

## Did Dr. Whitman Save Oregon?

From the Daily and Weekly Astorian.

### ARTICLE ONE.

It appears from the number of quotations and the length of the article found in THE DAILY ASTORIAN of the 6th of March, that the writer, giving the name F. F. Victor, concludes she has all the facts and all the "truth," and knows all about that question, and has convinced herself, and she, in fact, "was rather glad Mr. Clark had furnished her an occasion for pointing out the truth to those who think, as she does, that a love of truth is above a devotion to an idea, whether it is religion or politics." She continues to inform us that:

Controversy is disagreeable to *her*, though for the sake of truth *she* might enter upon a joust, now and then, with a knight clad in such mail as is worn by W. H. Gray, who has answered my article in THE ASTORIAN of September 10th. Mr. Gray, in his History of Oregon, has asserted that Dr. Whitman did save Oregon to the United States. I clearly showed in my article that he did not.

This statement of Mrs. Victor permits me to review her proofs of assertion. There is a difference of opinion about Mrs. Victor's article to which she refers. The Walla-walla Statesman of September 15 says of her:

Like all persons who start out with a weak case, Mrs. Victor attempts to and proves too much, for in laying particular stress upon the fact, that Marcens Whitman arrived in Washington after the "Ashburton Treaty" had been confirmed, she attempts to belittle the services of a patriot and to convey the impression that this government had relinquished its claim to the Oregon country by the terms of that treaty, when, as a matter of fact, the "Ashburton Treaty" avoided all references to the Oregon boundary by fixing the frontier line from the Atlantic to lake of the Woods. To say, therefore, that Dr. Whitman accomplished nothing while in Washington is far from the truth, as he was enabled to enlist the services of many eminent men in the Oregon cause, and notably that of Senator Benton, of Missouri, who made a specialty of the subject and whose fracas with Senator Butler, of South Carolina, in August 1848, is historical. In spite of all that may be said or written to the contrary, the fact remains as Mr. Clarke stated it, "that but for Dr. Whitman the result would have been different. The British flag would still float over fort Vancouver and over many a broad league of land besides, which shelters under the American flag.

Mrs. Victor holds on to the Ashburton treaty as her only hope, ignoring every other historical fact and her

own former quotations, and makes a personal attack upon positive knowledge of events that herself and most of the persons whom she quotes knew nothing about. In my former answer to her (as she thinks unanswerable argument), I admitted her long treaty argument about the signing of that Ashburton treaty to which she referred, supposing it reasonable and proper to do so if she had correctly quoted her authority; but from the quotations she makes from my history and the conclusions she draws, I am quite doubtful of her careful quoting and correct conclusions. Mrs. Victor, in her attempt to correct me, makes quite a mistake in the use of one word, and added one I did not use. She says:

Mr. Gray now says, though Dr. Whitman may not have influenced the Ashburton treaty.

I said it *could* not influence a treaty already made. Referring to Dr. Whitman, his influence in "one to be made," "had the desired effect." Mrs. Victor now comes to my history and says:

But in his history he plainly imputes the influence to the Ashburton treaty, which was concluded before Dr. Whitman set out for the states, and which did not relate to the Oregon boundary. What he says is this: "Besides, he had about traded it off with Governor Simpson, to go into the Ashburton treaty, for a cod fishery on New Foundland.

I wish to call the attention of Mrs. Victor, and all who read my history, to a fact and the exact words I used in the 37th chapter, 289th page: "Thus far in this narrative I give Dr. Whitman's, Mr. Lovejoy's, and my

own knowledge. I find an article in the Pacific of November 9th from Mr. Spalding, which gives us the result." Rev. Mr. Spalding was alive when the history was written and published in 1870 and received a copy. His attention was called to that statement on the 290th page, which Mrs. Victor attributes to me and which I did not feel at liberty to change or leave out of the quotation, as it came through Dr. Whitman to Mr. Spalding as information received through the conversation that Mr. Webster had with Dr. Whitman, and that such a proposition had been made to disprove of the entire boundary question. At the time they had only agreed to the line to the Stony or Rocky mountains, leaving the fishery and extended boundary question to future negotiations.

There was at that time, and the whole of it not yet settled, what we may call a three cornered squabble between Great Britain and the United States, kept in controversy on our eastern boundary by the cod fishers of America, Canada and England, and by the fur traders on our western coast.

That on the east relating to the cod fisheries scarcely settled yet, though a large sum of money has been paid. That on the west side relating to San Juan island but recently. But a short time before Dr. Whitman was in Washington, the Maine boundary and the cod fishery question was prominent. The Oregon question was least hinted at in America, in fact, it was the vast unknown wilderness of America. But American citizens, and fur trappers and traders were being driven

from it. British traders were increasing in wealth and power and influence over the natives.

The Ashburton treaty quieted the east, and if he had not been deceived by representatives of the Hudsons bay company, and made to believe that they were securing Oregon or New Albion to the British crown, he would have unquestionably secured Oregon at the same time, through the ignorance of our national representatives of its real value. "It is said delays are dangerous." It was peculiarly so in the attempt of the British government to hold New Albion or Oregon through the influence of the Hudsons bay company. Mrs. Victor says:

When it is shown that this was a blunder, he shuffles the influence onto the treaty of 1846, or some other with which the doctor had nothing to do, as neither Webster nor Tyler were parties to that treaty. So much for the treaties.

I do not wish to return Mrs. Victor's compliment even when she considers she has entirely vanquished me by saying I "shuffle the influence onto the treaty of 1846," but hope she will allow me to say that her attempt at historical criticism appears somewhat captious flavored with dogmatism, as well as incorrectness of date; she says:

But what I now propose to show, since I have been fairly challenged, is that the thirty-seventh chapter of Gray's History of Oregon is a tissue of fictions. To begin with, he represents that the Red river emigration brought out by Governor Simpson, was in 1842. It was in 1841. (See Sir George Simpson's Narrative, Vol. I, page 89.)

If this statement and reference does not show the dogmatist, arrogance,

positiveness, self-importance in assertion, pray tell us what does? Allow me to quote what I did say in chapter 37, page 288.

"Whitman learned that the company had arranged for these Red river English settlers to come on and settle in Oregon, and at the same time Governor Simpson was to go to Washington and secure the settlement of the question as to the boundaries, on the ground of the most numerous and permanent settlement in the country."

I will continue the review of Mrs. Victor in another article, as this is quite enough for an introduction.

#### ARTICLE TWO.

IN THE DAILY ASTORIAN of Sunday, March 6th, is a four column article under the heading "Did Dr. Whitman Save Oregon?" over the signature of F. F. Victor, whom we believe to be a woman possessed of a peculiar talent. She admitting or presuming the signature to be correct, in the commencement of her four column article says:

When I published my article with the above title in the Californian, I expected some notice to be taken of it; in fact, I was rather glad Mr. Clarke had furnished me an occasion for pointing out the truth to those who think, as I do, that a love of truth is above a devotion to an idea, whether it is religious or political.

This fact as stated in the commencement of her effort shows that she seeks notoriety. In our first article, in answer to a portion of her effort at notoriety; we reviewed it to the following statement and charge against the 37th chapter of Gray's History of Oregon, in the following words:

But what I now propose to show,

since I have been fairly challenged, is that the thirty-seventh chapter of Gray's History of Oregon is a tissue of fictions. To begin with, he represents that the Red river emigration brought out by Governor Simpson, was in 1842. It was in 1841. (See Sir George Simpson's Narrative, Vol 1, page 89.)

I can think of but one idea at this moment that expresses a fact in this reference, and that is Quibble number one. Suppose we admit that Gov. Simpson started his emigration as per his book in 1841, and suppose another fact, that it did not arrive in Oregon till in the fall of 1842, which is a positive fact easily proven, what then? Is Simpson or Gray mistaken and both writing a tissue of fiction? Mrs. Victor continues:

Next he represents himself as being at Waiilatpu, September, 1842; he was in the Willamet valley, (see chapter twenty-nine of Gray's History, page 211, and Hines' Oregon and Its Institutions, page 154), where he had gone on account of difficulties they had become fully satisfied would ultimately destroy the mission or drive it from the country.

Here is Quibble number two fully proven by both Hines and Gray himself, and Gray must now come squarely up to the scratch and admit that in September of 1842 he was in the Willamet valley, which can be fully proven by living witnesses, and the two books quoted. But unfortunately for Mrs. Victor's Quibble he did not have his good wife and eldest son and two little daughters with him, consequently he had to retrace his steps, back to Waiilatpu to Dr. Whitman's mission, where he had left them on the 1st of

September, 1842, to go to the Willamet valley to learn what business or labor he could engage in to supply his wife and little family with bread and clothing. The Methodist missionaries concluded that themselves and all the white settlers in the valley wanted a school house for the white and half-breed children and contributed liberally for the school building and employed W. H. Gray as their agent. Gray returned to his family on the 21st of September, 1842. Dr. Whitman and Lovejoy left for Washington before W. H. Gray was ready to move to the Willamet. I hope Mrs. Victor and all for whom she writes and quotes treaties and history will not forget these explanations, for they are quite fresh upon my mind and my wife's journal, though thirty-nine years have passed since that time. There is another little item in Mrs. Victor's statement and quotation which her reading of history, and I will add of treaties, that she cannot or will not understand, nor truthfully quote.

