

OREGON

OREGON

HORNER



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J. B. HORNER

OREGON



PREHISTORIC ANIMALS OF OREGON

1, Mastodons. 2, Broad-faced Ox. 3, Three-toed Horses. 4, Tapirs. 5, Saber-toothed Tiger. 6, Hippopotamus. 7, Oregon Rhinoceros. Beyond the palms are Camels and an Elephant.

(See page 12)

Revised and Enlarged Edition

OREGON

Her History *Her Great Men, Her Literature*

BY

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"OREGON LITERATURE"

"VACATION ON THE MEDITERRANEAN"

Illustrated

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of Portland, Oregon



Willamette River, near Corvallis

W. M. Ball

This volume was written largely from first sources, the author having been personally familiar with the Oregon Country for more than a half century. His gratitude is due, however, to the following members of the Oregon Historical Society: Curator George H. Himes, Hon. Binger Hermann, Hon. John Gill, Mr. Leslie M. Scott, Mr. Frederick V. Holman, Mr. T. C. Elliott, Judge C. B. Watson, Hon. T. T. Geer, ex-Governor of Oregon, and Capt. O. C. Applegate, for valuable suggestions, and to other authorities freely consulted in the preparation of this book. These are mentioned later with more data than can appear in the preface. All have wisely interpreted their observations and have commendably performed their part in preserving and exalting the history of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Hence with the encouragement and aid offered by these and others, the task of preparing this publication has been hopefully pursued with one advantage over its predecessors—the opportunity of gleaning the choicest from all of them.

The reader will observe that the volume is offered essentially as a history of Oregon with only such reference to the story of the Pacific Northwest as may be indispensable in the introductory chapters.

Approximately five hundred events relative to the historical importance of Oregon have occurred since she avowed her purpose to "fly with her own wings" in a glorious ascent to American statehood. This volume, therefore, is designed to give such a condensed, authentic account of these activities as will instruct the reader, create a love for Oregon, and arouse patriotic respect for her laws and institutions.

The Oregon Legislature, February 25, 1919, unanimously adopted House Joint Resolution No. 37, from which the following excerpt is taken:

"Resolved, That we commend the efforts of Professor John B. Horner, author of the book, 'Oregon—Her History, Her Great Men, and Her Literature,' in collecting and publishing historical data down to the present year; and we recommend that clubs, Chautauqua organizations, high schools, colleges, and universities place greater emphasis on the history of Oregon with especial reference to that portion covering her statehood."

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The Cascade Range emerging from the Ocean

INTRODUCTION

THE DAWN OF OREGON

Creation of the Cascade Range.—The earliest account of Oregon was recorded in the great Book of Stone which lay buried under mountain and valley, prairie and seashore, to be opened and read, with the aid of pick-axe, microscope and retort. The stories in the book are full of meaning. They are illustrated with pictures printed, life size; and pressed between the flinty leaves are the perfectly-preserved evidences of life in earth and sea and air.

Among the first to open that part of the book which gives an account of Oregon, was the late Doctor Thomas Condon, professor of geology in three universities and at one time state geologist of Oregon. The stories he read from its pages were so interesting and instructive that he published them in a volume entitled "The Two Islands," later republished under the title of "Oregon Geology."

In one of the stories Doctor Condon describes the first appearance of our greatest mountains as they might have been viewed from some elevation—possibly that ancient sea-bank, which we now call the Oregon Coast Range. He says:



Dr. Thomas Condon

"A colossal sea-dyke was slowly rising from the bed of the ocean, extending from what we call Lower California, through what is now Oregon and Washington, to the Aleutian Islands—a mere sea-dyke for a long time, only a barrier between continuous waters; then through other ages a ridge of elevated hills; then later one of the world's mountain wonders, the Cascade and Sierra Nevada Range."

As the Cascade Range gradually rose, the bed of the ocean on either side became dry land. The land was then covered with grass and trees, and where the ocean had been, and great fish had lived, land animals began to appear, many of which were of monstrous size, until in all probability animals of every kind lived here. This took place so long ago that many of them have become extinct; yet it was the period when Oregon was becoming suitable for the abode of man.

That portion of this colossal sea-dyke, which is the backbone of Oregon, extends north and south through the state. It is, therefore, the dividing line between Eastern and Western Oregon. The climatic conditions, the qualities of soil, and the kinds of industry on opposite sides of this backbone are so unlike as to produce a remarkable diversity of natural resources.

This wonderful range of mountains affords one of the greatest panoramas to be viewed in the United States. When, in the near future, touring by aeroplane becomes common, the passenger traveling from California to Portland can survey a picture toward the north which will include in one entranced sweep of the eye numerous lakes, a dozen snow-capped peaks, millions of acres of matchless timber, numerous noble rivers, limitless stock ranges, and beautiful valleys. The rise of the Cascade Range above the ocean as described in the great Book of Stone was the most important event in the physical development of Oregon.

GREAT AGE OF THE OREGON COUNTRY

(See Frontispiece)

If you dig into the earth and find the remains of a man, you naturally conclude that the man once lived, that he died and was buried. So if a strong wind upturns a great fir tree with its roots and the attached earth, and reveals the remains of an elephant with palm branches at his side, you conclude that the elephant and the palm once lived; that the animal and tree died and were covered with debris. Also when you remove the bones and tusks of the beast you find beneath a bed of sea shells, and when you see a glacial boulder in a field nearby, you

conclude that there were sea life and land life here, and that there was a glacial period during which there was little or no life. All these are found along the Columbia River.

Upon examining the evidences of land life we find proof of a tropical clime during which jungle-forests grew, and were transformed into coal fields. During this age great birds soared in the air, monsters were in the deep; and there were mastodon, elephants, camels, the rhinoceros, hippopotami, the broad-faced ox, the tapir, saber-toothed tiger, the three-toed horse and other tropical and subtropical animals which are now extinct. Indeed we find that Oregon was carpeted with flora and occupied with fauna entirely distinct from the vegetable and animal life that now exists here.

When we think of the region drained by the Columbia as a sea, which gradually became dry land—a vast area that subsequently passed through a frigid clime, a torrid clime, and is now in a temperate clime—and we find indications that this region may have passed through these climes more than once—we conclude that we live on a very old part of the earth.

We inquire how long has it been since the Columbia River abraded a channel through the Cascade Range of mountains, and how long was the Oregon glacial age, how long the tropical age, and how long has Oregon been in the temperate clime.

The inquiry is perplexing; for when a man attempts to estimate the length of time required for a part of the earth to pass through one geological age he is amazed. When he attempts to multiply it, he is unable to approximate the eons during which the Oregon country traveled in her course from clime to clime—possibly from zone to zone—preparing a suitable abode for man, recording her history in the great Book of Stone. Man looks into the future of this region, but he cannot see the end; for the end like the beginning is incomprehensible. He discovers that the time during which the Oregon Country has been changing her climate cannot be computed, for it is immeasurable. He has found time that resembles eternity.

ARCHAIC INSCRIPTIONS AND REMAINS

On the faces of basaltic cliffs that front the Columbia River there are carved pictures and hieroglyphic characters which have thus far baffled translators. The Indians who have been questioned concerning these inscriptions usually confess ignorance of their origin and significance, or else pretend they are "hyas tahmanawis"—great magic—and refuse explanation.

Less important, yet evidently significant rock inscriptions are found less frequently on the Willamette and other rivers, and very rarely in any other locality than such cliff-tablets as are offered by the rock walls of the rivers.

The rock-carvings shown in the accompanying cut are in the vicinity of The Dalles of the Columbia, where the most



Rock-carvings of the Sun *Photo by Weister*

remarkable of these rock inscriptions occur. The conventional figure impresses one with the thought that it represents the sun, and may have been an object of worship as with the Egyptians.

Such sculpture is found more frequently at or near places where salmon or other fish were taken in great

numbers, and salmon are frequently represented in these stone legends, also beaver, elk, and bear.

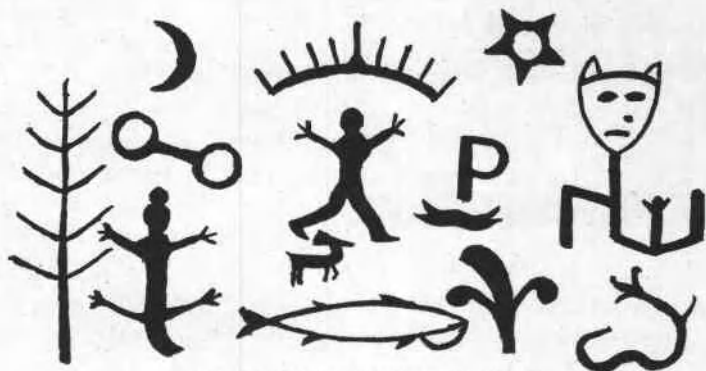
The labor necessary to produce such gravings in rock harder than granite, and with no steel or other metal tools, is almost

inconceivable. Since the first visits of explorers to this coast no traveler has ever seen Indians engaged upon the making of any such monumental inscriptions, the nearest approach to such effort being the carving in wood of totems.

In the relics of Indian culture which remain to us, and are very thoroughly known, there is no evidence either of a decline or an advance in their culture. Many ages passed, during which the arrow, axe, canoe, and tepee were built and made of the same materials and form. There was little in the traits of our Indians to lead us to believe that they executed these difficult, mysterious records on the cliffs and occasionally in caves.

The symbols employed in some of these inscriptions seem related to rock sculptures and monuments of Central America; and if America was peopled from Asia by way of Bering Straits and Alaska, it may well be that the puzzling hieroglyphs are records made by more ancient and highly civilized dwellers in the Oregon Country, who migrated along the coastal valleys, as they would most probably, establishing themselves in the more opulent tropic lands of Mexico and Nicaragua.

And yet, the occurrence in some of these sculptures—pictorial rather than hieroglyphic in character—of pictures of salmon, deer, beaver, the raven, eagle, and other animals and birds and fish which were such important features in the life of our Indians, tempts us to ascribe some of these inscriptions to the ancestors of the Indians of the Oregon Country.



Pictograph near Arlington, on the Columbia

The picture of sculpture in rock near Arlington seems to portray a worshiper of sun, moon and stars, besides other unintelligible figures.

The writer has seen an urn or mortar, representing a human head (and of life size), carved from granite, equal in realism and artistic value to any representation in stone, of supposed Indian sculpture, found in the United States. This remarkable object was exhumed by the wind, in a long-continued gale, from the sands at the juncture of the Umatilla and Columbia rivers. The character of this well-executed head was strangely Assyrian in appearance.

The sculptured head in accompanying cut is in the collection of the Oregon Historical Society, and part of rude statue of a human figure, the head being the most perfect portion.



Stone Effigy



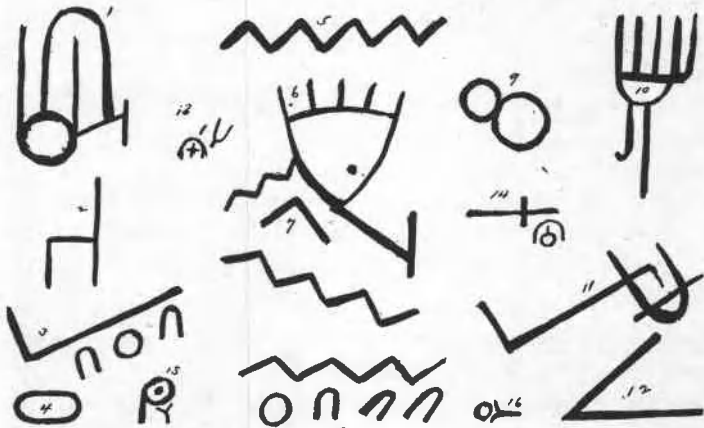
Stone Owl from Willamette River

In dredging the sands of the Willamette River a few miles north of Portland, in 1919, the strange figure of an owl was brought up from the bottom of the river. This is one of the most remarkable sculptural relics discovered in Oregon.

In a cavern near Cascadia, the walls are covered with mysterious figures engraven in the rock, and their hieroglyphic character is represented by the specimen shown in the cut. This

cavern has about the wall-space of an ordinary room. It is

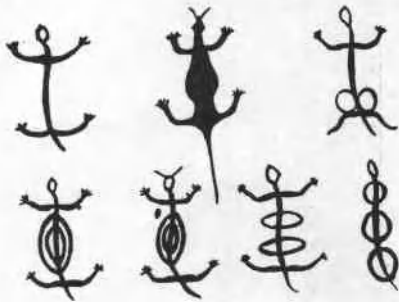
probably the most important and extensive sculptural record in our present knowledge of this region.



Hieroglyphs in Cascadia Caves

The accompanying cut represents Indian pictography of the common lizard known as the "water-dog," and is remarkable in its crude strength and likeness to nature.

These are taken from rock sculptures near Arlington and from the vicinity of the "sun worshiper."



Prehistoric Mounds.—There is a wonderful array of mounds of nearly uniform size (roughly oval in shape, 3 to 5 feet high and 6 to 10 feet wide by 20 feet long) scattered over many miles between Chehalis and Olympia. These mounds—there are many hundreds—seem to be the work of man, but no human relics have been found among them. The only investigation, however, has been the hasty work of railroad construction, which has removed so many that there is no

reason to believe they were erected for purposes of sepulture, if by men's hands. This region is often called Mound Prairie.

There are certain mounds in the central Willamette Valley, east of Albany, which have been examined more carefully than any others thus far known, and in these mounds human skeletons, and utensils and weapons of possibly Indian manufacture have been found, with apparent ceremonial of interment accompanied by the contemporary custom of burying with the dead the weapons and implements used in life. Some of the skulls, in good preservation, exhibit an artificial flattening, less in degree than that prevailing at the time of first settlement here.



Skulls and relics exhumed from mounds on the Calapooia

In the locality referred to there are more than thirty of these mounds, only a few feet in height, but of a diameter up to 150 feet. The flint weapons and stone implements discovered in these mounds appear to be of what we know as "Indian" origin.

THE NAME "OREGON"

Such is the interest relative to the derivation and meaning of "Oregon," that the name will be briefly discussed in this connection.

Jonathan Carver applied the name "Oregon" to the "River of the West" in his "Travels through the Interior Parts of North America," published in 1778. He said he had heard the river called that name in 1766, by Indians living in what is now Minnesota.



Jonathan Carver

At least six other explanations have been offered regarding the meaning and derivation of the word "Oregon":

1. T. C. Elliott tells us that the name "Oregon" is a corruption by Jonathan Carver of the name "Ouragon" or "Ourigan" which was communicated to him by Major Robert Rogers, commandant of the trading post at Michillimackinac in Michigan at the

time Carver made his journey to the West. Rogers probably obtained it from French-Canadian voyageurs and traders who had trafficked with the western Indians for many years and had heard of a river flowing toward the west and rising in the region of blizzards and tornadoes. "Ouragan" is a French word from which we get hurricane.



Carver's Map

2. Various authors ascribe "Oregon" to the *o-rig-a-num*, a wild plant said to have been found growing in abundance along what is now called the Oregon coast. This explanation was commonly given in school geographies a half century ago. But botanists tell us that the *origanum* was not found in Oregon.

3. Hall J. Kelley, who wrote pamphlets concerning the Oregon country as early as 1829, claimed to have traced "Oregon," the name of this river to a large river called "Orjon", which he believed to be in Chinese Tartary.

4. William G. Steel, who published a booklet on Oregon names, and who was the first president of the Oregon Geographic Board, says it is claimed that "Oregon" came from "Oyer-un-gon" a Shoshone word, meaning "a place of plenty." Recent confirmation of this name among the Shoshones is given by Mr. John E. Rees, for many years a resident of Lemhi County, Idaho, and familiar with Shoshone.

5. Bishop Blanchet, connected with the Catholic missionary movement in Washington and Oregon, decided that "Oregon is a form of 'Orejon,' (plural Orejones), meaning 'big ears'"—a term applied by the Spaniards to Indian tribes whose ears were enlarged by loads of ornaments.

6. "The Popular History of Oregon" tells us that "Oregon" is a form of the name "Aragon," which in Spain is pronounced very much like "Oregon," with the accent strongly on the last syllable, as many Americans pronounced the word fifty years ago. In support of this theory it may be suggested that the name might have been given to the new country by Spanish missionaries as a mark of courtesy to Ferdinand of Aragon, Prince Consort of Queen Isabella, who offered to pledge her jewels to make possible the voyage which resulted in the discovery of America.

Although "Oregon" probably came from one or more of these words, it might have other derivation. We do know, however, that it is a peculiar name, first published by Jonathan Carver and made famous in literature by the poet Bryant, in his poem, *Thanatopsis*, which appeared in the "North American Review,"

in 1817; that it was applied to the river now called the Columbia, then to the entire region drained by that river, and now restricted to the territory which later became the thirty-third state of the Union.

EPOCHS OF OREGON HISTORY

The History of Oregon is divided into five epochs:

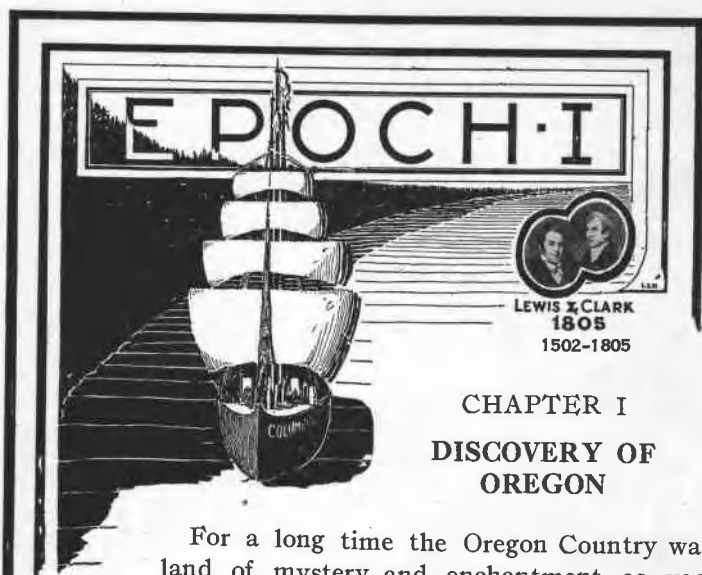
First Epoch.—*Early Explorations.*—This epoch treats of the explorations that led to the discovery of Oregon, first from the sea (1792), then by land (1805). It begins in 1502, with the effort of Columbus to find a passage through Panama to India, and ends in 1805, when Lewis and Clark completed their overland expedition to the mouth of the Columbia. Also under Epoch I are selections from Indian folk-lore as told to the earliest white explorers and settlers.

Second Epoch.—*The Settlement of Oregon.*—This epoch extends from 1805 to 1843. It treats of the settlement of the Oregon Country by the British and Canadians, who came as trappers and traders; and by the American emigrants, who settled the country in true colonial fashion.

Third Epoch.—*Oregon under the Provisional Government.*—This epoch begins in 1843, at which time the settlers provided for themselves a government independent of the Hudson's Bay Company; it ends March 3, 1849, when Governor Joseph Lane proclaimed the territorial government in Oregon. It is the story of Oregon under the Provisional Government.

Fourth Epoch.—*Oregon under the Territorial Government.*—This epoch extends from 1849 to 1859. It is the history of Oregon from Governor Lane's proclamation of March 3, 1849, to February 14, 1859, when Oregon was admitted to statehood.

Fifth Epoch.—*The State of Oregon.*—This epoch extending from 1859 to the present, is the history of Oregon as a state, in the union of states under the federal constitution. Also under this epoch appears reference to the Literature of Oregon, much of which was written during this period.



CHAPTER I DISCOVERY OF OREGON

For a long time the Oregon Country was a land of mystery and enchantment as vague as were the Pillars of Hercules to the ancients, and possessed of legends as entrancing as those of Greek mythology. When Bryant wrote *Thanatopsis*¹ in 1812, he thought of the Barcan desert as one end of the earth and of the Oregon Country as the other. So little was known of this far-west country that he referred to it as:

"The continuous woods
Where rolls the Oregon and hears no sound
Save his own dashings,"

which was as indefinite as a reference to Fairy-land. But as the pillars of Hercules eventually proved to be the great twin rocks guarding the gateway of the Mediterranean, so the "continuous woods," mentioned by Bryant, proved to be a vast region now called the Oregon Country.

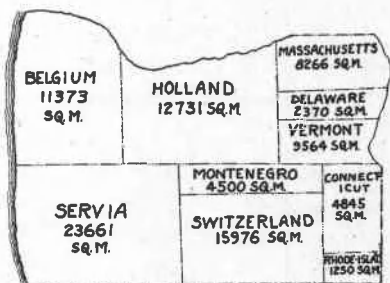
¹In *Thanatopsis* as published in "North American Review," 1817, the excerpt was phrased as follows:

"The continuous woods That veil Oregon, where he hears no sound save his own dashings—."

The Oregon Country, once described in legend as a land of mystic obscurity, later appeared in history as the first territory on the Pacific Coast to which the United States of America laid claim; it was the first to which she established a title. It is the only American territory which she acquired by priority of discovery, exploration and settlement; her only possession obtained on this continent without bloodshed or cash purchase. This remarkable country bordering the Pacific Ocean from California on the south to British America on the north and extending east to the summit of the Rocky Mountains, comprised more than a quarter million square miles—an area nearly as large as that of the first thirteen states—an area greater than that of the German Empire at the beginning of the World War. Because of its vast size it was subsequently divided into Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and a part of Wyoming and Montana. The story of the Oregon Country, therefore, covers the early history of a region that has developed into prosperous states with their busy population, rich mines, great fields, thriving commerce, growing manufactories, and important cities.

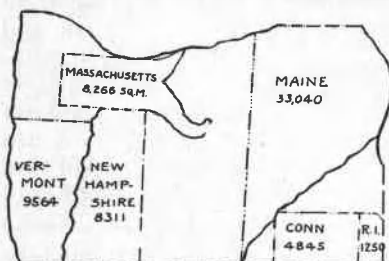
OREGON AN EMPIRE

The magnitude of the Oregon Country can be comprehended more readily if the reader will bear in mind that the present State of Oregon is an empire in area with counties as vast as kingdoms. There are 96,699 square miles in the state of Oregon, which is more territory than the combined areas of the following five European countries and five American states: Holland, Belgium, Montenegro, Serbia, Switzerland, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, and Vermont. Hence the State of Oregon is an empire in area.



Oregon an Empire 96,699 sq. miles in Area

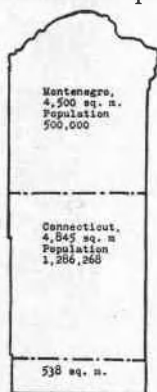
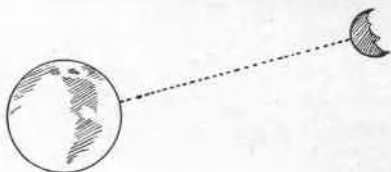
Were the state of Oregon drawn into an emerald belt thirty-two miles in width it would extend from Boston on the Atlantic



Oregon and New England compared

Ocean across the continent to Astoria on the Pacific Ocean. Were the belt drawn into a ribbon three and eight-tenths miles wide, it would encircle the globe at the equator. Were Oregon divided into estates of two hundred and fifty-nine acres each, the estates, a mile in

length and two-fifths as wide, placed end to end would form a chain reaching from Oregon to the moon. One can easily imagine the millions of people who could

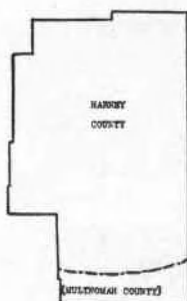


Malheur County and Montenegro compared

occupy this vast area of farms, gardens, prairies, and parks. Yet the population of Oregon is less than a million.

So great are the distances and so extensive is the area of the state of Oregon that Massachusetts could easily nestle in the Willamette Valley. Massachusetts and Rhode Island together have less area than either Harney County or Malheur County. Either of these counties has more area than Montenegro or various other kingdoms that have flourished. Any one of sixteen Oregon counties is larger than the state of Delaware, and any one of twenty-three is larger than Rhode Island.

Nor is Oregon overcrowded. An Oregon county has fifty times as many people as another county which in turn has twenty-two times as much area as the former. This means that Harney or Malheur County with approximately the area



Harney and Multnomah counties compared

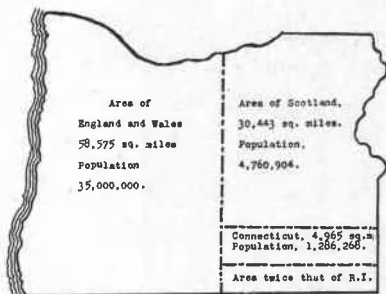
of Palestine has more than a thousand times as much land per capita as the rapidly growing Multnomah—a very significant fact to homeseekers.

Oregon is one and a half times as large as New England, which it outrivals in natural resources.

England, with about thirty-five million population, comprises only three-fifths as much area as Oregon. Were England as large as Oregon, she could support more than half the present population of the United States.

Such are the area and resources of this empire that there can never be a famine west of the Rocky Mountains so long as Oregon is on the map. Hence the great study in Oregon is OREGON.

We shall, therefore, pursue this study, beginning with the voyages that led to its discovery.



Oregon and Great Britain compared

DISCOVERY OF OREGON FROM THE SEA

The discovery of the Oregon Country, like the discovery of America, was in part accidental. When it came to be known that islands and other land barriers of various sizes and unknown shapes lay across the direct sea route to India, navigators made many voyages in search for an open passage or strait through which ships might sail from Europe to India. Knowledge of the new country was vague, hence every inlet along the western coast was explored in the hope of finding a passage-way through the continent. These explorations, together with the explorations of fur traders, accidentally resulted in the discovery of the Columbia, which is the water highway of the Oregon Country,

later known as Old Oregon. The explorations were numerous, covering almost three centuries. They were the thrilling adventures chiefly of Spaniards, Russians, Englishmen and Americans. Some of them will be recounted in this narrative.

