

# The Daily Astorian

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ASTORIA, OREGON, SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1886.

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**Dissolution of Partnership.**  
 THE PARTNERSHIP HERETOFORE existing between F. E. Shute and J. A. Davidson under the firm name of F. E. Shute & Co. in this day dissolved by mutual consent. The business will hereafter be conducted by F. E. Shute, who has purchased the same, and who will pay all bills and collect all accounts of the old firm.  
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 Astoria, Or., March 27th, 1886.

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**A WOMAN'S WAY.**  
**How Mrs. Morgan Spent Millions For Eric-a-Brac.**  
 An appraisal has been completed of the art property of the late Mrs. Mary J. Morgan, of New York, and it reveals the most astounding frauds perpetrated upon that monomaniac purchaser of pictures, china, jewels and other decorative objects. The executors find that she expended a total sum of quite \$3,000,000 for ornamental things, including great extravagance in orchids; and the amount likely to be realized through auction sales is only \$500,000. Taking into account the difference naturally expected between auction prices and those fairly charged by retail dealers, the calculation is that Mrs. Morgan foisted away not less than \$2,000,000. The disclosures are wonderful. She seems to have been crazed by her passion for beautiful articles, and to have exalted her desire in proportion to the sums demanded for them, quite regardless of intrinsic worth. Agents took advantage of her weakness to impose upon her. Suits to recover some of the money thus obtained from her are to be instituted in the instances where false representations are financially responsible. A favorite method of duping her was to represent that ceramics of fine yet not unique character, had been bought at enormous trouble and expense from the private collections of European or Asiatic aristocrats. In that way she was induced to pay \$5,000 to \$10,000 a piece for china not worth more than a few hundred dollars. For one small vase she gave \$15,000. Another vase, figuring at \$8,000, is scarcely worth \$500 in the market. She spent a round \$1,000,000 for paintings which possess only a fraction of that salable value. Sometimes the gainers were the artists and sometimes dealers. But it was in precious stones that she suffered the heaviest losses. On the average she paid double prices, for while some were regularly purchased at the counters of honorable merchants, many were foisted upon her by rascally operators. Still, certain Broadway firms are incriminated. The executors are willing to sell the entire collection of jewelry at one-third the sum that Mrs. Morgan paid out. Instances of downright swindling have come to light. A gambler, reduced to his last dollar—a big one, worth about \$1,000—had it curiously set in an original manner, took it to her, related how the gem had been brought by him from Brazil, where it had been the property of Dom Pedro, and thereby sold it to her for \$6,000. A hoop of gold set with three diamonds is offered for sale at \$30,000 less than she paid for it. Mrs. Morgan had an incurable mania, and was aware that she would inevitably die soon. She aimed to get as much pleasure as possible during her remaining days, and her reckless expenditures were for that purpose. While lying in her invalid chair, she would have a picture, piece of pottery, or some other beautiful thing, placed before her for contemplation; and they were usually changed every hour as long as she found diversion in gazing at them. When her disease arrived at a stage that threatened to confine her to her bed, she gave orders for a sumptuous decoration of a chamber and a couch, with furniture and walls set with jewels and painted with the fineness of a Meissonier canvas; and this work, which would have cost \$100,000, was barely begun when she died more suddenly than she had expected. She was the widow of the founder of the Morgan line of steamers, who left \$7,000,000 to her. The estate is not now expected to yield more than \$3,000,000 in money.

**Equal to the Emergency.**  
 A short time since a gentleman who lived in a small town not far from Buffalo went the way of all flesh, and the burial ceremonies to be performed over his remains were committed to the charge of a local undertaker. The funeral was quite an important one, for the gentleman was prominent in his own town and a number of his friends from the city were present. The services were held in the church, but just as the time arrived for taking the remains to the cemetery, a severe thunder-storm came up and it was considered best to start until the worst of the storm was over. The wait was rather an embarrassing one, but the undertaker was equal to the emergency. Standing on the porch steps he shouted so as to be heard in the choir loft at the other end of the building: "The organists will please give us a little music to while away the time." Even the mourners smiled.—[Buffalo Express.

