in Town.
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He has Always on Hand FRESH Shoal Water Bay and Eastern Oysters.
—THAT—
"JEFF" IS THE BOSS CATERER.
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He has been Proprietor of the "Aurora Hotel" in Knappa seven years.

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Every attention paid to patrons.

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Meals 25 cents and upwards.
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NEW AND WELL EQUIPPED THROUGHOUT.
L. Serra has rebuilt his establishment and prepared to accommodate the traveling public.
A good meal furnished at any hour of the day or night.
The Best Liquors and Cigars at the bar.
Two doors west of the Foster's.
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LUIGI SERRA.

Astoria Restaurant
EDWARD YOUNG
Announces to the public that he has located in the rooms formerly occupied by the City Book Store, where he will keep a
Restaurant and Chop House
Furnishing meals to order at all hours.
His patrons will find the tables supplied with ten or twelve of the best newspapers. His reputation as former proprietor of the New England Restaurant is a sufficient recommendation for his new house.

THE BEST
Boarding and Lodging House.
Chas. Wallman has opened a boarding and lodging house south of O'Brien's hotel, near the gas works.
The table is supplied with the best of the market affords; good food and clean beds will be furnished at the regular prices.
Give me a call and satisfy yourselves.
CHAS. WALLMAN.

H. B. PARKER,
DEALER IN
Hay, Oats, and Straw.
Lime, Brick, Cement and Sand
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Hay, Oats, Straw, Wood, Etc.
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General stores and Wharves on reasonable terms. Foot of Benton street, Astoria Oregon.
REGULAR STEAM PACKET
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Will leave Astoria, from Gray's Dock, For Olney, and Head of Youngs River, Daily, at 8 A. M., (except Wednesdays and Sundays).
Returning same day.
For Landings on Lewis & Clark's River. On Wednesdays, at 8 A. M., Returning same day.
For Freight or Passage, apply on board or at Gray's Dock, where freight will be received and stored, if necessary.
J. H. D. GRAY.

TRANSPORTATION LINES.
Oregon Railway & Navigation COMPANY.
OCEAN DIVISION.
During the month of January, 1884, Ocean Steamers will sail from Portland for San Francisco, and from San Francisco for Portland every 2 days, leaving Alsworth Dock, Portland, at Midnight, and Spear Street Wharf, San Francisco, at 10 A. M.
Through Tickets sold to all principal cities in the United States, Canada and Europe.
RAIL DIVISION.
Passenger Trains leave Portland for Eastern points, at 7:30 P. M. Daily.
RIVER DIVISION (Middle Columbia).
Boats leave Portland for Dalles at 7:00 A. M.
ALSO:
Leave Portland for
Astoria and lower Coquille, at 8 A. M.
Dayton, at 8 A. M.
Salem, at 8 A. M.
Corvallis, at 8 A. M.
Victoria, at 8 A. M.
Leave Astoria for Portland at 6 A. M. daily except Sunday.
Palmer Palace Cars running between Portland and St. Paul.
C. H. PRESCOTT, Manager.
A. L. STOKES, Asst. Sup't. of Traffic.
JOHN MUIR, Sup't. of Traffic.
E. P. ROGERS, General Agent.
Passenger Dep't.

Oregon & California R. R.
OREGON & TRANSCONTINENTAL COMPANY, LESSEE.
On and after Dec. 23, 1883, trains will run as follows: DAILY (Except Sundays).
EASTSIDE DIVISION.
Between PORTLAND and GRANT'S PASS
MAIL TRAIN.
LEAVE PORTLAND... 7:30 A. M. (Grant's Pass) 1:20 A. M. (Grant's Pass) 10:50 P. M. (Portland) 4:25 P. M.
ALBANY EXPRESS TRAIN.
LEAVE PORTLAND... 4:30 P. M. (Lebanon) 9:20 P. M. (Lebanon) 4:45 A. M. (Portland) 10:35 A. M.
WESTSIDE
Between Portland and Corvallis
MAIL TRAIN
LEAVE PORTLAND... 9:50 A. M. (Corvallis) 4:30 P. M. (Corvallis) 8:30 A. M. (Portland) 3:20 P. M.
EXPRESS TRAIN
LEAVE PORTLAND... 5:00 P. M. (McMinnville) 8:00 P. M. (McMinnville) 5:45 A. M. (Portland) 8:30 A. M.
Close connections made at Grant's Pass with the Stages of the Oregon and California Stage Company.
Tickets for sale at all the principal points in California, at Company's Office, Corner F and Grant Sts., Portland, Or.
Freight will not be received for shipment after 5 o'clock P. M. on either the East or West side Division.
R. KOEHLER, Gen'l Manager.
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Iiwaco Steam Navigation Co.'s
WINTER SCHEDULE
Astoria to Fort Stevens, Fort Canby, and Ilwaco.
Connecting by stages and boats for
Oysterville, Montesano and Olympia
Until further notice the Iiwaco Steam Navigation Co.'s steamer
Gen. Miles,
Will leave Astoria
On Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays (Oysterville and Montesano mail days) at 7 A. M.
FOR
FT. STEVENS, FT. CANBY AND ILWACO
ON
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
The steamer will leave Astoria at 9 A. M., as formerly, not being confined strictly to schedule time.
Fare to Fort Canby and Ilwaco, 75 cts. on or over \$2 per ton.
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SUMMER ROUTE.
Astoria to Olympia,
Touching at
Fort Stevens, Fort Canby, Ilwaco, North Beach, Oysterville, North Cove, Petersons Point, Hoquiam, Montesano.
And all points on Shoalwater Bay, and Gray Harbor.
GEN. MILES, On Columbia River
GEN. CANBY, Shoalwater Bay
GEN. GARFIELD, Shoalwater Bay
MONTESANO, Gray's Harbor
Connecting with Stages over Portages.
Leave Astoria for Olympia, at - - 7 A. M.
On Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays arriving at Montesano the day after leaving Astoria—through trip in 60 hours.
Leave Olympia for Astoria on same days.
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 A. M.
Arriving at Astoria at 1 P. M.
An additional trip will be made on
Sunday of Each Week,
Leaving Portland at 9 o'clock
Sunday Morning.
Passengers by this route connect at Kalama for Sound ports.
U. B. BOOTT, President.

Columbia Transportation Co.
FOR PORTLAND.
(FAST TIME)
The popular steamer
FLEETWOOD,
Which has been refitted for the comfort of passengers will leave Wilson and Fisher's dock every
Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6 A. M., arriving at Portland at 7 P. M.
Returning leaves Portland every
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 A. M.
Arriving at Astoria at 1 P. M.
An additional trip will be made on
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Leaving Portland at 9 o'clock
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Gas administered for painless extraction of teeth.
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Late of Fort Stevens, has come to Astoria for the purpose of practicing
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Will visit patients in the country and city. Office in Odd Fellows Building—Residence above Catholic Church.

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With a combined capital of \$25,000,000.
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All business entrusted to our care will receive prompt attention.

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Advances made on Consignments.
Steamer TOM MORRIS.
THIS NEW
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