



12 0143182315

Oregon Prize of Discovery, Exploration and Settlement

A Narrative



By

BURT BROWN BARKER
Chairman, Oregon Statuary Committee

Oregon, Prize of Discovery, Exploration, Settlement

A NARRATIVE



Written for distribution
at unveiling of statues of

DOCTOR JOHN McLOUGHLIN

and

THE REVEREND JASON LEE

at the National Capitol

by

BURT BROWN BARKER,
Chairman, Oregon Statuary Committee

Printed by
State Printing Section
Salem, Oregon
1952

INTRODUCTION

Inasmuch as statues of Doctor John McLoughlin and the Reverend Jason Lee are to be placed in Statuary Hall, Washington, D. C., as representatives of the State of Oregon, in accordance with an act of the legislature of that state; and

Since replicas are to be placed on the grounds of the Capitol at Salem, Oregon, under and by virtue of the same authority:

It seems fitting to point out certain events in the history of the Oregon Country (out of which were carved the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and the western fringes of Montana and Wyoming) which are unusual and in some instances different from those of any other state in the Union.

These will appear in the late way Oregon was discovered, the unusual way it received its name, the unique way it became American territory (by colonization and diplomacy without having been acquired by war or purchase); and lastly in the characteristic way it set up and operated a distinctly local self-government for six years before Congress recognized it as a Territory.

Because of these unique, unusual and original events, the article has been entitled "*Oregon The Unique Prize*".

BURT BROWN BARKER, Chairman
Oregon Statuary Committee.

OREGON -- THE UNIQUE PRIZE

I. Delayed Discovery of Columbia River

THE FIRST in this series of distinctive events in the history of Oregon which sets it apart from the other states in the Union, is the tardy way it was discovered.

It seems incredible that almost 300 years should elapse, after Balboa first saw the Pacific Ocean (1513), before the Columbia River was entered by Captain Robert Gray (1792), a Boston navigator.

Commonly accepted authorities set 1492 as the date Columbus discovered America; 1607 as the date of the founding of Jamestown, Virginia; and 1620 as the date the Pilgrims settled Plymouth, Massachusetts.

It will be noted that between 1492 and 1607 there is a gap of more than 100 years which is devoid of recorded events of strategic importance on the Atlantic Coast of the United States. It was different on the Pacific Coast.

During that 100 years the explorers turned south toward milder climates and more lucrative fields. In 1513 Balboa discovered the Pacific Ocean. In 1521 Cortez in Mexico, and in 1532 Pizarro in Peru, were seizing and carrying to Spain great wealth in gold, silver and precious stones. In 1542 Cabrillo entered the present San Francisco Bay. In 1578 Sir Francis Drake touched the southern coast of Oregon, landed and gave it the name New Albion (New England). It was on this trip that he surprised and looted one Spanish port after another, ran down ship after ship and stripped them of their treasures.

In 1580 Drake returned to England with 26 tons of silver, 80 pounds of pure gold, 13 chests of gold plate, and quantities of emeralds, pearls and other precious stones. His vessel was only 100 tons burden, so he threw overboard much of the silks and other fabrics which it could not carry. When he landed in England, Queen Elizabeth dined with him on board his vessel, the

Golden Hind, and conferred knighthood on him, while London took a Roman holiday.

Thus during the 100-year period of inactivity on the North Atlantic Coast following 1492, the South Atlantic and the Pacific Coast were alive with Spanish and English adventurers. However, after the discoveries of Cabrillo in 1542 on the Pacific Coast, the Spanish became interested in the trade of the Indies and their ships followed the tradewinds from the coast of California to the westward, leaving the coast of Oregon and lands to the north untouched.

The English also gave up activity in the Pacific after the exploits of Drake in 1580. They became interested in the riches of India, and sent their vessels to the east around the Cape of Good Hope, without making any effort to follow up the exploits of Drake. This condition existed for almost 200 years.

At the close of the Seven Years War in 1763, England again turned attention to the Pacific. The government offered a prize of 20,000 pounds for the discovery of the long-sought Northwest Passage. Captain James Cook, in his first try in 1773, headed an expedition which discovered the Hawaiian Islands. On his last trip, on July 12, 1776, he set sail via the Cape of Good Hope for the land Drake in 1578 had designated as New Albion, a name the British had consistently kept alive.

In March, 1778, Cook reached the Oregon coast, reportedly about 43° north latitude. Heading north, keeping in sight of land almost continuously, he noted the coast line with more care than others had done previously. He observed and named Capes Perpetua and Foulweather in Oregon, and Cape Flattery in Washington, which names are still preserved. Continuing, he landed at Nootka Bay on Vancouver Island, missing both the mouth of the Columbia River and the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, which later he sought specifically.

After spending a month trading with the Indians at Nootka Bay, he continued north through Bering Strait into the Arctic Ocean, until he was blocked by ice. This voyage for the moment put an end to the myth of the Northwest Passage. It was epochal so far as Oregon was concerned, for it established the fact that

there was no water short cut to the Pacific Northwest; the only water approach was around either Cape Horn or Cape of Good Hope, both being long and hazardous. It was an element in the isolation of Oregon.

Just as England had returned to explorations on the Pacific Coast, so also had Spain. Spain came to realize that she had not followed up the exploits of Cabrillo (1542), so engaged had she been in her trade with the Indies, and in the riches of Mexico and Peru. Fearing lest she would forfeit what Cabrillo had won, she put forth a feeble and ineffectual effort under Viscano and Aguilar in 1602, but soon fell again into inaction. As the Russians began to press down from the north, and the English were again on the prowl, she realized that either a serious effort must be put forth, or she must retire from the conflict.

She began by fortifying Monterey and San Diego in 1768, and within a few years the Franciscan fathers under Junipero Serra had established their mission in the southern part of California. She then began anew her northern explorations, after more than a century and a half of inactivity. In 1774 Juan Perez went as far north as 54° north latitude.

The next year Bruno Heceta and Bodega y Quadra were dispatched to the north. Heceta went beyond 50°, and then turned back. He doubtless saw the mouth of the undiscovered Columbia River, and made an ineffectual effort to enter it on August 17, 1775. He noted and named the two capes at the mouth of the river. On July 18, he saw and accurately described Mount Neahkahnie which he named Table. He also located and named Capes Falcon and Lookout.

Bodega y Quadra continued his journey to the north and explored part of the coast of Alaska. Spain had long worked on the theory that she had the right to all the western shores of both North and South America washed by the waters of the South Sea (Pacific Ocean) which had been seen first by Balboa (1513). This theory was based on the decree of the Pope, Alexander VI, who, after the return of Columbus, divided the world in two parts, by drawing a line from North to South through the Atlantic Ocean 100 leagues west of the Azores and Cape Verde Islands.