Explorations Stimulated by the Story of Anian Strait.—

While historians tell us that these explorations were begun by



Maldonado's Strait of Anian, 1609

Columbus and Balboa, it may assist the reader to know some interesting things concerning the Strait of Anian, through which Gaspard Cortereal, a Portuguese navigator, claimed to have sailed from the Atlantic to the western ocean, in the year 1500. This was at a time when Columbus was seeking just such a passage-way to the waters that led to India, and it may be that he received inspiration from the report that Cortereal gave. The seriousness with which the Strait of Anian¹ was con-

sidered may be inferred from the fact that the Hudson's Bay Company in its charter in 1670, announced its purpose to discover a passage-way from the Atlantic waters into the western Ocean. The British parliament in 1745 offered £20,000 to any Englishman sailing through a passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Furthermore various navigators sought the Columbia River with

¹In 1609, Maldonado, another Portuguese explorer made a map which marks the Strait of Anian. While the explorations of Maldonado have been discredited by some writers, his map is valuable since it implies that, with the early navigators, he believed the earth to be much smaller than it is; that the Pacific Ocean was only a few hundred miles wide; that the Strait of Anian was much farther north than indicated by navigators of the previous century.

the belief that it would prove to be the Strait of Anian. It is, therefore, to be inferred that from the time of Columbus to the discovery of the Columbia various explorers were influenced by Cortereal's account of the Strait of Anian.

Columbus and Balboa Endeavor to Sail Through the Isthmus.—In an effort to find a western passage-way from Europe to India, so that Spanish ships might compete in commerce with the ships of the Portuguese, Columbus, in 1502, touched upon the shores of the Isthmus of Panama. Being unable to proceed, he returned to Spain. It so happened, in 1513, that Balboa, like Columbus, found his westward progress obstructed by the Isthmus of Panama. His ships were hemmed in by land on three sides. There were the rich mines of South America to his left, the equally rich mines in Mexico to his right, and the silver mines of the Isthmus just ahead. Had Balboa dreamed of the possibility of loading his ships with silver and of returning to Spain to live in princely splendor, he might have been tempted to proceed no further on his journey of exploration. He continued the explorations begun by Columbus; but finding no strait by which his ship could sail through the narrow neck of land, he crossed the mountain by a southward route and discovered a vast body of water which he called the South Sea, but which we call the Pacific Ocean. Upon arriving at the newly discovered sea (1513), he dramatically waded into its waters, and with drawn sword claimed all its shores as part of the future Spanish Empire. These were the beginnings of the explorations which gradually approached the mouth of the Columbia.

Balboa believed that Darien, which is now called Panama, was the northern headland of South America around which ships could sail, and he hoped to find a sailing course around that headland for ships bound to India. But that hope was not realized, inasmuch as there was no passage-way through Panama until the opening of the Canal by the Americans four centuries later. In the hope of finding the western entrance of the passage-way, Balboa built ships, which were the first to sail along the Pacific Coast. This was the beginning of the explorations along the

west coast of North America, which nearly three centuries later resulted in the discovery of the Oregon river. Balboa's voyage



Balboa

failed to meet the expectations of his sovereign, and in 1517, he suffered one of those political deaths common among Spaniards in those times. Further explorations were conducted during the same period by Cortez, Governor of Mexico, who had already attained distinction as a conqueror of the natives, having gained Mexico for Spain. Upon hearing of Balboa's expedition, he also desired to become a noted explorer. Not being a sailor, Cortez provided men and ships to sail under Ulloa, and constructed a good naval station for them on the west coast of Mexico.

Ulloa Discovers Lower California.—After exploring the Gulf of California (1539), Ulloa, who sailed under the direction of Cortez to the head of the Gulf of California, rounded the southern cape of Lower California, and sailed northward along the coast half the length of the peninsula to Cedros Island. Only one of his ships returned to Mexico, the two others having been lost on the voyage.

Coronado Marches to Kansas.—After a time Cortez was succeeded by Mendoza as Viceroy of Mexico. Soon the new viceroy became ambitious to outdo his predecessor in the search for new lands and seas. Accordingly he made provision for two explorations; one by land, under Coronado, the other by sea, under Alarcon.

Coronado Started from Mexico in 1540 with a large force of horsemen and native allies on an expedition to conquer "The Seven Cities of Cibola," which were said to be in a northerly

direction. Those Golden Cities were as famous in fable as was the spring of eternal youth which Ponce de Leon had already sought in vain. Coronado sought them in New Mexico and Arizona. He then marched to the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, thence to Arkansas. Having been misled by a native guide, he pushed northward into what are now Kansas and Nebraska, where the agricultural possibilities of the country favorably impressed him. Upon failing to reach the mystic cities for which his expedition had been equipped, Coronado returned to Mexico, where he was received coldly by Mendoza, the disappointed viceroy. Reports of Coronado's expedition, however, created intense interest in the western coast, and led to many subsequent explorations.

Alarcon Approaches Upper California.—To assist Coronado, Mendoza organized an expedition under Alarcon, who ascended the Colorado in small boats to the Gila, which is near the southern boundary of what is now California. About this time appeared a popular Spanish novel which described a mystic island near paradise. The name of the island was "California."¹ It is believed by some writers that because of some fancied resemblance between the island described in the novel and the peninsula now called Lower California, the name of the fabled island was applied to the latter. California came to include the territory along the coast north to the 42nd parallel. The peninsula, or southern division, was then called Lower California; the northern, Upper California. Eventually "Upper" was dropped from the latter name.

Cabrillo Discovers San Diego and Monterey.—Being much encouraged by the discoveries made by Coronado and Alarcon, Mendoza equipped Cabrillo for a northerly expedition, following the general outline of the coast. The navigator soon passed Cedros Island, and, on the 28th day of September, 1542, discovered what we call San Diego, but which he named San Miguel. From San Miguel, Cabrillo sailed to

¹Certain writers believe that "California" came from the Latin words *calida fornax*—a hot furnace, being a reference to the unusual heat the Spaniards experienced upon their first arrival in that country.

Monterey. He was very methodical in preparing charts and maps of his explorations; hence was enabled to give valuable detailed information concerning the country and people discovered by him.

Ferrelo Sails nearer to Oregon.—Cabrillo died at San Miguel Island, January 3, 1543, and Ferrelo, his pilot, assumed charge of the expedition. Thirty years after Balboa's first effort to explore the coast, Ferrelo may have sailed to the parallel of 42°, which is the southern boundary of Oregon. There is a possibility, therefore, that the coast of Oregon was seen by this navigator more than sixty years before the first settlement was made in Virginia.

Juan Perez Sails to Santa Margarita.—Juan Perez, a Spanish navigator, sailed from California, June 11, 1774, and within a month, anchored at Santa Margarita near the southern coast of Alaska. Later he found in latitude 49° north a crescent-shaped harbor, which he named Lorenzo, since called Nootka Sound.

Heceta Nearly Entered the Columbia.—In the year following (1775), while Washington was taking command of the continental troops on the eastern coast, the "Santiago" and "Sonora," under the command of Captain Bruno Heceta were sailing northward along the western coast. He landed at Point Grenville, near the straits of Fuca, and there planted the Spanish flag. "Soon afterward his crew was so thinned by scurvy that the 'Santiago' turned homeward." On the 17th day of August, while Heceta¹ was on his return voyage, he saw the mouth of the "River of the West," which he mistook for a bay or inlet. But for this mistake Heceta probably would have crossed the bar at the mouth of the river, in which case the Spanish flag would have been the first to float over the river now called the Columbia.

Quadra Explores Northward to Russian Territory.—Although the "Santiago" commanded by Heceta sailed southward, the "Sonora" commanded by Quadra, sailed to the north,

¹Heceta Head was named for Captain Heceta.

whereupon the captain discovered Mount San Jacinto (Mt. Edgecumbe), a snow peak in latitude 57° . He continued his voyage northward to latitude 58° , but decided to proceed no further, as the Russians claimed the coast north of latitude 60° by right of discovery.

Monacht Apé.—H. H. Bancroft quotes the French explorer M. le Page du Pratz concerning Monacht Apé, an intelligent Yazoo Indian, who traveled from the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean. The French savant regarded this Indian as a philosopher and quoted many of his utterances. The following, which was inspired by the sight of the Pacific Ocean, is one of them: "When I first saw it I was so delighted that I could not speak; my eyes were too small for my soul's ease. The wind so disturbed the great water that I thought it would beat the land to pieces." Apé narrated his experiences with the Indian tribes along the River of the West, and described an encounter which the natives under his temporary leadership had with thirty pirates who landed at the mouth of the river. This Indian was away from home five years, and the story of his travels was published in Paris in 1758 by du Pratz.

Drake Names California "New Albion."—Thus far only Spanish ships had participated in the explorations. But England was growing ambitious to become a sea power. Furthermore Spain and England were unfriendly as the result of a quarrel between the King of Spain and the English ruler, who was none other than Queen Elizabeth. She had permitted Sir Francis Drake to seize, rob and destroy Spanish ships in American waters. On this voyage, though his flagship, the "Golden Hind," became separated from four



Sir Francis Drake

of his fleet, Drake attacked Spanish ships in harbors and on the high seas, robbing them of silver, gold, and rich cargoes. Upon landing at Drake's Bay (June 17, 1579), which is believed to be the inlet a few miles northwest of Golden Gate, he took possession of the adjacent land for England, calling it New Albion. Fearing to return by the route he came, Drake boldly sailed across the ocean, rounded the Cape of Good Hope, and won the distinction of being the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe. When he arrived at London with his treasure-laden ship (1579), "the Queen, declaring her approbation of all that he had done," conferred upon him the honor of knighthood.

Russians Discover Alaska.—Peter the Great being anxious to divine the future eastern boundary of the Russian Empire, sent Vitus Bering, a Danish navigator, to ascertain whether Asia and North America were joined together. Bering did not succeed in reaching the northeasternmost point of Asia, but he made some discoveries which had their bearing on the history of the Pacific Northwest. He sailed from Kamchatka in 1728, and thirteen years later, he in company with Tcherkoff discovered Alaska and a number of Islands in Bering Sea. As a result of this voyage, fur trade was extended from Kamchatka to Alaska, thence southward to California and Mexico. The threatened invasion by Russians and the English of the region which the Spanish coveted caused the latter to plant colonies, to bring the region of Upper California under Spanish rule, and to extend their explorations north to the Russian settlements.

Cook Sails Through Bering Strait.—In 1778, two years after the declaration of American Independence, Captain James Cook, sailing under the British flag, discovered the Sandwich Islands. Then he sailed north, in search of the legendary strait connecting the Pacific with the Atlantic Ocean. According to Dr. John Fiske, "Captain Cook first saw a point which he called Cape Foulweather, and sailing south from there he named Capes Perpetua and Gregory. Thence he turned about to the northward and in the struggle with adverse winds was carried well out to sea, so that the next land he saw was Cape Flattery." He

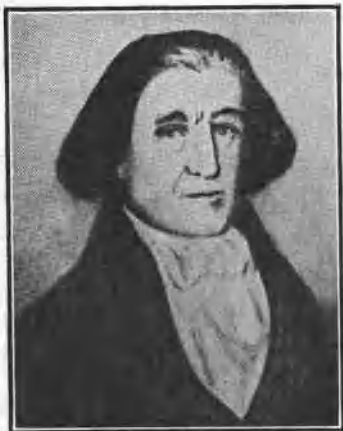
then entered Nootka Sound which he also named. Following the coast line northward, Captain Cook penetrated into the bay afterwards known as Cook's Inlet. Upon failing to find a passage in this direction, he sailed for Bering Strait. On August 9 he named the northeasternmost point of the Asiatic continent, East Cape; and to the northwestern extremity of America he gave the name Cape Prince of Wales—both of which he visited. Finding the passage interrupted by an impenetrable wall of ice, Captain Cook returned to Hawaii, where he was killed by a native, February 14, 1779.

Cook's Expedition Results in Fur Trade.—When the ships of which Cook had been captain touched at Canton on their return to England, the furs purchased of the Indians at Nootka Sound were readily sold at many times the cost price. Such was the profit, and so intense was the consequent excitement on board ship, that the crews threatened to mutiny when the officers refused to return to the Pacific Northwest for more furs. As soon as the news of the fur trade spread throughout Europe, trading ships were sent to the northwest coast by England, France and Portugal; and in the course of time ships from Spain and the United States visited harbors in the fur-bearing region.

Ledyard Inspires American Fur Trade.—On Captain Cook's ship was a young American—an eccentric Dartmouth student—John Ledyard by name. He was an ambitious, restless fellow, who after preparing for missionary work decided to be a seaman. He became Corporal of Marines under Captain Cook. He published an account of Cook's voyage which interested Americans, who were thereby led to study Captain Cook's report of the valuable furs which the Russian traders purchased from the Indians for a few trinkets and sold at high prices in the ready markets of Canton. Soon a company in Boston equipped the "Columbia" and the "Washington"—henceforth called "Lady Washington"—to carry on the fur trade and explorations. On the 1st of October, 1787, the two vessels started on their long voyage with John Kendrick as Captain of the "Columbia" and Robert Gray as Captain of the "Lady Washington." These

two ships were destined to carry the first American explorers and fur traders along the Oregon coast.

Captain Gray as a Fur Trader.—After rounding Cape Horn, the ships ran into heavy seas, and were separated. The "Lady Washington" touched at several points along the coast, among which evidently were Alsea Bay or Yaquina Bay, and



Capt. Robert Gray

the anchorage at Cape Lookout. On the 16th of September, 1788, she arrived at Nootka Sound where "for many years all sea captains gathered to exchange the latest information as to new discoveries, etc." Here the British vessel, "Northwest America," constructed by Lieut. John Meares, was launched—the first sea-going vessel built on the Northwest Coast; and on the 27th of the same month the "Columbia" anchored within forty yards of her consort. The "Lady Washington" and the

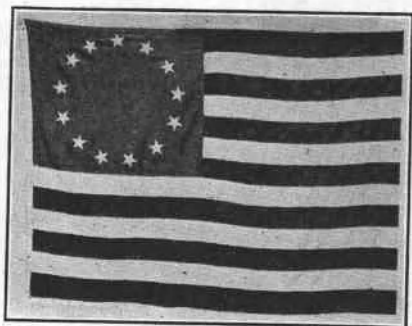
"Columbia" then purchased furs at various harbors. It is said that sea-otter skins, which were afterwards sold at Canton for \$200 each were purchased from the Indians at less than one shilling. In the month of July the furs were placed aboard the "Columbia." Captain Robert Gray taking command of that ship, sailed for China.¹ He sold the furs, purchased a cargo of tea, and sailing around the Cape of Good Hope, arrived in

¹ **Captain Gray's Bill of Lading.** The following bill of lading, signed by Captain Gray, illustrates the seriousness of going to sea in 1790:

"Shipped by the grace of God, in good order and condition, by Shaw and Randall, in and upon the good ship called the "Columbia," whereof is master under God for this present voyage, Robert Gray, and now riding at anchor at Whampoa and by God's grace bound for Boston in America—to say, 220 chests Bohea tea, 170 half-chests, do, 144 quarter-chests do. To be delivered unto Samuel Parkman, Esq., or to his assigns; and so God send the good ship to her desired port in safety. Amen. Dated in Canton, February 3, 1790. (Signed) Robert Gray."

Boston, August 10, 1790, after a voyage of 50,000 miles. The officers and owners were entertained by Governor Hancock with fitting hospitality; and the hopeful owners planned a second voyage.

The "Columbia," a Historic Ship.—In addition to what has been said of the "Columbia," the following from "The Memorial History of the City of New York," by James Grant Wilson, is of value: "The ship, the 'Empress of China,' Captain John Green, sailed (from New York) February 22, 1784, Washington's birthday. She carried the original flag of the United States adopted in 1777. The flag, first flown on the Pacific Coast in 1784, was taken round the world by the 'Columbia' in 1789-90." It is noteworthy that the "Columbia" was the first American ship to circumnavigate the globe; that she was the first ship of our nation to carry our flag around the earth; and that the flag which she carried was the original American flag adopted in 1777. Hence the original flag of our nation was the first American flag to circumnavigate the earth. Yet the ship "Columbia" is to add lustre to her glory.



¹Captain Gray's Flag

Gray Discovers the Columbia River.—The "Columbia," upon being overhauled, was granted sea letters by President Washington, Governor Hancock, and the foreign consul at Boston, and she left that harbor September 28, 1790, arriving in Clayoquot June 4, 1791. May 7, 1792, Captain Gray discovered Grays Harbor. Four days later he safely accomplished what Heceta had failed to attempt. He crossed the bar, and the good ship bearing the precious letter of indorsement from

¹ A replica of this flag, together with Captain Gray's sea chest and other property of the ship "Columbia" is in the Oregon Historical Society Museum at Portland.

the father of our country, entered the long sought Oregon. This was an occasion for much rejoicing, because the United States was now enabled by right of discovery to lay claim to the vast region drained by that great river and its tributaries. And to hallow the memory of the glorious event, the noble ship that first carried the "Stars and Stripes" around the globe, now bestowed on the Oregon river her own fair name—The Columbia.

Gray on the Columbia

River.—In the early afternoon of May 11th, Captain Gray anchored one-half mile from the north bank west of Point Ellice, northwest of what is now

Astoria, and close to a large village of Chinook Indians. There he filled his casks with fresh water from the river. A day or so later he sailed twelve or fifteen miles farther up the river, following a narrow channel along the north side, until the ship grounded; then Captain Gray determined to return without making further exploration of the Columbia.



"Columbia" and "Washington"
Medal



The Columbia
—Courtesy Oregon Journal

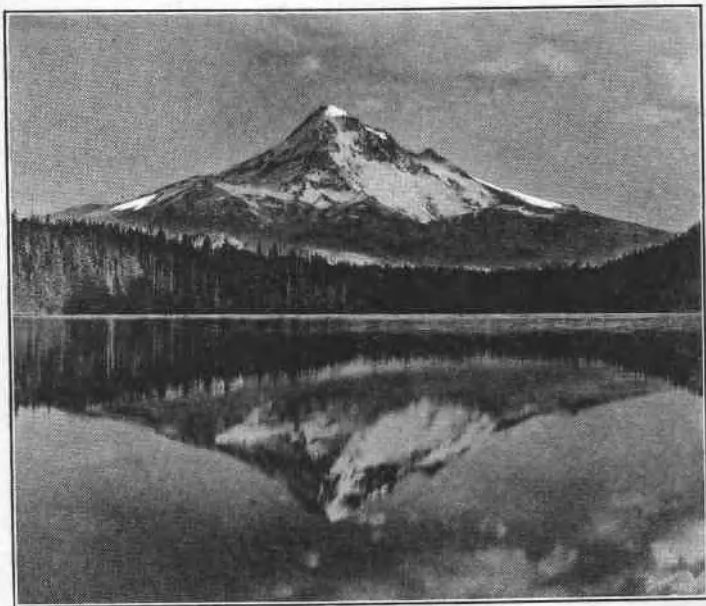
On the 20th he sailed out of the river, having in the meantime dropped down to an anchorage near Chinook Point (Fort Columbia), and his log gives these details: "Gentle breezes and pleasant weather. At 1 P. M. (being full sea) took up the anchor and made sail, standing down river. At

two the wind left us, we being on the bar with a very strong tide which set on the breakers; it was now not possible to get out without a breeze to shoot her across the tide; so we were obliged to bring up in three and a half fathoms, the tide running five knots. At three-quarters past two a fresh wind came in from seaward; we immediately came to sail and beat over the bar, having from five to seven fathoms of water in the channel. At five P. M. we were out, clear of all the bars, and in twenty fathoms of water. A breeze came from the southward; we bore away to the northward; set sail to the best advantage. At eight Cape Hancock bore southeast distant three leagues."

The English Explore the Columbia.—The Spanish, the English and the Russians had expressed doubt as to the possibility of entering the Columbia with a ship. But when it was announced that Captain Gray had sailed on its waters, Lieutenant Wm. R. Broughton, under orders from Captain George Vancouver of the British Royal Navy, set sail in the armed tender "Chatham" from Puget Sound for the Columbia, and sailed into the river. "Lieutenant Broughton left the 'Chatham' at anchor off what is now the Quarantine Station opposite Astoria, October 24th, 1792, and ascended the river with most of the crew in two boats, the pinnace and cutter, to a point above Washougal, making observations and soundings, and bestowing names upon islands and tributary streams along the way."

Mount Hood Named and Explored.—Six days later, Lieutenant Broughton, while on this expedition up the Columbia, named Mount Hood, which is 11,225 feet in elevation, being the highest Oregon peak. It is in what was then called the President's Range, but now the Cascade Range, and its summit is about 20 miles from the Columbia River as the crow flies. It was named for Alexander Arthur Hood, afterwards Lord Brinport, of England, a personal friend of Vancouver. For a time it was known among Americans as Mount Washington. The mountain was explored by General Joel Palmer, soon after

arriving upon his first visit to Oregon in 1845. The ascent of Mount Hood was made (1854) by Judge Cyrus Olney, Major Granville O. Haller, U. S. A., Thomas J. Dryer, Wells Lake, Captain T. O. Travailliot, and Samuel K. Barlow.¹ Although



Mount Hood

(Photo, Gifford.)

prior to 1845 it was regarded an impossibility to ascend Mount Hood, its summit has come to be the annual playground of the Oregon Mazamas and other mountain climbers.

Naming the Columbia River.—The Columbia River, which is the second river in size in the United States, has been known by various names. It was called "Wauna" by the Chinook Indians. The Spaniards called it "La Roque," from the cape near the entrance of the river into the ocean. It was then known as "Thegayo" and later as "Rio de Aguilar." But

¹ In August, 1867, the first white women ascended Mount Hood. They were the Misses Fannie Case, Mary Robinson, and Lucy Hay.

the French first thought of it as the "River of the West." Jonathan Carver, as early as 1768, referred to it as the "Oregon," a name which it is believed he heard while among the Indians near the Great Lakes. Afterwards it was called the "Columbia" by Captain Gray, in honor of the ship that first sailed upon its waters.

CHAPTER II

THE DISCOVERY OF OREGON BY LAND

"Never did a single event excite more joy throughout the United States."—
Thomas Jefferson.

Importance of the Mississippi to the Americans.—The most important navigable river in the Louisiana territory was the Mississippi. Horses and cattle that the American settlers raised were annually driven east to Atlantic markets, but grain and other produce were put on barges, which floated down the Mississippi to ports that were visited by merchant ships of Spain and France. So important was the Mississippi river to the settlers along its banks that there arose a fear that the river would eventually be used only by subjects of Spain, and many American settlers threatened to sever their allegiance to their country. This feeling of insecurity among the Americans along the Mississippi River was intensified in 1800 when Napoleon, by a secret treaty, obtained Louisiana from Spain. Americans were naturally alarmed lest Napoleon's plan of a world empire might include the Mississippi Valley and thereby prove a menace to the United States. No one understood the situation better than did President Thomas Jefferson.

Jefferson's Designs.—To avert the danger of war and preserve the Union, President Jefferson designed two measures of far-reaching statesmanship. The first was a proposal to purchase from Napoleon the City of New Orleans and the adjacent land on the east bank of the Mississippi, known as West Florida. This would insure commercial freedom to the West and soothe the irritation of the settlers. Jefferson's second design was to dispatch an overland exploring expedition up the Missouri River to the Pacific. By this he hoped to

accomplish several desirable objects, to-wit: "to build up friendly trade with the Indians along the Missouri and westward to the mountains; to attract the fur trade of the Northwest Coast eastward by the overland route; to hasten the settlement of the Mississippi Valley by American pioneers and thus forestall the intrigues of the English and the French; to balk the advance of the Northwest Company in the region of the Upper Missouri and Columbia Rivers; to establish intimate commercial relations between the East and the developing West; and last, but by no means least, among the motives which actuated Jefferson, to satisfy his keen scientific curiosity and promote the science of geography."—(Story of Oregon.)



President Thomas Jefferson

Purchase of Louisiana.—At the beginning of the year 1803, Jefferson began the execution of both these designs. He dispatched Monroe to France to negotiate with Napoleon for the purchase of New Orleans and West Florida, and sent Congress the famous message which outlined the plan of the expedition to the Pacific. Congress received the message on January 18, 1803, and promptly voted the necessary funds. The negotiations with Napoleon succeeded beyond expectations. Busied with new combinations in European affairs, the great leader of France offered to sell the whole of Louisiana to the United States, hoping thus to upbuild a formidable military and commercial rival to England, his implacable foe. Jefferson leaped at the amazing opportunity, and with one stroke of his pen made America an imperial nation, and insured to democratic institutions the scepter of the world."—(The Story of Oregon.)

President Jefferson's Estimate of the Oregon Expedition.—In his message, January 18, 1803, President Jefferson said to Congress: "An intelligent officer with ten or twelve men fit for the enterprise and willing to undertake it, might explore the whole line, even to the Western Ocean, have conferences with the natives on the subject of commercial intercourse, get admission among them for our traders, as other traders are admitted, agree on a convenient deposit for an interchange of articles, and return with the information acquired, in the course of two summers."

Lewis and Clark Placed in Command of the Expedition.—Congress voted only twenty-five hundred dollars for the expedition to the West. The Congressional appropriation was



Meriwether Lewis



William Clark

based upon the following estimate made by Captain Lewis: Mathematical instruments, \$217; arms and accoutrements extraordinary, \$81; camp equipage, \$255; medicine and packing, \$55; means of transportation, \$430; Indian presents, \$696; provisions, extraordinary, \$224; materials for making up the various articles into portable packs, \$55; pay of hunters, guides and interpreters, \$300; silver coin to defray expenses of party from Nashville to the last white settlement on the Missouri, \$100;

contingencies, \$87. But, since the purchasing power of money then was three times greater than at the present time, Congress was much more liberal with the explorers than would at first appear. Jefferson placed Meriwether Lewis in charge of the expedition. Lewis, who had been the President's private secretary, was thirty years of age, robust of constitution, accustomed to outdoor life, well informed, and upright and considerate in dealing with others. Lewis selected William Clark as his coadjutor and comrade. The expedition was, therefore, organized under two captains. Both men had received military training. Both knew how to command and to obey. Both were eminently qualified for the undertaking.

