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PUGET SOUND WEEKLY

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JAMES G. SWAN, Attorney at Law, Proctor in Admiralty and Notary Public

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Looking-Glass Superstitions.

Most readers are no doubt acquainted with Bonaparte's superstitions regarding the breaking of a looking-glass. During one of his campaigns in Italy he broke the glass over Josephine's portrait. So disturbed was he at this, as he thought, ominous occurrence, that he never rested until the return of the courier whom he had forthwith dispatched to convince himself of her safety, so strong was the impression of her death upon his mind.

In Cornwall, breaking a looking-glass is believed to insure seven years of sorrow, and a Yorkshire proverb informs us that such an unfortunate occurrence entails "seven years' trouble but no woe."

In Scotland, to smash a looking-glass hanging against a wall is regarded as an infallible sign that a member of the family will shortly die.

Grove, alluding to this superstition, says it foretells the speedy decease of the master of the house. It has been suggested that this popular fancy dates very many years back, and probably originated in the destruction of the reflected human image—an interesting illustration of how the association of ideas in the formation of superstition is often determined by mere analogy.

In the south of England it is regarded as highly unlucky for a bride on her wedding day to look in the glass, when she is completely dressed, before starting for the church. Hence very great care is usually taken to put on a glove or some slight article of adornment, after the last lingering look has been taken in the mirror.

The idea, we are informed, is that any young lady who is too fond of the looking-glass will be unfortunate when married. This is not, however, the only way in which superstition interferes with the grown-up maiden's peep in the looking-glass. Thus, Swedish dancers are afraid of looking in the glass after dark, or by candlelight, lest by so doing they forfeit the good will of the other sex. On the other hand, in England the looking-glass occasionally holds a prominent position in love divinations.

Belgian girls who desire to see their husbands in a dream lay their garters crossing at the foot of the bed, and a looking-glass under their pillow; in the glass they believe the desired image will appear. The practice of covering or removing the looking-glass from the chamber of death still prevails in some places.

A THIRTEEN-FOOT CORNSTALK.—The Los Angeles (Cal.) Chronicle says: "Recently we published a statement about cornstalks eleven feet high or so. This was not done without misgivings, because we knew the height of cornstalks in California is not so great. The Los Angeles Chronicle, however, was not so sure, and yesterday our fears were realized when a prominent local gentleman of La Crosse stalked into our counting room with one trailing along behind him over thirteen feet in length. This stalk was accompanied by an ear of corn over a foot long, containing 936 grains, with a few little grains to spare. This giant's corn was planted May 15th, and on the 1st of June was only four inches high and not very promising."

A young man feels that he has not lived in vain when he sees his picture exhibited in the show case of a photograph gallery.—Meriden Recorder.

LATEST NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH TO DATE

Col. Watson B. Smith, clerk of the U. S. circuit court at Omaha, was found dead, lying outside the office door, where he had been shot by an unknown assassin. There is great public excitement and a mass meeting was called for this afternoon to express horror of the crime and take steps towards arrest of the assassin. Col. Smith was a highly respected citizen and leaves an estimable family.

During an altercation at Gridley, Cal., John M. Boyles stabbed Hugh Galway in the neck, cutting the jugular vein and causing instant death. Both were members of a family, and it is feared the affair will also cause the death of Mrs. Galway, who is an advanced stage of pregnancy. Boyles has been a prisoner for some time, and many years, Galway was a farm laborer, and it is supposed an old feud existed between the two.

The Chicago Times has the correspondence between Minister Foster, of Kansas, tendering his resignation and Blaine accepting it. Foster expresses his hearty regret to give up the position, and is extended by the secretary's predecessors and himself. The secretary accepts with great regret and assurances of the deep sense of loss to the government. The resignation looks back on its relations with him during his nine years of service abroad.

A deputy U. S. marshal in compliance with orders from Washington has summoned as witnesses in behalf of George Rev. C. W. Tarbox, secretary of the American educational society, Rev. Howard C. Duggan, secretary of the American peace society, Rev. John W. Withers, pastor of Park St. church, and John W. Guineau, brother of the prisoner. No details as to the evidence they are expected to give can be obtained, but the above named are said to be summoned at the suggestion of the defendant.