She says, in order to prove that I was not at Dr. Whitman's at the time Dr. Whitman started for Washington, after referring to chapter and page of our books, "where he, Gray," "had gone on account of difficulties, they," (referring to Rogers, Smith and Gray.) "had become fully satisfied would ultimately destroy the mission or drive it from the country." To be as brief as possible, I will ask if our conclusions were not correct? If the facts since developed has not proved them correct? But from the labored effort she has

made to prove that white is black, and black is white and not to prove myself as captious and as much of a finished quibbler as Mrs. Victor is, I will admit that Rev. A. B. Smith was dissatisfied with his missionary position, and location from the time he arrived in the country. That his correspondence with the prudential committee of the board was not favorable to the continuance of the mission. That he used his influence with Mr. Rodgers and W. H. Gray to have them leave the service of the mission. Also that the Jesuit missionaries were actively working in the same direction, in connection with the Hudson Bay company and Indians, not only to divide and destroy the American missions but the American settlements in Oregon. The same as Mrs. Victor is working to destroy the character and the good name of the dead, and of the living. It occurs to me that she might find a better use for her time, talent and pen. Permit me to quote another passage from her long diatribe. She says:

Just at this critical moment, Doctor Whitman being naturally averse to giving up his improvements at Waiilatpu, there arrived in the fall of 1842, the first Oregon immigration—a company of “one hundred and eleven persons, some forty-two families”—according to Gray, under the leadership of Dr. White. This opportune arrival solved, to Doctor Whitman’s mind, the knotty problem. American immigration overland had set in. Now, he could have assistance and moral support, with social intercourse; and now the mission could be made self supporting for all the travel over that route would have to pur-

chase supplies, which he could furnish. He saw his opportunity, and grasped it.

This is Mrs. F. F. Victor’s portrait of a man that Oregon will yet honor for his unparalleled effort to save it from becoming a British territory; she would have us believe that all his efforts were supreme selfishness, that he was ready to take every advantage of the incoming immigrant to support his mission. So far as Mrs. Victor is concerned she is determined to make people believe by her false quotations and erroneous inferences that she is correct in her conclusions, but unfortunately for her, as the Walla-walla Statesman says of her reply to Mr. Clarke, “she proves too much.”

Let us look at another paragraph about the person whom Mrs. Victor says in this same diatribe that, “from all I can learn of Dr. Whitman, he was a manly man, and held in esteem by all classes.” She says:

He knew the order would come in the spring to quit Waiilatpu. This he was determined not to do. All that agreeable and patriotic fiction of Mr. Gray’s, about being at the fort and hearing of the Red river emigration, must fall to the ground, for instead of starting for the states in twenty four hours after hearing of their arrival at Colville, he had a whole year in which to get ready, and it is not probable would have thought of going, but for the arrival of Dr. White’s party, and the prospect it opened up—for these immigrants assured him that others would follow, in large numbers, the succeeding year.

The order to abandon the mission, I confess is new to me, and in looking at Mrs. Victor’s proof I

find she quotes from the *Missionary Herald* of 1843. This explains to me a remark found in an article in the *Willamette Farmer* of Sept. 24, 1880.

And of his after visit to the officers of the American board at Boston, who objected to his journey and its object but lived afterwards to be proud of their share in the good he accomplished.

And if Mrs. Victor has quoted correctly, it does not add to my respect for the board that made the order.

I have positive living testimony that the Boston board and Mrs. Victor are both mistaken as to the time of Dr. Whitman's starting to return to Oregon. In April, 1843, he was met in St. Louis, in the early part of May he was with the emigration assisting them in getting ready for the journey, and was with the immigration from Westport to the Grand Ronde, and regarded as their most reliable pilot during the whole journey, notwithstanding they had employed Capt. Gant to pilot them to fort Hall.

But we must investigate Mrs. Victor's sophism a little more before we close this discussion. She continues:

Taking in the whole prospect opened up by the arrival of Dr. White's party, and having no time to lose, Dr. Whitman called a meeting of the missionaries, at which he announced his determination to go east and lay the case before the board in person. Under date of April 1st, 1847, Dr. Whitman said: "I pointed out to our mission the arrangements of the papists to settle in our vicinity, and that it only required that these arrangements should be completed to close

our operations." It is said that he met with opposition from the other members—but of that I know nothing, and do not wish to go outside of that which can be proven. At all events, he started for the states early in October (I think the 3d), having persuaded Mr. Lovejoy to accompany him.

First there was no such meeting of the mission called at the time Mrs. Victor refers to. Second, under date April 1st, 1847, three years and four months after he started to go to Washington the letter Mrs. Victor refers to was written. I am fully aware that during the summer, or autumn of 1842 before the arrival of the Red river settlers, that the mission was terribly annoyed by the Jesuits interference with the Indians, and that there had been a meeting of the members of the mission at the Doctors' station, between the 9th and 15th of July, 1842, at which meeting my decision to become a settler in the Willamet, was reluctantly approved. I remained at the station in charge of the mill and farm till the first day of September, 1842, went to the Methodist mission by the trail north of Mount Hood on horseback, engaged myself as agent to build the Oregon institute, returned up country, reached the Whitman station September 21, 1842. No news of the Red river immigrants had then reached any person at the Doctors' station, nor the American settlers in the valley. Mr. Lovejoy and a few of the Dr. White immigration were then at and about the station recruiting their animals having left their wagons before reaching the Blue

mountains, or at fort Hali.

Passing over many erroneous statements of Mrs. Victor's pretended proofs by which she is attempting to convince her readers that she has produced conclusive arguments to show the incorrectness of Mr. Gray's statements concerning the instrumentality of Dr. Whitman in raising the emigrating company of 1843, she says:

Now it will be observed that in this declaration of the motive of Doctor Whitman's visit, it is asserted that an emigration had already begun; that Doctor Whitman was not certain of taking back with him any "christian families," and that he did not set out on his return until June. Those assertions, of course, it must be allowed, upset Mr. Gray's statement concerning the instrumentality of Doctor Whitman in raising the emigrating company of 1843. That emigration was a month on its way, with wagons and stock, before he left his old home to return to Waiilatpu.

On reading the above statement I addressed a note to Hon. John Hobson, of Astoria, requesting him to answer the following questions:

First. Please inform me, what time and when did you first meet Dr. Marcus Whitman? His answer: We met and talked with Dr. Whitman first in St. Louis in April, 1843, and there bought teams for the trip. We met him again at Weston or Westport in the early part of May. While at the rendezvous at Weston he assisted us in purchasing additional teams. He was then stopping at the agency awaiting the immigration to start for Oregon, and was with us and at our camp at various times and places.

Was at the crossings of Platte and two crossings on the Snake river, and remained with us until we reached the Grand Ronde, and there procured an Indian guide for us over the Blue mountains.

Second. About how long was he in or about your place of stopping or camping before your company started upon the journey to Oregon? I saw him about every day while camping at Weston.

Third. Did Dr. Whitman to your knowledge use any influence or argument to get persons to come to Oregon? He induced us and others to come to Oregon while at St. Louis. We were on the way to Wisconsin.

Fourth. Was he of any particular service in piloting the immigration of that year as a pilot or as a physician? He assisted us and piloted in all the difficult places, and assured us we could get our wagons through to Oregon.

Fifth. Did he demand or receive any sums of money for his services as a pilot? He did not demand or ask for anything, neither did we pay him for any services. No one was asked or paid anything. I know that we left two of my sisters with him, and I returned for them the following July, and there was no charge made for keeping them.

Signed,

JOHN HOBSON.

The next witness we will examine is "Recollections of an Old Pioneer," Hon. Peter H. Burnett, page 101. He says: I kept a concise journal of the trip as far as Walla-walla, and have it now before me. On the 18th of May the immigration at the rendezvous

held a meeting and appointed a committee to see Dr. Whitman.

On the 20th I attended the meeting at Big Springs, where I met Colonel John Thornton, Colonel Bartleson, Mr. Rickman, and Dr. Whitman. William Martin and Daniel Mathew were appointed a committee to engage Capt. John Gant as our pilot as far as fort Hall, he was accordingly employed; and it was agreed in camp that we should start on Monday morning, May 22.

We, at this point in this discussion, will give one other witness to show the character of Dr. Whitman before he entered upon his mission, as also the ignorance of Mrs. Victor as to the character of the man she attempts to slander:

DURHAM, Butte Co., Cal., June 14, 1880.