To Spain he gave "all the future lands and islands found, or to be found, discovered or to be discovered toward the West and South".

England, per contra, took the position that Spain could claim only such land as she occupied. Merely to skirt the coast, touching it here and there, and giving names to a few capes, rivers and promontories, was insufficient. To establish a legal claim she must actually settle and continue to inhabit the parts claimed. England disregarded completely any title or claim arising out of any decree coming from the Pope in Rome.

A further stimulous to these Spanish upsurges in explorations, was the activities of Russia in Alaska, and along the coast to the south. These began when Peter the Great of Russia gave the Dane, Vitus Bering, a commission in 1724 to explore and chart the coast of Alaska and south. He discovered the strait which bears his name. His last voyage was in 1741. It was on his discoveries that Russia based her claims to Alaska.

The furs which his men carried back with them, began the fur trade which later became the magnet which drew the English, Spanish, and finally the Americans to the North Pacific Coast, and in the end led to the discovery of the Columbia River and the exploration and early settlement of Oregon.

The East India Company made the next British attempt to enter the picture. The fur trade, which the Russians were now carrying on with China, was the cause of their entry. They were slow to begin because their business in the East Indies was so profitable. They had been given the trading right to the Western Coast of America, and thus no other English company could operate there.

By 1785 the company began to operate out of ports in India. In this way Captain John Meares, an interesting and spectacular character, sailed from Bengal in 1786. He probably was the first explorer actually to enter the Strait of Juan de Fuca, in 1788. He did not explore the strait fully. Rather he returned to the mouth, and then sailed south. He located Cape Disappointment, at the mouth of the Columbia, which he identified as the cape found by Heceta in 1775. He examined the location carefully,

and satisfied himself that there was no river at that point, as indicated on the Spanish charts which he had. Thus Meares, as well as Heceta, had missed the Columbia, as if the river were in hiding.

But the Russians pushing down from the north, and the English operating out of the east through the East India Company, had struck the real Bonanza—the rich fur trade of the north. While rival explorers were locating new islands, bays, inlets, and gaining much information about the north, the English and the Russians were concentrating on the fur trade. The news spread rapidly, and soon traders were in full cry.

Nootka Sound, on the northern coast of Vancouver Island, was the magnet and became the local headquarters. This stimulated the Spanish until they entered every open bay and harbor along what is now British Columbia and southern Alaska. By this time a new government had been set up on the Atlantic sea coast, and a new flag, the Stars and Stripes, began to appear among the flags of Russia, England, Spain, Portugal and for a short time, France. But for the moment Nootka and the north were in the limelight, and the coast of Oregon was accordingly bypassed.

Spain was now thoroughly aroused. With Russia in Unalaska, she realized that she must protect Nootka against all comers. She sent a flotilla of four vessels to fortify it. England and Russia each had colonization plans for Nootka. Into the thick of the melee Captain Robert Gray in the packet *Washington*, and Captain John Hendrick in the ship *Columbia*, sailed and cast anchor at Nootka Bay in 1789. No other vessels were there at the time and all seemed serene.

But the Spanish flotilla under Martinez soon arrived. In view of the fact that the American vessels had passports given by General Washington to permit a voyage of discovery round the world, they were not arrested. The captains, however, were cautioned that it was prohibited by ordinance for any foreign nations "to sail the coast of America."

Soon thereafter the British sailed into Nootka and began to fortify it. Martinez seized their vessels and the stage was set

for a war between Britain and Spain. But the war never materialized. Spain backed down and the matter was settled by arbitration. Meanwhile the rich fur trade had grown brisk and competition keen.

On his return to England in 1790, after failing to discover the Columbia, Meares published a pamphlet in which he indicated that he still felt that there was the long-sought Northwest Passage, connecting the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans. It was a tradition hard to kill. Accordingly, England determined once more to explore that possibility fully, and settle it finally.

Captain George Vancouver was given the commission. He was to examine and survey minutely the Pacific Coast, from latitude 30° to 60° ; and, specifically, he was instructed to inquire into "the nature and extent of any water communication which may tend in any considerable degree to facilitate an intercourse for the purpose of commerce between the Northwest coast and the country on the opposite side of the continent." That certainly was a commission broad enough to cover any rivers of extent flowing into the Pacific from about Mexico on the south, to Alaska on the north. Quadra, Heceta and Meares had stopped and examined the breakers at the mouth of the Columbia River; and maps since 1601 had indicated the presence of a river at or near the present site of the Columbia. But its existence had never positively been determined. Vancouver now had his chance.

In January, 1791, he sailed away in command of the sloop-of-war *Discovery*, of 400 tons burden, and a much lighter armed tender, *Chatham*, in command of Lieutenant Broughton. He had ample equipment and personnel for a scientific voyage of discovery. He spent the winter in the Hawaiian Islands, and on April 17, 1792 arrived off the coast of California, at latitude 39° . Heading northward he reached Cape Orford, Oregon, April 24.

On the evening of April 26, under clear skies and with conditions peculiarly satisfactory for observation, he was at the point which Captain Meares had described so accurately. He was especially interested in Meares' description; and also he wanted to prove or disprove the assertion of Heceta that there was a river at this point. All day of the 27th he sailed along the coast,

describing the landmarks so accurately that his position is easily identified. He appeared to be following Meares' description. After noon he identified Cape Disappointment and Deception Bay. He was now at the mouth of the Columbia. At this point his log read:

"The sea has now changed from its natural to river-colored water; the probable consequence of some streams falling into the bay, or into the ocean to the north of it, through the low land. Not considering this opening worthy of more attention, I continued our pursuit to the N.W. being desirous to embrace the advantage of the breeze and pleasant weather so favorable to our examination of the coast."

Thus Vancouver, with charts and the Meares' log and the evidence of Heceta at hand, and with the discolored river water under his vessel giving full evidence of the presence of the river which he specifically sought, considered it not "worthy of more attention," and passed up another opportunity of history.

Now, a new group of merchant traders, also interested in breaking into the highly profitable fur trade, must be introduced. A small group of six Boston merchants in 1787 organized a company, for the purpose of entering the field as traders in the Northwest Pacific. They purchased two small vessels: a full-rigged ship called *Columbia*, of 212 tons, and a sloop of 90 tons called *Lady Washington*. The first was under command of Captain John Hendricks, and the second under command of Captain Robert Gray. They sailed out of Boston on October 1, 1787, and headed around Cape Horn for Nootka Sound. As Captain Gray sailed north along the Oregon Coast, he noted what he thought to be mouths of rivers, but was never close enough to be certain. He and Hendricks gathered a cargo of furs. These were taken to China and traded for a cargo of tea and silk, which was taken to Boston.