An awful tragedy occurred two miles south of the village of Capre, St. Clair county, Michigan, on the farm of Charles Heblen. He is a wealthy farmer who has been partially insane for some time past, but the exact cause is not known. He made a will, and next day he attacked and killed his little son, cutting his throat with a razor, nearly severing the head from the neck. The victim was a mere baby, being but three years old. Later the madman finished his awful work by cutting his own throat, dying in a few minutes.

A reporter called upon the military commission now investigating the alleged misconduct of the Massachusetts ninth regiment, for the purpose of obtaining information relative to the charges and conclusions of said commission, but was informed that he could not be admitted as the investigation had not been completed, and the committee had not yet returned to Washington and a few points north to make further inquiries, they deem it unwise to give out any information in connection with the case.

The testimony, as reported by reliable persons who heard most of it is much more disgusting and damaging than ever stated in the various newspapers. The officers composing the commission have shown every disposition to make their investigation full and careful as possible, and their report of evidence, if published, will doubtless show that they have faithfully discharged the unpleasant duty.

The New York Herald's Dublin special says: "One of the first cases of agreement between landlords and tenants regarding purchase of an estate is reported from London. The estate in question is the Wm. Ansell, deputy lieutenant, met under the auspices of Mr. Givan, member of parliament, who advised them to go before the land court, and to arrange to purchase the estate on the basis of existing rent. It was of immense advantage that they should become absolute owners of the land. For such an early sale of the necessary one-fourth of purchase money he was prepared to find it, rather than that they should lose the benefit of the rent. The landlord, however, was present, and was received with loud cheers on rising to address the meeting. He said that nothing would give him greater pleasure than to see the rent of his ancestors going back into the possession of the people who had been tenants upon them so long. He was quite prepared to accede to the purchase of the estate by tenants, and would go with them to the land commission to avail himself of the arrears claims of the land. He desired to see the rent of his ancestors in quiet possession of those whom he addressed, and he would afford them every facility to become their own landlords. The commission resolved to take advantage of the present opportunity of the land act and become purchasers of their farms."

The schooner Goda Fleese, Jacobson master, with Lieut. Ray and a signal-serviceman to establish a meteorological station at Point Barrow, has returned. Capt. Berry reports that Lieut. Ray has spoken the whaling bark Dawn in Behring's sea and learned that in the latter part of September the Dawn spoke the U. S. schooner Rodgers in the arctic. Capt. Berry reported in brief that he had completely circumnavigated the so-called Wrangle land and landed in several places before the dawn of the morning. He intended to winter either on Wrangle land or on the neighboring Siberian coast. Beyond establishing the signal station, the building of a station on the Rodgers had so far been the only work. Captain Jacobson reports that Lieut. Ray and party Sept 17th left the station called Oglanamic five miles eastward from Mackenzie river. He heard nothing of the kind while at Point Barrow, and is positive that the whaling bark on the Siberian coast. He contrasts previous reports of an open but very stormy season in the Arctic.

The insurgent force near Tunis is 50,000 strong.

Business in the New York postoffice is not depressed.

Nellie Grant Sartoris is visiting her father in New York.

The loss by the Mississippi floods is estimated at more than \$2,000,000.

It is reported that all suspects in Ireland now under arrest will be released.

Adolph Sutro has bought the Cliff House at San Francisco and will enlarge and beautify it.

President Arthur has named Thursday, the 24th day of November, as Thanksgiving Day.

The first artillery, stationed at Governor's Island, New York, has started for California.

Clara Louise Kellogg, the opera singer, will soon marry a wealthy New Yorker and retire from the stage.

The Tammany democrats are said to be bargaining with local republicans for a division of the offices.

A farmer has been found beaten to death near Tralee, Ireland, supposed on account of Acarian troubles.

John Crawford, a convict in the State prison at Jeffersonville, Ind., was shot by a guard while trying to escape.

The Catholic bishop of Down spoke on the 7th, advising the execution of the land act, although not a final settlement.

George W. Hoag, a prominent farmer of the Willows, is in insolvency. Liabilities, \$18,000; assets, all hypothecated, \$45,000.

George W. Green, sheriff of San Mateo, was drowned on the 6th at the mouth of the Redwood City creek by the capsizing of a boat.

In the second ballot at Breslau for members of the Reichstag, Hazendover and Kracker, socialists, defeated the progressivist candidate.