The Party at St. Louis.—The party of explorers consisted of two commanders, eighteen soldiers, nine Kentucky hunters, Clark's negro, and two French interpreters. There were also sixteen other soldiers who accompanied the expedition the first season. They spent the winter of 1803-4 at the mouth of the river Du Bois, opposite the Missouri, building boats and gathering information and material for the journey.¹

¹**Oregon Fostered by Missouri.**—

Although various states contributed to the development and growth of Oregon, Missouri led them all. Missouri was the principal supply station—the Half Way House—for the early emigrants to Oregon. Among the first to understand the situation and to advocate American occupation and possession of Oregon was Thomas H. Benton, of Missouri. Later Senator Lewis F. Linn, of Missouri, urged military possession of the Columbia and a territorial government in Oregon. When some of the other states were in doubt, Missouri was firm, in befriending and nourishing the interests of Oregon, and urged the settlement of the new territory so that it might become American by occupation as well as by discovery. At the outset a vast number of emigrants came from Missouri to build homes in Oregon. It will, therefore, be seen that Missouri, in developing her own interests as a supply station for the far West, helped tremendously in the outset to develop Oregon.

Consequently, Oregon grew as a by-product of Missouri much the same as Missouri grew of Kentucky, Kentucky of Virginia, and Virginia of England.



Senator Thomas H. Benton

The Journey Begun.—Having made ample preparation, the Lewis and Clark party began their long voyage up the Missouri on the 14th day of May, 1804. On the 25th day of May they came to LaCharette, the home of Daniel Boone, the famous Kentucky hunter, and they passed the Kansas and the Platte June 26th and July 22nd, respectively. Conforming to the suggestions of President Jefferson, the party held councils of peace with the Indian chiefs wherever possible. Probably the most important council was held August 3rd with the Missouris and Ottos at Council Bluffs.

Their Winter at Mandan.—The Lewis and Clark party established winter quarters at Mandan¹ village near the city of Bismarck, capital of North Dakota. Here they built a fort of elm and cottonwood logs. It was in the shape of the letter V. They gathered much valuable information from the Indians and made reports of their explorations thus far. They also negotiated a treaty of peace and friendship between the Mandans and the Ricarees² who had been enemies of long standing.

Sacajawea.³—At the Mandan village was found Sacajawea, "The Woman Pilot, who was born not to die." When a child she had been taken into captivity from the Shoshones by an unfriendly Indian tribe, and had been sold into slavery; and now at the age of sixteen was the wife of M. Chaboneau, the French trader. Because she and her husband were somewhat familiar with the country and the people along the route to be pursued, they were engaged as guides and interpreters by Lewis and Clark, and were permitted to accompany the expedition to

¹ "The Mandan tribe contained about two thousand persons. This tribe was almost extinguished by small-pox, in 1838, the few whom the pestilence spared being made captives by the Ricarees, who took possession of their village. This the Sioux soon after attacked, and in the thick of the fight the unhappy Mandans rushed out beyond the pickets and called upon the Sioux to kill them, for they were Ricaree dogs, their friends were all dead, and they did not wish to live. They fell upon their besiegers at the same time with such impetuosity, that they were to a man destroyed."—*Callin's "North American Indians."*

² Also spelled "Ricaras."

³ Also "Sacagawea."

the Pacific Ocean. While they were of service to their employers all the while, Sacajawea proved of incalculable value to the white explorers by bringing about peaceful relations between them and her people—the Shoshones.

Journey Resumed in Spring.—On the 7th day of April, 1805, the Lewis and Clark party resumed their journey up the Missouri in search of its source. Much game, such as buffalo, deer, grizzly bear and elk, was seen along the way.

Interesting encounters with grizzlies were experienced; and on one occasion the explorers while proceeding up stream were delayed until a herd of buffalo had crossed. Later it was decided to divide the expedition into two parties. Anxious to overtake the Shoshone Indians, who were believed to be ahead of them, Captain Lewis, with three men, went on up the Jefferson River, while Captain Clark and his party followed with the canoes and luggage in a more leisurely manner. On the 12th of August the Lewis party drank from the fountain head of the Missouri River. Then crossing the summit, they drank from another spring; and they rejoiced, for the spring was one of the sources of the Lewis River, one of the arms of the Columbia, which they were seeking. After an extended detour Captain Lewis and his three men in company with some Indians returned to the Jefferson River, where they met the main party. When Sacajawea saw the Indians, she began to dance and show every mark of the most extravagant joy, sucking her fingers and pointing to the Indians to indicate that they were of her native tribe.



Sacajawea

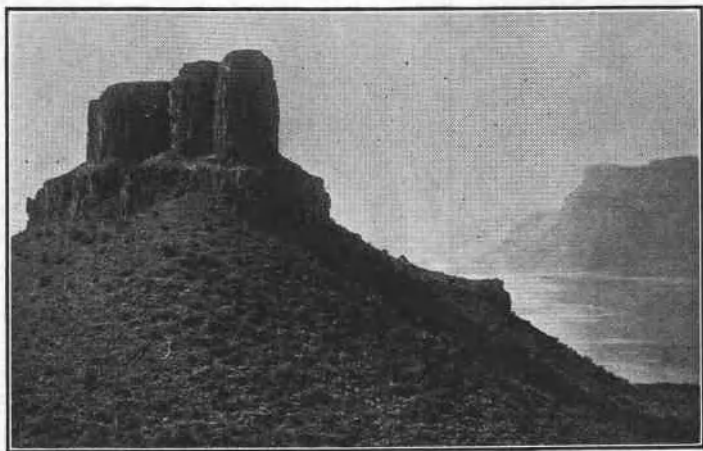
Of this meeting we learn from the Lewis and Clark Journal that "While Sacajawea was renewing among the women the friendships of former days, Captain Clark went on, and was received by Captain Lewis and the chief, who, after the first embraces and salutations were over, conducted him to a sort of circular tent or shade of willows. Here he was seated on a white robe, and the chief immediately tied in his hair six small shells resembling pearls, an ornament highly valued by these people, who procured them in the course of trade from the seacoast. The moccasins of the whole party were then taken off, and after much ceremony the smoking began. After this the conference was to be opened. Glad of an opportunity of being able to converse more intelligibly, they sent for Sacajawea, who came into the tent, sat down, and was beginning to interpret, when in the person of Cameahwait (the chief) she recognized her brother. She instantly ran and embraced him, throwing over him her blanket, and weeping profusely. The chief was himself moved, though not in the same degree. After some conversation between them, she resumed her seat and attempted to interpret for us; but her new situation seemed to overpower her, and she was frequently interrupted by tears."

Suffering.—The Indians rendered valuable service to Lewis and Clark by trading horses to them for trinkets and by manifesting much good will toward them in other ways. But there were many difficulties to be overcome. One of the immediate difficulties was the long distance they had to travel in a north-west direction over an unknown route to the Clearwater River before they could proceed by boats westward. Also the party at times endured much suffering brought on principally by the scarcity and inferior quality of food and by unbalanced rations¹—

¹ To indicate the struggle for existence among the natives in that locality at that time, the following is taken from the Lewis and Clark Journal: "Drewyer, one of the white hunters, had killed a deer. When the Indians reached the place where Drewyer had thrown the entrails, they all dismounted in confusion and ran tumbling over each other like famished dogs. Each tore away whatever part he could, and instantly began to eat it. Some had the liver, some the kidneys—in short, no part on which we are accustomed to look with disgust escaped them."

their diet being roots, horse meat, dogs, crows, and wolves in sparse supply. Their Journal says: "Captain Lewis and two of the men were taken ill last evening, and today he could hardly sit on his horse, while others were obliged to be put on horseback; and some from weakness and pain were forced to lie down alongside the road. The weather was very hot and oppressive to the party, most of whom were complaining of sickness. Our condition, indeed, made it necessary to husband our remaining strength. It was determined to proceed down the river in canoes. Captain Clark, therefore, set out with the Chief called "Twisted Hair" and two young men in quest of timber for canoes. Having resolved to go down to some spot calculated for building canoes, we set out early in the morning, and encamped on the low ground on the south, opposite the forks of the river."

The Winter at Fort Clatsop.—Paddling with the current in canoes from October 7, Lewis and Clark reached the mouth

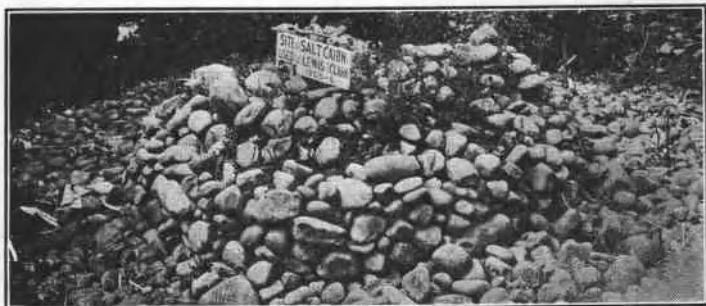


Chimney Rocks near Wallula

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of the Columbia, November 11. Jefferson had instructed them to "learn upon reaching the Pacific if there be any port within your reach frequented by the sea vessels of any nation, and to

send two of your trusty people back by sea," or if "the return of your party by the way they went will be imminently dangerous, then ship the whole and return by sea—either by Cape Horn or by the Cape of Good Hope." Failing of an opportunity to return by sea, they built Fort Clatsop on the Netul¹ River—now called the Lewis and Clark—about two miles above its mouth. The officers were engaged in preparing their journals and collecting data for a report upon the natural history, ethnology and trade of the coast. The hunters killed many elk and obtained other food by whatever means they might, frequently trading with the Indians for dogs and fish. Some of the party went a few miles west, to where Seaside now is, to

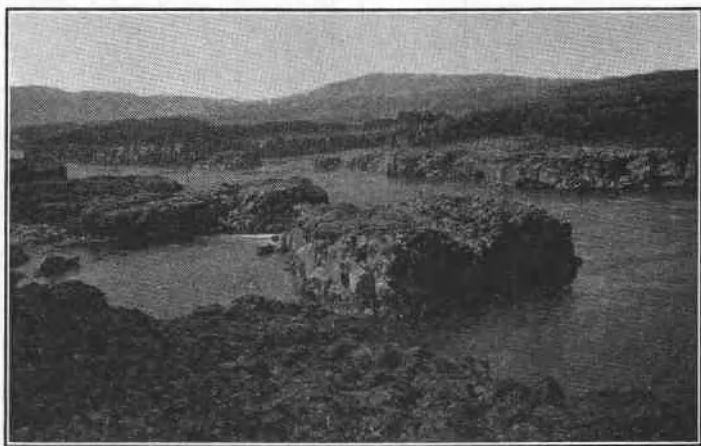


The Lewis and Clark Salt Cairn at Seaside

procure salt. Here they constructed a salt cairn, which is one of the oldest evidences of civilization in the Oregon country. All were living by chance. Sometimes they had plenty; at other times they were reduced to extremities. Once they thought themselves very fortunate in being able to trade for a quantity of whale blubber which the Indians had taken from a carcass washed ashore at Ecola. Captain Clark wrote that he "thanked Providence for driving the whale to us; and think how much more kind he was to us than he was to Jonah, having sent this monster to be swallowed by us instead of swallowing us as Jonah's did."

¹ "Netul" by some authors.

Their Return.—Being unable to sight a ship on which the Lewis and Clark party could go home, they began their return by land, March 23, 1806. The funds set apart for the expedition were nearly exhausted by this time. But Lewis and Clark were



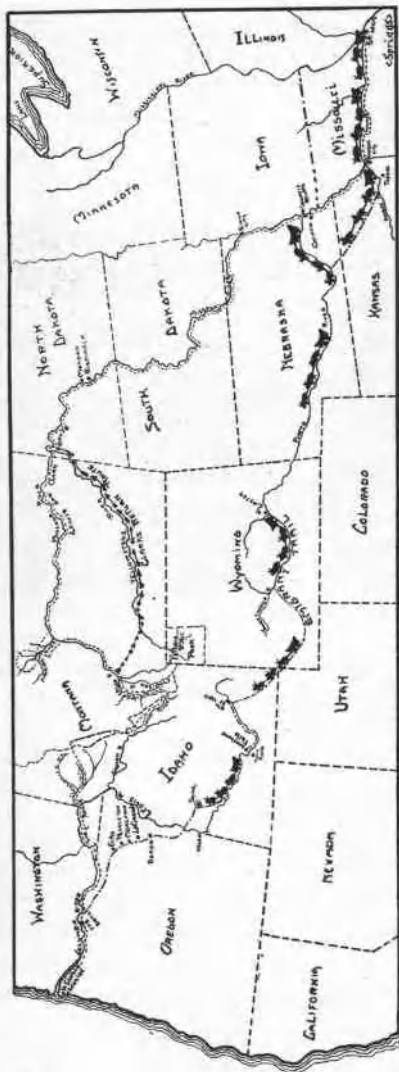
The Grand Dalles of the Columbia

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skilled in the use and preparation of herbs; and these remedies were bartered at prices corresponding to those charged by the Indians for horses, dogs and other necessities. The explorers were delayed by snow in the Rocky Mountains. But they were strong and determined.

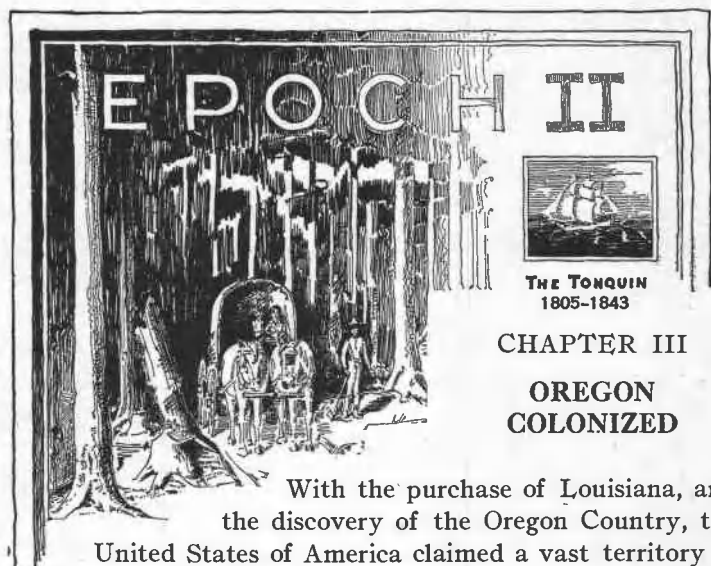
Jefferson's Views of the Expedition.—Upon the return of Lewis and Clark, there was much rejoicing throughout the United States over the success of their expedition; and the President, who was inclined to be temperate in his statements, said: "Never did a single event excite more joy throughout the United States. The humblest of its citizens had taken a lively interest in the issue of this journey, and looked forward with impatience to the information it would furnish. The anxieties, too, for the safety of the corps had been kept in a state of excitement by lugubrious rumors circulated from time to time on

OREGON TRAIL ROUTE OF LEWIS AND CLARK



uncertain authorities, and contradicted by letters and other direct information from the time they left Mandan towns, on their ascent of the river in April of the preceding year, 1805, until their actual return to St. Louis."

Clark returned by the Yellowstone River, while Lewis came by the route traveled the previous year. They journeyed steadily until they arrived at St. Louis, exactly six months from the day they left Fort Clatsop.



With the purchase of Louisiana, and the discovery of the Oregon Country, the United States of America claimed a vast territory in the West that was not occupied by white people. It was impracticable, therefore, at that time, to develop great farms and thriving cities on the newly acquired possessions. But there was an excellent opportunity to extend the fur trade to the Oregon Country. This opportunity the Americans and the British sought to improve. Hence many incidents of historic value took place during Epoch II.

Effort to Establish Settlement on Columbia.—"In the early part of 1809, in the counting-room of Abiel Winship, one of the solid men of Boston, was projected the first attempt to establish a settlement on the Columbia. Partners in the project were Abiel Winship, Jonathan Winship, who commanded the 'O'Cain' in the Pacific trade, Nathan Winship, and Benjamin P. Homer, one or two others having smaller interests.

"Particulars were discussed and determined. The old weather-beaten, but still staunch ship, 'Albatross,' was chosen for the adventure, with Nathan Winship as captain, and William Smith as chief mate. Everything necessary for building, plant-

ing and trading was included in the outfit, the prominent idea being permanent settlement. With a crew of twenty-two men the vessel was to proceed round Cape Horn to the Columbia, and ascend that stream some thirty miles, when the captain was to select a site for settlement. It must be remembered that at this time the lower Columbia had been explored by no white man save the party of Lewis and Clark, Gray, and Broughton. The land was to be purchased from the natives, and a large two-story log-house, or fortress, was to be erected, with loop-holes for cannon and musketry, and all the conveniences for defense. On the second floor were to be placed all the arms and ammunition, and to this part of the building no native was ever to be admitted. Entrance to the upper story should be by a single trap-door, and the ladder should be always drawn up after ascending. Land was to be cleared and cultivated under protection of the guns, and not less than half the men were to be always on guard."—H. H. Bancroft.

Oak Point.—July, 1809, the "Albatross" set sail via the Sandwich Islands, where the captain took on board some hogs and goats, also twenty-five Kanakas, and then proceeded to the Columbia, which he entered May 26, 1810. Captain Winship went up the river forty miles to a point on the south side, where he caught sight of some oak trees, beautifully located; and he named it Oak Point. This was on the bank opposite the present village of that name. He decided to build a two-story log house at that place to serve as a fort, as well as a warehouse; and it was his purpose to cultivate the land close by. The little company hewed logs and made other preparations for the structure, but the June flood threatened to overflow the locality, and the Indians grew troublesome; so the captain concluded not to build, but to trade with the Indians along the coast, and leave for future decision the question of building the fort.

Before taking up the founding of Astoria, Fort Henry and Spokane House should be considered.

Fort Henry.—Major Andrew Henry, a partner in the Missouri Fur Company, crossed the continental divide in the fall of 1810, and wintered in two or three log cabins on Henry's Fork of Snake River. The entire party returned down the Yellowstone and Missouri toward St. Louis in the spring. These cabins, which were never again occupied for trade purposes, came to be called Fort Henry.

Spokane House.—Alexander Henry says, in the Henry-Thompson Journals, that Spokane House was established in the summer of 1810,¹ by the Northwest Company. It passed to the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821 and was abandoned in 1826 when Fort Colville on the Columbia River was occupied.

The "Tonquin" Enters the Columbia.—The next attempt to establish a trading fort in Oregon was a New York venture. With the purpose of capturing the Oregon fur trade and establishing a trading fort on the Columbia, John Jacob Astor, of New York City, organized the Pacific Fur Company, with the central station at Astoria. September 6, 1810, the "Tonquin" was given safe conduct from New York out to sea by the historic battleship "Constitution." She arrived off the mouth of the Columbia, March 22, 1811, and three days later rode safely into Baker's Bay within shelter of the Cape—the ship having lost seven of her crew in a hazardous effort to find a channel across the bar.



John Jacob Astor

Astoria Founded.—"On the twelfth of April," according to Gabriel Franchere, one of Astor's clerks, "Astor's partners who

¹H. H. Bancroft says 1809.

had come on the 'Tonquin,' began the erection of a log fort on the south side of the Columbia River on a point which was christened 'Astoria,' in honor of the founder and chief promoter of the enterprise, a name now borne by a thriving commercial city, which marks the spot where America first planted her foot



Astoria in 1813

firmly upon the disputed territory of Oregon. The site of the fort was about one hundred yards south of the shore line of the bay inland from the O. R. N. docks. A store-house was built and the supplies landed. The significance of the founding of Astoria as viewed at that time is fully explained in a communication from President Jefferson to John Jacob Astor, as follows:

"I considered as a great public acquisition the commencement of a settlement on that point of the western coast of North America, and looked forward with gratification to the time when its descendants should have spread themselves through the whole length of that coast, covering it with free and independent Americans, unconnected with us except by the ties of blood and interest, and enjoying like us the rights of self-government."

Tragedy of the "Tonquin."—On the fifth of June, before the fort was completed, Captain Thorn sailed northward to Clayoquot Harbor, near the Strait of Fuca, to engage in trade with the Indians and to cultivate friendly relations with the

Russian settlements. Like Christopher Columbus, Captain Thorn of the "Tonquin" was an able navigator; and like Columbus, he did not know how to govern civilized men, and knew less how to deal with savages. Consequently, while his ship was in Clayoquot Harbor in search of fur trade, the Captain needlessly offended one of the leading chiefs, whereupon the natives returned to their village. Early the next day, however, about five hundred came back, their pretended friendship concealing murderous designs. They fell upon the unsuspecting crew, killing all but five. Four of these were captured upon making an effort to escape, while the fifth, who was wounded, remained on board ship. It is believed that, like Samson of old, the wounded man, in a final effort destroyed himself and his enemies, for the good ship, crowded with the enemy, was blown to atoms by an ignited powder magazine. Not one of the "Tonquin"¹ crew was left to tell the story of the ill-fated ship.

The Ship "Beaver" Arrives at Astoria.—The Astor Company promptly equipped the sailing ship "Beaver" to take the place of the lost "Tonquin." The "Beaver" landed at Astoria with abundant supplies May 10, 1812. The Company planned rival establishments to all North-West Company trading posts on the Columbia River and its tributaries; and it seemed for a time that the Astor fur traders would prosper in the Oregon Country. But as will be seen there was much trouble in store for them.

Astoria Christened as Fort George.—Late in the year 1812 some of the Astor partners were told that a war was raging between Great Britain and the United States, and that the North-West Company expected a British ship to capture Astoria. Resolving to abandon the Columbia River, they sold the belongings of the Pacific Fur Company at a sacrifice to the North-West Company, October 16, 1813. On the 30th of November the long expected "Raccoon," a British sloop-of-war, was seen near Cape Disappointment; on the 12th of December,

¹ For account of the "Tonquin" disaster see Irving's "Astoria."

the American flag was hauled down to give place to the Union Jack, and the name of the station was changed to Fort George.

America Seeks Possession of Oregon.—After the War of 1812 had ended, it was natural that America should desire Oregon's restoration. The American Secretary of State, in July, 1815, therefore, notified the British minister at Washington that the Americans would again occupy the Columbia. Two years later, September, 1817, our government ordered Captain Biddle of the "Ontario" to go to Astoria and assert the claims of the United States to the Oregon Country in a friendly and peaceable manner.

American Title to Oregon Acknowledged.—At once the British minister registered objections to the request of the Americans. But by the treaty of peace which was now signed, the two nations agreed that they would restore the territory they had taken from each other during the war. The British minister, however, claimed that Astoria was not taken during the war, but that it was purchased by British subjects. In answer, the American Secretary claimed Oregon: first, as a portion of the Louisiana Purchase from France; second, by reason of the discovery of the Columbia by Captain Gray; third, by reason of the Lewis and Clark expedition; fourth, the establishment by the Pacific Fur Company of the forts of Astoria, Okanagan, and Spokane, and by other rights. The Secretary further argued that the American traders sold their stock in Astoria through fear of a British man-of-war which threatened to enter the harbor. After a sharp conflict of words, however, the American flag was permitted to float over Astoria, October 6th, 1818. While American rights to Oregon were thus acknowledged, the northern boundary line was yet to be determined.

Joint Occupation of Oregon.—The Oregon Question was again discussed by the diplomatic representatives of Great Britain and America, October 20, 1818, the British claiming the Columbia as the north boundary of Oregon, and the Americans claiming the forty-ninth parallel as the true boundary. Therefore the Oregon Question involved the territory lying between

the Columbia River and the present north boundary of the United States. The representatives of both nations were firm in their contention; and the American Government not being able to press her claims, accepted a provision for the joint occupation of Oregon for a term of ten years. This treaty resulted in enabling both nations to settle on land and to trade on equal standing in all parts of Oregon until the boundary question was finally decided and American right to the Oregon Country fully confirmed by Great Britain. The reader will find the account of the final settlement of the Oregon boundary question in Epoch III.

Hall J. Kelley Advocates Occupation of Oregon.—A Boston schoolmaster by the name of Hall J. Kelley performed an important part in keeping before the American people the question of Oregon occupation and settlement. "As early as 1817 he directed public attention to the Oregon Country. He organized a land expedition in 1828, but this failed in its equipment. Then soon after he urged the formation of an expedition by sea with a view of colonizing the Puget Sound country. In this he also failed to secure the needful support."¹ In 1828 he organized the American Society, which was incorporated by the State of Massachusetts, for the settlement of the Oregon Territory. Two years later the society presented a memorial to Congress setting forth that they were engaged in the work of opening to a civilized and virtuous population that part of Western America, called Oregon; and they asked



Hall J. Kelley

¹ Binger Hermann, in "Louisiana Purchase and Our Title West of the Rocky Mountains."

Congress to aid them in carrying into operation the purposes of their institution; to grant them military assistance; to make it possible for settlers to get sufficient lands at the junction of the Multnomah (Willamette) with the Columbia and "to grant them such other rights and privileges as may contribute to the means of establishing a respectable and prosperous community."¹

The Multnomah Townsite Project.—Congress having failed to encourage the scheme set forth by the society in 1831, the latter published an announcement which began as follows: "Oregon Settlement to be commenced in the Spring of 1832 on the delightful and fertile banks of the Columbia River." The expedition was to start in March, 1832. Upon their arrival in Oregon a town was to be laid out at the juncture of the Columbia and Multnomah, and each emigrant was to receive a town lot and a farm in that locality; also a lot in a town at the mouth of the Columbia, these places being already platted on paper. But Congress again failed to take action, and the plan failed. Kelley, in 1832, set out for Oregon by way of Mexico. "In California he fell in with Ewing Young in 1834." They drove a band of horses to Oregon; but upon their arrival at Vancouver (October 15, 1834) they found themselves accused of horse stealing. Later they were exonerated by the Governor of California. But Mr. Kelley having lost his health and fortune in the effort to colonize Oregon returned to Massachusetts the following March.

Movement to Settle Oregon.—At this time American right to Oregon consisted of a claim to title without described boundary lines. Furthermore, there were not enough Americans in the Oregon Country to hold their territory. The situation, therefore, gave rise to much solicitude throughout the states. The Missouri Fur Company, in 1808, made St. Louis a center in fur trading. This trade gradually extended north and westward. In 1822 General William H. Ashley sent out bands of trappers

¹ The important relation of Boston and Massachusetts to the discovery, settlement, and Christianization of the Oregon Country deserves particular notice. The principal commerce by sea from Gray's discovery to 1850 was by Massachusetts ships.

strong enough to withstand the attacks of Indians. Later David Jackson, William Sublette and others extended the Missouri fur trade district to the Columbia River, where the trappers clashed with the Hudson's Bay Company.