In September of 1790 a second voyage was organized, and in June 1791 Gray was quartered at Clayoquot Sound near Nootka, where an unhappy winter was spent. In the spring of 1792 Captain Gray, in the *Columbia*, sailed south along the coast of Oregon and California. The weather was unpropitious and

he turned north again. It probably was on his return trip that he met Vancouver, on April 30, near the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and discussed with him his experience in searching for the Columbia River, and doubtless was told by Vancouver that the river did not exist.

Gray had seen what he thought to be mouths of rivers, as he had passed up and down the coast, and determined to return, hoping in such openings to find furs in the hands of Indians where traders had not been. On May 7, 1792, he entered one such harbor which now bears his name. Proceeding down the coast, trading as he went, on May 11 he found himself in a great body of river water completely covered with whitecaps. Being venturesome, he steered in and recklessly did what careful mariners seldom do, namely, thrust the prow of his vessel into white breakers. But fortune was with him and he crossed the bar successfully and found himself in the mouth of the river which had appeared on maps from 1601, and had been observed by Quadra, Meares and Vancouver surely, and probably by others.

Captain Gray remained and traded with the Indians in the lower reaches of the river near its mouth until May 20 when he recrossed the bar and sailed north where later he met and told the astonished Vancouver of his discovery. Unwilling to believe Gray's story, Vancouver the following October returned to the mouth of the river. He was never able to cross the bar in the *Discovery*, but Lieutenant Broughton in the *Chatham* was successful in doing so.

Thus the Columbia River was discovered and named by Captain Robert Gray, after he crossed the bar at the mouth on May 11, 1792, three hundred years after the discovery of America by Columbus. This discovery became a very vital issue in the subsequent contention that Oregon was property of the United States by virtue of discovery, and that, too, after the coast south of parallel 42 and north of parallel 49 had been known for more than 100 years.

II. Origin of the Name Oregon

THE DISCOVERIES of Columbus and Vespuclius caught the imagination of Europe and writers began to dream of romantic new faraway lands.

Comparatively soon after the publication of the voyages of Vespuclius, Sir Thomas Moore published his *Utopia* in 1516, and in it placed the scene of his dreamland in a region far beyond the farthermost reach of any land seen by Vespuclius. He imaged a new world with higher and broader political aspirations.

After a lapse of more than 100 years, Sir Francis Bacon published his *New Atlantis* in 1629. By this time Balboa had discovered the Pacific Ocean, the Spaniards had ravaged Mexico and Peru and visited a part of the western shore of America. Sir Francis Drake in turn had ravaged the Spaniards and in 1578, landed, claimed the country in the name of the English King, and named it New Albion (New England). Thus the name was applied to the Pacific Coast many years before the first permanent settlement on the Atlantic Coast. The *Boston Sentinel* (September, 1787) notes the clearing of the ship *Columbia*, bound for New Albion.

Bacon chose to locate his New Atlantis in the region Drake called New Albion, a region students contend easily fits the description of the coast of southern Oregon.

During the 16th and 17th centuries of fables and myths, such names as Terra Incognita and New Albion were attributed to lands now recognized as parts of Oregon. Returning adventurers of these two centuries caused many writers to weave fanciful stories of legendary cities, such as Axa and Quivira, and place them in the newly discovered western coast of America.

In 1601 a map appeared on which the fabled city and kingdom of Quivira was placed in approximately the same location as that indicated as New Albion by Sir Francis Drake.

But no name, similar in sound or spelling to the name Oregon, has been found on any map, or in any book, until it was used by Major Robert Rogers in 1765, when, in a document to King George III he proposed to seek out the Northwest Passage.

In this document he described his route as being "from the Great Lakes toward the head of the Mississippi, and from thence to a river called by the Indians *Ouragon*."

Major Rogers did not himself attempt such a journey, but the following year he outlined a similar expedition with Jonathan Carver as the draftsman of the party. This expedition also never materialized.

Subsequently both Rogers and Carver returned to England. In the interval before his return, Rogers appears to have learned more local geographical details. In 1772 he addressed another petition to the king. In this one he outlined the proposed journey, saying in part: "About the 44th degree of latitude to cross—into a branch of the Missouri and stem that northwesterly to the source, to cross then a portage, into the great river Ourigan." Thus he outlined a course which, in general, was subsequently followed by Lewis and Clark. Likewise he introduced for the first time the word Ouragon or Ourigan, which, with a slight change of spelling was to become Oregon.

But the change was not to come at the hands of Rogers, but by the work of his associate, Carver, who had returned to England with him.

In 1778 Carver published his book of *Travels*. It is in this book that the present spelling is found. In the text, for the first time so far as is now known, he used the expression "River Oregon or River of the West." He claimed to have learned the word from the Indians, with whom he lived on the upper reaches of the Mississippi River in 1766-67. But no student has been able to find any Indian word of a similar sound for the basis of such a spelling.

This book of travels was so popular that it was reissued in other editions and forms in Paris, Edinburgh, Dublin, Philadelphia, New York and elsewhere. Although Carver wrote of the river, he never saw it, and it remained for Captain Robert Gray, an American, to enter it in 1792, 300 years after the discovery of America. He gave it the name of his vessel, *Columbia*, entirely oblivious, so far as known, of the name Oregon given it by Captain Carver.

Thus the name Oregon was used first for a river. It was definitely changed to designate the land, in a bill brought into Congress by Representative John Floyd, of Virginia, on January 18, 1822. In this bill he proposed the creation of "Oregon Territory."

The young poet William Cullen Bryant apparently was impressed with Carver's book, and in 1817 he gave added popularity to the name when he wrote in his poem, *Thanatopsis*:

"Where rolls the Oregon and hears no sound
Save his own dashings, yet the dead are there."

Many scholars have speculated on origins of the name, but to date no satisfactory explanation has been found.

Thus a new land, which had had a mythical existence for two centuries, was finally materialized and given "a new name of liquid sound and romantic significance," Oregon.

III. How the Oregon Country Became a Part of the United States

THE PURPOSE of this chapter shall be to show how that the district west of the Rocky Mountains and north of 42°, became a part of the United States. This district is known historically as the Oregon Country. It enjoys the rare distinction of being the only part of the United States which was neither purchased nor fought for in war. It came rather as a result of what is broadly called colonization.

A—GOVERNMENT ACTION

As a result of the Revolutionary War, the Mississippi River became the western boundary of the United States by the Treaty of Paris (1783).