The statue of Lord Byron has been unveiled at Missolonghi, Greece, where he died. The ceremony was attended by great popular enthusiasm.

Mayor Fielder and Mrs. Parnell made speeches at a reception in the opera house on the 7th, on the Irish land league and T. P. O'Connor.

The first day of the Gilroy field trial under the auspices of the Gilroy Rod and New York on the 7th, on the Irish land league and T. P. O'Connor.

The anniversary of the battle of Montevideo was celebrated at Milan and Montevideo on the 31st. The anniversary at Milan and one at Montevideo were attended by the police.

First Assistant Postmaster-General Hatten has returned from Iowa and resumed his office in Washington, D. C., as postmaster general during James' absence.

A San Jose dispatch says that the transit of Mercury was successfully observed at Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, by Captain Floyd, Prof. Holden and Mr. Burnham. It was extremely fine.

General Robert B. Lincoln, one of the French captives at the battle of Bismarck, who served a long term of imprisonment in the castle at Kingston, Ont., has been given a position as a messenger in the Department.

The jail officers and police repelled a mob of several hundred who would have broken Madden for the killing of Phoebe and a child in Tiffin, Ohio. Militia have been ordered out and warrants issued for the ringleaders of the mob.

Joseph N. Dubois, a prominent hide and wool dealer, left Kansas City a week ago. His whereabouts are now unknown. He is alleged to be a defaulter in \$75,000. The principal victims are in Milwaukee and Boston. He is supposed to be in Canada or Mexico.

A contract is being let for the construction of the Chicago and Evanston railroad on the north side. It is estimated that the road when completed will be leased to the Northern Pacific or Illinois Central or both, as a means of getting into the city. The road will be completed by August next.

The Italian bandit, Giuseppe Exposito, arrested at New Orleans some time ago, was finally delivered to the Italian agent in New York. Through his counsel he filed in court his true name, Giuseppe Exposito Esposito, now residing in the city of Palermo, and known there under the name of Antonio Centano.

Dr. Ambrose Gaetz, a Russian political fugitive practicing medicine in New York, was found dead in his supposed suicide. The doctor was well to do in St. Petersburg, but becoming an advocate of advanced liberal opinions was forced to flee and his property confiscated. A wife and child in Russia survive him.

Cashier Baldwin, of Newark, has just been released on \$100,000 bail, to appear Monday for examination. His bondsman is Theodore F. Baldwin, and several other persons. The defaulter clerk Marchant was bailed for \$10,000 by Cornelius Van Heuton, of Belleville, to appear the 15th inst.

A curious plan is adopted in some parts of west Ireland with a view of keeping the "no rent" manifesto before tenants. It takes the form of a promissory note which has been circulated among farmers attending the fair. The note is a promise to pay rent on the day Parnell and Davitt are released from prison. It is intended the note shall be signed by tenants and sent to landlords.

Prominent lawyers of Washington are unanimous in the opinion that the defendants in the star route contest will win the battle now in progress against the validity of the information. Should the present motion to strike it off the docket fail a motion to quash will follow with fair prospect of success; but the opinion is general that Judge Cox will grant the motion to strike off. It is alleged that should this occur there would be an end of the prosecution of Brady. There would remain the case against Dosey and others of less note, but the moral effect of a failure to convict Brady would be to render any other prosecutions before the present grand jury exceedingly difficult of success. Lawyers think that this proceeding instead of being preliminary in the real fight, Counsel on both sides are so treating it, and the prospect is that arguments will last through the greater part of next week. Ingersoll will continue to-day and to-morrow and will occupy the whole day. Counsel for prosecution holds that should information fall entirely there would still remain good grounds for indictment against Brady, French and Turner. Ingersoll appears to be entirely confident that to win now would be decisive.

Special attention given to collections. Office, north side of Water street, 90 p. s. Central Hotel.

ALL SORTS.

The boldest man of whom there is any record has just married his mother-in-law in New Jersey.

In Dallas, Texas a woman is gradually being converted into a petrification. Her feet and hands are already as hard as stone.

The inventor of the screw propeller was the celebrated artist, Leonardo di Vinci, and he first applied it to aerial navigation.