Union of the Two British Fur Companies.—Beginning with the year 1800 the rivalry between the North-West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company caused the reduction of dividends and tended to the demoralization of the Indians, so that in June, 1819, the question of rivalries and existing disputes was brought before the British parliament. Later a compromise was effected and the two companies merged into one. "In conjunction with this coalition," according to H. H. Bancroft, "an act for regulating the fur trade and establishing a criminal and civil jurisdiction in certain parts of North America was passed by Parliament, July 2, 1821, which consummated the union. The name of Hudson's Bay Company was retained in preference to the other by reason of its age, respectability and charter."

Doctor McLoughlin Sent to Oregon.—"In 1824 the

new organization, called the Hudson's Bay Company, sent out Dr. John McLoughlin to take charge of its business in the Columbia region. This remarkable man had a genius for organization and command. He was of a resolute character with great kindness of disposition. He never tolerated the slightest disobedience in his wide domain, and yet his subordinates seem



Dr. John McLoughlin

to have mingled genuine affection with unbounded respect for him. In dealing with the Indians he first of all convinced them

of his power to enforce his will. When they became submissive, as they invariably did, he treated them with a mingling of paternal severity and kindness which won their hearts and made them the loyal servants of the Company. Doctor McLoughlin was an excellent man of business, and an admirable ruler over the wild country which had been assigned to him and the adventurous characters who inhabited it, but he was much more than a mere man of business. He was a far-sighted statesman, enlightened in conduct and liberal in his opinions. He developed the fur trade in the Oregon Country until it became the most profitable part of the Company's vast domains. At Vancouver,

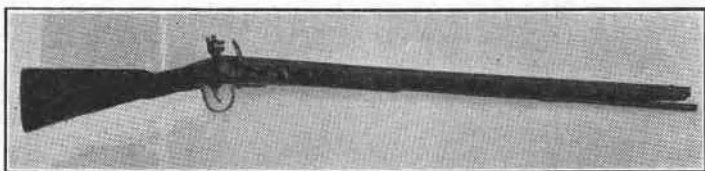


Vancouver in 1845

where he established his headquarters, he introduced farming and stock raising, planted an orchard and built a sawmill and a gristmill."—C. H. Chapman.

Chief Interest of the Hudson's Bay Company in Oregon.—The entire Northwest was rich in fur-bearing animals. "There were bear, panther, lynx, muskrat, beaver, marten, mink, otter, fox, wildcat, and numerous other animals whose pelts could be obtained in vast quantities and which commanded extravagant prices in foreign markets. The Hudson's Bay Company, becoming aware of the great value of this fur supply, employed men—mostly French Canadians—who married Indian women, lived the forest life, and earned their maintenance by securing pelts at low cost. As a result, profits were so great

that the Company tenaciously held its claims in Oregon until the rich harvest of pelts was practically exhausted. During this time only a few farms, homes, schools, churches or other colonial enterprises were developed, as the fur trade constituted the chief interest of the Hudson's Bay Company in Oregon."¹



Kind of Gun bartered by the Hudson's Bay Company to the Indians for Furs.

(Courtesy Oregon Historical Society.)

Settlement Begun.—"Doctor McLoughlin encouraged a number of men who had left the Company's service to settle in Oregon, and aided them to establish farms. Travelers, explorers, and men of science were always welcome at the Vancouver fort. Even rival traders, like Nathaniel Wyeth, were received politely, though Dr. McLoughlin knew very well how to guard his commercial interests against their encroachments. Finally, when the missionaries began to arrive, and the trains of immigrants to follow them, although McLoughlin must have foreseen the inevitable consequences to the fur business and to the British dominion, nevertheless he sold, lent and often gave them supplies, relieved their distress and encouraged them with wise counsel. Doctor McLoughlin was often misunderstood by the pioneers and sometimes maligned, but the verdict of history will be that he is clearly entitled to be called the "Father of Oregon."²

Jedediah S. Smith.—American trappers along the headwaters of the Missouri had extended their operations to the tributaries of the Columbia; and in the course of events, Jedediah S. Smith, of the Missouri Fur Company, found himself practically at the head of this enterprise in this locality. He traversed desert and mountain to San Diego in 1826, being the first white man to make an overland journey from the United

¹ Story of Oregon.

² Story of Oregon.

States into California. The Indians killing most of his men, he organized a new party of nineteen men whom he led along the coast into Oregon in 1828. This was the first party of white men to travel overland from California to Oregon. While at the mouth of the Umpqua River all except three of his men were killed by Indians who captured his horses, furs, and other property. After many hardships, Smith arrived at Fort Vancouver in destitute circumstances. But such was the power of Dr. McLoughlin—the Czar of the Pacific Northwest—that he recovered the stolen property from the Indians. Such was the generosity of Dr. McLoughlin that he paid the owner the market price for the booty recovered, and charged him only \$1.16 per week as hire for each of the fifty Hudson's Bay men, and \$4 for each horse lost in the expedition against the Indians. And, according to H. H. Bancroft, "such was the gratitude of Smith, who was no less conscientious as a Christian than shrewd as a trader, for the kind service rendered him while in a destitute and forlorn condition, that on his return to the Shoshone country he insisted that his company should for a time retire from the fur-fields west of the Rocky Mountains, and Sublette and the rest reluctantly consented."

Captain Bonneville.—One of the early adventurers in Oregon was Captain Bonneville, whose experiences as related by Washington Irving are familiar to the average school boy. Bonneville was a native of France, a graduate of West Point, and explorer of the Rocky Mountains and Far West (1831-6). By driving wagons through the South Pass to Wind River, Wyoming, in 1833, he did much to establish the correctness of Senator Benton's prediction that Oregon would some day be connected by wagon road with the states. But according to Washington Irving, Captain Bonneville's chief object



Lieutenant Bonneville

in pursuing this exploration was "to make himself acquainted with the country and the Indian tribes; it being one part of the scheme to establish a trading post somewhere on the lower part of the Columbia River, so as to participate in the trade lost to the United States by the capture of Astoria." He reached the Hudson's Bay trading post, Fort Walla Walla (now Wallula), March 4, 1834. After remaining a few days at the Fort "he returned to the general rendezvous for his various expeditions." In July of that year, the Captain being well equipped with trappers and goods, started on a second expedition to the Columbia. "He still contemplated the restoration of American trade in this country. This time he passed through the Blue Mountains by way of the Grande Ronde Valley and the Umatilla River." But Captain Bonneville was not a match for the Hudson's Bay Company nor for the American fur traders, hence his venture completely failed. Although he was unable to cope with these trading companies, his name has been given to a town on the Columbia, and his adventures as a mountaineer have been chronicled in history and literature.

Wyeth Journeys Overland to Oregon.—Among those who became interested in the Oregon Country through the literature circulated by Hall J. Kelley was Captain Nathaniel J. Wyeth of Boston, who organized an overland expedition to Oregon in 1831. Also that year he sent a ship around Cape Horn to Oregon. In the spring of 1832, Wyeth started overland from Boston, reaching Vancouver on October 29th of the same year. The ship which was to bring trade supplies having been wrecked, he was compelled to return to Boston to provide another ship and secure another cargo.



Nathaniel Wyeth

Wyeth's Second Visit to Oregon.—In the fall of 1833 Wyeth sent the Boston ship "May

Dacre" with supplies for the Columbia River. In 1834, he made his second overland journey, reaching Vancouver in September. The "May Dacre," having arrived too late for the salmon fishing season, was sent with a cargo of timber to the Hawaiian Islands. His trading expedition failed, and Wyeth returned to Boston.

Annual Indian Fairs.—While Wyeth and other fur traders were putting forth strenuous efforts to traffic with the Indians, the natives were bartering extensively among themselves. We learn from no less authority than Doctor William McKay and Alexander Ross that when the first trappers and traders came to Oregon the Indians held great fairs annually in the Yakima Valley, also at The Dalles and at Yainax, which is near Klamath Lake. Various tribes sent delegations to these fairs for the purpose of trade and festival in such numbers that Ross reported having seen in the Yakima Valley a camp of native lodges covering six miles and containing three thousand people. Also Samuel A. Clarke tells us in his "Pioneer Days of Oregon" that at these fairs the Indians exchanged products, sold horses and slaves, and carried on all manner of native commerce. Everything that was for sale was placed on the market at these annual gatherings where the natives gambled with all the ardor of Indian nature. Trials of archery were held, and there were races—on horse and afoot—the tribes wagering their money, their horses, and sometimes their wives. Feasting, orgies, and dancing took place. The heart of some fierce enemy was exhibited with commendable pride. It might have been dried like a mummy encased in a deer skin cover embroidered with bead work and porcupine quills. Scalps were proudly displayed, and the scalp dance was planned regardless of expense. The most accomplished warriors went through the maneuvers of battle, in a space surrounded by a circle of drummers beating time to barbaric music. Around the fire, which was in the very center, the principal warriors went through various evolutions, uttering horrid cries, flourishing their arrows, hurling their spears, brandishing

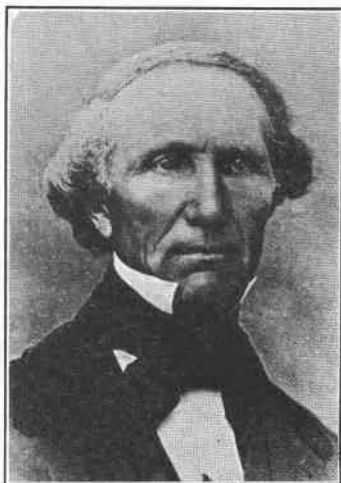
their tomahawks, or performing the pantomime of scalping their victims—every one participating, except the chiefs who were looking on with dignified appreciation from their elevated canopies. Then the young chiefs were paired off with the forest belles who were chosen to be brides, and who were adorned with feathers, beads, paint, nose-quills, and rings for their fingers, ankles and wrists. These were some of the features of the Indian fairs that were annually held in the Oregon Country before it was occupied by the white race.

First School in the Pacific Northwest.—We now consider for the first time the education of children in the Oregon Country. The first school in the Pacific Northwest was taught by John Ball, of Boston, Massachusetts, who was a graduate of Dartmouth College. Mr. Ball arrived with Nathaniel Wyeth at Fort Vancouver in November, 1832. Here, at the request of Doctor McLoughlin he taught school, beginning the following New Year's Day. Upon Mr. Ball's resignation (March 1, 1834) the school was continued eighteen months by Solomon Smith, who had also come with Wyeth.

In a letter to Elwood Evans, author of the "History of the Northwest," Mr. Ball gave the following account of that school:

"The scholars came in talking their respective languages—Nez Perce, Chinook, Klickitat, etc. I could not understand them, and

when I called them to order there was but one who understood me. As I had come from a land where discipline was expected in school management, I could not persuade myself that I could accomplish anything without order. I therefore issued my



John Ball
First School Teacher in the Pacific
Northwest.

orders, and to my surprise, he who understood joined issue with me upon my government in the school. While endeavoring to impress upon him the necessity of discipline and order in the school, and through him making such necessity appreciated by his associates, Dr. McLoughlin, chief factor, entered. To the Doctor, I explained my difficulty. He investigated my complaint, found my statements correct, and at once made such an example of the refractory boy that I never afterward experienced any trouble in governing. I continued in the school over eighteen months, during which the scholars learned to speak English. Several could repeat some of Murray's grammar verbatim. Some had gone through arithmetic, and upon review, copied it—entirely. These copies were afterward used as school books, there having been only one printed copy at Fort Vancouver. The school numbered twenty-five pupils."

Indians Search for Religious Teachers.—Lewis and Clark, also French and English fur traders, and probably native missionaries from eastern tribes had told the Flatheads and Nez Perces that the greatness of the white people was largely due to their religion. Hence some of the more intelligent Indians desired to learn of the white man's God. These facts reached the attention of churches in the states, and accounts were diligently circulated by pulpit and press to the effect that the Flatheads and Nez Perces sent five of their leading men toward the rising sun in search of religious instruction. Though one of their number soon returned, the other four continued their journey to St. Louis where they were kindly received. Upon learning the purpose of their visit General Clark informed them that teachers would be sent to their people—a promise which was soon made good by churches, and later by the government. The Indians were received kindly by General Clark, but being unaccustomed to indoor life, two of them died during the winter. With the approach of spring the remaining two departed for their tribal home. But on their journey one died, leaving only one to return to his people with the promise that the light of the white man's life would be sent to them.

While historians differ as to the accuracy of this and similar accounts, it is known that untutored Indians from the Oregon Country, possibly in the spirit of mere adventure, visited St. Louis at various times, dating as early as 1831, and that these visits were frequently mentioned by churches in the development of the missionary spirit which was influential in bringing the first permanent white population, and in laying the foundation for public education and for the present social system of Oregon.

The First Methodist Missionaries to Oregon.—It was also explained that these Indians desired to be taught the arts of peace. These accounts appealed to the churches, which had enthusiastically accepted the hymn, "From Greenland's Icy Mountains," written by Bishop Heber, and a tremendous missionary spirit was aroused.

Soon the Methodist denomination sent Rev. Jason Lee to the Flathead Indians; and it will be seen that as Jason of Grecian lore had led the Argonauts into a distant land in search of the golden fleece, another Jason—possibly a namesake of his—now led a little band of Argonauts to the far-away Oregon in quest of a treasure more precious than gold. These Argonauts were Rev. Daniel Lee, Cyrus Shepard, P. L. Edwards, and C. M. Walker. With their leader they joined Wyeth's

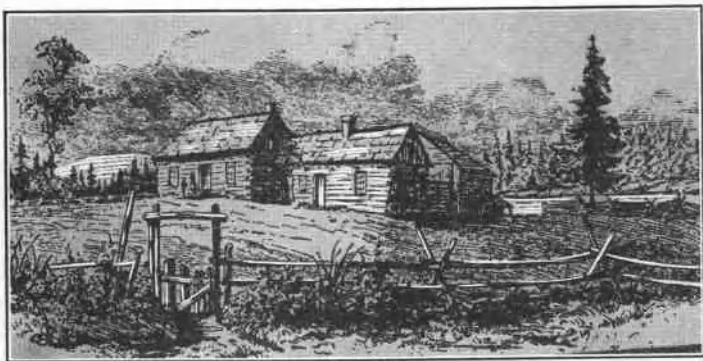


Rev. Jason Lee

Overland party in 1834, sending their freight by Wyeth's ship "May Dacre." Instead of going to the Flathead Indians as directed, the party, under the advice of Doctor McLoughlin, located a mission near the east bank of the Willamette River, about sixty miles above its confluence with the Columbia.

Immediately they set about building a house, a barn, fences and other things necessary to the home life of people in a new country.

Found White Settlers in the Willamette Valley.—Here the missionaries found about a dozen Canadian settlers with Indian wives, scattered about on "French Prairie," a few miles east of the mission. The white settlers had been in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company, and had chosen wives from among the native women; for it will not be overlooked that it was the custom of the Hudson's Bay Company's officers and men to intermarry with the Indians for protection and for trade, as well as to establish some family relation in the Indian country. In accordance with the policy of the Company these settlers received much encouragement from the Doctor, who desired their half-caste families to become useful men and women. Also the Doctor gave much encouragement to the missionaries while establishing their educational work among the people.



Jason Lee's Mission—1834

Educational Movement.—At this time heathendom reigned along the entire Pacific slope north of the land of the Montezumas. Hence the Oregon missionaries were naturally disposed to organize schools in order to promote industry, science, morality and piety. The first school they established in the

Willamette Valley was known as the Indian Mission and Manual Labor School. It was promoted for the instruction of Indian children—some of whom were full-blood, others half-caste; and it was supported by the Methodist Mission. It was located near Wheatland, in 1834, but was moved to the present site of Willamette University in 1842.

Under the influence of the missionaries it was decided (1842) to organize Oregon Institute primarily for the instruction of white children. The school was to be supported by the colonists until some Protestant church should pledge itself to sustain it. In 1844 the Indian school, which had been moved to Salem (1842), was discontinued, and the property was sold to the trustees of Oregon Institute, which in the course of events developed into Willamette University. Thus the two schools contributed to the origin of the first institution of higher learning in the Pacific Northwest.

A brief account of the Indian Mission and Manual Labor School will now be given, while that of the Oregon Institute and Willamette University will appear toward the close of the Epoch.

First School in Oregon.—Soon after Rev. Jason Lee arrived in the Willamette Valley he established the Indian Mission and Manual Labor School in a big log cabin near the east bank of the Willamette River opposite what was later called Wheatland. This was the first school south of the Columbia. It was taught by Philip L. Edwards. Commencing with only a few pupils, twenty-five more were brought in from the settlers on French Prairie, and from native Indians, on either side of the Cascade Mountains. These people were all placed in one small house. None of them was accustomed to such confinement, all having been brought up in tents, tepees, or the open air. Some were diseased; many became ill from change of diet, and soon an epidemic similar to diphtheria broke out, and instead of a school the place became a hospital, with sixteen children lying sick at one time in a small room. After the school languished for a period, it increased to about forty. A strange malady, however, fell on the children; hence in the fall of 1842

the school was moved into a new ten thousand dollar edifice erected at Chemeketa, now the city of Salem. For various reasons the attendance again decreased; and in 1844, upon the arrival of Rev. George Gary, who had succeeded Rev. Jason Lee to the superintendency of the Oregon Mission, the Oregon Mission and Manual Labor School was closed.

The First School-Teacher in Oregon.—Philip L. Edwards was a Kentuckian by birth. He came from Richmond, Missouri, to Oregon, when he was twenty-three years of age. Of more than ordinary attainments, he loved order and refinement. A frontiersman, he knew how to accommodate himself to the rough conditions of pioneer life. After teaching this school he returned to Missouri, studied law and married. In 1850 he went to California, settling in Nevada county, taking an active part in politics and dying in May, 1869.—“Centennial History of Oregon.”

Methodist Reinforcements.—In 1837, eight persons were brought on the ship “Hamilton” from Boston via the Sandwich Islands as a reinforcement for the mission of which Jason Lee was the head. Among them was Elijah White who was to be the physician of the Mission. He brought with him his wife, an infant son, and an adopted son fourteen years of age. There were also Alanson Beers, the blacksmith, who was later member of the first Executive Committee of the Provisional Government; the kindly W. H. Willson, who lived to locate the Salem town-site; Miss Anna Maria Pittman; also Miss Susan Downing and Miss Elvira Johnson. In May, 1840, another reinforcement came on the “Lausanne” from New York, increasing the missionary family to sixty persons. A hospital was at once built and the work of the Mission enlarged and intensified in every way possible.

The Dalles Mission.—“On March 22, 1836, Daniel Lee and H. W. Perkins, under the superintendency of Jason Lee, established “a Methodist mission to the Indians at The Dalles of the Columbia.” It was commonly known as “The Dalles Mission” among the whites, but it was called “Wascopam” by the Indians.

“Wascopam” was the name of the fine spring of water which the missionaries used, and which is now the source of water



Rev. Jason Lee Preaching to the Indians

supply for the high school that occupies the site of the old mission. “Wasco” is the Indian word for a “basin,” and “pam” means a “place”; hence “Wascopam” means “the place of a basin.” Also from this basin the County of Wasco received its name. At Wascopam the missionaries cultivated a farm of thirty acres, and carried on their work successfully until 1847, when the Mission was sold to Dr. Marcus Whitman. His untimely death soon after, resulted in closing The Dalles Mission as well as the other three Protestant missions which had been established between the Rocky Mountains and the Cascade Range.”—Mrs. L. D. Crandall.

Pulpit Rock also marks the site of Wascopam Mission. It is one of the oldest pulpits in the world. It was carved by Nature long before the advent of the white man in America. Pulpit Rock, which is about twelve feet high, overlooks an open air auditorium of sloping ground where the Indians assembled to hear the missionaries preach, much after the manner of the Greeks who gathered about the Pnyx to hear Demosthenes deliver his orations. This ancient pulpit was, therefore, very

sacred to the more devout Indians. Seated on Pulpit Rock, as shown in the accompanying view, is Joseph Luxillo, an Indian



Pulpit Rock

Gifford

who was baptized by the missionaries with water from Wascopam Spring and who later became an influential preacher on the Simcoe Reservation. He was one of many Indians who made pilgrimages to this shrine to renew their vows long after Wascopam Mission had been abandoned by the whites.

Marriage Rite First Solemnized in Oregon.—Prior to the coming of the Methodist missionaries marriage had been a civil contract, and there was considerable laxity as to native unions. On Sunday, July 16,

1837, religious service was held in the beautiful grove near the Lee Mission. Jason Lee made some remarks on "The Propriety of Marriage, and Duties Devolving upon the Married." In conclusion he added, "What I urged by precept, I am about to enforce by example;" then he offered his arm to Miss Anna Maria Pittman; the marriage service being performed by Rev. Daniel Lee. Jason Lee united Cyrus Shepard and Miss Susan Downing in marriage, and later in the day he performed a similar service for a Hudson's Bay employee, named Charles J. Roe, and Nancy McKay, a half-breed daughter of Captain McKay. Thus the marriage rite as administered by churches was first observed in Oregon.

Other Denominations Come to Old Oregon.—When it became known that Jason Lee had established the Methodist Mission in the Willamette Valley, other religious denominations soon became interested in the Indians of the Northwest. Finally

the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions became active. In 1835 Dr. Samuel Parker and Dr. Marcus Whitman were sent west to explore the field. While on their journey they learned that missionaries would receive a welcome among the Indians west of the Rocky Mountains. Doctor Whitman forthwith returned to the East to procure assistance, but Doctor Parker continued his journey to the Oregon Country, and lived at Fort Vancouver the following winter. He visited the Walla Walla Valley and reported it to be "a delightful situation for a missionary establishment." He explored the Lewis and Spokane Rivers, becoming greatly interested in teaching the Indians whom he found. In 1837 he returned to Vancouver, whence he sailed to New York via the Sandwich Islands.—Dr. Parker's Book.

Doctor Whitman's Return.—

When Doctor Whitman arrived in New York state with his story of the Indians and their needs, the Board at once placed him in charge of a mission to be organized in the new country. The following year Rev. and Mrs. H. H. Spalding and Mr. W. H. Gray accompanied Doctor and Mrs. Whitman. They traveled with the fur traders from Missouri to the Columbia. Because of Mrs. Spalding's feeble health she was carried in a wagon or cart to Green River, but from there she was able to travel on horseback. She and Mrs. Whitman were the first white women to cross the Rocky Mountains by the South Pass.

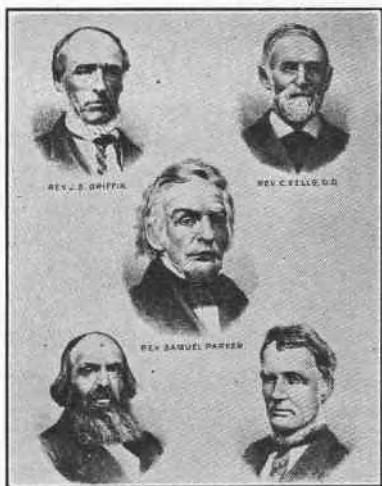


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*"Coming of the White Man"
(Statue in Portland)*

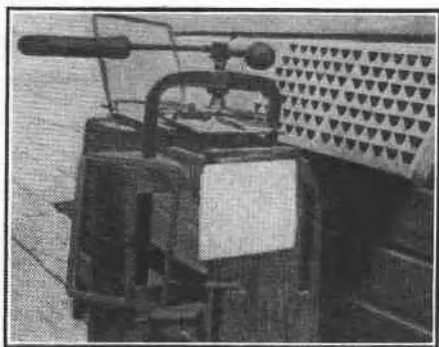
New Missions.—Leaving the women at Fort Vancouver in September, 1836, the men retraced their journey up the river to Waiilatpu, which is seven miles from the present site of Walla Walla. Here Doctor and Mrs. Whitman were to labor. Hence it was called the Waiilatpu Mission. In the Nez Perces country on the Clearwater, a mission was located, and Rev. and Mrs. Spalding were placed in charge of the work. In 1838, Rev. Cushing Eells and wife, Rev. Elkanah

Walker and wife, occupied the Spokane Mission. Adobe houses



REV. H. H. SPALDING

REV. ELKANAH WALKER

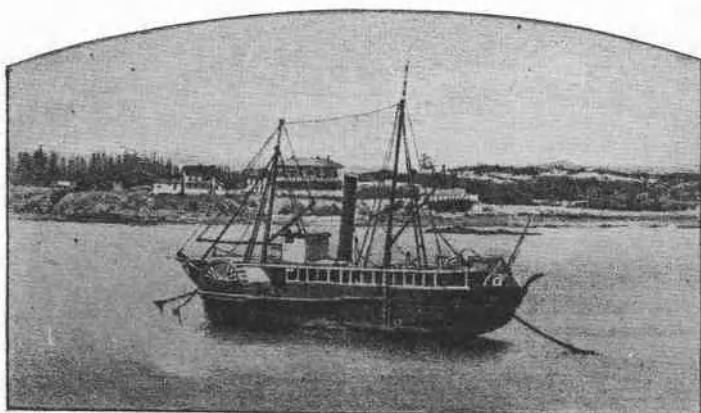


Mission Printing Press

were built, land was fenced and ploughed, crops were sown and harvested, cattle were borrowed from Doctor McLoughlin, portions of the Bible were translated and printed in the Nez Perce language; and an effort was made to interest the Indians in domestic life as the shortest way to civilization.¹

¹ First printing press in the Pacific Northwest. Brought to Oregon from Honolulu, Hawaii, 1839. Used at Lapwai Mission Station, near Lewiston, Idaho, May 18th of that year by E. O. Hall, in printing leaflets containing hymns and Bible verses in the Indian language, from translations made by Rev. and Mrs. H. H. Spalding. It is now in the Oregon Historical Society Museum, Portland.