Following the discovery of the Columbia River (1792), the Louisiana Purchase (1803) pushed the western boundary from the Mississippi River to the summit of the Rocky Mountains.

When President Jefferson organized the well-known Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-06) and sent it overland across the Rocky Mountains, it became evident that the western boundary of the United States must again move west even to the Pacific Ocean.

How this came to pass is the next part of this story.

John Jacob Astor, with his Pacific Fur Company, followed the Lewis and Clark expedition and established a fur-trading post at Astoria in 1811. It was the first successful American settlement on the newly discovered Columbia. Following close on the heels of this new settlement came the North West Company men, also seeking to be the first to explore and settle the new territory. The race between the North West men and the Astor men was a close one; the Astorians winning by two months. The party of Astorians who won, was water-borne, around Cape Horn, while the North West men came overland to the headwaters of the Columbia, and then down the river to its mouth. Imagine their surprise and disappointment on their arrival there to find the Americans erecting a trading post.

The American victory was short-lived. As a result of the

war of 1812, Astor's partners at Astoria, fearing they would be victims of the English warship enroute to capture them, sold out the company to their rivals, the North West Company, in 1813. Thus the first American settlement in the new Oregon Country, came to an end.

Napoleon, hard pressed by England, sold the United States Louisiana without defined northern bounds. It became necessary to determine the northern boundary of the Louisiana Purchase. England was anxious to know how far to the north this purchase was supposed to extend. Each country appointed commissioners, and in 1818 they fixed the boundary between the United States and present Canada on the 49th parallel of north latitude, from Lake of the Woods west to the crest of the Stony (Rocky) Mountains. They could not agree on the line beyond that point. The American commissioners insisted on following that same parallel west to the Strait of Georgia. The English insisted on following that parallel to the upper reaches of the Columbia, thence down that river to the Pacific Ocean.

Being unable to resolve this difference, the parties decided to leave the land west of the Rocky Mountains open to joint occupation for a period of ten years.

Following the convention of 1818, the young American government took its first step to protect its interest in this new territory by entering into a treaty with Spain in 1819, by the terms of which Spain relinquished all rights to the territory north of 42° north latitude. In 1820 Representative Dr. John Floyd, of Virginia, had a committee report out a bill favoring the appointment of a committee to look into the matter of occupying the Columbia River. Nothing came of it. In 1822 he again urged Congress to take action touching on "Oregon Territory." This is the bill in which the name Oregon was first applied to the land. In 1824 he presented, and had passed in the House, a bill to provide a territorial government for Oregon. It was tabled in the Senate. Meanwhile the State Department had been successful in writing a treaty with Russia, by which she surrendered all territorial claims south of $54^{\circ} 40'$. Thus, by the treaties of 1819 and

1824, both Spain and Russia bowed out of the Oregon Country, leaving only England and the United States to contend for it.

The territory involved was 880 miles long, 550 miles wide and contained 450,000 square miles. It was more than six times the size of New England, and 30,000 square miles larger than all the then southern states.

While these steps were being taken by the new government, the fur trade was being reorganized. In 1821 came the coalition of the two great fur companies, the North West Company, a Canadian group, and the Hudson's Bay Company, of London. After the coalition, they continued and did business under the name of Hudson's Bay Company.

In 1824, Dr. John McLoughlin, a chief factor of Hudson's Bay Company, was given control of all the business west of the Rocky Mountains. The headquarters was changed from Astoria to what is now Vancouver, Washington, and the business was greatly extended.

Thus the matters stood in 1827, when the commissioners again met to try to settle the boundary line from the crest of the Rocky Mountains westward to the Pacific Ocean. Again, as in 1818, the American commissioners argued that the line continue west on parallel 49, from the point where it stopped in 1818, and the British again argued that it continue on that line west to the Columbia River, and then that it follow the Columbia to the Pacific Ocean. They deadlocked again on the issue, and in the end decided to renew the old agreement, and allow the territory to be subject to joint occupation, reserving to each party the right to terminate the agreement by giving a notice of one year.

Diplomacy having failed, nature had to take its course. During the period 1827-31, one Hall J. Kelly, a school teacher of Boston, working through Representative Floyd of Virginia, until the latter's retirement in 1829, and also through Senators Edward Everett of Massachusetts and Thomas H. Benton of Missouri, had several petitions presented to Congress asking recognition of the Oregon Country. Nothing came of them. However, in this way the subject was kept before Congress and indirectly before the people.

In 1834 the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church sent the Rev. Jason Lee with four assistants as the first Protestant missionaries to Oregon. They were received kindly by Dr. McLoughlin. He assisted them to locate their mission on the Willamette River, ten miles north of the present Salem, Oregon.

In the interval, Dr. McLoughlin had greatly extended the activities of the Hudson's Bay Company, so that in addition to its extensive fur business it had large acreage of grain, and a special farm for cattle. Also, it manufactured and sold lumber and flour, and did some business in packing salmon.

Following the advent of Rev. Jason Lee in 1834, there came other missionaries in 1835, 36-37. Also, there came a number of American fur traders and trappers. An active trade in furs by Americans grew up along the coast. All this activity became evident to Lee, and in 1838 he returned east of the Rocky Mountains. He carried with him a petition signed by the settlers in the Willamette Valley, asking that Congress interest itself in the territory. They had fears as to what might happen under the powers of joint occupancy, with the great Hudson's Bay Company, of London, becoming more and more dominant in the territory.

Meanwhile, Senators Linn and Benton of Missouri had taken an unusual interest in the Oregon question. Petitions came up from several state legislatures, urging Congress to interest itself in Oregon. When Lee arrived in Washington, the petition which he had brought from the settlers in Oregon was presented. Both Senators Benton and Linn supported it, and also made public addresses and wrote articles about Oregon. Lee spoke extensively throughout New England to large audiences. But Congress was adamant. No amount of agitation caused its members to take more than a passive interest.

In 1840 Lee returned to Oregon with a large delegation of missionaries and mission assistants such as a physician, teachers, farmers, carpenters, mechanics and a blacksmith. He set up a new mission center in what is now Salem. He also brought with him a sawmill and a grist mill, and had thus the making of a

community, over and beyond merely a religious mission among the Indians.

B—LOCAL ACTION

At this juncture, and while Congress was adamant in its refusal to give any recognition to Oregon, an event happened which was destined to develop into a local government, different both in its origin and outgrowth from that in any other region of the United States.

Ewing Young, a settler, died on February 15, 1841. He had prospered in Oregon and left considerable property, both real and personal. In the personal property was livestock. These at once presented the problem of herding to prevent their scattering, trespassing and being appropriated by neighbors. To complicate the problem he had died without known heirs in Oregon, and no state or government to which his property could pass by escheat, existed.