Gen. Wallace, our minister to Turkey, drank coffee with the Sultan. The cups were without handles, and were created with diamonds.

Worth has caused a war in Paris by his attempt to revive moire antique, as leading inevitably to a resurrection of the much detested crinolines.

A report of local doctors states that 77 per cent. of the cases of diphtheria epidemic raging in the province of Orel, Central Russia are fatal.

The electric light has been successfully introduced in the Mathilde Colliery, in Upper Silesia. The work was done by Siemens & Halske, of Berlin.

It is not fair for a man to dress on the basis of his wives so much finer than the other, especially when the other has all the children to care for.—Indianapolis Herald.

A few days ago Jay Gould was seen to look long and earnestly at the moon through a telescope, and then turn away with a disconsolate sigh. A car road track cannot be laid on air.

In the technical schools of the Metropolitan Museum of Art plumbing is now taught, but only the sons of millionaires are admitted to the course.

"Man's inhumanity to man" does not compare to woman's inhumanity to woman. Is not the correct a good leader of the evils inflicted?

A little boy reciting a Bible verse about smiting the enemy hip and thigh, said they would smite him with a "hip, hip and hurrah."

The daughter of the wealthiest banker in Grand Rapids, Michigan, who graduated from Yassar three years ago, has been the cashier of her father's bank ever since.

We have seen ladies who were insufficiently shocked at the sight of man in his natural state, and who were almost to the shoulders. Women are strange creatures.

A Yankee in Boston closed his store for two hours on the day of the Garfield funeral, and sent his clerks for the time. He ought to put up a monument for Guitaun.

Uncle Sam is gradually extending his dominions. Our latest acquisition is a big ice floe named Wrangle Land. Why it is called Wrangle Land we don't know, as it is uninhabited.

A Southern journal says this year's rice crop in the Gulf States will reach 150,000,000 bushels. It is predicted that the rice industry will reach a total of sugar growing in Louisiana.

I feel a profound reverence for a boy than a man. I never met a ragged boy in the street without feeling that I may owe him a salute, for I know not what possibilities may be bottled up under his coat.

Mr. Edison has come out with an utterance: "Whenever by theory, analogy and calculation I have satisfied myself that the result I desire is impossible, I am then sure that I am on the verge of a discovery." It is darkest just before the dawn, and we suppose it is more discouraging immediately preceding the electric light.

The Japanese telegraph system, established ten years ago, has now 9229 miles of line and 9345 miles of wire. Twenty words are sent sixty miles for less than two cents. Last year the number of messages transmitted was 1,272,705. There are 348 Morse instruments in use, 25 single needle-books, and 29 Bell telephones.

The Future Motor Power.

Scientists men of Great Britain object to the steam engine because it does not meet the wants of the present fast age, because it spends too much force for the results it accomplishes, and for the additional reason that it is fast consuming the coal that will be wanted for heating purposes. They want a better force, more locomotion, quicker travel, less expense, and greater security. They want something that will propel canoes as well as ships; that will run sewing machines as well as trip hammers; that will draw dray pressure carriages as well as railway cars. They desire a motor that will not consume fuel, produce smoke, or cause noise; that can be managed by a child and run, if desired, in a parlour. They want something that will do all the steam engine does and many things besides.

In the opinion of most of the scientists of Great Britain electricity is to take the place of steam in driving machinery and moving cars, and is to be generated by the action of tides, winds, and falling water. They predict that wind power will be utilized to a greater extent than any persons in a previous age ever believed it would. Wind will generate electricity for moving machinery, for lighting streets, and warming dwellings in Ireland, Belgium, Denmark, and other countries where there are few streams that afford water-power. The movement of tides will produce the same effects in most countries that have an extensive sea-coast, while the fall of water in rivers and streams will generate electricity in all mountain regions.

The great electrical exhibition at Paris is doing much to draw attention to what is called the motor power of the future. There is a picture called "The Queen of the Nineteenth Century," hanging in many show windows. It is a female figure surrounded with a halo, and emitting rays of light from the hands, which are poised as if to enable the being to fly. The light gives the appearance of wings. The artist is an enthusiast, and is regarded by many as a prophet. We all hope that his fair predictions may be realized. The steam engine is a good thing, but we are ready for something better. Now, that attention is drawn to electricity, Chicago Tribune.