The Steamship "Beaver."—Among the most memorable ships to enter the river, now called the Columbia, were the "Columbia," the "Tonquin," and the steamship "Beaver." The first two have already been mentioned—the "Columbia" as the first to enter the river named for the ship, and the "Tonquin," which brought the Astor partners who established the trading post Fort Astor, now Astoria. Because of the growth of the Oregon fur trade there soon came a demand for more rapid transportation. This called for craft propelled by steam. To meet the situation the Hudson's Bay Company, on August 27, 1835,



The S. S. Beaver

dispatched the steamship "Beaver" from Gravesend, England, to Vancouver on the Columbia River. The S.S. "Beaver" was built on the Thames River in 1835, and should not be confused with the American sailing vessel of the same name, which was brought into the Columbia River in 1812 by the Astor Company. Because the S. S. "Beaver" was unable to carry sufficient coal for so long a journey by steam, the principal part of the voyage was made under sail; but there is proof that she used her engine in crossing the "doldrums," the belt of calms between 3° north and 4° south of the equator. Otherwise the voyage was unevent-

ful except on February 28, when, according to the log, the "weather was too unsettled to read prayers." She arrived in the Columbia, March 18, 1836, with the record of being the first steamship to enter the waters of the Pacific Ocean. She was also the first steamship to cross the equator in either ocean. The "Beaver" then proceeded up the river, where she did valuable service for the Hudson's Bay Company. This was the beginning of steam navigation on the Columbia River.

President Sends Commissioners to Oregon.—In order that he might know from more reliable sources the wisest policy to pursue in the development of the Northwest, President Jackson, in 1836, sent Mr. W. A. Slacum, U. S. N., to secure such information as he could concerning Oregon. On this journey, which extended up the Willamette River as far as the present site of the capital, he was careful to note all matters of importance. At that time the country was new and particularly rich in pasture grasses. This fact appealed to Mr. Slacum,¹ and he encouraged the settlers to procure herds of cattle. These could be purchased from the Mexicans in California, who were in the habit of slaughtering cattle merely for their hides and tallow. To encourage the project Slacum gave a number of the settlers free passage on his ship to California, where the party under the direction of Ewing Young and P. L. Edwards bought eight hundred head of cattle at three dollars each, and forty horses at twelve dollars each. In the fall of 1837 their stock was brought overland to Oregon with a loss of one-fourth of the number purchased. It is estimated, therefore, that a cow cost the settlers about \$3.75, and a horse \$15.00. Within a few years cows were regularly sold in the Willamette Valley for \$50 each and oxen at \$100 to \$150 per yoke, such was the demand for them after settlers increased in number.

Slacum Creates Further Interest in Oregon.—In 1837, Mr. Slacum, who had returned to the United States, made a report to the government in which he insisted that the Oregon Country should extend to the 49th parallel. In reciting the

¹ Sometimes this name appears as Slocum.

story of the Willamette Valley settlement he impressed Congress with the gravity of the Oregon boundary question which had occupied the attention of that body at different times since 1820, and which was yet to be the subject of much contention between the United States and Great Britain.

Linn, Lee, and Farnham.—By this time Oregon had many influential friends throughout the Nation to espouse her cause. Prominent among those who championed Oregon in Congress was Senator Lewis F. Linn, of Missouri, who, in the year 1838 proposed to recognize Oregon as a territory. Although Senator Linn's bill failed to become a law, the information it contained was distributed by various means throughout the United States, and in that way developed renewed interest in the West. In that same year Jason Lee canvassed Missouri and Illinois asking aid for the Willamette Mission; and he carried with him a petition to Congress, which Senator Linn presented the following year. Mr. Thomas J. Farnham carried to Congress a petition asking protection for the Oregon settlers. The substance of his



Thomas J. Farnham

argument for this petition was that "Oregon is the germ of a great State."

Jason Lee Returns to Oregon.—Jason Lee impressed the people of the eastern states with his devout earnestness and the worthiness of the cause he advocated, and was, therefore,



Jason Lee's Residence; First Mansion in Salem

promptly supplied with forty-two thousand dollars; and fifty persons were assigned to assist him in carrying on the missionary work in the Oregon Country. These workers were distributed among six missions: Mouth of the Columbia, Willamette Falls, Umpqua, The Dalles, Puget Sound, and the Central Mission on the Willamette.

First Catholic Missionaries.—Among the employees of the fur companies in the Oregon Country were many Canadians of the Catholic faith. These intermarried among the Indians and after a time sought missionaries from the auxiliary of the



Archbishop F. N. Blanchet

Bishop of Quebec, who resided at what is now St. Boniface, Manitoba. Under Doctor McLoughlin's direction a number of the Canadian employees of the fur company, whose terms of office had expired, were supplied with farming implements to enable them to settle in the Willamette Valley on what has since been known as French Prairie. This became the nucleus of the prosperous Catholic settlement at St. Paul. At the suggestion of Doctor McLoughlin this community ad-

ressed petitions in 1834 and again in 1835 to the ecclesiastical authorities in Canada for missionaries. After two years the Bishop of Quebec gave charge of the mission of Oregon to Rev. Francis Norbert Blanchet, of the diocese of Montreal, with the title of Vicar-General of Oregon. Rev. Modeste Demers was appointed assistant to the new Vicar-General. The two missionaries arrived at Fort Vancouver on November 24, 1838.

The earliest work¹ of the newly arrived missionaries was among the Canadians and Indians at Vancouver and on the Cowlitz River. Early in January, 1839, Rev. Blanchet proceeded to Champoege and to St. Paul, where he found a log church already erected in expectation of his coming. During the year 1840 Rev. Demers established a mission at Astoria and the Vicar-General made his way by canoe from Fort Nisqually to Whidbey Island, where he gathered the natives about him for daily instruction.

Iroquois Indians were found in considerable numbers in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company. One of them, named Ignace, became a missionary among the Flathead Indians in western Montana.

In 1842 Rev. De Smet visited the Lower Columbia, and at the request of Vicar-General Blanchet, set out for the east and Europe to secure reinforcements for the Catholic missions in Oregon. He returned in 1844 and opened a Sisters' school at St. Paul. In the meantime Rev. Blanchet had, in 1843, opened St. Joseph's College at St. Paul for the sons of the farmers.

In 1845 Vicar-General Blanchet was consecrated Bishop, and the following year Oregon City was made an Archdiocese with Walla Walla and Vancouver Island as suffragan dioceses. Rev. Demers became the first bishop of Vancouver Island and Rev. A. M. A. Blanchet was selected as bishop of Walla Walla.

Chinook Jargon.—One of the tribes among whom Lewis and Clark spent the winter at Fort Clatsop was Chinookan, and their language was spoken by nearly all the Indians living on the Columbia as far east as The Dalles, and up the Willamette to the falls at Oregon City.

The Chinook Jargon was the commercial language used by the fur traders and Indians along the Oregon Coast. Later it was popularized somewhat by missionaries who translated hymns and portions of the Bible into the Jargon for the benefit of the

¹"One of the first steps taken by the Catholic fathers was to separate for a short time the Canadians from their Indian wives, after which the couples were married according to the customs of the Catholic church."—Bancroft.

Indians. The greater part of the Jargon is Chinook, which was in use among Indians of the lower Columbia long before the traders came. Of course many words were introduced by the first voyagers to the Oregon Coast in search of furs; and later by missionaries and others until the Chinook Jargon increased to nearly seven hundred words, only few of which have found their way into literature.¹ The once popular Jargon, having served its purpose, gradually disappeared upon the approach of the comprehensive English, so that there are not many who speak the barbarous dialect at the present time.

Lord's Prayer in Chinook Jargon.—To give an idea of the Chinook Jargon as it was spoken by the early missionaries and fur traders, the following specimen of the Lord's Prayer was taken from Gill's "Dictionary of the Chinook Jargon":

Nesika	papa	klaxta	mitlite	kopa	Sahalee,	kloshe
Our	Father	who	dwellst	in the	Above,	sacred
kopa	nesika	tumtum	mika nem.	Nesika	hiyu	tikeh
in	our	hearts (be)	Thy name.	We	greatly	long for
chahco	mika	illahee.	Mamook	Mika	kloshe	tumtum
the coming	of Thy	kingdom.	Do	Thy	good	will
okoke	illahee,	kahkwa	kopa	Sahalee.	Potlach	konoway
this	world,	as also	in	the heavens.	Give (us)	day by
sun	nesika	muckamuck;	pee	mahlee	konoway	nesika
day	our	bread;	and	remember	not	all
kahkwa	nesika	mamook	kopa	klaska,	spose	mamook
even as	we	do also	with	others	if	they do
kopa	nesika.	Wake	lolo	nesika	kopa	peshak,
unto	ourselves.	Not	bring	us	into	danger,
siah	kopa	nesika	konoway	mesahchee.	Kloshe	kahkwa
far away	from	us	all	evil.	So may	it be.

¹See Hymn on Page 83.

HYMN IN CHINOOK JARGON

(Selected from Eell's "Hymns in the Chinook Jargon.")

Tune: "Hebrew Children."

Kah,	O	kah	mitlite	Daniel	alta?
(Where,	O	where	is	Daniel	now?)

(Twice repeated.)

Siah	kopa	kloshe	illahee.
(Far	off in	the good	land.)

Chorus—

Alta	nesika	klatawa	nanitch,
(By and by	we	will go	to see him,)

(Twice repeated.)

Siah	kopa	kloshe	illahee.
(Far	off in	the good	land.)

By substituting other Biblical names for "Daniel," the hymn may be lengthened to any number of verses. This necessitates repetition; but chorus and other repetition admirably adapted the Chinook Jargon hymns to the untutored mind of the early Indian.

CHAPTER IV

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

They crossed the desert as of old
Their fathers crossed the sea;
To make the West, as they the East,
The homestead of the free.—*Whittier.*

The Oregon Pioneers.—The white settlers, who came when Oregon statehood was a mere Utopian dream, were strong of intellect and heroic of heart. Many of them were the descendants of the sturdy Pilgrims and the adventurous Cavaliers. True to their traditions, they took up the westward journey of their ancestors, and traveled 3,000 miles—one of the longest pilgrimages of historic importance. Their hardships were so severe that every mile of the long journey could have been marked with graves of those who fell along the way. Truly the Oregon emigrants¹ were no less Pilgrims, and upon arriving in Oregon they found themselves among Indians whose language was strange and whose habits were barbarous. But despite the opposition of the natives, in place of forests sprang up homes, school-houses, churches and cities; the prairies were transformed into fields, gardens and orchards; and the treacherous Indian was taught to revere the God of our fathers.

The incomers from 1830 to 1844 were mainly of missionary spirit, determined upon christianizing the Indians and establishing civilization. Oregon produced more standard literature in fifty years than the original Thirteen Colonies produced in the same length of time; and according to area and population there can scarce be found in the Union more colleges, academies, high

¹ "In the history of the Northwest the terms 'emigrants' and 'emigration' have commonly been used instead of 'immigrants' and 'immigration' ".—History of the Pacific Northwest.

schools, churches and other refining forces than there are within the 130 miles lying between Eugene and the metropolis on the lower Willamette.

Largely through the efforts of the earliest pioneers Oregon became the mother of the Pacific Northwest, much as Massachusetts had already become the mother of New England. It is, therefore, the patriotic duty of schools, the press, and social and literary clubs to encourage and promote historical research concerning the country which the pioneers did so much to develop, until the story of Oregon is taught and studied with the same enthusiasm and interest as the history of Massachusetts or that of any other state of the Union.

Necessity for the Colonization of Oregon.—Oregon was the first Pacific Coast region to which there was considerable migration from the States. Several reasons were now apparent why it should be rapidly settled, namely:

1. If the Americans were to dominate Oregon it was necessary for them to be in the majority.

2. There was much uneasiness throughout the United States as to the Oregon Boundary Question, the decision of which many believed would be influenced somewhat by the presence of American settlers.

3. It was the American policy to send colonists to Oregon so that they might develop the resources of the country, and incidentally replace savagery with civilization.

4. Lawlessness was becoming so prevalent that livestock and other property were frequently stolen. Also the Indians, who were acquiring civilization and were dependent upon the whites for government, required better protection for their families and their property. Furthermore, the Americans wanted a government of their own, and the establishment of law and order. To meet this demand there must be enough Americans to enforce such laws as might be made.

5. But above all was the opportunity for men and women to come west and improve their condition.

The Emigration of 1839.—Mention has been made of whites who came to Oregon to trap and trade, and of those who carried on missionary work among the Indians. Various parties had crossed the plains, but the first serious attempt at migration to Oregon was in 1839. This movement resulted from lectures given by Rev. Jason Lee in Illinois and eastward, during the winter of 1837-1838. In the spring of 1839, nineteen men took a two-horse wagon and a band of horses as far as Independence, Missouri. Here they transferred their luggage to pack horses and turned their course toward Santa Fe, where there was abundance of grass and many buffalo. By the last of September they reached Green River, where they met Joe Meek and other well-known trappers. Their suffering was intense, as they traveled through deep snows with only dog-flesh to subsist upon, and nothing but cottonwood boughs for their horses to eat. Of this party only five reached the Willamette Valley.

First Protestant Church on Pacific Coast.—With the migration to Oregon there grew a demand for churches and



First Church West of Rocky Mountains. Built at Oregon City, 1842-1844

schools, and to meet this demand a Methodist church edifice was begun at Oregon City in 1842, and dedicated in 1844. This was the first Protestant church on the Pacific Coast. However, the chapel of the Oregon Institute of Salem had been used for religious services as early as 1841. Prior to that time the Methodists

held religious meetings in homes, in groves, and in the Mission building, their missionary work having been begun by Rev. Jason Lee in 1834.

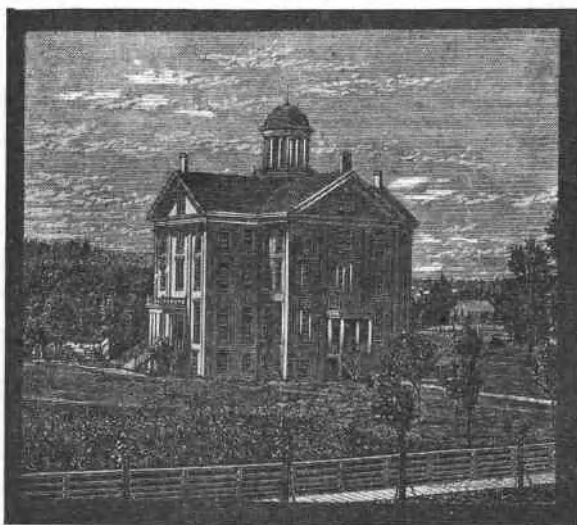
Willamette University.—The missionaries aboard the “Lausanne” on their voyage from New York to Oregon celebrated the centennial of Methodism (October 25, 1839), by starting a fund with which to establish a school in the Willamette Valley. A sermon was preached by Rev. Gustavus Hines, and \$650 was contributed by less than twenty families; and out of the prayerful dream of the “Lausanne” missionaries came forth the first university of the Pacific Coast. But the university was a long time in materializing. Meanwhile these were some of the things that took place:



Old Oregon Institute

The Indian Mission School, which has been mentioned, was moved (1842) to what is now the campus of Willamette University, where it was conducted in a \$10,000 frame building. At about this time the white settlers planned a school for their own children, elected a board of trustees, subscribed funds, named the school The Oregon Institute, resolved that it should grow into a higher institution of learning, and began to look about for a suitable location. Their investigations resulted in the purchase of the Indian Mission School property in 1844, that school having been recently closed. The Oregon Institute was formally opened as a school for white children on the

present University Campus in Salem, August 16 of that year, with Mrs. Chloe Clark Willson as teacher in charge of nineteen pupils. Mrs. Willson (then Chloe Clark), who came to Oregon for the express purpose of teaching the children of the white settlers, was present when the \$650 was subscribed on the "Lausanne" for the establishment of a school in the Willamette Valley. As soon as the Oregon and California Conference¹ of the M. E. Church completed its organization in 1849, it assumed



Waller Hall, Willamette University

entire control of the school, which was incorporated as Willamette University in 1853. The Conference also designated the Oregon Institute as the preparatory school of the University.

Waller Hall, the oldest building on the campus, was begun in 1864, Governor Gibbs delivering the address at the laying of the corner stone. The Greek cross form of the building was

¹ Bishop E. R. Ames organized the Methodist annual conference at Salem, March 17, 1853, including the territory of Oregon and Washington. The second annual conference was presided over by Bishop Matthew Simpson, at Belknap settlement, in Benton County, the following year.

suggested by Bishop Janes of the M. E. Church. The College of Medicine, after giving instruction two years, was formally organized in 1867, and the College of Law was established in 1884. Since there were no high schools in Oregon to prepare students for the University, a number of academies were organized for that purpose. The first of these was Wilbur Academy, named in honor of Rev. James H. Wilbur, whose name has become inseparably linked with Willamette University and with the town in which he located the Academy. There were also Sheridan Academy, The Dalles Academy, Santiam Academy, and Portland Academy and Female Seminary. Also there was a seminary organized jointly by the Methodists and Congregationalists, at Oregon City, in which many students were trained for the University.

Among the most prominent educators who gave to the institution its standing as a university in the earlier days, were Presidents Francis S. Hoyt and Thomas M. Gatch. Dr. Hoyt resigned the presidency in 1860, after serving ten years in that office, and Doctor Gatch, who succeeded him, gave the University two administrations.

In recent years the friends of Willamette University have raised a cash endowment of a half million dollars; also generous gifts of from \$10 to \$10,000 have been tendered the institution, enabling the oldest university on the Pacific Coast of North America to maintain an important rank among standardized schools of higher learning.



Thomas Milton Gatch, A.M., Ph.D.,
President of Willamette University, State
University of Washington, and the Ore-
gon Agricultural College.

The Emigration of 1843.—Early in the spring of 1843 almost simultaneously, migration began from Missouri, and in smaller numbers from Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Iowa and Texas. This was called the "Great Emigration" because it comprised nearly a thousand persons. All the settlers of Oregon who preceded this emigration did not equal half as many as were added by this train. At Kansas River Peter H. Burnett, later first American governor of California, was chosen captain; and James W. Nesmith, a young man who was to become prominent and influential in Oregon, and who later represented the young state in the United States Senate during the Civil War, was orderly sergeant. Burnett held command only eight days, and was succeeded by William Martin, who retained leadership until the emigration broke into smaller parties. When Dr. Marcus Whitman, who was traveling with the rear of the emigration, reached Fort Hall, he found the leaders doubtful as to what plan to adopt. But Doctor Whitman



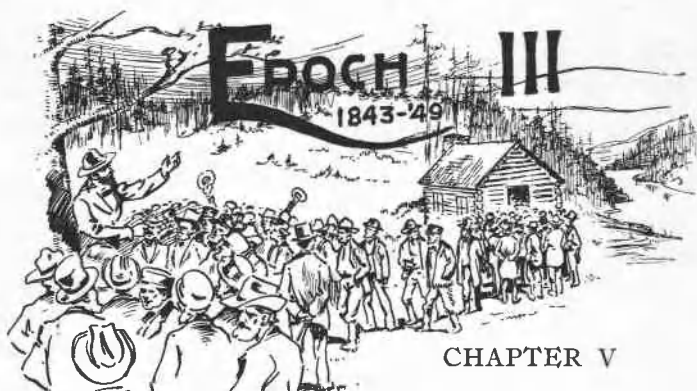
Crossing the Plains

encouraged them to continue, with the assurance that he could lead them to the Columbia with their wagons. After the settlers had halted for a few days to recuperate and to rest their weary teams, they decided to continue their journey with Doctor Whitman as their guide, since he was well qualified to select the best route for the wagons to follow. They reached Fort Boise on the twentieth of September. On the twenty-fourth of September

they entered Burnt River Canon. By the first of October their route led through the beautiful Grande Ronde Valley, where snowy summits of the Blue Mountains looked down on pine-clad hills. In the same month they reached Wailatpu. Some of the cattle were left in the Walla Walla Valley. The others were driven on; while "the families, wagons, and other property were taken down the Columbia river on boats and rafts, arriving in the Willamette Valley by the end of November." The latter part of the journey was so arduous that some declared the hardships greater and the suffering more acute while descending the Columbia from The Dalles to the Willamette than were those of the long pilgrimage from the Missouri River.

Oregon Hills of Glass.—Emigrants as early as 1843 announced the discovery of natural glass along their route of travel in Eastern Oregon. In appearance the glass so closely resembled pieces of dark bottles that it was frequently mistaken for fragments of artificial glass. They soon learned, however, that it was obsidian, a natural rock and form of lava which cooled so quickly that it hardened into glass. Usually it was of a dark or black color; but occasionally phases of it were variegated with streaks of brown, and often vivid red, which gave to it an appearance that was very attractive. And when the Indians showed them spear heads, primitive knives and other useful articles made of this substance, the emigrants became more and more interested in their new discovery.

Afterwards it was ascertained that obsidian exists in vast quantities in various sections of that portion of Oregon which lies east of the Cascade Range, and that most of the scattered fragments originally came from a group of glass buttes near the northeast corner of Lake County. The buttes can be recognized from afar because of their dark barren sides with glassy surface here and there glistening in the sun.



CHAPTER V

OREGON PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

Epoch III is an account of Oregon under the Provisional Government. It begins with the Champoege meetings in 1843 and extends to March 3, 1849, when a territorial form of government was proclaimed in Oregon by Governor Joseph Lane. Preceding Epoch III, the Hudson's Bay Company administered the chief civil government of Oregon. But many of the settlers advocated a government of the people. There being some opposition to the movement, it was delayed until the death of Ewing Young (February 15, 1841), who had settled on Chehalem river in Yamhill district in November, 1834, and whose estate required prompt legal administration. Since Young belonged neither to the Hudson's Bay Company nor to the Mission, he was what was then called an "independent settler." The death of this American, the first to leave an estate in Oregon, created a new and serious condition for which there was no legal provision. In this emergency immediate action was imperative. Following the funeral services of Ewing Young (February 17, 1841), a mass meeting was announced to take place at the Mission on the following day to provide for the settlement of the estate. At the mass meeting, held February 18, Doctor Ira L. Babcock, of the Mission, was appointed supreme judge with probate powers. Ewing Young's estate was later settled, but for the want of a known heir it temporarily escheated to the commonwealth. A sheriff, three constables and as many

justices of the peace were chosen, and a committee of nine with Rev. F. N. Blanchet as chairman was appointed to form a constitution and draft a code of laws to be reported at a meeting to be held June 7, 1841. At the June meeting, the committee of nine failing to report, the colonists adjourned to meet October 1. But Commander Charles Wilkes, U. S. N¹., who happened to be in Oregon at the time, and many leading citizens, believing the time was not auspicious to organize an American government, the project was dropped, and for more than a year nothing further was publicly attempted.

Preliminary Meeting.—*Protection of Stock.*—When Doctor Elijah White returned, with the party of one hundred and twenty emigrants in 1842, the American party was so strengthened that civil government was again discussed. Accordingly, a preliminary meeting was held, February 2, 1843, at the Oregon Institute, to provide for a general meeting to be held on the second Monday of the following March, ostensibly for the purpose of providing for bounties for killing wolves,² lynxes, bear and panthers.

Why Called the "Wolf Meeting."—The meeting in March was known as the "Wolf Meeting" because funds were voted for suitable bounties for killing wolves and other destructive animals, and an officer placed in charge of that service. It was adroitly stated, however, that though provision had been made for the protection of their flocks, yet it was far more important that provision should be made for the protection of the settlers' families. Thereupon a committee of twelve was appointed "to consider the propriety of taking steps for the civil and military protection of the colony."

¹ **Wilkes' Expedition.**—Four vessels of the U. S. Navy were sent out upon a voyage of discovery in 1838, under command of Captain Wilkes. The squadron did important work in the North Pacific. The ships visited Puget Sound and the Columbia, and Commander Wilkes came overland from the Sound to Vancouver. He visited the Willamette Mission and valley settlements, and his reports upon Oregon affairs had great influence upon the final treaty with Great Britain. The "Peacock," his flagship, was wrecked, July 18, 1841, on the shoal north of the river's mouth, which has since borne the name Peacock Spit.

² The late John Minto suggested the strange coincidence that the wolf should have been associated with the first government in Rome and with the first government of Oregon.

Provisional Government Voted at Champoege.—*The First American Government on the Pacific Coast* was authorized by the people of the Willamette Valley, at Champoege, May 2, 1843; and it is somewhat remarkable that the same number of colonists should meet to provide for the first constitution and self-government on the Pacific Coast as there were in the "Mayflower" when the first constitution for civil government in the world was written, and the first self-government was authorized on the Atlantic Coast.



Wolf Hunt on French Prairie in 1843 "*Centennial History of Oregon*"

The Vote for a Divide.—At the Champoege meeting 102 men had gathered in an open field for the purpose of considering the report of the Committee of Twelve on Organization which had been appointed February 2. The committee reported favorably on the establishment of a government. After much heated discussion, friends of the movement for a government decided that prompt action was necessary. Following the motion to adopt the report of the committee, Joe Meek shouted:

"Who's for a divide? All in favor of the report and of an organization, follow me!"

There were fifty-two who voted for the motion, while their opponents were but fifty.¹ Since this meant a provisional

¹ Dr. Robert Newell placed the vote at 52 for and 47 against.

government in Oregon, the opposing faction withdrew; but it may be said in their behalf that soon after our government exercised jurisdiction over the Oregon Country, March 3, 1849, they became naturalized.

The business of the meeting was resumed, and a committee of nine was chosen to report a plan of civil government at a meeting to be held on the fifth of the following May.

Legislative Committee Assemble at the Falls.—

At the Willamette Falls there

was a small building used as a school, storage room, and lodging apartment. Here the committee of nine assembled as the first popular authoritative and deliberative body of Oregon, for the purpose of considering the form of Government¹ to be recommended to their fellow citizens at Champoege the following July 5. The most perplexing question to solve was concerning the Executive, with the result that the Legislative Committee decided upon vesting the executive authority in a committee of three.

Provisional Form of Government Adopted.—The convention assembled at Champoege July 5 to hear the report of the committee. Canadian settlers who had signed an address to the convention were present with the Americans. Their



Joseph Meek

¹“The genesis of American political government in the ‘Oregon Country’ dates from March 16, 1838, when a memorial, prepared by J. L. Whitcomb and thirty-five others, was forwarded to Washington, presented to Congress by Senator Linn on January 28, 1839, read and pigeonholed. A second memorial signed by seventy Oregon settlers was presented by Senator Linn in June, 1840, and suffered the same fate.”

address was placed on file as a record of the interests of those opposed to the organization of a government. Some of the Canadians, however, expressed sympathy with the object of the American movement, while others declared that they would not submit to any government which might be organized. The report of the committee of the Provisional Government was discussed, and Alanson Beers, David Hill and Joseph Gale were selected as the Executive committee. Also, the officers chosen at the meeting held May 2, were continued until the election on the second Tuesday in May, 1844, at which time proceedings of the convention were to be submitted to the people for their approval. "Thus the first regular government in Oregon went into effect, although it was incomplete until July, 1845, when an organic law framed by the Legislative Committee was approved" by vote of the settlers.