The Americans locally were more or less governmental conscious. The missionaries among them were especially so, as they had come from states with established forms of government.

The predominant group in the country was the Hudson's Bay Company and its ex-employees. This group had had a civil administration granted by an act of Parliament of July 1821. Acting under it, law and order had been well preserved in the territory. But it was not entirely satisfactory to the temper and aspirations of the Americans, who had always before them the fact that they were in a territory open to joint occupancy; they were constantly planning ways and means to strengthen their position.

Clearly the death of Ewing Young raised the problem of civil administration. They had none. Congress had failed them, although as late as 1840 they had set forth in a petition to Congress the dire need they had for civil jurisdictional authority. Following the funeral of Young, the settlers present discussed the situation, and called a meeting to be held on February 18, 1841. At that meeting, most of the settlers of the valley were present, and a committee of organization of nine persons, representing all the different elements in the valley, was chosen. Dr. Ira L. Bab-

cock was elected supreme judge, with probate powers. They also elected a person to act as clerk and recorder, and one to act as sheriff, and eight to act as constables. In the absence of a code of laws, the supreme judge was instructed to act in accordance with the laws of the state of New York. The meeting adjourned to meet the following June 1. On April 15, Judge Babcock appointed the Rev. David Leslie, one of the Methodist missionaries, to act as administrator of the estate of Ewing Young.

In this primitive way, the settlers made a start of self government. The start advanced haltingly, as the committee on organization failed to report at the June meeting. The meeting adjourned to the first Tuesday in October, and the committee, to draft a constitution and a code of laws, was ordered to meet the first Monday in August. These meetings in turn seem never to have been held, and about the only concrete action which came out of these first efforts were the acts of Judge Babcock and of the Rev. David Leslie as administrator of the estate of Ewing Young. This seems to have been the most pressing matter, and in view of the smallness of the settlement and its peaceful habits, nothing else of importance appears to have been done.

The inroads of bears, panthers, wolves and other predatory animals on the cattle of the settlers, proved the second rallying point to organize a local government. A meeting ostensibly to discuss this problem was called on February 2, 1843, at the mission building which had now been relocated and was in the present Salem, Oregon. At this session, a committee was appointed to call a meeting of the settlers. Such a meeting was held at the home of Joseph Gervais on March 6, 1843. Again a committee was appointed. It was composed of twelve men and was delegated to take "means for civil and military protection of this colony."

This committee went into action at what is now Oregon City, Oregon. Its meetings were attended by interested citizens. At the conclusion it called a general meeting of the settlers to meet at Champoeg, on the Willamette River, on May 2, 1843. At this meeting the committee presented its report favoring the organization of a new government. It soon developed that those

present were not of one mind. Not all favored such an organization. The report seems to have been voted down. But the cause was not lost, for a division was called for, and when the count was taken the majority had voted to proceed to organize. The number by which the vote was carried has long been a question of dispute. The commonly accepted count was 52 to 50. But that it was a favorable vote is unquestioned. The discontented element withdrew and those remaining, proceeded to elect a supreme judge with probate powers, a clerk and recorder, a sheriff, and a treasurer, four magistrates and four constables. In addition, the meeting took an exceptional step. It elected a legislative committee of nine members. This committee constituted the first legislative body elected in Oregon. It was instructed to report at a public meeting the following July 5 (1843).

This committee held its first meeting on May 16 in a room in the old granary of the Methodist Mission, in what is now Oregon City. Its meetings were open. One of its members had a copy of the statutes of Iowa which was bound with the text of the Ordinance of 1787 for the government of the Northwest Territory. The original organic law adopted verbatim many phrases from the Ordinance of 1787 and the organic laws of Iowa. Instead of a governor, this organic law provided for an executive committee of three persons. This plan, however, was found unworkable and later amended.

After unlimited debate, in which the spirit of the old New England town meeting prevailed, the report was adopted, and it became known as the Organic Law of Oregon. Slavery was prohibited, and "every free male descendant of a white man" inhabitant of the territory was eligible to vote. No provision was made for taxation. The expenses of government were paid by voluntary contributions. This provision was soon found to be unworkable. Finally the large area was divided into legislative districts.

In this way the local people in Oregon, without either assistance or even encouragement by Congress, set up a Provisional Government, republican in substance, and grounded broadly on ideals of democracy. It was set up over against the more or less

paternalistic system of the powerful Hudson's Bay Company. It was the rule of the majority over and against that of the chosen few. It was a government destined to guide a people who were to colonize the land and cultivate the soil, and, in so doing, to go counter to the Hudson's Bay Company theory of holding the land as a great fur preserve.

C—COLONIZATION

At the time that the Organic Law was adopted and the Provisional Government was formed, the practical demands for governmental action were slight, due to the small number of settlers and their peaceful habits.

While these events had been evolving in the Oregon Country, events throughout the more settled districts of the middle west, southern and eastern parts of the country, were developing into what has been characterized as the "Oregon fever." It is not the purpose of this article to give the details of these events, as space forbids, and a summary of them will serve the purpose. As a result of these activities, the year 1843 marks the beginning of a series of annual wagon trains, bringing several thousand Americans, men, women and children, into Oregon, resulting in settlers' claims wherever such seemed most advantageous to them.

With this great influx of new settlers, the newly established government underwent many changes, demanded by the newly arrived settlers. But the changes were in form only, the essence remaining unaltered.

Similarly, the interest of Congress underwent modification. Congress began to discuss land bills and to indicate the number of acres allowable per person. Petitions from the increased number of persons in Oregon were given increasing attention. This meant some members gave vent to their feelings. Some members spoke highly of the territory, while others questioned its value. Senator McDuffy of South Carolina went to the extreme and said he wouldn't give a pinch of snuff for the whole territory.

Oregon became a campaign issue in 1844. Candidate Polk, for an issue, seized on the fact that Russia in her treaty of 1824 had surrendered her rights to the territory south of $54^{\circ} 40'$, and

popularized his campaign slogan "54° 40' or fight." It was a political inference that, unless England accepted the old demand of the United States for parallel 49 as the dividing line west of the Rocky Mountains, the United States would abandon that demand and insist on 54° 40' as the line of demarcation. On July 16, 1845, President Polk and James Buchanan, Secretary of State, offered England's Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Packenham, to settle on the 49th parallel. Packenham refused, and Polk withdrew his offer, and said he would insist on the settlement at 54° 40'.