MY DEAR SIR: Your favor dated April 24th, my 61st birthday, reached me on my return from New York to San Francisco, and I was pleased to hear from you. While in New York, and after writing you, I found your history and read it with much avidity. By your letter I was much gratified to learn steps were being taken to erect a monument to the memory of Dr. Marcus Whitman, who, with others, fell in the autumn of 1847, at his missionary post in Oregon, a victim to savage brutality. I knew him well and greatly respected him, many years before he entered upon the duties of teaching and seeking to christianize the Indians of the upper Columbia river. It fell to my official lot in 1850, to preside over the court which tried and committed five of the Indian chiefs who were the principals in this fiendish murder; and naturally enough, I am deeply moved that something is about to be done to perpetuate the memory of one of the best men, whose tireless energies were unselfish-

ly directed toward and employed, until worn out and terminated by beastly assassination, in the interest of a one of humanity, christianity and civilization. Such a man, bearing as he did so high a type of benevolence and disinterestedness, honors, and is a blessing to any age or country, and the only wonder is that a character so good and great has so long been left without other commemoration than in the perishable memories of the earliest pioneers of Oregon, most of whom are already voiceless in the grave. In this tardy effort at perpetuity of the virtues and worth of one of the noblest men who ever even led either a band of christian missionaries or the vanguard of civilization, I beg not merely to raise my voice, but if allowed shall gladly contribute, and with a grateful heart, as much as anybody else. Concluding, will add that it will always gratify me to hear from you. Letters can be sent to my address at San Francisco or here, Durham, Butte county, California.

Very truly your friend.

O. C. PRATT.

Judge Pratt's letter has already been published in THE ASTORIAN, but as the character of a dead man has been assailed in so wanton a manner by Mrs. Victor, I must ask for its republishing in this controversy. In my next article I propose to meet Mrs. Victor with Hon. Jesse Applegate, and investigate her allusions and quotations from him.

#### ARTICLE THREE.

In my second article, in answer to Mrs. Victor's article to prove that Dr. Whitman did not, and that he had no instrumentality in raising the immigration company of 1843. That the immigration "was a month on its way" before he left his old home. I quoted the



statements of three candid witnesses, while I have many more equally ready to affirm to his noble and unselfish efforts to pilot, aid and assist them on the whole route.

Before we direct our attention to Hon. Jesse Applegates statements as furnished by Mrs. Victor, it is proper to refer to what she says about Dr. W.'s going to Washington. She says:

There is no proof anywhere that he went to Washington, though it is probable enough, as all Americans having been in Oregon were welcomed by the government as a means of information.

Can any one inform us why such a statement, implying a denial of a positive fact is made? And in the same short sentence adding, "though it is probable enough, as all Americans having been in Oregon were welcomed by the government as a means of information."

If this does not show a desperate effort to pervert the truth, pray tell us what does. We will place with this statement one from Hon. A. L. Lovejoy, who was Dr. Whitmans traveling companion, and is still living. He says in his letter to me, and the same to Rev. G. H. Atkinson, D.D., after giving his account of their journey to Bents fort:

The doctor remained over night at the fort, and started early the following morning to join the St. Louis party. Here we parted. The doctor proceeded to Washington. I remained at Bents fort until spring, and joined the doctor the following July, near fort Laramie, on his way to Oregon, in company with a train of emigrants. He often expressed himself to me about the remainder of his journey and the manner in which he was received at Washington, and by the Board of Foreign Missions at Boston. He had several interviews with President Taylor, Secretary Webster, and a good many members of congress. Congress being in session at that time. He urged the immediate termination of the treaty with Great Britain relative to this country, and begged them to extend the laws of the United States over Oregon, and asked for liberal inducements to emigrants to come to this coast. He was very cordially and kindly received by the president and members of congress,

and without doubt the doctors interviews resulted greatly to the benefit of Oregon and to this coast. But his reception at the Board of Foreign missions was not so cordial. The board was inclined to censure him for leaving his post. The doctor came to the frontier settlements urging the citizens to emigrate to the Pacific. He left Independence, Missouri, in the month of May, 1843, with an emigrant train of one thousand souls for Oregon. With his energy and knowledge of the country he rendered them great assistance in fording the many dangerous and rapid streams they had to cross, and in finding a wagon road through many of the narrow rugged passes in the mountains. He arrived at Waiilatpu about one year from the time he left to find his home sadly dilapidated and his flouring mill burned to the ground. The Indians were very hostile to the doctor for leaving them, and without doubt during his absence, the seeds of that assassination was sown, (by those haughty Cayuses) which resulted in his death. Mrs. Whitman, and many others, although it did not take place until some four years after. I remain, yours with great respect,

A. LAWRENCE LOVEJOY.

If Mrs. Victor who claims to be so "glad Mr. Clarke had furnished me an occasion for pointing out the truth to those who think, as I do, that a love of truth is above a devotion to an idea, whether it is religious or political." If she had looked on page 326 of Gray's History she would have saved herself the unpleasant position of an ignorant attempt to falsify a historic fact, that has been, and can yet be proved by living witnesses. In the next two lines she says:

"But we are told in the Missionary Herald, September, 1843, the following:" We will not repeat the Missionary Herald's statement as quoted by Mrs. Victor, because we have quoted the statements of Hon. John Hobson and of Hon. P. H. Burnett to prove Mrs. Victor and the Missionary Herald both in error; and we are inclined to the opinion that Mrs. Victor placed before her readers the first contradictory and blind excuse for a falsehood in the concluding Missionary quotation, a part of which she puts in capitals; and now she has made and quoted a false statement to repeat the one previously made against the truth

of W. H. Grays History. She says:

Now it will be observed that in this declaration of the motive of Doctor Whitman's visit, it is asserted that an emigration had already begun; that Doctor Whitman was not certain of taking back with him any "Christian families," and that he did not set out on his return until June. These assertions, of course, it must be allowed, upset Mr. Gray's statement concerning the instrumentality of Doctor Whitman in raising the emigrating company of 1843. That emigration was a month on its way, with wagons and stock, before he left his old home to return to Wailatpu.

The above quotation from Mrs. Victor allows us to show how careless she is in quoting and attributing to one person what is credited and quoted from another. W. H. Gray says, on the 289th page of his History of Oregon, "I find an article in the Pacific of November 9th, from Mr. Spalding, which gives us the result: On reaching the settlements, Dr. Whitman found that many of the now old Oregonians, naming Waldo, Applegate, Houston, Kreiger, and others, who had made calculations to come to Oregon, had abandoned the idea because of representations from Washington that every attempt to take wagons and ox teams through the Rocky and Blue mountains to the Columbia had failed. Dr. Whitman saw at once what the stopping of wagons at fort Hall every year meant. The representations purported to come from Secretary Webster, but were from Governor Simpson, who magnified the statements of his chief trader Grant, at fort Hall, declared the Americans must be going mad, from their repeated fruitless attempts to take wagons and teams through the impassable regions to the Columbia." Mrs. Victor says:

Hon. Jesse Applegate, whom Mr. Gray mentions as one of those who had "abandoned the idea of coming to Oregon because of the representations from Washington that every attempt to take wagons and ox-teams through the Rocky and Blue mountains, to the Columbia had failed," but who was told by Dr. Whit-

man "that his only object in crossing the mountains in the dead of winter, at the risk of his life, and through untold sufferings, was to take back an American emigration that summer through the mountains to the Columbia, with their wagons and teams," denies the truth of these assertions, and so do others of the persons named by Mr. Gray.

Suppose we place John Hobsons name in place of Jesse Applegate, or any other name, will it change the fact of the misrepresentations on the part of the servants of the Hudson Bay company?

In answer to Honorable Jesse Applegate and Mrs. Victor, we will quote a passage from a statement made to us by Mr. J. G. Baker of Yamhill Oregon, on the 4th of July, 1880, read and attested by him under oath before Police Judge Peter Raney of Astoria. Mr. Baker says: "Dr. Marcus Whitman overtook us and traveled with us, but before the Dr. joined us we had employed Capt. Gant as guide to pilot us, but he would not promise to pilot us farther than to Green river, or fort Hall. When Dr. Whitman fell in with us he said he could pilot us through. I regarded from that time Dr. Whitman as a man, and of quite a service to our company. He was up every morning and getting all hands ready for the days march. Some time before we arrived at fort Hall the Dr. left us and said he would go on and if he could not find a pilot to conduct us through, he would wait at fort Hall till we came up. The Dr. remained there until we came up, and told us that he could not get a pilot that he could rely upon to conduct us through.

"Capt. Grant in charge of fort Hall, after advising us to abandon our wagons or leave them and pack through, said: "I was going to say that it was impossible to get through with your wagons; but I will not say that, for if the Americans took a notion to remove Mount Hood they would do it." This I got from Captain Grants own

month. Dr. Whitman was present, and said at the same time: "Never leave your wagons; I will take you through to my place this season, and I think you can go to the Dalles, but you can not cross the Cascade mountains this year." Shortly before we got to his place he left us and said he would make the way, which he did."