It will therefore be observed that although Massachusetts gained distinction because of her sacrifice to free New England from British rule, there were also bitter contentions between the Oregon colonists and those who were under the flag of Great Britain; and Oregon, too, could and would have sacrificed much toward the same end. But despite the claims, influence and power of British subjects, Oregon justly, as well as discreetly, obtained without bloodshed a provisional government of her own choice for the people of the Pacific Northwest. This victory of peaceful acquisition achieved by patriotic and determined American settlers was no less glorious than the victory won in war by the Mother State of New England.

FIRST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The first Executive Committee, consisting of Alanson Beers, David Hill, and Joseph Gale, constituted the executive head of the new government of Oregon Territory for one year, ending May 14, 1844.

First Organic Laws of Oregon.—July 5, 1843, the first Organic Laws of Oregon were adopted "until such time as the United States of America extends jurisdiction over us." These laws, sometimes known as the First Oregon Constitution, re-

sembled the usual announcement of principles, powers and duties of an American commonwealth, with the further provision that slavery should be prohibited. Settlers were denied the right to hold more than one section of land, and permission was given to boys of sixteen and girls of fourteen to marry, the consent of their parents having been obtained. The legal fee for marriage was fixed at one dollar, and for recording the same fifty cents. The laws of Iowa Territory were adopted, with the provision that "where no statute of Iowa Territory applies, the principles of common law and equity shall govern."

The Salmon Seal.—Upon the organization of the Provisional Government a seal was adopted which was so designed that it would in no way prejudice either American or British interests. It was called the Salmon Seal because it contained the figure of a salmon, typifying the fish industry which the settlers as well as the Hudson's Bay Company could promote. Above the salmon were three sheaves of grain, symbolic of agriculture—the principal vocation of the makers of the Provisional Government. In the form of an arc above the sheaves "Oregon" was inscribed.



Seal of the Oregon Provisional Government

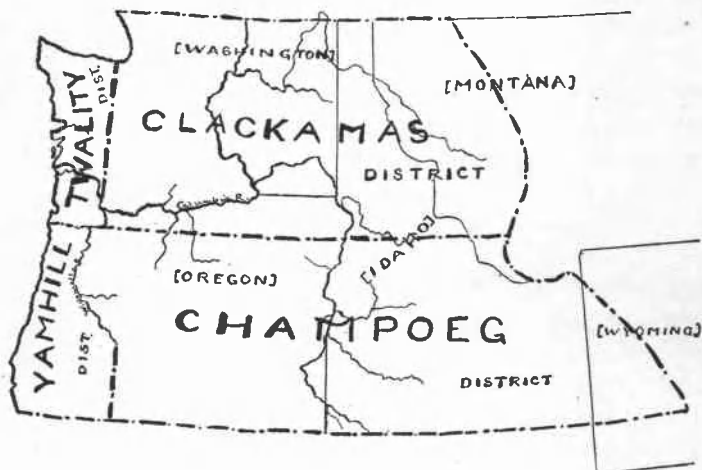
Oregon Divided Into Four Districts.—Two years later, in December of 1843, the Legislative Committee created four legislative districts, greater in size than many kingdoms or states, which were called counties.

Twality¹ District was bounded on the north by the northern boundary line of the Oregon Country. Its eastern boundary was the Willamette River, and presumably an extension of a line from the mouth north to the north line of the Oregon Country; its southern boundary was the Yamhill River and presumably a line which would be the western continuation of

¹ Now "Tualatin."

the Yamhill River to the Pacific Ocean, said ocean being the western boundary of Twality District.

Yamhill District was bounded on the north by Twality District, on the east by the Willamette River and a supposed line running north and south from said river to California, on the south by California, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean.



First four Legislative Districts or Counties of Oregon.

Champoeick¹ District was bounded on the north by a supposed line drawn from the mouth of the Anchiyoke (Pudding) River running due east to the Rocky Mountains, on the east by the summit of the Rocky Mountains, on the west by the Willamette River and a supposed line running due south to California, on the south by the 42nd parallel.

Clackamas District comprised all the territory not included in the other three districts.

Importance of the Champoeig Meetings.—In 1901, Harvey W. Scott, in a paper on "The Champoeig Meetings" said: "What shall I say more of the impressive scene that was enacted upon this spot eight and fifty years ago? All the actors save one, the venerable F. X. Matthieu, who providentially is

¹ Now "Champoeig."

with us today, have passed from earth. The results of their fair work remain; and what we must regard as a thing of high significance is the fact that they well understood that they were laying the foundation of a State. In what they did here that day there was a clear premonition to them that it was a work for unborn generations. The instinct for making States, an instinct that so strongly characterizes that portion of the human race that has created the United States of America, never had clearer manifestation or more vigorous assertion. On the spot where this work was done we dedicate this monument this day. May every inhabitant of the Oregon Country, through all ages, take pride in this spot, and an interest in preservation of this monument, as a memento of what was done here!"

When Oregon Was "No Man's Land."—At the beginning of the Provisional Government the northern boundary of Oregon was so seriously in doubt that it became a very delicate question requiring negotiations that covered a number of years. Neither Spain nor Russia at this time made claim to any part of the Oregon Country, but Great Britain and the United States did. The British wanted all they could get, and strange to say the Americans disputed among themselves as to what should be demanded as the boundary line. Some claimed the parallel of $54^{\circ} 40'$ as the north boundary, while others were content with the 49th parallel north. Under the singular conditions that prevailed neither the United States nor Great Britain was in position to make demands of the other or to exercise jurisdiction over the Oregon Country. Hence the Hudson's Bay Company and other adherents of the British greatly feared that something might be done by the Americans that would eventually forestall British rights in the Oregon Boundary Question. Therefore it was decided by the supporters of the Provisional Government to act independently of all nations; to proceed as if Oregon were "No Man's Land," and to do nothing officially that would prejudice the rights or interests of either nation until the boundary line was agreed upon. In the language of a memorial of the Provisional Government, dated June 28, 1844: "By

treaty stipulations the territory has become a kind of neutral ground, in the occupancy of which the citizens of the United States and the subjects of Great Britain have equal rights and ought to have equal protection." This arrangement had much to do in quieting the suspicions and fears of British subjects concerning the purposes of the new movement; and many of them eventually became participants in the Provisional Government.

Demand for Military Protection.—By this time it was found difficult to enforce some of the laws which the Provisional Government had made. Various depredations were committed, and the perpetrators escaped without arrest. An incident in Oregon City, however, drew special attention to the situation and military aid was provided for the executive authority. George W. Le Breton, Recorder of Oregon under the Provisional Government, and another citizen, were fatally wounded March 4, 1844, while attempting to arrest a Molalla Indian, who with five other Indians was creating a disturbance in Oregon City.

Organization of the Oregon Rangers.—In consequence of the homicide a volunteer company of twenty-five mounted riflemen, with T. D. Keizur as captain, was organized at the Willamette Institute on the 23rd of the month. The purpose of the military organization—which was the first in the territory—was to co-operate with other companies that might be formed later in bringing to justice all the Indians engaged in the affair of March 4th, and to protect the lives and property of the citizens against any depredations that might be committed. The company was named the Oregon Rangers. Captain Keizur soon resigned; and Charles Bennett, who had served in the United States Army, was chosen in his stead. "The rangers were to furnish their own equipment, and in case of actual service were to receive two dollars a day, and for each day's drill one dollar, but to forfeit twice their per diem for non-attendance. The company was to be chartered by the colonial government; and might be called out by any of the commissioned officers or by any one of the Executive Committee." Although the Oregon

Rangers met with the disapproval of the Hudson's Bay Company, they were endorsed by the colonists, who believed that the Rangers, by their readiness to enforce the law, gave stability to the Provisional Government.

SECOND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(May 14, 1844—June 12, 1845)

P. G. Stewart, Osborne Russell, and W. J. Bailey were chosen executive committee at the election held May 14, 1844.

Prohibition Law.—In 1824, upon assuming charge of the Hudson's Bay Company interests, Doctor McLoughlin, who favored prohibition as a wise economic measure in transacting business with the Indians, ordered that no intoxicating liquors be sold to them. Later, when Nathaniel Wyeth brought liquors to trade to the Indians, Doctor McLoughlin at once made known to him the Company's policy on this point in such a way that Wyeth acquiesced with the Doctor's views. As soon as the Methodist Mission opened its school a temperance society was organized, which many of the whites joined through the influence of Doctor McLoughlin. Therefore, since the settlers were greatly outnumbered by the Indians, most of whom were subject to whiskey-craze, the legislative committee passed a law (June, 1844) prohibiting the sale of ardent spirits.

Negroes Forbidden in Oregon.—*Slavery a Disturbing Question.*—In those days negro slavery was common in the Southern States, and there was a tendency to extend the system of slavery to the Oregon Country. So the emigrants from the North and those from the South began to ask one another, "Shall there be negro slavery in Oregon?" The colonists, therefore, seeing the advisability of meeting the issue squarely, decided to place themselves on record regarding the negro question. A measure was accordingly passed by the Legislative Committee, in June, 1844, whereby residence was forbidden to any negro in Oregon. It was made a law that "Slavery or involuntary service should not exist; any negro slave brought into the country should in three years become free; any free negro or mulatto coming to the country should leave within two years;

if he (or she) failed to leave the country after notice, he should be whipped on the bare back with not less than twenty nor

more than thirty-nine stripes, and flogged likewise every six months until he did leave."



Louis Southworth¹

The law was repealed in the following session; yet the negro question continued for many years to be a cause of much contention. "Officially, slavery never existed in Oregon; but actually some of the Oregon pioneers held¹ slaves" during an extended period covering the time that the people were awaiting a final decision on the subject. Later when Oregon was approaching statehood and a popular vote was taken on the negro question, it is noteworthy

that while the vote against slavery was almost three to one, the sentiment on the negro question was so intense that the vote against allowing free negroes to reside in Oregon was eight to one.

Legislative Action in Ewing Young Estate.—Since the discussions in connection with the estate of Ewing Young had much to do with the formation of the Oregon Provisional Government, it is interesting to note that December 16, 1844, the Executive Committee reported to the Legislative Committee at Willamette Falls, "This government has in its possession notes amounting to \$3,734.26, most of which are already due. These notes are a balance in favor of the estate of Ewing

¹ Among those who were held as slaves in Oregon was Louis Southworth (died in Corvallis 1917) who in 1855 had purchased his freedom from his master in Benton County for \$1,000. Also in 1857 Reuben Shipley (colored), residing three miles west of Corvallis paid \$400 (or \$700) for his wife who was claimed as a slave in Polk County, Oregon.

Young, deceased, intestate. We will therefore advise that these demands be settled and appropriated to the benefit of the country, the Government being at all times responsible for the payment of them to those who may hereafter appear to have a legal right in them. Thereupon the money was devoted to the building of a jail at Oregon City, the first of the kind west of the Rocky Mountains."¹ A few years afterward, Joaquin Young, of New Mexico, established his claim as a son of Ewing Young and the full amount mentioned was paid to him.

Governor and Legislature Provided.—"A session of the Legislative Committee was held in Oregon City, beginning December 16, 1844, and continuing seven days. Upon the recommendation of the executive committee, a committee was appointed to frame an amended Organic Law, which was to be submitted to the people at a special election, and, if approved by the popular vote the amendments were to go into effect from and after the first Tuesday in June, 1845. The amendments to the Organic Law met with approval of the people, the office of governor was substituted for the Executive Committee, and the Legislative Committee was superseded by the House of Representatives, consisting of not less than thirteen nor more than sixty-one members, apportioned among various districts according to population."²

¹ "History of the Willamette Valley."

² "History of the Pacific Northwest."

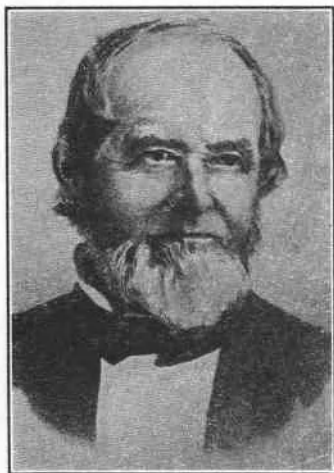
CHAPTER VI

GOVERNOR GEORGE ABERNETHY

(June 12, 1845—March 3, 1849)

"O bearded stalwart westward man
So tower-like so Gothic built!
A kingdom won without the guilt
Of studied battle."—*Joaquin Miller.*

First Provisional Governor of Oregon.—An election was held on June 3, 1845, for governor and other officers, at which time George Abernethy¹ and A. L. Lovejoy were candidates for governor. Mr. Abernethy received a majority of 98 votes in a total of 504, and was inaugurated on the third of the following August. Two years later he was re-elected.



Gov. George Abernethy

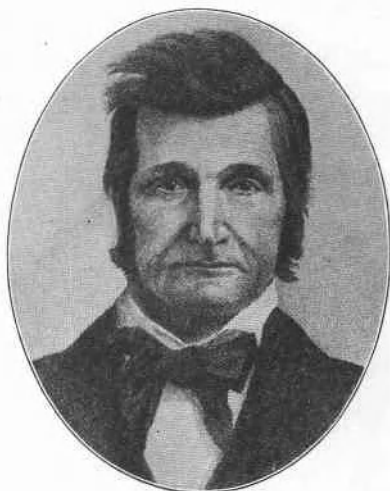
Conditions During Abernethy's Administration.—Illustrating conditions in that formative period of government, the following in Governor Abernethy's message to the legislature in December, 1846, is of special interest: "I regret to be compelled to inform you that the jail, located in Oregon City, the prop-

erty of the Territory, was destroyed by fire on the night of the 18th of August last—the work, I have no doubt, of an incendiary.

¹ George Abernethy, a native of New York, came to Oregon in 1840 as a lay member of the Methodist mission and kept a store for a time in Oregon City. He served two terms as Provisional Governor, and died in Portland in 1877.

A reward of \$100 was immediately offered, but, as yet, the offender has not been discovered. Should you think best to erect another jail I would suggest the propriety of building it of large stones clamped together. We have but little use for a jail, and a small building would answer all purposes, for many years, no doubt, if we should be successful in keeping ardent spirits out of the territory."

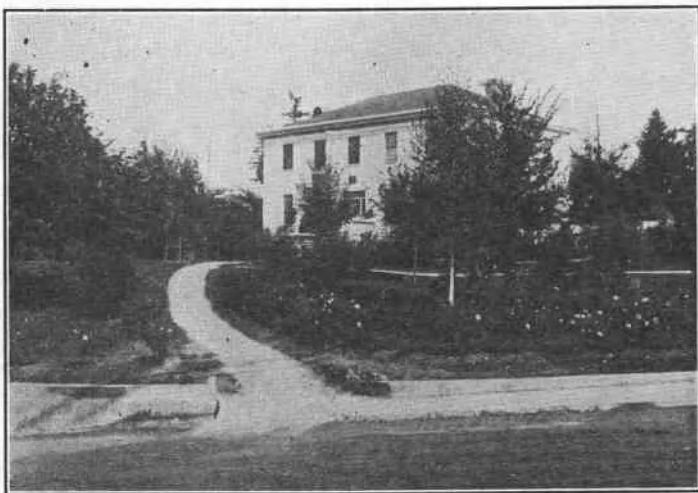
First Wagons Cross the Cascade Range.—The first emigrants reached the Willamette Valley by coming down the Columbia in boats and barges, some of the party driving their stock over Indian trails from The Dalles to the Hood (Dog) river, thence southwest and west of Mount Hood to the Sandy at the mouth of Zig-Zag Creek and thence to Oregon City. But late in October, 1845, Samuel K. Barlow, who said, "God never made a mountain without some place to go over it," left The Dalles with a train of thirteen wagons upon the hazardous undertaking of crossing the Cascade Mountains. By the advice of Joel Palmer and others in the train a route lying along the south side of Mt. Hood was chosen. Upon reaching the top of the divide the emigrants were compelled to abandon their wagons. They



Samuel K. Barlow

succeeded in reaching the settlement December 23. As soon as the snows sufficiently melted in 1846, the wagons were safely taken into the valley, despite the fact that at different times it was necessary to chain them to trees so that they could be let down over cliffs to other cliffs below, and so on until they were drawn by the teams again. In July these wagons, which were

the first to cross the Cascade Range and to come over an all-wagon route from the states to the Willamette Valley, arrived in Oregon City.¹ It is said that upon learning that the emigrants had taken their teams and wagons across the mountains the surprised Doctor McLoughlin said, "These Yankees can do anything." The important route along which the new road lay was afterward named Barlow Road in honor of its principal discoverer and promoter.



Home of Doctor John McLoughlin

Erected in 1846; now preserved as a memorial in McLoughlin Park in Oregon City, and annually visited by hundreds of admirers of the benevolent old fur trader.

Southern Oregon Emigrant Road Opened in 1846.—For more than two decades the Hudson's Bay Company trail was the only traversed route through Southern Oregon. But in the meantime it came to be believed that this trail lay along a more practical route to the Willamette Valley than the newly discovered route by the way of Barlow Pass; and a plan was

¹ The first wagon of this train to reach Oregon City was driven across the mountains in July, 1846, by Reuben Gant who died at Philomath, Oregon, in 1917, at the advanced age of 98 years.

devised for a new emigrant road into Oregon. This road was to leave the old Oregon road at Fort Hall, then to follow the Truckee and the Humboldt Rivers, to cross the Modoc and the Klamath country and the mountains into the Rogue River Valley, then pass through the Umpqua Canyon onward into the Willamette Valley. By incredible effort with ax and saw, ropes and chains, in 1846, emigrants with their wagons and teams came over the Southern Oregon route, which they developed into a widened trail; but which later was made into a practical wagon road.

Settlement of the Oregon Question.—In 1843 Americans had come to Oregon in such numbers that they began to dominate the country south of the Columbia—a condition which the British fur traders did not overlook. Also the agitation of the Oregon question throughout the United States so interested the American people that many became unwilling to accept the 49th parallel as the northern boundary of Oregon. When James K. Polk, in 1844, was elected President, it was believed that the national campaign shibboleth—"Fifty-four forty or Fight"—had much to do in electing him. Also the Oregon question was given prominence in the President's inaugural address. However, the United States exhibited willingness to compromise on the 49th parallel, an offer which the British minister courteously refused. Congress then voted to put an end to joint occupation in Oregon; but to avert war, the President, upon the advice of John C. Calhoun, again opened the question with Great Britain, and that nation, June, 1846, agreed to accept the 49th parallel as the boundary. Upon the advice of the Senate, the President signed the treaty, June 15, 1846, by which Oregon was distinguished as the first and only American territory that the United States of America has acquired on this continent without either bloodshed or cash purchase.

First Newspaper West of the Missouri.—The "Oregon Spectator," a semi-monthly publication issued at Oregon City, February 5, 1846, was the first newspaper published west of the Missouri River. Its first editor was Colonel W. G. T'Vault.

The "Spectator," which was non-political, became chiefly useful in disseminating the laws and acts of the Provisional Government.

BY AUTHORITY.

AN ACT to establish Courts, and prescribe their powers and duties.—*Concluded.*

§ 106. It shall be the duty of the justice, before whom any conviction may be had under this article, if there be no appeal, to make out and certify and, within fifteen days after the date of the judgment, deliver to the treasurer of the county a statement of the case, the amount of the fine, and the name of the plaintiff or constable charged with the collection thereof; and the county treasurer shall enter the same in the records of the county, and pay the same to the sheriff or constable with interest at the rate of six per cent. such fine, and unless the same be paid into the county treasury within sixty days after the date of the judgment, the said justice shall render judgment against such officer for the amount due and twenty per cent. thereon—making, however, proper deductions for incumbrances, on which judgment execution shall be issued as on other executions are, and the proceeds paid into the county treasury.

§ 107. Any justice of the peace, sheriff, constable, or other officer, who shall wilfully neglect or refuse to perform any duty enjoined on him by this article, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor in office, and shall, moreover, pay the sum of fifty dollars; and any person who shall, when summoned to aid

Oregon Spectator.

"Westward the Star of Empire takes its way."

Vol. I. Oregon City, (Oregon Ter. Thursday, April 30, 1846. No. 7.

ARTICLE XIV.

Preliminary proceedings when offences have been committed.

§ 205. Whenever, by affidavit, it shall be rendered probable to a justice of the peace that an indictable offence has been committed within the county, he shall, by his warrant, directed to the sheriff or constable of the proper county, or to any private person therein named, forthwith cause the accused person to be brought before him.

§ 206. The officer having the warrant, or any other person engaged in the pursuit, shall be thereby authorized to arrest the accused anywhere within this territory, and bring him

that if the said M. N. shall personally appear at the county court of said county, on the first day of the next term thereof, and abide the judgment of said court, and not depart without the leave of the court, and in the mean time, shall keep the peace towards A. B. of said county, and in particular shall not commit, (these state the crime threatened as sworn to in the affidavit,) then this recognizance to be void, otherwise of force. M. N. & J. P. Taken and acknowledged before me this

— day of —, A. D. 18—
F. P., Justice.

COUNTY COURTS
— JUDGE.

First Oregon Fruit Nursery.—



Henderson Luelling

The first fruit nursery of Oregon was known as the Traveling Nursery because it was brought to Oregon on wheels. Henderson Luelling, a prosperous nurseryman of Henry County Iowa, conceived the idea of conveying trees by wagons to Oregon. Thereupon in the early spring of 1847, with his son Alfred he started westward, driving two four-yoke ox teams hauling about 800 vigorous young trees. They arrived at the present site of Milwaukie, November 27th. Their trees¹ consisted of different varieties of apple, pear, peach, plum, and cherry,

¹ In 1851 a good crop of apples and cherries was harvested from these trees and four bushels of apples were sold in San Francisco for \$500.—Chapman's "Story of Oregon."

and were in immediate demand; hence the nursery was permanently established in that locality, and gave to Oregon the name of the "Land of the Big Red Apples." So important, therefore, was the Traveling Nursery that Ralph C. Geer, who took much interest in the first fruit culture of Oregon, remarked: "Those two loads of trees brought more wealth to Oregon than any ship that ever entered the Columbia River." Such was the beginning of the first nursery on the Pacific Coast of America.

Territorial Courts.—When the territorial government of Oregon was established by Act of Congress, August 14, 1848, it was provided by the same Act that the judicial power of the Territory shall be vested in a Supreme Court, District Courts, Probate Courts, and in Justices of the Peace; the Supreme Court to consist of a Chief Justice and two Associate Justices. The Chief Justice and Associate Justices were authorized to hold the district court. In its largest sense this Territorial Court was a Federal Court; it was national in its significance, and it had jurisdiction not only of matters which would be cognizable in the courts were the Territory a state, but of all matters which were made cognizable in the Federal or United States courts.

The Oregon Coast Range Ablaze.—Great fires have swept along the Oregon Coast Range leaving black stumps and scraggly trunks of trees along the hills and mountains that were templed with arbors and groves for ages. These mute reminders of the conflagration may yet be seen. Indians tell us that a forest fire in 1846 devastated the country from Tillamook to Coos Bay. Chief Cutlip said this fire was so terrible that much game and many Indians were burned to death, and that the heat was so intense at Coos Bay the Indians were driven into the water for protection. Also Salmon River John, an Indian, who was accustomed to weigh his words carefully, bore witness that the fire was so great in the Yaquina Bay region that the flames leaped across the river, that many of the Indians perished, and that only those were saved who took refuge in the water; and even they suffered much while their heads were exposed to the heat.

There were so many forest fires in early times that it is difficult to name the greatest forest fire in Oregon. But there appears to be no doubt that the fire which swept over both the Cascade and the Coast Ranges late in the summer of 1846 covered a wider area and ruined more timber than any other.

Then, as now, it was often impossible to trace a forest fire to its actual beginning. But in those days there were numerous bands of Indians roaming the mountains in quest of game; and doubtless the fire of 1846 originated through the carelessness of Indian hunters. It was also the practice of the Indians to fire the brush growth, that grass might become plentiful for the wild game. At any rate, the fire of that year was more destructive, in the opinion of those who saw it, than any that has followed.

The Forest Fire of 1867.—Another tremendously destructive fire swept over the Coast mountains in September, 1867, and laid waste a vast area of the finest of timber. Many people who had gone to the beach for camping and who had started homeward were compelled to return to the beach and remain a week longer. A well known farmer of the Willamette Valley who had started home was compelled to drive his team into the small stream of Salmon River and remain there all night to avoid the immense heat of the fires. Schools of fish, frightened at the heat and confusion, frequently scared his horses, and the man was crippled in his efforts to control his team. These two fires are perhaps the most destructive known to the history of Oregon, and the thousands of acres of whitened stumps of former giants of the forests, to be seen now in all of our ranges of mountains, bear witness to their ravages in the days long before the national government had taken steps for the patrol of the mountains by Forest Rangers.