Following the so-called "first wagon train" of 1843, came succeeding trains in 1844, 1845 and 1846. These newcomers were colonizers. They sought land for homes. They had no interest in furs or fur trade. By 1846 it had become evident to Britain that under the "joint occupancy" clause, still in full force and effect, the colonizing Americans had won. Suddenly and without prior warning, Packenham submitted to Secretary Buchanan a treaty establishing the 49th parallel of north latitude as the dividing line between what is now Canada and the United States, west of the Rocky Mountains. Inasmuch as this had been the proposal of the United States since the issue was first raised in 1818, the treaty was submitted to the Senate of the United States and accepted, in the form submitted by Great Britain, on June 15, 1846.

And thus, without shedding a drop of blood or paying a dollar, the entire territory, known as the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and the western fringes of Montana and Wyoming, came into the domain of the United States. It had been accomplished in good part by American settlers who entered and possessed the land peaceably, under a treaty agreement which had been in existence for 28 years and for about 25 of those years had been controlled by the Hudson's Bay Company of London.

During this time, the homemade Provisional Government was functioning, with executive, legislative and judicial departments. All efforts to get Congress to extend a helping hand had failed. Some authorities in official Washington had taken the position

that, until the dividing line was determined, Congress should not interfere. The treaty of June 15, 1846, put an end to that argument. Still Congress delayed.

Meanwhile the people in Oregon grew impatient. They were dissatisfied with certain provisions of the treaty which they considered favored the Hudson's Bay Company. They also disliked the idea that Congress was discussing a bill which provided that the officers of the new territory, when established, should be appointed by the President. Hadn't they set up their own government in 1843, elected their own officers, and legislated for the welfare of the people of all the Oregon Country, and maintained a stable government in working order since then? Why, then, they asked, after having successfully carried the burden without help from Congress, should it be necessary, that the President should appoint their officers and judges? The answer was—"precedent." They answered, that in other territorial governments the local people had not organized an independent government and governed themselves, as had the people of Oregon.

The result was that the Provisional President sent J. Quinn Thornton as a representative to Washington. The legislature also sent an emissary, the colorful Joe Meek. Hence, these two men went to Washington to press the merits of the people of the Oregon Country.

In December 1846 President Polk urged Congress to grant the Oregon Country a territorial status. Unfortunately, the question of slavery was rearing its ugly head. Bills were introduced in both the Senate and the House. Both contained the antislavery clause. Favoring passage were Senators Douglas (Illinois), Benton (Missouri), Houston (Texas), Webster (Massachusetts), Dix (New York), and Corwin (Ohio); while opposed were Calhoun and Butler (South Carolina), Mason (Virginia) and Foote (Mississippi).

The battle was bitter, and waged without asking or giving quarter, periodically through the year 1847, and until August 13, 1848, when Senator Benton was successful in forcing the bill through. It was signed on August 14, 1848, and became law.

The President appointed Joseph Lane to be the first territorial governor. It took Lane until March 3, 1849, to reach Oregon and issue a proclamation declaring the Oregon Country to have territorial status. This having been done, Governor Abernethy, the provisional governor, cheerfully surrendered the Provisional Government in full working order to the territorial governor.

In conclusion, we see that the Oregon Country was called New England by Sir Francis Drake a quarter of a century before there was any permanent white settlement on the Atlantic Coast of the United States; that an unusual chain of events delayed its discovery for more than 100 years after lands, both to the north and to the south of it, had been discovered; that the origin of the name Oregon has remained hidden, despite the persistent research of scholars; that the Oregon Country, which comprises the present states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and the western fringes of Montana and Wyoming, is the only section of the United States to become a part of the Union through colonization and diplomacy, and not as a result of war or purchase; that it established and maintained its own local government for a period of six years in the face of the unwillingness of Congress to give aid or even encouragement; and finally, when it was granted territorial status, the people of Oregon turned over this local government in full working order, and it became the territorial government, an accomplishment not equalled by any other state in the Union.

Because of these facts, Oregon is herein represented as The Unique Prize.

IV. Doctor John McLoughlin

DR. JOHN McLOUGHLIN was born at Rivière-du-Loup, in the Province of Quebec, Canada, on October 19, 1784. He was of mixed Scottish, Irish and French ancestry. His grandfather, also John McLoughlin, came from Scotland, married Mary Short, an Irish woman, and settled on a farm near Rivière-du-Loup. To them was born a son John, who succeeded his father on the farm. He was not content to marry into the farming ranks. Across the St. Lawrence river from the farm of the son John, lived Malcolm Fraser, a member of the landed gentry well known in the community and a person of means. The son John, the farmer, wed Angélique, the daughter of this Malcolm Fraser, the most prominent citizen of Murray Bay. Angélique's mother was Marie Allaire, a French Canadian. Out of this union came a son John, the John of our interest, being the third John in this indicated line. His mother was a Catholic and the young John was baptized Jean Baptiste at Kamouraska by the local priest; he died in the faith of his mother, and lies buried in Oregon City, Oregon. It is this succession of marriages and births which gave the subject of this sketch the mixture of Scottish, Irish and French blood, as indicated above.

Little seems to be known of the childhood of this young John McLoughlin. Doubtless he made visits to the home of his grandfather Fraser, where he seems to have been a welcome visitor. Here he may have met two brothers of his mother, Alexander and Simon Fraser. Simon had been a physician, in the Black Watch Regiment of the earlier Napoleonic wars. Alexander was a fur trader, and eventually became a wintering partner of the North West Company. In these two uncles one sees the fingerboards of the road young John McLoughlin was destined to follow.

When not more than fourteen years of age, the young man began his medical apprenticeship under Dr. James Fisher, one of the most prominent physicians of his day, with whom he studied for four and one-half years. He was admitted to practice at the

age of nineteen. Thus we see the possible influence of Uncle Simon Fraser.

Very soon after having been given a license to practice, young John cast his lot with the North West Company, apparently as a result of an attractive promise made to him through the efforts of his Uncle Simon. Whether or not his Uncle Alexander may have stimulated Simon McTavish, the most powerful person in said company, to make the offer, is unknown. But it does not seem a far cry to believe that the young doctor must have heard much of the fur trade in his boyhood associations in the home of his grandfather Fraser.

Thus in 1803 young Dr. McLoughlin began his services under a five-year contract with the North West Company on a salary of twenty pounds a year. At the end of the period (1808) he was re-engaged, for three years, at a salary of two hundred pounds a year, which contract was again renewed for three years (1811-14) when he became a wintering partner of the company.

He seems to have been popular among his associates who were increasingly annoyed at the manner in which the company was being conducted. It was fast becoming evident that an open clash with the bitter rival, the Hudson's Bay Company, was in the offing. The rivalry was so keen that the profits of both companies were nearing the vanishing point. Prudence indicated the necessity of a working agreement between the companies. The agents of the North West Company stood firm to drive ahead into disaster.