I will now refer to General Palmer's printed journal, page 43, of a more recent or later emigration. He says: "While we remained at this place (fort Hall) great efforts were made to induce the emigrants to pursue the road to California. The most extravagant tales were related respecting the dangers awaiting a trip to Oregon, and the difficulties and trials to be encountered. The perils of the way were so magnified as to make us suppose the journey to Oregon almost impossible. For instance, the two crossings of Snake river, and the crossing of the Columbia and other small streams, were represented as being attended with great danger; also that no company heretofore attempted the passage of these streams but with the loss of men from the violence and rapidity of the currents, as also that they had never succeeded in getting more than fifteen or twenty head of cattle into the Willamet valley."

"In addition to the above it was asserted that three or four tribes of Indians in the middle regions had combined for the purpose of preventing our passage through their country. In case we escaped destruction at the hands of the savages, that a more fearful enemy, famine, would attend our march, as the distance was so great that winter would overtake us before making the Cascade mountains. On the other hand, as an inducement to pursue the California route, we were informed of the shortness of the route when compared with that to Oregon."

I have quoted the statements of these two witnesses to show the ig-

norance of Mrs. Victor relative to the subject upon which she quotes Hon. Jesse Applegate, for I do not believe that intelligent and generous man has written what Mrs. Victor claims he has, and quotes as coming from him; and until she can prove that Hobson, Burnett, Baker and Gen. Palmer have falsely represented Dr. Whitman, and the maliciously false representations of the servants of the Hudson Bay company are true, I will not believe she has truly represented his statements. If she has, we must conclude that his memory of that journey is gone, and we must forgive him, while we can honor him for a noble and truthful statement made of Dr. Whitman in his most interesting description of "A Day with the Cow Column of 1843;" and as Mrs. Victor referred to that article and attempted an excuse for Mr. Applegate in writing it, by saying:

Mr. Applegate, in his article "A Day with the Cow Column," attempted to show the true relation of Dr. Whitman to the emigration of 1843, without openly assailing Mr. Grays statements, but he was too careful in his method. A year or two ago he sent me a copy of Grays History with marginal notes.

Let us examine this quibble: First, Mrs. Victor says, "Mr. Applegate attempted to show the true relations of Dr. Whitman to the emigration of 1843, without openly assailing Mr. Grays statements, but he was too careful in his method," as above.

To rebut the whole matter, before we quote Mr. Applegate himself, we will introduce the testimony of a young man that was with the Doctor through the whole trip, and has given us his distinct statement in a letter already published as follows, in THE WEEKLY ASTORIAN, December 17, 1880:

Mr. W. H. Gray, while in Lewiston last August, met Mr. P. B. Whitman who was requested to forward his recollections of meeting and coming to Oregon with his uncle, Dr. Marcus Whitman. He requested him particularly to be careful and make no statement which

he was not positive he could give his oath to, if requested to do so. Following is his reply. Mr. Gray says there are other living witnesses, whose testimony will be written and given under oath in due time:

Nez Perces Agency.  
Lapwai Station, Idaho.  
October 11th, 1880.

**TO THE PUBLIC:**—About the the 20th of April, 1843 I left Rushville, Yates county, New York, with Dr. Whitman. (my uncle) for Oregon. I distinctly remember his telling his mother and friends that his visit with them would be necessarily short, as he had, on his way east from Oregon, notified all who were desirous of emigrating to Oregon to rendezvous at Westport and Independence, Missouri. and that he would pilot them with their wagons across the Rocky mountains to the Columbia river. The immigration, consisting of about one hundred and twenty wagons, left the Missouri line about the last of May and reached Wailatpu, Wail-walla valley, about the 5th of the following September. The doctor piloted them the whole distance as he had promised to do. Gen. J. C. Fremont (at that time a lieutenant) arrived at Wailatpu with his government train across the plains a few weeks after the arrival of our immigration.

Dr. Whitman's trip east in the winter of 1842-'43 was for the double purpose of bringing an immigration across the plains, also to prevent if possible, the trading off of this northwest coast to the British government. I learned from him that the Mission board censured him in strong terms for having left his missionary duty and engaged in another, so foreign from the one they had sent him to perform. While crossing the plains I repeatedly heard the doctor express himself as being very anxious to succeed in opening a wagon road across the continent to the Columbia river and thereby stay, if not entirely prevent, the trade of this northwest coast, then pending between the United States and the British government. In after years the Doctor, with much pride and satisfaction reverted to his success in bringing the immigration across the plains, and thought it one of the means of saving Oregon to his government. I remained with him continuously till August, 1847, when he sent me to The Dalles. He was murdered the following November.

(Signed).

P. B. WHITMAN.

We must leave the thrilling state-

ments of Mr. Applegate in regard to Dr. Whitman, for another article as this is too long already.

#### ARTICLE FOUR.

We have followed Mrs. Victors attempt to falsify historical facts, and to destroy the credit due to a christian patriot—for the unselfish effort he made to prevent Oregon from becoming British territory—by representing in person its real value to the American people, through its representatives in congress then assembled. We have shown by competent witnesses that he went to the national capital; that he used his influence on his way and on his return to induce as large an emigration of settlers to come to Oregon as possible. To counteract the influence of a foreign power then in actual possession of the country, and claiming the most numerous settlement of its subjects, which being now admitted by statesmen of both nations then contending for possession, was the only legitimate title for permanent possession, and was by the safe arrival of that immigration and its opening a wagon road to the Columbia river, the principle means of the giving up of the one nation and the holding on of the other—as it demonstrated the existence of a practicable route to the country in dispute, for ox teams and wagons to reach it, with families, and with troops for defense.

At this point in the defense of historical facts relative to Dr. Whitman's objects in going to Washington in 1842, we will return to what Mrs. Victor claims to have received from Hon. Jesse Applegate. She says:

A year or two ago he sent me a copy of Grays History with marginal notes. On page 289 he wrote: "I never saw Dr. Whitman, nor knew he was in the country, until he overtook me on the Platte."

Admit that Dr. Whitman did not see a single man till he reached Washington. Does that prove that he did not go there? or that he had no influence in getting a large immigration

to come to Oregon; or that he was not with them before Mr. Applegate saw him and was assisting the "good angel" all the time. still Mr. Applegate did not see him? Does it prove that Dr. Whitman did not do all that Mr. Spalding said he did, as being told to him by Dr. Whitman? or does it prove that Mr. Applegate himself did not tell to Dr. Whitman what Mr. Spalding wrote to the Pacific, as published November 9,—before 1870?

W. H. Gray is not responsible for the forgetfulness or ignorance of Mr. Applegate about Dr. Whitman being one of that large emigrating company before they reached the Platte, for it is known that he was with them, and quietly aiding and counseling them, and giving them confidence in their great and glorious undertaking to aid in securing to our American people so rich and valuable a country as Oregon is to-day.

Mrs. Victor adds:

Also this: From the time he overtook the emigration until he left it at fort Hall, Dr. Whitman made my camp his headquarters. Everything concerning Oregon and its future was talked over between us. I understood his visit to the states was to obtain help from his board to counteract Catholic influence—the political part being incidental.

First, Dr. Whitman did not leave the immigration at fort Hall, as shown by Hobson, Baker, and ex-senator Nesmith in his annual address in 1880. He accompanied them as pilot till he reached the Grand Ronde and there he procured the best Indian that Mr. Nesmith, as he said, ever saw, for their guide; besides marking the way for them, as Mr. Baker says.

As to Mr. Applegates understanding of Dr. Whitmans object in visiting the mission board in Boston, it has nothing to do with the question at issue—except to confuse; and aid Mrs. Victor in lumbering this question to deceive as to her real object under the spurious pretense of telling the truth.

That he was the prime mover in getting up the emigration of 1843, is not true.

It would have been very kind in Mrs Victor if she would have given us a hint who was the author, or from what paper, book or history, she gets the idea that Dr. Whitman was the prime mover in getting up the emigration of 1843, or did she put it in to say it "is not true," or did she mean us to understand that is Mr. Applegates assertion, as we do not find her quotation marks. But we do find him to say, on the 64th page of his Cow Column article: "That to no other individual are the immigration of 1843 so much indebted for the successful conclusion of their journey, as to Dr. Marcus Whitman."

Mrs. Victor continues with Mr. Applegate and says:

On page 291, Mr. Gray says: He asked not, nor expected a dollar as a reward, from any source; he felt himself abundantly rewarded when he saw the desire of his heart accomplished, the great wagon route over the mountains established, and Oregon in a fair way to be occupied with American settlements, etc.

On which Mr. Applegate remarks:

All this is true of Dr. Whitman; but his co-adjutors Walker and Eells, were at his station, and obliged him to ask every emigrant for pay for pilotage. I paid forty-five dollars.

In this last charge of Mr. Applegate against Walker and Eells, Mr. Eells is still living and competent to speak for himself. Under date of April 22d 1881, Mr. Eells says:

I was not at Waillatpu when the immigration of 1843 passed that place, consequently the statement that I obliged Dr. Whitman to ask every emigrant for pay for pilotage is false. I have no evidence that Mr. Walker performed such an act.