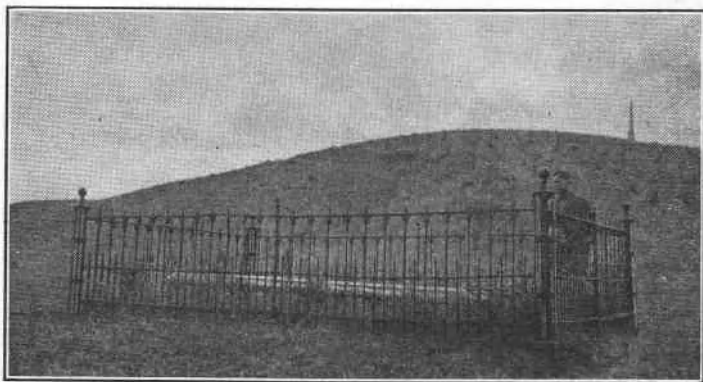
Growing Troubles at Whitman Mission.—As has been stated, Doctor Whitman in October, 1836, established Waiilatpu later called Whitman mission. Here the Indians were taught to read the Bible, and to cultivate the soil, raise cattle, and perform other kinds of civilized labor. Here orphans and white children

were given a home and educated. The Doctor generously and freely gave medical care. But the habits of the Indians were so different from those of the whites that the same kind of medical care could not be given successfully to both races. When the whites and Indians were stricken with measles, the Indians who were treated by the Doctor persisted in regularly taking cold plunges in the Walla Walla river, contrary to his advice; and necessarily this proved fatal to many of them. Then the Indian doctor, or medicine man, who beheld with envy Doctor Whitman's growing influence with the Indians, charged that the whites were being cured, but that Doctor Whitman was exterminating the Indians by his treatment, in order that the whites might occupy the Indian possessions. At this time Joe Lewis, a half-breed Indian, who had been befriended by Doctor Whitman, was aided by other Indians in kindling the growing antagonism into a flame of wrath among the tribesmen. As a result of these and other forces that were at work it was decided by the younger Cayuses to exterminate the Protestant missionaries in that country, and in order to make their destruction complete they determined also to kill the whites of the other Protestant missions east of the Cascade Mountains. To conduct successfully this general massacre of the whites, the Cayuses hoped to form alliances with all Indians affected by the missionary movement, but in this they eventually failed.

The Whitman Massacre.—Hints from friendly Indians, and the sulky manner of the hostiles, convinced Doctor Whitman that treachery was intended. The sacrifice that Doctor and Mrs. Whitman had undergone in aiding the Indians was so great that, despite hostile threats, the Doctor and his wife too long delayed their departure from the Waiilatpu Mission. On the afternoon of November 29, 1847, the Indians suddenly broke into the mission house and barbarously and treacherously killed Doctor and Mrs. Whitman and seven others. A few days later they massacred five more. They also took captive about fifty women and children of the mission, and others temporarily there, to be held for ransom as hostages to guarantee immunity

from punishment by the whites as they claimed—though some were not intended to be released.

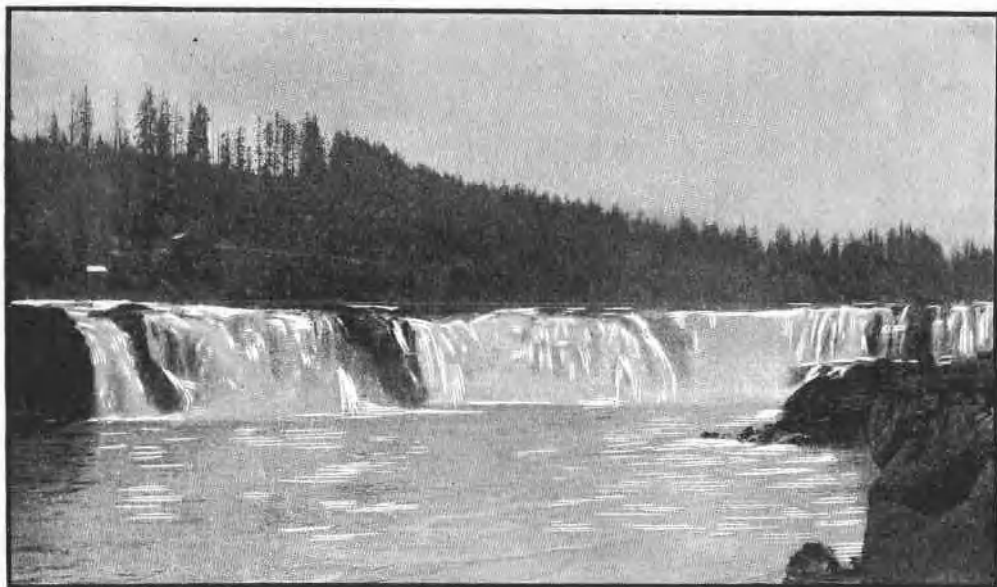
After the Whitman Massacre.—Following the Whitman Massacre three urgent requests were made for immediate relief



Grave of the Whitman Massacre Victims. Whitman Monument in the Distance.

and protection for the whites. The first came to Vancouver from William McBean, of Fort Walla Walla (now Wallula), asking that a party be sent to ransom the prisoners; the second was from Alanson Hinman, asking that an armed force be provided to protect the station at The Dalles; the third was made by Governor Abernethy, who asked the Legislature for enough troops to capture the murderers of the Whitman Mission victims, and to subdue the warlike tribes.

The Mission Captives Ransomed.—News of the Whitman Massacre was sent by Agent William McBean, of Fort Walla Walla, to Peter Skeen Ogden and James Douglas, chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Vancouver. The officers at Vancouver promptly notified Governor Abernethy; and Chief Factor Ogden immediately departed for the scene of the tragedy, his object being to rescue the women and children taken captive. On December 19th, he addressed the Cayuse chiefs at Fort Walla Walla, censuring them for permitting the



Willamette Falls

(Indians called the portion of the river above the Falls, "Wal-lam-et;" the portion below the Falls, "Mult-no-mah.")

murderous deed. After reminding them of the probable vengeance that would be visited upon them, Ogden told the chiefs that his company were traders and neutrals who wished to buy the captives and prevent further trouble and bloodshed. Ogden made liberal presents to the chiefs and upon his request the captives were released. In January, 1848, they arrived at Oregon City amidst much rejoicing.

"Oregon Rifles" Sent to The Dalles.—Upon learning of the Whitman Massacre Governor Abernethy, on December 8, sent to the legislature a message concerning the seriousness of conditions, and also issued a call for volunteers. The same day a company of forty-five volunteers was organized in Oregon City for the purpose of protecting The Dalles, which at that season of the year was the "Pass of Thermopylae," through which the Cayuse Indians and their allies were compelled to pass before entering the Willamette Valley. This company, which was the first military force organized for the protection of Oregon, was called the "Oregon Rifles";¹ because the members of the company furnished their own rifles and equipment. The company went into camp at the Dalles, December 21, 1847.

Oregon Indian Wars.—In addition to other troubles with Oregon Indians, there have been five wars with them. They were the Cayuse War (1848), The Rogue River Indian War (1851-1856), The Modoc War (1873), War with the Nez Percés (1877), and the Piute-Bannock War (1878). These will be described as this narrative proceeds.

Cayuse War.—The Cayuse War was important chiefly for the reason that for a time it seemed as if the Indians might exterminate all the white settlers of Oregon. Ill feeling had existed among the Indians toward the white people, but the war was precipitated by the Whitman massacre.

¹ Doctor McLoughlin, who in 1845, had resigned as Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company at Vancouver, was succeeded by James Douglas, whose policy toward the settlers was more conservative than that of his predecessor. The new Chief Factor was not in a position, therefore, to offer credit to the Provisional Government, which at this time had in its treasury less than one dollar per rifleman.

A Regiment of Volunteers Organized.—In accordance with the Legislative Acts of December 8, 1847, a regiment of fourteen companies volunteered for the purpose of suppressing the troubles with the Cayuse Indians and their allies. Colonel Cornelius Gilliam was placed in command, and with fifty men reached The Dalles on the 23d of January, 1848, followed three days later by the remainder of the regiment. On the 27th Colonel Gilliam moved eastward toward Walla Walla.

March to the Enemy's Country.—"Colonel Gilliam desired to press forward as rapidly as possible; for it was plainly evident that if the war was not carried to the Umatilla, the Willamette Valley might soon be molested. Also it was equally evident that to permit the murderers to escape would give the Cayuses confidence to commit further crimes. On February 25, the Cayuses and their allies from the north side of the river, felt strong enough to force a battle. Their position was on the elevated sage-brush plains west of the Umatilla River; and their boast was 'that the whites should never drink of its waters'."—H. S. Lyman.

Cayuse Chiefs Profess Wizard Powers.—But the Cayuse Indians, who seemed imbued with some kind of sorcery, were deluded into the belief that the white man's gun could not kill their chief Five Crows; and War Eagle, another chief of that tribe, stated that he could swallow all the bullets the whites might shoot at him. To prove that they were invulnerable, the medicine chiefs rode into open view of the volunteers and shot a little dog that ran to meet them. A well-aimed bullet from the rifle of Captain Thomas McKay crashed through the brain of War Eagle, while a load of buckshot from the gun of Lieutenant Charles McKay disabled Chief Five Crows so that he gave up the command of his warriors. Events like these proved disheartening to the Indians, many of whom had from the beginning shared only slight sympathy with their tribesmen.

Attacks and Skirmishes.—After a battle of three hours the Cayuse Indians retreated from the Umatilla to the Walla Walla River, where they learned that the Nez Perces had decided not

to join them. They then began to realize that many of their own tribe were not in sympathy with the war against the whites. To add to their discouragement, Colonel Gilliam obtained the Hudson's Bay Company stores of ammunition at Fort Walla Walla. However, several vigorous attacks and lively skirmishes took place. At Touchet the Indians successfully disputed the further progress of the troops; but not knowing that they had won a victory, the Indians retreated across the Snake River where it was not practicable to pursue them. At this time, for various reasons, the troops were ordered to return down the Columbia, during which journey Colonel Gilliam was killed by the accidental discharge of a gun, and Colonel Henry A. G. Lee was chosen to succeed him.

End of the Cayuse War.—The Cayuse Indians, having been reduced in prestige, and being discredited by their allies, ostracized the murderers, who were finally captured on the John Day River by the Nez Perces. The prisoners were taken to Oregon City where they received a fair trial for murdering Doctor Whitman and eleven others at Whitman Mission; upon being found guilty by a jury and sentenced by the federal judge they were hanged by Joseph Meek, the United States Marshal, June 3, 1850. Thus ended the Cayuse War, which established authority over the Indians and gave the Americans prestige over the Hudson's Bay Company. Through the results of the Cayuse War the whites became more united, more patriotic toward the American Government, and more active against the common foe—the Indian.

How Marcus Whitman Became Famous.—Concerning the purpose of Doctor Whitman's midwinter journey across the continent and his mission at Washington City historians differ. But all agree that there were various causes which contributed to his fame. 1. In 1835, he accompanied Rev. Samuel Parker to ascertain the prospect for missionary work among the Indians in the far West. When they had journeyed as far west as Green River they were convinced that missionaries would receive a welcome among various Columbia River tribes. Having ob-

tained this information, Doctor Whitman returned to the East for aid in the establishment of one or more missions west of the Rocky Mountains. 2. He took the first missionary families to what is now Eastern Washington (1836), but which was then in the Oregon Country. 3. He built Whitman Mission (1836). 4. He rendered valuable assistance to the great emigrant train of 1843, which opened the way for wagon migration from Fort Boise to the Walla Walla Valley and the Columbia River. 5. His death (1847) was a factor in bringing about a war with the Indians, which resulted in uniting the whites and committing them to the American cause regardless of nationality.

Oregonian Discovered Gold in California.

—The discovery of gold in California, one of the events which lifted the United States above all other nations was made by James W. Marshall, who came to Oregon as a settler in 1844. Two years later he went to California. Soon he became the partner of Captain John A. Sutter, who had visited Oregon in 1839, and going to California had built Sutter's Fort on the present site of Sacramento City. Marshall was sent up from Sutter's Fort into the Sierra Nevada Mountains to select a site and build a saw mill. He chose the point at Coloma on the south fork of the American River, and built the mill. After turning on the water, January 24, 1848, he discovered in the tail-race shining particles of gold which the water had washed from the sand. Two other Oregonians who had been employed by Marshall—Charles Bennett,¹ and Stephen Staats of Polk



Statue of James Marshall

¹ In the Odd Fellows' Cemetery of Salem, Oregon, is a handsome marble monument erected to Charles Bennett as the discoverer of gold at Sutter's Mill. Stephen Staats regarded Bennett as the real discoverer; but it is probable that history will indorse the verdict of California, which has honored Marshall with a memorial for discovering the precious metal.



Capt. Charles Bennet's Monument

County—were called to look at the gold in the water and confirm the discovery.

Significance of Marshall's Gold Discovery.—Gold discovery in California by James W. Marshall, is described by Gaston as "one of the greatest industrial events of the world." In his history of Oregon, he adds,—“A careful survey of the whole field of enterprise, the commerce of the world, and the standard of living in the United States, will show that the discovery of gold wrought a greater change throughout the United States and the financial relations of this country to other

nations than any other fact subsequent to the independence of the United States.

Scarcity of Gold.—“Prior to the year 1848, the United States possessed a very narrow base for a circulating medium; and that was mostly silver. Gold coin was exceedingly scarce; and on this account the financial standing of this country and the rating of its securities were practically at the mercy of the Bank of England and the House of Rothschilds, which institution controlled the great bulk of the gold coin of the world. When the mines of California commenced to pour out their flood of wealth, every kind of business throughout the United States took on new life. Within five years after this discovery, more industries were begun in the United States than had been for a generation before that time. Banks prospered and began to accumulate gold. People more freely deposited their savings in banks, while the banks were enabled to extend accommodations to manufacturers and producers of wealth. And railroads that had been for twenty years creeping out slowly from the Atlantic seaports

to the Allegheny Mountains found sale for their securities, pushed on over the mountains into the great Mississippi Valley and on across the continent reaching, Portland, Oregon, a quarter of a century before they were expected to reach Chicago under the old paper money system. The flood of gold changed the whole face of affairs, put new life into all business and commercial undertakings, brought all the states and communities together under one single standard of values, and pushed the United States to the front as the greatest wealth-producing nation."

Oregon Became a Territory.—Various memorials had been sent to Congress requesting full recognition of the Oregon Territory by the United States Government. But slavery and other national questions delayed a favorable reply to the petitioners until August 13, 1848, at which time the measure was finally passed by Congress, giving the Oregon Territory governmental authority. Upon signing the bill, President Polk appointed General Joseph Lane governor of the Territory of Oregon, and Joseph Meek, who was thoroughly familiar with existing conditions in Oregon, was chosen United States Marshal.

Oregon School Lands Increased.—*First Territory to Obtain Each Thirty-sixth Sec-*

tion.—While Congress was considering the advisability of extending territorial gov-

ernment over Oregon various collateral questions arose, one of which was Government Aid to Schools as a Means of Education. In this connection "The Centennial History of Oregon" says:

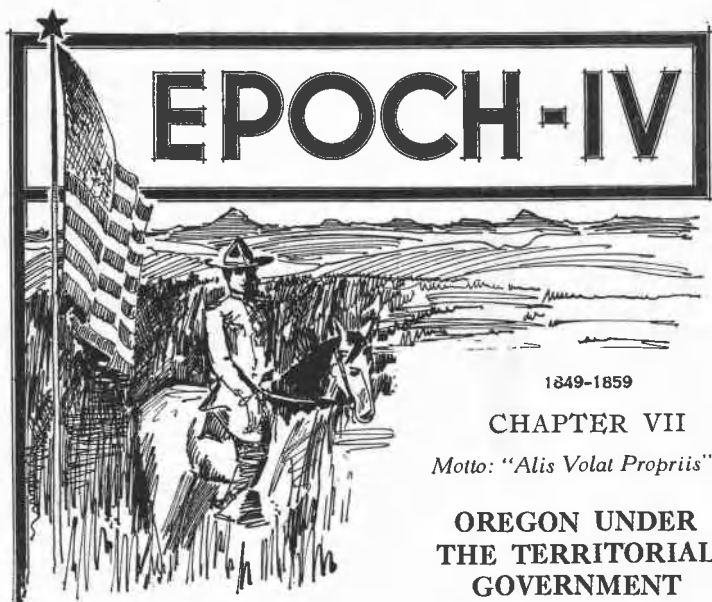


J. Quinn Thornton

Who spent the summer of 1848 in Washington, D. C., as a delegate from the Provisional Government of Oregon.

"To Nathan Dane, of Massachusetts, who was a member of the Continental Congress from 1785 to 1787 is due the honor of framing the memorable ordinance of 1787 which organized the great northwest territory, prohibited slavery therein, and declared that 'schools as the means of education shall be forever encouraged'." By a previous act of the same Congress, and in pursuance of a contract made by the officers of the United States Treasury with Rev. Manasseh Cutler and Winthrop Sargent, of the State of Connecticut, in October, 1787, the sixteenth section of public land in each township in all states formed out of the northwest territory was devoted to the support of public schools.

In framing the act for the organization of Oregon territory, the thirty-sixth section of land in each township was added to the sixteenth for the support of public schools in Oregon, and every state organized since 1848 has been thus endowed.



1849-1859

CHAPTER VII

Motto: "Alis Volat Propriis"

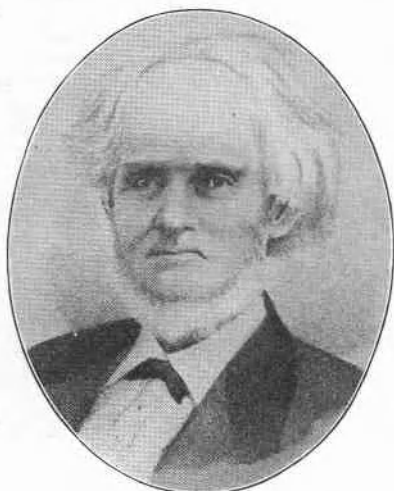
OREGON UNDER THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT

No man occupied a more prominent place in the history of Oregon in the territorial days and in the years immediately following than General Joseph Lane, the first Territorial Governor. He was born in North Carolina on December 14, 1801, was reared in Kentucky, moved to Indiana when a young man, and served with distinction in the Mexican War. Upon receiving his appointment as Governor of Oregon, he proceeded with Joe Meek and a number of others via Santa Fe to California. At San Francisco the two officers took ship for the Columbia, arriving in Oregon City the capital of the Territory March 2, 1849. General Lane assumed the duties of his office as governor on the third, which was but one day before the expiration of the term of President Polk.

JOSEPH LANE, THE FIRST TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR

(March 3, 1849)

Upon assuming the duties of his office, Governor Joseph Lane immediately began taking a census of the new territory, which showed a population of 8,785 Americans and 298 foreigners. On June 18, 1850, he resigned the governorship under the wrong impression that the new President of the United States had appointed a successor. Mr. Lane became a candidate for delegate to Congress in 1851 and was elected. He was again



Governor Joseph Lane

appointed Governor on May 16, 1853, but three days after qualifying for the position again resigned and became a candidate for Congress. He was elected, and successively re-elected to that position, until the territory was admitted as a state in February, 1859. From the General Government he accepted a commission as Brigadier-General in command of the volunteers, and was actively engaged in suppressing Indian hostilities in Southern Oregon in 1853. General Lane was elected one of the first United

States Senators, upon Oregon's admission into the Union, and served for a period of two years. He was a candidate for Vice-President of the United States in 1860. He died at his residence in Roseburg, Oregon, in April, 1881, aged 80 years.

Territorial Seal of Oregon.—Upon the establishment of a territorial form of government in 1849, a new seal was adopted, known as the Seal of the Territory of Oregon. Characteristic of those times, a ship denoting commerce was placed in the



Centennial History of Oregon.

Governor Joseph Lane Bringing Territorial Government to Oregon

midst of the seal. Above the ship was a beaver denoting fur trade, while below was a plow representing agriculture. At the left of the ship stood an Indian with bow and arrows, while at the right was an eagle. Reaching from the shoulder of the Indian to the beak of the eagle and circling above the beaver was an unfurled banner bearing the territorial motto: "Alis Volat Propriis"—She flies with her own wings—implying self-reliance. The legend of the territorial seal was "Seal of the Territory of Oregon." Instead of the date, five stars appeared at the bottom of the territorial seal.



Seal of Oregon Territorial Government

Beaver Coins.—The early settlers of Oregon suffered much inconvenience because of the scarcity of coin. When a farmer purchased goods he usually offered in exchange a calf, or wheat, or a beaver skin, or something of the kind. In fact, wheat was made legal tender under the Provisional Government. Notwithstanding the scarcity of money, the people generally prospered. When gold was discovered in California, much of it came to Oregon, so that there was more gold per capita in

Oregon than ever before or afterward. Because gold dust was so plentiful and somewhat difficult to handle, merchants allowed only \$10 to \$11 an ounce for it; although it was really worth about \$18 an ounce. This led the Provisional Government to



TEN DOLLARS.



Five Dollars.

Oregon Beaver Coins

arrange for the coining of five and ten-dollar gold pieces. "But the termination of the Provisional Government by the arrival of Governor Lane rendered the statute nugatory."¹ As a remedial measure the Oregon Exchange Company was promptly organized, and immediately proceeded to the coining of gold pieces having the value of \$5

and \$10 respectively. This money was called "beaver money" for the reason that a beaver was stamped on each coin. Containing eight per cent. more gold than coins from the U. S. mint, beaver money disappeared from circulation as soon as United States currency became plentiful. Therefore, with the exception of a few mementoes, the Oregon beaver coins exist only in history. It is somewhat singular that "no one was ever prosecuted for this infringement of the constitutional prohibition of the coining of money by State governments or individuals."

Fort Dalles.—The arrival of United States troops—the Rifle Regiment—late in the fall of 1849, resulted in the establishment of the military post at The Dalles. In the following May the log Fort Dalles was built and occupied by Major Tucker. In 1858 Colonel George Wright, in command of the 9th United States Infantry, replaced the old log barracks with a fine new

¹ "Popular History of Oregon."



Historical Building at The Dalles

fort of which there remains only one building. This was the surgeon's quarters. It is now the property of the Oregon Historical Society. It serves the purpose of the local historical building, by which name it is known. The site of Fort Dalles overlooks the camp¹ of Lewis and Clark where the American flag in October, 1805, was displayed for the first time in that part of Oregon.

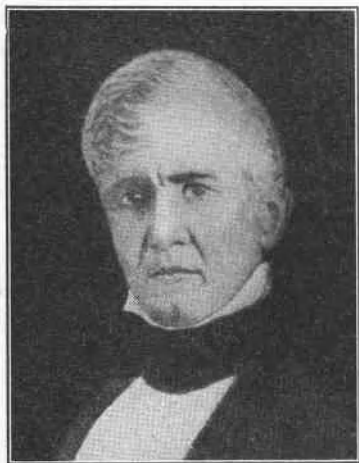
¹ Near the O.-W. R. & N. Co.'s Passenger Depot.

GOVERNORS PRITCHETT AND GAINES

(June 18, 1850—May 16, 1853)

To Kintzing Pritchett of Michigan belongs the distinction of having been Governor of Oregon Territory for sixty days. He was appointed Secretary of the Territory by President Polk upon its creation by Congress, and served in that capacity until the resignation of Governor Joseph Lane on June 18, 1850. John P. Gaines, of Virginia, had been appointed Governor, but did not arrive in Oregon until August, taking the oath of office on the 18th of that month. During this interim Mr. Pritchett served as Governor.

Governor John P. Gaines Received His Appointment from the newly elected President, Zachary Taylor, and assumed the duties of his office August 18, 1850. He served as Governor of Oregon until May 16, 1853.



Gov. John P. Gaines

In 1855 he was the whig nominee for Congress, but was defeated by Joseph Lane. He died at his home in Marion County in 1857, aged 58 years.

In connection with the appointment of Mr. Gaines in 1849, it is worthy of note that the position was first offered to Abraham Lincoln, whose term in Congress had just expired. Mr. Lincoln had taken an active part in the campaign which resulted in Taylor's election to the presidency, and made a special trip to Washington City

to support his application for the appointment as Commissioner of the General Land Office; but that position had already been promised to another. President Taylor, however, offered to

appoint him Governor of Oregon Territory, but Mrs. Lincoln objected to going to a section so distant, and the offer was declined. It is interesting to surmise what the effect would have been on the history of the United States if Lincoln had become Governor of Oregon Territory.

Capital Changed from Oregon City to Salem.—

A bitter contest was waged against the proposed removal of the Territorial Capital from Oregon City to some point further south. Governor Lane had by proclamation declared Oregon City to be the capital, but the session of 1850 passed an act locating the seat of government at Salem. Governor Gaines refused to recognize the constitutionality of the act, and was sustained by two of the supreme judges; and while the judges remained at Oregon City, the legislature met in Salem. On May 14, 1852, Congress settled the matter by confirming the act of the legislature.



Abraham Lincoln

Southern Oregon Military Road Built.—With the settlement of Southern Oregon came the demand for wagon roads. Being at the head of tidewater navigation on the Umpqua River, Scottsburg was, in 1850, the starting point for commercial operations with the interior and especially with the gold mines of northern California. The original Indian trails were widened, temporary ferries were established at crossings over the Umpqua River, and abrupt declivities avoided, so that a pack horse could carry a load from the ship's side at Scottsburg into the northern edge of California. But public spirited promoters soon saw the necessity of a suitable wagon way. Through their influence, therefore, the Oregon territorial legislature, in 1852-3, was

induced to memorialize Congress, with the result that \$120,000 was appropriated from the national treasury for a military wagon road from Scottsburg to Stewart Creek in the Rogue River Valley. The route for the road was surveyed first by Lieutenant Withers, U. S. A., October, 1854; and after a further appropriation the survey was completed by Major Atwood, U. S. A., assisted by Jesse Applegate. The survey practically followed the old Southern Oregon Trail. The construction of the road was superintended by Colonel Joseph Hooker, detailed by the War Department for that purpose. The road was completed in 1858. The Southern Oregon Military Road answered the purposes of the people of the Umpqua Valley until the completion of the railroad to Roseburg.—Binger Hermann.

First Steamboat Built in Oregon—Steam propulsion having been established on Oregon rivers by the Hudson's Bay Company steamship "Beaver," the colonists began the construction of steamboats.¹ The first steamboat built in Oregon was named the "Columbia," in honor of the first ship that entered the Columbia River. This steamboat was built in Upper Astoria. Her length was 90 feet, her beam 16 feet, and her depth of hold about 4 feet. She was a side-wheeler, and made her trial trip, July 3, 1850. Her time between Astoria and Oregon City was twenty-four hours, the boat tying up at night. Freight was \$25 per ton between river points, and the passenger paid the same price for a through ticket.

¹"Prior to this time navigation between Vancouver and Oregon City was difficult and dangerous. Bateaux belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company were brought into service. With a crew of six Indians to each boat and a load of about five tons, we would leave Vancouver in the afternoon, making our first landing somewhere near where St. Johns now stands. On the second night we would reach Milwaukie, and on the third afternoon make our arrival at Oregon City. Ascending the rapids below Oregon City was the exciting part of our journey, the Indians wading and towing through the swift current. Occasionally one would lose his hold and footing and go whirling down the rapids for some distance before he would recover himself; and several times, while poling on the head boat, I lost my balance and took a spin in the rapid waters."—Daniel O'Neil. ("Dan" O'Neil was purser for many years on river steamers, known and loved by everybody.)