At this point Dr. McLoughlin led the discontented wintering partners in a rebellion against the agents. In the end, they were forced to open negotiations in London with the Hudson's Bay Company, which ended in the coalition of the North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company in March, 1821. Dr. McLoughlin was in London during the negotiations, but did not figure directly in them.

Among the assets of the North West Company which fell to the Hudson's Bay Company, was all the property west of the Rocky Mountains with headquarters at Astoria renamed Fort George. On July 10, 1824, Dr. McLoughlin was appointed head of this region known as the Columbia District.

The significance of this appointment to the Pacific Northwest lies in the fact that the treaty of 1818, between Britain and the United States, settled the dividing line between the present Canada and the United States between the Lake of the Woods and the Rocky Mountains, leaving the part west of the Rocky Mountains unsettled and open to future negotiations. This resulted in this district ultimately being open to joint occupancy, and thus ultimately to go to the country which settled it.

Hence, Dr. McLoughlin became a most important personage because, as the chief authority in this district of the Hudson's Bay Company, a distinctly British organization, he was looked upon as the representative of the British interests in the Pacific Northwest. After dealing for ten years with the Indians of his district, he felt the necessity of having missionary work done among them, so that when Jason Lee and his little band of Methodist missionaries arrived in Oregon in 1834, he welcomed them and aided them in getting established along the Willamette river some ten miles north of the present Salem.

In 1843 came the first overland train of settlers to Oregon. They were in no sense missionaries, nor in the least interested in the salvation of the Indians. They came for agricultural purposes, and were destined to run counter to the interests represented by Dr. McLoughlin, who wished the country to remain unsettled and the home of fur-bearing animals.

Even though it was evident that there was this conflict of interest, yet Dr. McLoughlin received these settlers pleasantly, made them loans and ministered to their needs.

The early pioneers were fortunate in that Dr. McLoughlin was in command in the Northwest when they came. It is not that a man less favorably inclined could have prevented their settling, but he could have greatly increased the hardships of their lot which were severe enough at best.

Dr. McLoughlin resigned his position in 1845, and built his home in Oregon City. He took oath in May, 1849, and made his declaration to become an American citizen. He died in his home in Oregon City, September 3, 1857.

As evidence of the feeling of the pioneers toward Dr. McLoughlin, the Board of Directors of the Oregon Pioneer Association passed a resolution at their annual meeting on January 18-19, 1886, asking the Legislature of the State of Oregon to appropriate funds "to erect a suitable monument to the memory of the late Dr. John McLoughlin of Oregon City, and to place it in the State House."

A committee was appointed to bring this to pass. David P. Thompson was chairman. This committee recommended that a life-size oil portrait of the Doctor be painted by William Cogswell.

The House Journal of February 5, 1889, shows that this portrait was presented to the State of Oregon at a joint meeting of the House and Senate held in the House at 7:30 p.m., all members of both House and Senate being present. John Minto presented the portrait on behalf of the Oregon Pioneer Association, and it was accepted by Sylvester Pennoyer, governor of Oregon, and hung behind the chair of the president of the Senate where it remained till it was burned in the fire which destroyed the Capitol building on April 25, 1935.

In presenting this portrait John Minto said:

"In recognition of the worthy manner in which Dr. John McLoughlin filled his trying and responsible position, in the heartfelt glow of a grateful remembrance of his humane and noble conduct to them, the Oregon Pioneers leave this portrait with you, hoping that their descendants will not forget the friend of their fathers"

In accepting the portrait on behalf of the State of Oregon, Sylvester Pennoyer, governor, said:

"Then let this picture of the grand old man, whose numerous deeds of charity are inseparably woven in the early history of our state, ever enjoy the place of honor it now holds; and when our children and our children's children shall visit these venerable halls, let them pause before the portrait of this venerable man and do homage to his memory"

V. Reverend Jason Lee

"JASON LEE was descended from a sturdy Old England and New England ancestry," we are told by his biographer, Cornelius J. Brosnan.

An old country forebear, John Lee, migrated to America in 1634, and became one of the early settlers of Newton, near Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Daniel Lee, the father of Jason Lee, when a youth of twenty-two years, saw his first Revolutionary action, the battle of Lexington. Later (June 1776) he enlisted with his brother in the Wadsworth Brigade, and went to reinforce General Washington in his operations in and around New York City, and was in the battle of White Plains, October 26, 1776, where his brigade suffered losses.

On January 8, 1778, Daniel Lee married Sarah Whitacre, the daughter of a farmer near the town of Stafford, Connecticut. Sarah also was descended from old and sturdy New England stock. After marriage they lived for some years on a farm near Willington, Connecticut; but later, probably about 1798, they migrated to a farm of 400 acres of virgin timber, near the present town of Stanstead, Quebec. When Daniel Lee moved north, his land was considered to be part of Vermont, and remained so until the international survey ran the dividing line between Vermont and the Province of Quebec through this settlement of Connecticut and Vermont pioneers. When the line was ultimately established (1842), Daniel Lee's log house was north thereof, and, hence, in the Province of Quebec.

In this log house on June 28, 1803, Jason Lee was born, the youngest of fifteen children, nine boys and six girls. The father died when Jason was three years of age. Jason received his early education in the village school in Stanstead. At the age of thirteen, young Lee was self-supporting. He followed the occupation of a farmer boy in a new country. As he expressed it, "He was brought up to hard work," and "had seen the day when he could chop a cord of sugar maple in two hours."

He was converted by a Wesleyan Missionary in 1826. In his

diary he spoke of his conversion: "I saw, I believed, I repented." He continued to work as a manual laborer for three years thereafter or until 1829. In that year he entered Wilbraham Academy, at Wilbraham, Massachusetts, a rising Methodist institution where "he had the care of all the boys in a large sleeping hall," in which Lee had Room No. 13.

Bishop Osmon C. Baker, a classmate of Jason Lee, leaves the following pen picture of him:

"Jason Lee was a large, athletic young man, six feet and three inches in height, with a fully developed frame and a constitution like iron. His piety was deep and uniform, and his life, in a very uncommon degree, pure and exemplary. In those days of extensive and powerful revivals, I used to observe, with what confidence and satisfaction, seekers of religion would place themselves under his instruction. They regarded him as a righteous man whose prayers availed much; and when there were indications that the Holy Spirit was moving in the heart of the sinner within the circle of his acquaintance, his warm Christian heart would incite him to constant labor until deliverance would be proclaimed to the captive."