**A hygienic journal recommends** sweeping, if properly done, as one of the very best kinds of exercise for women. Now, if some genius will invent a species of tennis that may be played with brooms, he will be a benefactor of society.—New York Graphic.

**A hint to old bachelors.** Mr. Old-bean (to young rival, before young lady to whom they are both attentive) "Why, bless me, Charley, how you've grown!"—[Harper's Bazar.

## The Burglar's Christmas Eve.

Tony Flash could scarcely remember when he was an honest man. He didn't think, indeed, he had ever been anything but a thief ever since he was a boy. But he never liked to think about his boyhood. He swore terribly if anybody spoke about his mother to him.  
 And so midnight, this Christmas eve, found him engaged in his professional duty of "cracking a crib." He was in a house that belonged to and was occupied by another citizen. That citizen and his family were sleeping the sleep of unsuspecting innocence. But Tony Flash did not waste the lone, starry hours in sleep, love. That was just when he made his best time, right on the midnight stretch. He had been pretty thoroughly through the citizen's house, and his canvas bag was full of swag, silver spoons and tea things, silk dresses, costly furs, some watches and little articles of escrivito and bijouterie and such little parterre. He is about ready to depart, but pauses near the fireplace, wondering if he had not better step into an adjoining bedroom, and knock the party who is snoring in the head before (s)he wakes some of the family. The bell in the spire of Saint Mammon's tolls twelve.  
 What was there in the vibrant tones of the midnight bell that fell upon the burglar's callous heart like a voice from long ago? Something that awakened echoes long silent; something that touched a chord long years unresponsive. His hand trembled. "What's this?" he whispered to himself. "Am I a woman?" His eyes fell upon a row of wrinkled, dimpled little stockings hanging beside the fireplace. The shape of the little feet was still there, though the stockings bulged and bunched with the little toys thrust in them. The robber looked at them. "This is Christmas eve," he said under his breath, "I had forgotten." Ay, long years had he forgotten, but it all came to him now. He presses his brawny hand upon his heart to still its beating, and his eyes are chained to the little stockings. In the next chamber he can hear the soft breathing of the little ones who, in sweet, childish confidence, had hung them there. He was once a child himself, innocent as they; had he forgotten it? He had children of his own, young and fair as they. Did he forget them? His heart gave a bound like a frightened hare. His little ones! In that moment he passed through a bath of fire.  
 "Good enough," he muttered hoarsely, "just the thing for the kids."  
 And with one quick movement of his muscular arm the robber swept the whole line of stockings into his treasury pack, and hurrying noiselessly down-stairs, stopped lightly over the prostrate figure of a vigilant policeman asleep on the front stoop, and disappeared in the direction of his favorite fence.—[Brooklyn Eagle.

**Servants in English Houses.**  
 Over in England in a great house thirty or forty servants is no unusual number, and when there is a house party, as many as 100 are often assembled, each guest brings his own servant, and the various valets and maids, the extra coachmen and groom, make up a company that rivals the array in the drawing room for pretension and pride; for all these—especially the upper servants—must be placed according to the rank of their masters. The servant of a duke, of course, precedes the servant of an earl, and the valet of an ambassador naturally goes before the gentleman of a mere envoy. They are usually called by the names of their masters, so as to settle at once this point of precedence.

**Recalled.**  
 Smythkins is very superstitious. He asked what day the first of the year would fall on this winter.  
 "On Friday."  
 "That's too bad. Well," with a sigh of relief, "I don't care, so long as it doesn't come on the thirteenth."

**Boston Girl** (looking over bill of fare)—"I guess I won't order anything, Clarence. Let us go somewhere else."  
 Clarence—"Why, what's the matter, Penelope?"  
**Boston Girl**—"Beans on the menu is spelled with two e's. If their orthography is so bad, what must be their cooking?"—[N. Y. Sun.

**Yellow Fever Prevented.**  
 The Engineers of the Central Railroad of Georgia say: "Though we were exposed to the worst miasmatic influences, during the prevalence of the yellow fever epidemic of 1874, with but the single exception of one of us (who was taken sick, but speedily recovered) we continued in our usual good health—a circumstance we can account for in no other way but by the effect, under Providence, of the habitual use of Simmons' Liver Regulator while we were exposed to the malaria."

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