As to Mr. Walker, who is now dead, no one who knew him while alive will believe that any statement of the kind is true, and from the acquaintance I have had with Mr. Applegate I do not believe he ever made it, or paid one cent for pilotage. I believe that he made Dr. Whitman a present of forty-five dollars for the Doctors

services in attending his wife while on the march, as he describes her case; and at this point we will copy what he says in connection with the incidents of A Day with the Cow Column, page 63, transactions of the fourth annual reunion of the Oregon Pioneer association for 1876, Mr. Applegate says: "But a little incident breaks the monotony of the march. An emigrants wife, whose state of health has caused Dr. Whitman to travel near the wagon for the day, is now taken with violent illness. The doctor has had the wagon driven out of the line, a tent pitched and a fire kindled. Many conjectures are hazarded in regard to this mysterious proceeding, and as to why this wagon is to beleft behind.

"And we, too, must leave it, hasten to the front and note the proceedings, for the sun is now getting low in the west, and at length the painstaking pilot is standing ready to conduct the train in the circle which he has previously measured and marked out, which is to form the invariable fortification for the night. The leading wagons follow him so nearly round the circle that but a wagon length separate them. Each wagon follows in its track, the rear closes on the front, until its tongue and ox-chains will perfectly reach from one to the other, and so accurate the measurement and perfect the practice that the hindmost wagon of the train always precisely closes the gateway as each wagon is brought into position. It is dropped from its team (the teams being inside the circle), the teams unyoked, and the yokes and chains used to connect the wagon strongly with that in its front. Within ten minutes from the time the leading wagon halted the barricade is formed, the teams unyoked and driven out to pasture. Every one is busy preparing fires of buffalo chips to cook the evening meal, pitching tents and otherwise preparing for the night. There are anxious watchers for the

absent wagon, for there are many matrons who may be afflicted like its inmate before the journey is over; and they fear the strange and startling practice of this Oregon doctor will be dangerous. But as the sun goes down the absent wagon rolls into camp; the bright, speaking face and cheery look of the doctor, who rides in advance, declares without words that all is well, and both mother and child are comfortable.

"I would fain now and here pay a passing tribute to that noble and devoted man, Dr. Whitman. I will intrude no other name upon the reader, nor would I his were he of our party or even living, but his stay with us was transient, though the good he did us was permanent, and he has long since died at his post.

"From the time he joined us on the Platte until he left us at fort Hall his great experience and indomitable energy were of priceless value to the emigrating column. His constant advice, which we knew was based upon a knowledge of the road before us was, 'travel, travel, travel: nothing else will take you to the end of your journey; nothing is wise that does not help you along, nothing is good for you that causes a moments delay.' His great authority as a physician and complete success in the case above referred to, saved us many prolonged and perhaps ruinous delays from similar causes, and it is no disparagement to others to say that to no other individual are the emigration of 1843 so much indebted for the successful conclusion of their journey as to Dr. Marcus Whitman.

"The encampment is a good one; one of the causes that threatened much future delay, has just been removed by the skill and energy of that good angel of the emigrants, Dr. Whitman, and it has lifted a load from the hearts of the elders. Many of these are assembled around the good Doctor at the tent of the pilot, (which is his home for the time being), and are giv-

ing grave attention to his wise and energetic councils. The careworn pilot sits aloof quietly smoking his pipe, for he knows the brave Doctor is strengthening his hands. \* \* Even the father and the pilot have finished their confidential interview and have separated for the night."

We ask, can anyone write the above encomium on Dr. Whitman and furnish material or statements to blot his character? As I have before intimated, the statements claimed by Mrs. Victor to have been made by Mr. Applegate are a forgery; or from a man whose noble memory has been lost. Mrs. Victor in speaking of Dr. Whitman dealing with immigrants after pretending to quote Mr. Applegate's paying forty-five dollars for piloting says:

No wonder he felt himself abundantly rewarded for piloting a company over a road he was obliged to travel, and which returned the favor by furnishing him and his sole companion, Perrin Whitman, with subsistence and protection—for that is what they did. Besides the piloting money, he had a market for all the grain raised at several missions, and all they could procure at fort Colville. He sold Spanish beef cattle to the emigrants, and retained two for one of their American stock, at that time too poor to kill, but worth in the Willamet valley one hundred dollars each. This was making the mission self-supporting, and was worth a visit to the states.

The above conclusions of Mrs. Victor are not quoted by her, but show the light in which she views the character of Dr. Whitman and the mission with which he was connected, and represents them as base swindlers, not only in taking pil-otage, feeding Dr. Whitman and his nephew, but taking two cattle for one beef animal of the poor immigrant that were worth one hundred dollars each in the Willamet valley.

Mrs. Victor may not be aware of the fact that W. H. Gray has crossed the Rocky mountains in 1836, 1837, 1838, 1853, 1870 and 1871, the first three times in the service of Dr. Whitman's mission.

In 1853 with an emigrant train, and

that he, from his own experience, knows the fallacy there is in such a statement, that Dr. Whitman, under any circumstances, would take the least advantage of an emigrant, no reasonable person will believe for a moment, and it would be folly to attempt to explain to Mrs. Victor or give to her the facts. This fact has been strongly impressed upon my mind from the moment I read her production, and I have not reviewed it expecting to convince her nor those in whose interests she hunts up and publishes slanderous reports about Protestant missionaries and missions. But silence with such an array of quotations from parties having but little or no knowledge of the facts that Mrs. Victor quotes would be considered as proof of the correctness of her influences and conclusions. Hence we cannot in justice to the dead and the living, and the truth of history, avoid the duty of exposing such palpable misrepresentations as are found in statements such as the following:

Dr. McLaughlin, against whom Mr. Gray constantly insinuates evil.

If the reader will examine my history, on the 30th page, in answer to the charge made against Dr. McLaughlin's treatment of the Red river settlers, the following is W. H. Gray's statement:

"This statement, while it affirms an important fact, gives a false impression as regards Dr. McLaughlin. He, to my certain knowledge, extended to the Red river settlers every facility within his power." Three hundred and eighteenth page—"We believe Dr. John McLaughlin to have been one of the best and noblest of men." If Mrs. Victor had read my history more carefully, she might have displayed better judgment in her insinuations.

This must suffice for this article; in my next will close this discussion, till Mrs. Victor or some one else will make an attack on the truth of history.

## ARTICLE FIVE.

We have carefully reviewed Mrs. Victors attempt to falsify history and to blacken the character of the Protestant Missionaries, and especially that of Dr. Marcus Whitman; denying that he went to Washington for the purpose of influencing, if possible, our government not to surrender Oregon for any other country or privileges on the eastern coast. As it was understood in Oregon that such propositions were then in contemplation between the two governments, then holding it by a treaty of joint occupancy. It remains now, for our consideration, the remaining references presented to us by a person who says that she "would not be understood as saying anything disrespectful of the mission, or its objects. From all I can learn of Dr. Whitman, he was a manly man, and held in esteem by all classes." Yet the whole effort of the woman has been to falsify the facts respecting his object in doing as he did, and asserting that "there is no proof anywhere that he went to Washington." I met Dr. Whitman in my own house after his return from Washington and spent an afternoon and evening with him. He informed me fully as to the principal points of his journey, and of his reception in Washington, and of the conversation had with Mr. Webster, and with the president and members of congress; and it appears by Rev. Mr. Sledgings and Lovejoys letters he told them the same. We can admit that there is no public document to prove that he was there. But we can assert that he told us on his return that he was there, and we are more confident that he told us the truth than we are that Mrs. Victor has in attempting to prove "the thirty-seventh chapter of Grays History of Oregon a tissue of fiction." We have previously quoted Mrs. V.'s assertion that my history is as above. We will now introduce Mrs. Victor with Hon. P. H. Burnett. She says:

When Peter H. Burnett published his

Recollections I called upon him at his bank, and referring to this matter—he having done just what I did, taken Grays story for fact—asked him to tell me something from his own knowledge about Dr. Whitmans instrumentality in saving Oregon. He was confounded, for he could not, when he came to search his memory, recollect any knowledge of the matter.

This is a fair sample of all of Mrs. Victors references. She has another one, a Rev. D.D., who has spent two months in Washington to hunt up from old documents something to confirm statements that were honestly, and as the writer believed at the time, and two of them, now living, believes still—to be true. But let us hear Mrs. Victors witness through. She asks him:

"Did you ever hear Doctor Whitman allude to Webster?" I asked. He could not recollect that he had; in short, he found that he, as a hundred other writers and speakers had done, had simply adopted Grays story. Not only that, in regard to Webster, but he had persuaded himself that Whitman was actually at the rendezvous in Missouri in May, when he was at that time in the state of New York.

This is adding insult to injury, and if Mrs. Victor has quoted him correctly, she makes her witnesses tell a falsehood—to either herself or to readers of his book, for on page 101 *Recollections of an Old Pioneer*, Hon. Mr. Burnett, I believe tells the truth as near as he can in his book, he says: "I kept a concise journal of this trip as far as Walla-walla and have it now before me. On the 18th of May the emigrants at the rendezvous held a meeting, and appointed a committee to see"—a man who Mrs. Victor says was at this time in the state of New York. Mr. Burnett says, "to see Dr. Whitman." Again, on the same page, Mr. Burnett says, "on the 20th I attended the meeting at the Big-springs where I met Col. John Thornton, Col. Bartleson, Mr. Rickman and Dr. Whitman."