After graduation at Wilbraham in 1830, Lee served as a teacher in the Stanstead Academy and preached in the adjoining towns, and continued in this capacity until the opening came to go to Oregon. While contemplating how he was to get to Oregon, he saw in a Boston newspaper that Captain Nathaniel Wyeth, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, had returned from Oregon and was planning to go there again the following spring. He hastened to Boston and arranged to accompany Wyeth on his second trip, which was to leave Independence, Missouri, in April, 1834.

The meeting with Wyeth was in November, 1833. Between that time and the date set for the departure to Oregon, Jason Lee went about New England, accompanied by two Indian boys whom Wyeth had brought with him from Oregon, preaching and addressing various missionary groups where collections were taken for his work in Oregon. The Indian boys drew record crowds. One such meeting was held in Lynn, Massachusetts.

The *Zion Herald* published a graphic account thereof in part as follows:

"Last Sabbath evening there was an address by Rev. Jason Lee, Missionary to the Flat Heads. It was one of the most pleasant meetings ever held in Lynn, of a missionary character. Long before the time appointed to commence, the house was thronged to overflowing, and the audience hung upon the lips of the speakers with such an interest that it could not be mistaken. The collection did honor to Lynn; it amounted to \$100.00."

Monday, April 28, 1834, the cavalcade headed by Nathaniel Wyeth, of which Jason Lee and his party of four companions were a part, headed out of St. Louis for Oregon. Lee, in a letter written en route, said that Wyeth's party was "the most profane company I think that I was ever in."

En route Lee preached at Fort Hall, "a brief, but excellent and appropriate exhortation" on July 27, 1834, noted as "the first formal Protestant religious observance to be held in the vast interior lying west of the Rocky Mountains." Captain Wyeth remained to finish Fort Hall, and Lee and his party proceeded to Fort Boise under the escort of Thomas McKay, and his Hudson's Bay brigade. From this point they journeyed alone to Fort Walla Walla, arriving September 1. While here, Wyeth and his party rejoined them, and together they proceeded to Fort Vancouver where they arrived September 15, 1834, warmly welcomed by Dr. John McLoughlin.

At the suggestion and under the guidance of Dr. McLoughlin, Jason Lee and his companions, Daniel Lee, his nephew, and Messrs. Courtney N. Walker, Cyrus Shepard and Philip L. Edwards, located their mission on the east bank of the Willamette River, ten miles north of the present city of Salem.

But Lee soon became convinced that he must have reinforcements, and among them should be women.

Accordingly on March 26, 1838, Lee started on his return trip to New York, carrying with him a petition signed by thirty-six Americans, including every member of the mission. This memorable document is said to have been inspired by Lee. The

petition set forth the virtues of the Oregon Country and its commercial advantages, and urged "the United States to take formal and speedy possession." The document is dated March 16, 1838, and was presented to the Senate on January 28, 1839, by Senator Linn. Thus early did Lee interest himself in the political welfare of Oregon.

On his journey, he spoke at Alton, Illinois, St. Louis, Carlinville, Jacksonville, Springfield, Peoria and Chicago. In New York he impressed the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church with the importance of the work. As a result they had him go on three extended speaking tours, one in and about Philadelphia and Washington; another in New England, from Connecticut to Canada, and the third through New York State. He spoke to crowded houses. In Hartford, Connecticut, by way of illustration, "hundreds went away unable to gain admittance into the church;" and thousands thus had Oregon and its importance brought to their attention.

The Missionary Society chartered the sailing vessel, *Lausanne* to carry a large party of missionaries (fifty-one persons), and their supplies to Oregon. This group was purely for missionary purposes. On October 9, 1839, the party set sail. The *Lausanne* dropped anchor at Fort Vancouver June 1, 1840, after a voyage of almost eight months. Dr. McLoughlin greeted them most cordially and entertained them at the Fort, providing comfortable accommodations such as a private sitting room and special dining tables.

The site of the so called "Old Mission" on the Willamette, was fast proving to be unsatisfactory. It was low, malarial and subject to inundation. Lee had brought with him machinery for both a sawmill and a gristmill. There was no location for them at the old mission, while at Chemeketa, ten miles to the south, was a stream with sufficient water in winter to operate them. Thus it was that the machinery for the mills was sent there immediately. When the sawmill was ready it began to cut lumber for a house for Lee, in 1841, and for another house called the "Parsonage," for the missionary teachers; and finally, for the

new Indian school buildings. This later became Willamette University.

But soon the mission fell into evil ways. The Indian population had been depleted by diseases of the white man to which the Indians succumbed in great numbers. Dissatisfaction arose among the missionaries and their various assignments. Complaints continued to reach the missionary headquarters in New York. Many of these were from dissatisfied missionaries who had returned to New York from Oregon. The letters from the board, touching these complaints, convinced Lee that he should return to New York in the hope of making satisfactory explanations.

Accordingly, in late November, 1843, Lee bade farewell to his Chemeketa friends and associates and headed for New York with his only daughter, then nearly two years old, in company with Gustavus Hines and wife.

He appeared before his board on July 1, and continued to do so until July 10, 1844. In the end, the board cleared him of the charges which had been preferred by his dissatisfied associates. But it was too late to return him to Oregon. The board had previously appointed his successor who was then in Oregon.

Lee left soon afterwards and went to be with a sister at Stanstead, his boyhood home. Here he was stricken with an illness from which he died on March 12, 1845. He was buried in the graveyard at Stanstead, where his body remained till on June 15, 1906 when his remains were moved to the Lee Mission Cemetery at Salem, Oregon.

On October 26, 1920, an oil painting of Jason Lee was presented to the State of Oregon. The portrait was done by Mr. Vesper George of Boston, Massachusetts. The funds for the same were provided by the Oregon Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The portrait was hung behind the chair of the speaker of the House of Representatives in the State Capitol in Salem, Oregon, where it hung until destroyed when the building burned on April 25, 1935.

The portrait was presented by Thomas A. McBride, Justice, Oregon State Supreme Court. He said in part:

"The precious jewel of a Commonwealth; the one thing above all others which it should treasure, is the memory of those grand and self-sacrificing men and women who laid the foundations of its greatness and prosperity.

"One of these treasured memories, is the life and work of Jason Lee, the founder of American civilization in Oregon. . . . Lee combined the fervor of a missionary, the foresight of a seer, and the patriotism of a loyal citizen."

The portrait was accepted on the part of the State by Ben W. Olcott, governor of Oregon. He said in part:

"Unhesitatingly I say that Jason Lee was Oregon's most heroic figure. By every right of achievement, by every right of peaceful conquest, this portrait of Jason Lee should adorn the halls of the Capitol Building in our state, as long as those capitol buildings stand."