Mrs. Victor has brought us to the book for our proof. We believe Mr.



Burnett has told us the truth for we have other good witnesses that corroborate the statements in his book. We will examine Mrs. Victor's strong points a little further, to see what the Rev. J. G. Craighead, D. D.'s hunting records amount to. Mrs. Victor continues to repeat or refer to what she claims is conclusive, and says:

It may be as well mentioned here that it is not myself alone who accuses Mr. Gray of romancing. Any one thoroughly investigating the subject must do the same. Hon. Elwood Evans was good enough to forward to me a letter received by him from a searcher after the truth, a gentleman in whose hands the papers of Mr. Spalding were placed "with the request that he would vindicate the character and services of Dr. Whitman, and that of the Protestant mission in Oregon, from the aspersions of the Jesuits." This gentleman is the Rev. J. G. Craighead, D. D., for fourteen years editor of the New York Evangelist.

The Rev. Mr. Craighead has unquestionably searched faithfully for what was suppressed by Mr. Webster and President Tyler, as the president promised Dr. Whitman he would do, and adopted the advice of John Quincy Adams. It is to be regretted that Mr. Craighead did not note the time of year in which the statements of Webster and Adams were made. His neglect to note that part leaves us in doubt as to whether it was before or after Dr. Whitman was in Washington. In any case, none, except such as are determined not to award any credit to Dr. Whitman, will claim that the immigration of 1843 was not prominent in the contest between the two governments, and that the Hudson bay company did not make a death struggle to gain what they had lost by their selfishness. So far as Mr. Craighead's search went he was on the wrong track, and neglected an important date in his investigations, and applied to persons that knew but little or nothing about Dr. Whitman. Mrs. Victor says:

Mr. Gray's assertion in THE ASTORIAN that Dr. Whitman prevented the sign-

ing of a treaty in progress subsequently to the Ashburton treaty.

The above statement of Mrs. V. is not correctly made of what I said. But that she and all others may understand, what I learned from Dr. Whitman personally, was: That in his interviews with Mr. Webster and the president; that is to say, in the conversations had in reference to the western boundary, beyond the Rocky mountains; Mr. Webster was favorable to making a change of the eastern boundary, and giving the western, or Oregon country, for what had recently been in dispute, as Mr. Webster thought it would be a good exchange; and was not induced to listen to his (Dr. Whitman's) reasons against such a change. But the president listened more favorably and said no such change or giving up of Oregon should be made, if he could get wagons and an emigration into Oregon.

#### ARTICLE SIX.

The facts, as I gathered them from Dr. Whitman, are about these: Mr. Webster was strongly in favor of the Newfoundland Cod-fishery. He was held in check by Benton, Adams and others. Benton had a better knowledge of Oregon than Webster, who had been or become unpopular for his yielding on the eastern or Maine question with Ashburton. The petition that had been sent by the missionaries, and the statements made by different parties, added to the personal representations of Dr. Whitman as to the practicability of a wagon route, and the fact that the Doctors mission in 1836 had taken cows and a wagon to fort Boise, and that they could be taken to the Columbia river. That fact, as affirmed by Dr. Whitman, stopped all speculations about giving up Oregon till the practical road question was settled. And what does Hon. Jesse Applegate say of Dr. Whitman in 1843: On the 64th page in his Cow Column article: "That to no other individual are the emigrants of

1843 so much indebted for the successful conclusion of their journey, as to Dr. Marcus Whitman."

To make her statement appear consistent and true Mrs. Victor says:

I regard it as a shame that for all these years his bones, and those of his wife, and a dozen of American citizens have lain in one rude mound without decent sepulture. A monument should be erected memorializing the event, and the high character of the principal victims. But I object to deceit or misrepresentation. Let the truth stand.

This statement appears paradoxical to us, coming from the source as quoted. We have been contending in this whole discussion for the "truth," and have presented testimony and explanations that we hope will satisfy all reasonable minds. She says:

I have the fullest confidence that every fair minded person, however disappointed in having to change his conclusions, will be glad of this exposure of a fraud. Especially should Washington territory be glad—because, if a monument is to be erected to the memory of Dr. Whitman and his wife, Narcissa Whitman, it should have for its corner stone and foundation, TRUTH. It would be a very mortifying discovery to make after inscribing a certain legend upon its side, that such legend was entirely unauthorized by fact, and would expose the territory to unnecessary ridicule.

In the above paragraph, presumption, fiction and folly are all prominent. She presumes "fair minded persons" will agree with her, and to caution Washington territory as to the monument. Fiction in intimating that she alone has the truth; and folly to attempt to make people believe her absurd jumble of false quotations and statements.

We have another quite interesting item to quote, showing the place she assumes in her superior knowledge, and how she attempts to exult over Mr. Gray and console Mr. Clark. She says:

Since I, myself, and such writers as Elwood Evans, Governor Burnett, Dr. Atkinson, and scores of others have repeated this story on authority of Mr. Gray, Mr. Clark should not feel himself

singled out as a conspicuous dupe by my article in the Californian. I had a long time been meditating taking up the subject, but dreading the controversy to which it might lead; but when Mr. Clark's article appeared, repeating the same romance, I thought it was time to make the first protest.

This is quite generous in Mrs. Victor to use her superior talent and knowledge to correct, convince and console all the gentlemen she names for having made such a mistake as to consider positive facts a "fiction." There are many little assertions in her article that I have omitted to note in particular, believing we have quoted sufficient to show the whole drift and object in the desperate attack she has presumed to make upon a single chapter of my history, and more especially upon the mission of Dr. Whitman, Revs. Walker and Eels. After quoting so much of her attempt to discard the whole effort of Dr. Whitman in relation to the settlement of Oregon in 1843, and his assistance to that immigration, we must not omit her closing paragraph, in which she gives us to understand her "proofs are not by any means half exhausted."

In reply to Mr. Gray's review of my article, in which he flatteringly relegates me to a class of "pamphlet writers and newspaper romancers," I have made this further protest, with the assurance that although I think the case is made clear by what is here written, my proofs are not by any means half exhausted, though the space usually accorded to newspaper contributions was more than exhausted some time ago.

In reply to Mrs. Victor's closing notice that "her proofs are not by any means half exhausted," we beg to direct her attention to the standing challenge found on the fourth page of W. H. Gray's History of Oregon. I am aware that my history has many enemies who keenly feel its cutting truths—that, but for it, would have been lost—and now since we have so labored a controversy with Mrs. Victor, and she has attempted to make so much out of the Ashburton treaty, we will quote what Mr. Spalding did

say about it; page 239, Grays History of Oregon, bottom of page: "But Mr. Webster lived too near cape Cod to see things in the same light, (his fellow statesman,) [this is not true, as Dr. Whitman was born in New York, as I have learned since we commenced the monument], who had transferred his worldly interests to the Pacific coast. He (Mr. Webster) awarded sincerity to the missionary, but could not admit, for a moment that the short residence of six years could give the doctor the knowledge of the country possessed by Governor Simpson, who had almost grown up in the country, and had traveled every part of it, and represents it as an unbroken waste of sand, deserts and impassable mountains, fit only for bears and the savages. Besides, he had about traded it off with Governor Simpson, to go into the Ashburton treaty, for a cod fishery on Newfoundland." We do not claim to be a profound grammarian, but our common understanding of language, and the combination of words, lead us to conclude that Mr. Webster, in the statement he made to Dr. Whitman, instead of referring to a treaty "to be made," as Mrs. Victor claims, referred distinctly to one that had already been made with Ashburton, and upon that erroneous idea she based her attack upon Mr. Spalding, Dr. Whitman, my history, and all who agree with me in the construction or understanding of Mr. Websters words as repeated to Mr. Spalding, W. H. Gray, and probably others, by Dr.

Whitman.

The Doctor next sought an interview with President Tyler who at once appreciated his solicitude and his timely representations of Oregon, and especially his disinterested though hazardous undertaking to cross the Rocky mountains in the winter to take back a caravan of wagons, which he accomplished. We have another item of Mrs. Victor's wisdom, she says:

I do not pretend to say what was the object of Mr. Gray in adopting the fiction which he has imposed upon the world as history. But this I do say, and can substantiate it; that until Mr. Gray, about 1866, set this story afloat, nobody had ever heard of it.

Mrs. Victor presumes in the above statement that Mr. Gray and everybody in Oregon are as ignorant of all the facts he has given in his history, as she has proved herself to be in all she has written about Oregons early history, and the long list of treaties quoted, and in her fictitious River of the West. Mr. Gray was not idle in noting facts from the time he undertook the journey to Oregon till he published his history in 1870. Not to boast; he will say, no living or dead person upon this coast has had a better opportunity to learn its history, and no person has been more careful in collecting the facts and placing them in a permanent form; nor will he object to all the reviews and criticisms that have been or may be made being gathered and placed beneath the monument for future ages to review.

Respectfully, etc., etc., W. H. GRAY.

## Annual Meeting of the Pioneer and Historical Society of Oregon.

ASTORIA, February 22, 1881.

Society met at the hall of Rescue Engine company No. 2, in this city.

Meeting called to order at 2 P. M. President Jas. W. Welch in the chair.

The roll of officers being called all were found to be present.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Mr. T. P. Powers.

Minutes of last annual meeting were then read and on motion approved.

Record of proceedings of the executive board for the past year were read by the secretary and on motion sanctioned and approved by the society.

Reports of officers being in order, the president was called upon, reported verbally that he had been away much of the time, had endeavored to attend all meetings of the executive board when in town, and to promote the interests of the society. He considered the minutes of the executive board just read as a full report of the officers.

The corresponding secretary being called upon, then read his annual report, which, on motion, was ordered received and placed on file.

On motion adjourned to meet at 7 o'clock P. M.

### EVENING SESSION.

Met as per adjournment, same officers in attendance.

The report of treasurer was read and ordered placed on file.

The special committee on library reported that the books had been delivered to Rescue Engine company No. 2 as per agreement.

The action of the board in relation

to the disposition of the library of the society was, on motion sanctioned.

On motion it was ordered that the bonds of the treasurer of this society be fixed at \$1000, subject to be increased by the executive board.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. W. H. Gray:

Resolved, that article eleven (11) of the constitution be changed by striking out the words "22d of February" and inserting "11th day of May."

On motion it was ordered that a copy of the proceedings of this meeting with report of corresponding secretary be furnished to THE ASTORIAN for publication.

The meeting now proceeded to the election of officers per the ensuing year with the following result:

For president.....	R. W. Morrison. esq.
For vice-president..	Capt. J. H. D. Gray.
For cor. secretary....	Hon. W. H. Gray.
For rec. secretary.....	S. T. McKean.
For treasurer.....	Hon. A. Van Dusen.
For executive com.....	{ Jas. W. Welch.
	{ E. C. Holden.
	{ John Hobson.

On motion adjourned to meet at this hall on the 11th day of May 1881, at two o'clock, P. M.

S. T. McKEAN, Secretary.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF HON. W. H. GRAY.

ASTORIA, Feb. 22, 1881.

To the president and members of the Pioneer and Historical society of Oregon:

Your corresponding secretary respectfully presents this tenth annual report of its proceedings for the current year.

This society came into existence after several unsuccessful attempts to organize at an early period in other places. Its first annual meeting was in 1871. Referring to its record of names we have

among its first organizers, who have died the name of Henry Spencer Aiken, from Liverpool, England, born April 15, 1818, and died at Astoria April 19, 1875.

The next name on our role of members is James Welch, born in Clark county, Kentucky, February 16, 1816, and died at Walla-walla, Washington territory, September 26, 1876, and was buried at Astoria. Mr. Welch and Mr. Aiken were active members of the executive board for several years.

Hon. Joseph Jeffers, born in Washington, D. C., October 17, 1807; died at Portland January 3, 1876, and was buried on Clatsop plains. He has filled several responsible offices in the territory and state.

David Ingalls, born in Sullivan, Hancock county, Maine, October 31, 1808; died in Astoria August 31, 1880. A useful, quiet citizen, having filled many minor offices in the town, county, and city of Astoria, and while a member of the executive board, was carried to his final resting place in the Astoria cemetery.

Diana M. Owens, wife of John Hobson, born in Pike county, Kentucky, February 12th, 1837; died in Astoria, November 23, 1874, leaving an interesting family in the early dawning of maternal life and usefulness.

John Jewett, born in Landoff, Grafton county, New Hampshire, October 4th, 1796; died in Astoria, January 22, 1880, having lived a devoted christian in Oregon thirty-three years, leaving his third wife and a numerous family to follow his remains to the Astoria cemetery.

Robert Shortess, born in ——— Pennsylvania, March 3d, 1797; died May 4th, 1878. He arrived in Oregon November 26th, 1839, where he resided thirty-nine years. Mr. Shortess, on first arriving in Oregon in '39 was of the first attempted party of settlers outside the previous missionary parties from the United States. Your corresponding secretary having before him an interesting narrative, written a few years before the death of Mr. Shortess, you will pardon me for copying a page from this interesting "reminiscences of the first immigration to Oregon, by one of the company," as the heading of the manuscript indicates. After referring briefly to the occupation of this country by the various fur companies and by the missionaries, Mr. Shortess says: "But the first immigration, in the general acceptance of the word, that is men voluntarily combining together to leave their homes in the states, solely dependent on their own resources, and to face the dangers and hardships of 2,500 miles

travel to settle for life in a land of which hardly anything was known; the impulse to which was first given by the Rev. Jason Lee by a lecture delivered at Peoria, Illinois, in the fall of 1833, on his way from Oregon territory to the Atlantic states, after a few years residence in the territory. After Mr. Lee's lecture, meetings were held and measures taken to form a company to colonize Oregon; this was the first attempt which proved a success, by persons solely dependent on their own resources and going out with the purpose of permanent settlement, and consequently they are the real pioneers of Oregon territory.

Their outfit consisted of a circular tent, large enough to cover the entire party, and their baggage; one two-horse wagon and team, a small stock of provisions, and one hundred dollars for contingencies; besides, each had his riding animal and rifle, some of the latter carrying 120 balls to the pound. There were also several bowie knives weighing from seven to nine pounds each.

Their leader dubbed them Oregon dragoons, and they carried a flag bearing the motto of "Oregon or the Grave."

Soon after, the writer met with the captain of the Oregon dragoons at Independence, Missouri, and was told by Captain Farnham that their intention was to raise the American flag, take possession in the name of the United States and drive out the Hudson Bay company. On being asked if he considered his force (18 men) sufficient? he replied, "Oh yes, plenty!" But, Captain, part of your force are Englishmen, do you think they will fight against their countrymen? "Oh yes, they will not turn traitor; if they do, by God we'll shoot them." This conversation gave the writer a pretty good idea of Captain Farnham's character, morals and intellectual abilities.

They had not traveled far before the usual effects of liberty, equality and fraternity began to develop themselves, so that they arrived at Independence, Missouri, towards the latter end of May in a rather disorganized condition. Here they halted perhaps a week or ten days to make the necessary changes in their equipments before entering on the uninhabited wilderness. The wagon was exchanged for pack animals, the stock of provisions replenished and such goods as could be had for Indian trade was bought.

Two persons here joined the expedition. Pritchett, an English tailor, and

R. Shortess, who had resided some years in western Missouri.

After reorganizing by reelecting their leader, and agreeing to bury all by-gones and differences, they early in June crossed the Missouri line into Indian territory, which at that time reached from Missouri to the Pacific ocean, and from the bay of San Francisco to the Arctic.

The first encampment was at Elm Grove, about thirty miles from the Missouri boundry, on the Santa Fe road, where during the following day they remained to complete the organization of the company, and procure a supply of flour at the Shawnee agency.

The organization was completed by the election of C. Wood, lieutenant, and the division of the company into platoons of four men each, sixteen men and two officers all told.

The company formed at Peoria consisted of sixteen persons.

It would be ungenerous to pass without a note the many noble qualities of a man whose heart and soul from the moment he trod on Oregon's soil, devoted his whole energies to making it American in opposition to that of a foreign power. He was the most prominent opposer and the most shrewdest manager in opposing the first effort made in 1841 to make Oregon a British colony. Of the eighteen persons that started for Oregon with him six were English, three from Pennsylvania, five from New York, one from Vermont, one from Maine, one from Kentucky and one from Arkansas. From his remarkable memory and careful reading he had acquired more than ordinary intelligence from books and general observation and was quick to detect the grievance of some of the early American missionaries and no doubt able to confound them in bible history to their disadvantage, which induced them to oppose his liberal construction of bible truth, and not being prepared to answer his arguments they were led to oppose and consider him as a skeptic. He was the author of the petition that was sent to congress in 1842-3 for protection of American citizens from the Hudson bay company's intolerable opposition to American settlers, and prominent in all efforts to protect American rights to the Oregon country. His reminiscence of the party closes with the impression that there were then but four, himself included, living. There is at the present time not a single one of the party alive or that has attempted a narrative of its existence, except its first

leader, Mr. Foncard, who, it appears is not a reliable chronicler of those romantic expeditions. My intimate acquaintance with him from the time he arrived in Oregon, extending through his whole Oregon life, leads me to the conclusion that his real worth as a citizen was never appreciated. He was unyielding in his convictions of right, and exact justice to all mankind and strictly honest in his dealings with all. We do not claim for him absolute perfection in the wisest conclusions as to public sentiment and political preference. His death was peaceful, being closed as in a sleep in his chair, and taken to his final abode by the citizens of Astoria, having lived eighty-one years and one month.

Mary Mildred Beal, wife of Truman Pleasant Powers, born in Culpeper county, Virginia, August 18, 1818; died January 4, 1881. Her first husband, Mr. Newton, was killed by Indians in the Umpqua valley, after reaching that place through the southern pass in 1846. She lived and died a quiet christian life and rests in the cemetery on Clatsop plains.

Nancy Davidson, wife of Luke Taylor, born in Bartholoma county, Iowa, 1836; died March 6, 1864.

Samuel Coal Smith, born in Baltimore, Maryland, June 3, 1815; died July 2, 1877. He settled on what is now Smith's or Taylor's point in 1843, a miller by trade, not prominent in public, as a citizen regarded as honest and useful.

Frederika Vith, born in Bavaria September 29, 1799; came to Oregon with her daughter and son-in-law, Hon. Conrad Boelling, in 1847, and died in 1878, aged 79 years. Her remains were followed to the grave by members of the fifth generation.

Hester Ann Rose, wife of Mr. Lamphar, born in Warm Spring, Virginia, August 24, 1786; died June 4, 1876, having resided in Clatsop county for twenty-nine years, respected and honored with the title of "Grandma" Lamphar by all who knew her.

Thomas George Naylor and Sara Story Naylor, his wife. The former born in Albermarle county, Virginia, October 12, 1814. The latter in Cook county, Tennessee. They reached Oregon and settled at Forest Grove in 1843. Mrs. Naylor died in 1852, and her husband in 1874.

Lydia Cornia, wife of Anderson Dinkard, born in Howard county, Missouri, 1822; came to Oregon in 1849 and died April 15th, 1869.

Godfrey Lincoln, born in Plymouth,

Massachusetts; came to Oregon in 1840 and died April 15th, 1869.

Daniel Franklin Carnthers, born at Virginia station, Virginia, January 20, 1820; came to Oregon in 1849, and died January 5th, or 7th. 1857.

Jane White, first wife of Capt. J. C. Ainsworth, born in Iowa, 1833; came to Oregon with her parents in 1846 and died in December, 1859.

On receipt of our weekly papers we learn and deeply regret that in this tenth report we are called upon to enter upon our records the death of Dr. James C. Hawthorne, of East Portland, Oregon. He was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, March 14th, 1821, became a resident of Oregon or on this coast in 1850, long and favorably known as a skillful physician, a kind and obliging man in all his dealings and as a neighbor. He was for many years, and at the time of his death, in charge of the state insane asylum. He passed to his final reward prepared for him among the mansions in Our Fathers house on Saturday evening the 12th of February, 1881. There is a discrepancy of dates as to his birth. In entering his own name upon our Pioneer record he gave the date as above, on the 15th of July, 1871.

Samuel R. Thurston, born in Monmouth, Maine, April 15th, 1816. He was Oregon's first delegate in congress, and died at Acapulco, on his return to Oregon, April 9th, 1851.

Alonzo Albert Skinner, born in Ravenna, Portage county, Ohio, January 22, 1817, died April 28, 1876.

We have traced as briefly as possible the two important events in the existence of human life. It would be interesting and profitable to know more of the continued labors, the motives, and the designs of the lives of the twenty-one persons whose names we have given. They came among us from distant countries. They have filled a place in life; their bodies are mingling with our soil; their immortal intellects have left us and have risen to enter the school of infinite knowledge, to the mansions prepared for them before their earthly tenements were gathered to give them the forms we have seen, associated with, and loved.

We that remain are certain of but one thing, and really exist in the present. Experience and observation has taught us that our life is a blank, or an unending future. That it is a blank but few are willing to admit, hence by faith we anticipate and travel on to the future, which is prepared by the same power

that has prepared the present, which we now occupy and enjoy.

But few names have been added the past year.

Your corresponding secretary has received during the year quite a number of communications from distant parts of the civilized world, and from the agricultural and educational bureaus of Washington.

The American Agriculturist, a monthly journal devoted to early American history, ethnology and archaeology, edited by Rev. Stephen D. Put, Clinton, Wisconsin.

Monroe's history of North Carolina, two volumes, by J. Moor, and a large number of pamphlets and periodicals with catalogues of library books from London, New York, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Missouri, California, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont and Oregon, which are ready to be placed in our library, Canada.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. GRAY, Corr. Sec.

#### SPECIAL REPORT.

ASTORIA, February 22, 1881.

To the President and Members of the Pioneer and Historical Society of Oregon.

The undersigned respectfully reports that during the past year, in consequence of the renewed effort to erect a suitable monument to the memory of the unselfish and christian patriot Dr. Marcus Whitman and associate dead, your correspondent has made one trip to Walla-walla and Lewiston, one to Seattle and Olympia, two to Salem, one to Corvallis and to Albany.

The trip to Walla-walla was to locate the ground for the monument by definite survey and arrange for its being fenced, as the lumber had been forwarded for that purpose, and for planting trees and shrubbery within the enclosure, which was duly arranged to be completed by the Hon. A. Reaves Ayers, our assistant corresponding secretary at that place.

Owing to the divided sentiment in the city of Walla-walla as to the location, two subscription papers have been forwarded with a request to circulate both and learn by the amounts subscribed the sentiment of the people as to the location. No returns have been received from either party; but from individual residents of the city, it appears that the ground selected would be the most appropriate; and from correspondence had with many persons and contributors at a distance, that the monument should be upon or near the ground on which the martyrs fell.

From Walla-walla, your agent passed

by stage to Lewiston, Idaho. On the way learning the names and selecting reliable persons to canvass their respective districts for funds, the same as on the trips to other places named. Such agents have been furnished with subscription papers, addresses and the general correspondence, such as have been published and received in newspaper slips convenient for such distribution.

In all the above named trips, and one more to Walla-walla and one to Roseburg not yet made, your agent has received, through the kindness of the companies owning steamboats and railroads, a free pass while traveling in the Whitman monument effort, for which the unanimous thanks and a suitable prominent remembrance, it is hoped, will be placed within the granite structure contemplated by this effort, including the names of the companies and officers signing or giving those passes, as it is understood that every donors name, of any amount, will appear in written or book form equally sacred as the donors of funds to the monument.

In these several hasty trips your agent has received the universal expression of approval of the effort of the Historical society to accomplish their laudible object, and to place it upon the ground they have selected.

Though no special effort was made to collect funds, he received from two gentlemen from California, whose names are entered on our record book, \$2 00: from the lady living on the mission ground, a free dinner for the five men engaged in surveying the ground for the monument.

Amounts received as follows:

From Grant county.....	\$ 1 00
Multnomah county.....	10 00
Marion county.....	1 00
Linn county.....	1 00
Pacific county, W. T.....	1 00
Lewiston, Idaho.....	32 00
Clatsop county, new subscription.....	16 50
old subscription.....	35 00

The total amount received by your agent, and paid to your treasurer is \$85 50 including \$35 00 on old subscription. A. G. Walling on lithograph, \$5 00.

There would be added to the credit of Multnomah county

Amt. of reduction on lumber.....	\$100 00
" " " freight.....	130 00
" " passage of agent.....	75 00

\$305 00

Traveling expenses of corresponding secretary.

Stage fare to Lewiston.....	\$ 12 00
Hotel expenses on all trips.....	25 00
Steamboat on the Sound.....	5 00
Printing monument address, etc.	25 00
Postage stamps on correspondence.....	15 00
One months time given, etc.....	50 00

\$112 00

The thanks of the society are especially due to THE ASTORIAN, the Walla Walla Statesman, the Farmer, the Dalles Times, the North Pacific Coast, the Oregonian, the Lewiston Teller, and there are other papers who have kindly aided in encouraging the society in this effort.

They should not forget to tender their thanks to the Californian for allowing Mrs. F. F. Victor space for her exhaustive article attempting to prove her own previous statements, in the River of the West, incorrect, and the truth of Hon. S. Clarks assertion that Oregon was saved to our American nation by the unparalleled efforts of Dr. Whitman.

With this report allow me to present the accompanying printed slips in the form in which they are printed for distribution to the following named canvassers: C. Montieff, Lewiston, Idaho: A. Reaves Ayers, Walla-walla, W. T.: Wm. N. Smith, Waitsburg, W. T.: J. H. Lister, Pomeroy, W. T.: Theodore Clark, Assotin, Columbia county, W. T.: John A. Perkins, Colfax, W. T.: Dr. F. A. Young, McMinnville, Yamhill county, Oregon: Mr. M. C. Young, canvasser: Rev. Horace Lyman, Forest Grove, Washington county, Oregon: Mrs. Mary S. Whiteaker, Independence, Polk county, Oregon: O. C. Perkins, Roseburg, Douglas county, Oregon: Dr. J. R. Bailey, Corvallis, Benton county, Oregon: John Monteith, Albany, Lynn county, Oregon: Rev. J. C. Boyd, Kingsboro, King county, New York: Rev. J. H. Hopkins, D. D., Williamsport, Pennsylvania: Hon. W. A. Mowry, Providence, Rhode Island, with a number of other names on my list to whom your agent has not yet found time from necessary sleep and rest to forward the subscription papers to.

W. H. GRAY,

Corresponding Secretary.