First Steamboat Built on the Willamette.—The glory of the short-lived steamer "Columbia" had not begun to fade when the steamer "Lot Whitcomb," a more pretentious boat, was launched at Milwaukie, on Christmas Day, 1850. The "Lot Whitcomb" was projected to run between the Milwaukie site and Astoria, touching all points along the route except Portland, which had already promised to be a strong rival of Milwaukie as the chief townsite on the lower Willamette. The steamer was named in honor of her chief promoter, who was also the founder of Milwaukie. She was a side-wheeler, was engined by Jacob Kamm, and commanded at first by Capt. William L. Hanscome, and later by Captain J. C. Ainsworth. After a successful career of four years the "Lot Whitcomb" was purchased by a Sacramento firm that took her to California. Her name was changed to "Annie Abernethy" and she ran regularly for many years between Sacramento and San Francisco. The "Jennie Clark," built in 1854 on the ways where the "Lot Whitcomb" was built, was the first stern wheel steamer that ran on the rivers of Oregon. She was succeeded by the "Carrie Ladd," built in Portland in 1856. The company that owned the "Carrie Ladd" came to be the nucleus of the Oregon Steam Navigation Company, whose boats as to efficiency and elegance in subsequent years became rivals of the "Mississippi River palaces."

WAR WITH THE ROGUE RIVER INDIANS

(1850-1856)

Causes of the Indian Wars.—The long-considered question as to who and what caused the Indian wars had its relation to Oregon, as elsewhere in our early settlements.

The First Cause. The natural objection to the invasion of the whites, and their conquest of the Indian domains, and trespass upon their hunting and fishing rights. To the missionary and the trader who laid no claim to the country the Indian never seriously objected.

The Second. The disregard of the whites as to Indian rights and privileges. The Indians were too often regarded as intruders, were forced from their favorite camping grounds, and driven further and further back to the bleak, barren and inferior places.

The Third. The Indians feared that they would never be compensated by the Government for relinquished lands. This fear was confirmed by the delays of the Government in the execution of treaty agreements.

Finally, there were the wanton and ruffianly invasions of unprincipled white men and their violations of the family and domestic relations of the peaceful and neighboring Indians, together with lustful and murderous attacks by these same whites when remonstrated with. Their lands and their family rights were thus both set at naught. The saddening inhuman sentiment—"A good Indian is only a dead Indian"—became among many whites an accepted axiom. Our history teems with unprovoked attacks upon unoffending Indians, peacefully gathered around their campfires. Want of space prevents a recital of the many instances which history unfolds. While this commentary in no wise justifies many equally savage attacks and robberies on the part of the Indians, it yet sheds a truthful light on the reasons for much of the Indians' deadly hostility to the white race. Had the whites treated the Indians with decent regard for the principles of humane and reasonable

conduct, aboriginal sovereignty of the territory would have been peacefully relinquished, and some of our most desolating wars and terrible massacres avoided. In justice to fast disappearing people we can afford at this late day to lift much of the opprobrium which our history has placed upon them.

First Treaty with the Rogue River Indians.—A number of depredations having been committed by the Rogue River Indians, General Lane with fifteen white men and Chief Quatley of the Klickitats, a fierce enemy of the Rogue Rivers, set out from the Willamette. The party arrived in Sam's Valley about the middle of June, 1850. Upon invitation from the Governor the Indians came for a talk with the view of forming a treaty of peace and friendship. They however abused his confidence by coming one hundred fifty strong with hostile purpose. After the General had instructed them to cease their warfare and had also given them assurance that they would be paid for their land and would be instructed in the knowledge of the white men, a circle was formed in which stood Lane and the chiefs. But just before the conference a second band of Indians appeared, all fully armed. Lane suspected treachery, and had Quatley, the Klickitat chief, enter the circle with a few of his Indians and stand beside the Rogue River chief, who uttered words that raised the war cry of his band. Thereupon, chief Quatley with one hand seized the Rogue River chief, and with the other held a knife directed at his captive's throat. At this point the captive chief, at General Lane's request, sent his warriors away with instructions to return at the end of two days, but not before. In their absence the Rogue River chieftain was the prisoner and guest of General Lane; and from what the savage chief saw and heard during his brief captivity, he became convinced that it was both policy and wisdom for his people to join in a treaty of peace with the whites. This advice he gave to his warriors when they returned. The treaty of peace was signed.

The Battle Rock Incident.—During nearly a year the Indians observed the treaty made with General Lane. How-

ever, numerous depredations were committed in the vicinity of Rogue River, which were attributed to the Indians. One of these occurred in June, 1851, at Port Orford on the coast and about thirty miles north from the mouth of the Rogue River. Nine men had been landed by the steam coaster "Sea Gull" to open a trail for pack trains from that place to Jacksonville. The Indians ordered them to leave; but it was too late, since the coaster had sailed. Thereupon, on the 10th of June, the men carried their effects to the top of a great rock near by, and loaded a small cannon which had been the signal gun on the "Sea Gull." After a spirited harrangue by the chief, a half-hundred Indians rushed up the rock upon a narrow trail, at which time the carefully aimed cannon hurled them into eternity. The



Battle Rock

remaining warriors were put to flight, and the wailing in the Indian villages for the dead was beyond description. That night the victorious party of nine changed their course from Jacksonville, and after enduring severe hardships reached the Umpqua Valley, a hundred miles away. Upon relating the story of their fight with the Indians they gave the name "Battle Rock" to the place of their victory.

Second Indian Outbreak on Upper Rogue River.—*Chief Killed by the Whites.*—On the 23d day of June, 1851, thirty-one Oregon farmers were returning from the California gold mines. Near Table Rock they were attacked by 200 hostile

Indians. In the struggle the commanding Indian chief was killed.

Captain Stuart Killed.—At the time, Major Phil. Kearney, of the United States Dragoons, with a few soldiers was exploring a route from Rogue River through the Umpqua canyon; and messengers having hastened to notify him of the difficulty at Table Rock, he rushed to the rescue. He suddenly came upon the hostiles in ambush and routed them, with the death of eleven Indians. Captain James Stuart, who led the whites in the fight, lost his life.

Arrival of General Lane.—The hostiles rallied on top of Table Rock, from which they could signal to the Indians at a distance. Major Kearney was soon joined by thirty miners, all well armed. There also came a body of forty men in company with General Lane, who were journeying to the California mines.

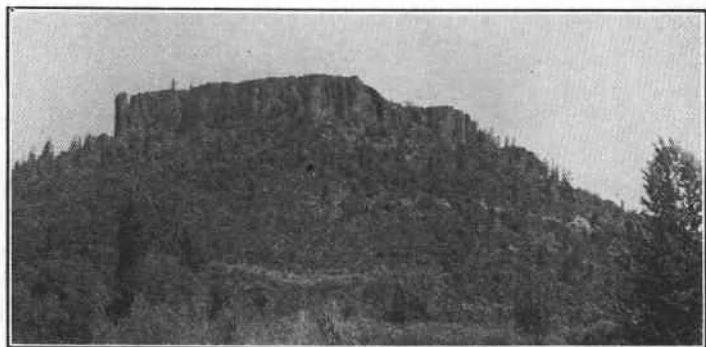


Table Rock

Photo Ed. Weston, Medford, Ore

Battle of Table Rock.—Major Kearney and his men were eager to begin the assault of the enemy, entrenched behind their formidable bulwarks upon Table Rock, which was the tribal headquarters of the Indians of Rogue River. On June 23, 1851, Major Kearney directed the attack from behind log defences. No advantage was gained that day. On the next day two attacks were made. The Indians were cautiously directed by

Old Chief Joe, who declared that the white men had few guns, but he had bows enough "to keep a thousand arrows in the air all the time."

Defeat of the Indians.—The Indians held their ground and fought with such bravery, desperation and strategy that two days' continuous siege failed to defeat them. Then Major Kearney offered them terms of peace, demanding their answer by the next day, which was the 25th. But when the day dawned they could be seen hurriedly speeding down the rocky declivity. The full force retreated down the river for seven miles, then crossed over and continued toward Sardine Creek. The troops hastily mounted their horses and pursued the hostiles, overtaking them on the opposite side of the river. Instead of halting and offering battle the Indians hastily scattered in all directions, deserting their squaws and children, who fell into the hands of the soldiers.

More Atrocities.—On or about June 1, 1853, a party of white men from Jacksonville, aroused by the massacre of seven white people near Grave Creek the winter before, caught a sub-chief named Taylor and two other Indians who were believed to have been the murderers, and hanged them; and going to the Indians encamped at Table Rock, they fired into their village, killing six. These acts impelled the Indians to engage in numerous horrid atrocities. Governor Curry was appealed to and sent a volunteer company under Captain Nesmith, and Fort Vancouver sent Lieutenant Kautz with six artillerymen and a howitzer. The enemy were found on Evans Creek and a battle took place. Then an armistice was agreed to in which all engaged were to meet at Table Rock to make a treaty. Before this, General Lane came and also engaged the enemy. A son of Chief Joe was taken as a hostage for the Indians' attendance at the treaty.

Second Treaty with Rogue River Indians.—"Upon a little point under the walls of Table Rock was enacted the treaty of September 10, 1853, in which the Rogue River Indians relinquished their land titles and agreed to move to reservations provided for them. At the armistice preceding, it was agreed

between the chiefs and military commanders that at the council at Table Rock all should be unarmed and equal in numbers. But when the whites approached the council grounds they were astonished to behold 700 Indians all armed and reclining upon the grassy arena. Captain Nesmith, who had expressed to General Lane his fear that a massacre was premeditated, had previously concealed a small weapon within his garments as a precaution. Being the interpreter, the Captain chose to sit close by the side of the old chieftain, Joe, so that in case of trouble the chief's escape could be prevented. The treaty compact was then read aloud, and when nearly concluded there rushed into the assemblage an Indian in breathless haste and with wailing accents proclaimed his grievance. At once every Indian rifle was uncovered and poised for action. General Lane arose to his feet, gazed defiantly at the chief, and without a tremor in his voice, demanded to know the meaning of the threatening demonstration. He was told that the miners at Applegate had killed an Indian. The General replied by promising to punish the murderers and to make indemnity to the tribes, and expressed his astonishment that those present should so treacherously plan violence upon the few whites present. This pacified the Indians. As the officers were returning to their commands, Nesmith observed to Lane, 'When you have another council of war, I wish to be excused.' The general said in reply: 'Captain, luck is always better than war.' "

—Binger Hermann.

Third Outbreak of the Rogue River Indians.—Being convinced that war with the Rogue River Indians was about to begin anew, Governor Curry on the 15th of October, 1855, issued a proclamation from Corvallis, the temporary capital of Oregon, for nine companies of mounted cavalry. Four companies, designated as the Southern Battalion, were to have headquarters at Jacksonville. The Northern Battalion, which was to consist of five companies—two from Lane, one from Linn, one from Umpqua, and one from Douglas—were to rendezvous at Roseburg. Each volunteer was to furnish his own horse,

arms and equipment, and was to receive four dollars per day from the Territory of Oregon for his services. It is said that every able-bodied man of proper age in the district placed his name on the muster rolls, which accounts for the fact that there were in all about eight hundred volunteers.

Battle of Grave Creek.—The volunteers, on October 30, came upon a large number of Indians on Bald Peak, a high mountain near Grave Creek. The Indians retired into the brush, whence they poured a deadly fire into the ranks of the soldiers. All day long the battle continued; and at dark the whites retired a short distance to obtain water for their wounded and dying. The next morning the Indians made a desperate attack, but were forced to retire to the brush. Nevertheless "they retained a good position on the battle ground and held their scalp dance to celebrate the victory. But the victory was dearly purchased, inasmuch as the Indians not only failed to pursue the retreating whites, but left immediately for their stronghold down the Rogue River."

Last Battle with the Rogue River Indians.—"The last and most eventful year of the war came in 1856 at the Big Meadows on Rogue River near where the hostiles had fortified for a final test. Gen. Lamerick, Col. Kelsay, Col. W. W. Chapman and Major Bruce were active in command of the volunteers. The battle was maintained by the volunteers with

A Heroine of the Rogue River War.—"The ninth of October, 1855, was one of the bloodiest days in Oregon Indian warfare. It had been the design of the Indians to wipe out the white population of Rogue River on that day, and they almost succeeded in their gory undertaking. To give an idea of the terrible experiences of the white people, the following incident is related: By noon, when the savages had carried on murder and devastation throughout much of the settlement, they shot a Mr. Harris. The wounded man ran into his home and fell. His wife barred the door, and with rifle, shotgun and pistols kept the Indians away while she cared for her dying husband and a little daughter, also wounded in the fray. Within an hour the husband was a corpse, but the heroine, with the dead husband and wounded daughter at her feet, courageously defended her home till near nightfall, when the Indians withdrew. Relief arriving the next day, the bereaved mother and daughter were taken to Jacksonville where they were given such comfort and consolation as conditions would permit; and the mother—the heroine of the previous day—was lauded as a typical home-defender of the Oregon frontier."—Pioneer Campfire.

so little energy and daring that the casualties were small on both sides. It was really a draw.

"The Government resolved upon a more determined and decisive prosecution of the war, and regular troops were ordered up from California. The Indians, observing these preparations, assembled in their natural fortifications in the mountain fastnesses, for defense, along the Rogue River. The military plan was for the California troops to move up the Coast and ascend the river, and for those on the upper river to descend and there to concentrate, and between them to crush the hostiles on their own ground. These movements had their influence upon the hostiles, who being communicated with agreed to a conference with the military authorities at a place upon the Illinois river.

"*Lieutenant-Colonel Buchanan* was in command, and most of the regular troops, with throngs of Indians, were present, at the appointed time and place. The main body of the assembled Indians agreed to remove to the reservation; Chief John, however, insisted on remaining upon his own favorite grounds, otherwise he said he would fight. Another council, to meet at Big Meadows on May 26th, 1856, was mutually agreed upon, when the removal to the reservation should begin.

"*The Military Under Captain A. J. Smith* with his 80 dragoons, was present on the day named, but no Indians came. Toward evening two squaws came into camp with a message from Chief George to Captain Smith, warning him to expect an attack. The Captain at once removed his troops to a more elevated and defensive position, and there he prepared to meet the enemy. Early on the 27th he dispatched an aid over the mountains to Col. Buchanan, announcing the expected attack. After prolonged delay, Capt. Augur came suddenly in view just as the savages were making their last assault upon three sides of the beleaguered troops. The soldiers had fought all day, and already nearly one-half had been slain or wounded. They had been cut off from all water and their ammunition was nearly exhausted, while the Indians were being continually reinforced. But the siege was turned and the day was saved. By July 1, all had surrendered, including Chief John. The captives, 1,300

in number, were assembled at Port Orford. From there all were moved to the reservation;¹ and the Rogue River Indian War, covering a period of five years, was at an end."—Binger Hermann.

Famous Generals Served in "Old Oregon."—Among the officers serving in the Department of the Columbia in pioneer days were many who during the Civil War became major-generals, and three commanders-in-chief—McClellan, Hooker and Grant.

In 1853 McClellan was in command of a party of soldiers who explored the Yakima and Naches valleys for a possible railroad route, and the Northern Pacific is built upon the route recommended by him.

In "Canoe and Saddle," Theodore Winthrop relates meeting these soldiers on his perilous journey from Fort Nisqually to The Dalles.

Hooker, then a colonel, explored the Rogue River region for road routes.

Sheridan, then lieutenant, was prominent in Indian fighting at the old blockhouse at the "Middle Cascades," and built that fortress. He also built and occupied a blockhouse in the Coast Range at the head of North Yamhill River.

The blockhouse built later (1856) at the head of the Cascades on the north shore was a notable landmark till after 1890, and should have been preserved for all time.

General Hodges served in this department from 1852 to 1855. He was also in the McClellan party. He was, in 1917, the last survivor of those early officers, and died in October, 1918, aged 85 years.

Other famous soldiers who served as generals or officers of the Department of the Columbia were Kearney, Howard, Wheaton, Miles, Crook, and Hood and Pickett of the Confederate armies.

In 1843 Fremont, the "Pathfinder" prominent in the conquest of California, came down the Columbia with his soldiers; visited Vancouver and then went via the Des Chutes and Klamath country to California.

Bishop Thomas Fielding Scott.—With the development of Oregon came the growth of her churches. Among those taking firm hold was the Episcopal Church, which made effective

¹The reservation referred to is that known as the Grande Ronde, a rich and beautiful region at the headwaters of Yamhill river.



Bishop Thomas Fielding Scott

appeals for a bishop, in answer to which Thomas Fielding Scott was sent in 1853 as Missionary Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Oregon. He was chosen from the diocese of Georgia, the selection being made by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church then in session at New York. Promptly on his election he assumed the duties of his office. He found two churches already erected in Oregon—St. Johns at Milwaukie and Trinity at Portland. Others were soon built at Salem,

Eugene and elsewhere. In the autumn of 1861 the good Bishop opened Spencer Hall, a girls' school, at Milwaukie; and "The Churchman," the official organ of the diocese, was established that year. "The Episcopal church was making steady advance, when on July 14, 1867, during an absence in New York, Bishop Scott suddenly died, universally lamented. A fresh impetus was, however, imparted to the life of the church when a new missionary, Bishop B. Wistar Morris, arrived in Oregon, June, 1869." During the first year of Bishop Morris' incumbency the church built two influential schools in Portland—St. Helen's



Bishop B. Wistar Morris

Hall for girls and a grammar and divinity school for boys, named in honor of Bishop Scott. When Bishop Scott entered upon the duties of his office as missionary bishop of Oregon his diocese included the original territory of Oregon, which was subsequently divided into three states and a portion of two others, each of which now belongs to a diocese of its own.

Gold Discovered in Oregon.—When gold was discovered in California it was believed that the El Dorado or "golden land" extended northward. This led to the discovery of indications of gold, in 1849, near the present town of Gold Hill, Oregon. However, the precious metal was not then found in paying quantities. Fabulous prices offered in California at this time for farm produce led to the discovery of rich gold mines in a singular manner. In 1851 James Cluggage and James R. Poole, who were conducting a pack train used in conveying supplies from Oregon to California, chanced to camp on the present site of Jacksonville. While searching for water they accidentally found placer gold in what was afterwards named Rich Gulch. Also they prospected in Jackson Creek, where they saw the glittering metal on all sides. Realizing they had made a rich discovery, they at once located the town of Jacksonville, and became wealthy and influential citizens. News of the gold discovery at Jacksonville rapidly spread, and miners came in great numbers; so that within fifteen years after the Jacksonville event nearly all the placer gold mines of Oregon were discovered.

First Postoffice West of the Rocky Mountains.—John M. Shively, having been appointed postmaster for Astoria, Oregon, March 9, 1847, soon afterward opened the postoffice of Astoria in a building which had been occupied as a residence by Rev. Ezra Fisher, a Baptist missionary. This bears the distinction of being the first postoffice west of the Rocky Mountains.

Oregon's First Custom House.—Gen. John Adair was the first collector of customs for the Oregon District. He was appointed October 9, 1848, and occupied an office in a rented building in Upper Astoria. His salary was \$1,000 per annum,



Oregon's First Custom House

besides fees and a percentage of duties collected. The building was destroyed by fire, and the Government erected the edifice shown in cut, this being Oregon's first custom house.

The Baptist Church in Oregon.—The first Baptists came to the Pacific Coast in 1843; and a Baptist church was organized at West Union, near Hillsboro, May 25, 1844. The first resident Baptist minister on this coast was Rev. Vincent Snelling, who came to Oregon in 1844. The first missionaries on the Pacific Coast, sent by the American Baptist Home Missionary Society, were Rev. Hezekiah Johnson and Rev. Ezra Fisher, who arrived December, 1845. The first Baptist meeting-house on the Pacific Coast was built by Rev. Mr. Johnson in Oregon City, 1848. The Oregon City College was opened by the latter in Oregon City, 1849. The first formal meeting of Baptists in the Pacific Northwest for educational purposes was held in June, 1851. The first Baptist ministerial conference on the Pacific Coast convened at Pleasant Butte, near Brownsville, 1854. McMinnville College, which was tendered to the Baptists convened at Soda Springs in 1856 by Rev. S. C. Adams of the Christian Church, and accepted by the Central Baptist Association of Oregon in 1857, was opened under Baptist control in 1858. Its enrollment the first winter was 178. The first Baptist Sunday School missionary on the Pacific Coast was W. J. Laughary, appointed in 1872. The first Baptist Chinese Mission in the Pacific Northwest was organized by the First Baptist Church of Portland in 1874. The first Baptist Chinese missionary in this territory, Rev. Dong Tyng, arrived in 1875. The organization of the first Baptist Scandinavian mission in the Northwest was effected by the First Baptist Church of Portland, in 1875, in which city the beginning of the Baptist Women's Foreign Mission movement in Oregon took place in the following year. The first constitutional commitment of the Baptists of Oregon to the foreign mission work was by the convention and some of the associations in 1880. The first formal council to recognize the organization of the Baptist Church in Oregon was convened at Grants Pass, 1886.—Baptist Annals of Oregon.

Joab Powell.—Many of the Oregon colonists were Baptists. They exhibited genuine missionary spirit, and were noted for their acts of charity, for the building of churches and for other enterprising deeds, among which was the establishment of McMinnville College. From the outset there were strong preachers among them. But while others may have been greater, the most noted Baptist preacher in Oregon was Rev. Joab Powell, who occupies a peculiar place in pioneer history.

Established Providence Church.—In 1852 Rev. Powell came from Missouri to Oregon and located on the Santiam River, where he established Providence Church, a colony organization with four hundred members—a following which was very remarkable in that time on account of its size in a sparsely settled locality.

Baptized Three Thousand.—Furthermore it is recorded in the "Baptist Annals of Oregon" that during his ministry Joab Powell baptized "nearly or quite three thousand souls," which is a greater number than any other person baptized west of the Rocky Mountains. Rev. Powell was illiterate from the academic standpoint; but he was so thoroughly versed in the Bible that he did not require it for reference in the pulpit, although his sermons abounded in biblical quotations. He could scarcely read or write, yet he knew the hymn book from cover to cover. While he had no school training he was thoroughly versed in the things that pioneers know best. He understood men, and he communed with nature as with a friend. He was so original, so eccentric,¹ so ready in



Rev. Joab Powell

¹The Oregon Senate was pursuing a policy which Rev. Joab Powell could not approve; so one morning when the President invited him to serve as Chaplain, the senators arose when Mr. Powell offered this striking prayer: "O Lord, forgive them for they know not what they do, Amen," which is said to be the shortest prayer ever offered by a chaplain before the Oregon Senate.

good-humored repartee, so equal to every occasion, and so powerful in the pulpit that people came from far and near to hear him preach—many out of mere curiosity; many to hear the peculiar but stirring message which he brought. For want of churches large enough to accommodate his audiences, court-houses, public schools and theatres were commonly placed at the command of this peculiar preacher¹—the Baptist forerunner in Oregon—who lived on plain diet and went about clad in homespun.

First Mining Code of Oregon.—Upon learning that gold had been discovered in the Rogue River Valley, a crew of sailors at Crescent City deserted their ship, and with pick and shovel ascended the Illinois River to Waldo, Josephine County, where they found gold in paying quantities. Soon other miners came, and the place was called "Sailor Diggin's." Already the belief prevailed that gold mining would be carried on extensively in Oregon. Hence there arose the demand for a common understanding regarding the rights of miners. Therefore, at a meeting held in "Sailor Diggin's," April, 1852, the following mining rules and regulations were adopted:

1. That fifty linear yards shall constitute a claim on the bed of the creek extending to high water on each side.
2. That forty feet shall constitute a bank or bar claim on the face extending back to the hill or mountain.
3. That all claims not worked when workable, after five days to be forfeited or "jumpable."
4. That all disputes arising from mining claims shall be settled by arbitration, and the decision shall be final.

Such was the mining code of "Sailor Diggin's" which was the center of the first mining district of Oregon.

United Brethren Missionary Train.—*Church Colonization Authorized.*—Among the church colonies that came to Oregon was the United Brethren Missionary Colony. In 1852 Rev.

¹Rev. Joab Powell was noted for humorous stories and western sayings that were clad in homely phraseology familiar to frontiersmen. It may be said in his behalf, however, that to every border story or saying attributed to Rev. Powell, ten can be found to the credit of Abraham Lincoln; and Abraham Lincoln was one of the greatest men of his age.

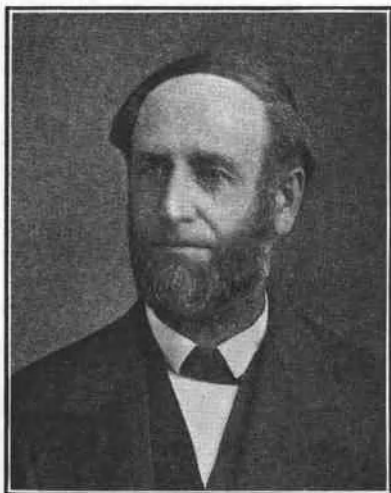
Thomas Jefferson Connor, of Hartsville, Indiana, was delegated by the United Brethren Conference then in session at Canal, Ohio, to organize and conduct a missionary colony to Oregon. Five hundred dollars had been contributed by the church for the project. The amount was incredibly small for so great an undertaking. Yet it was one-fifth as much as Congress had appropriated for the Lewis and Clark expedition to Oregon less than a half century before. The party of ninety-eight persons from various quarters gathered at Council Bluffs; and May 7, 1853, began the journey to Oregon, with Rev. T. J. Connor as their leader.



Rev. Thomas Jefferson Connor

They arrived in the Willamette Valley in the following September. The most of them settled in Benton County, where they established churches, and rigidly observed many of the rules of religious life established by the Puritans. Regular attendance at church and the strict observance of Sunday as the Sabbath were among their requirements. Furthermore, dancing was frowned upon, while simplicity of dress and plainness of manner were regularly taught from the pulpit. They believed in the kinship of cleanliness and godliness so thoroughly that Monday was set apart for putting their homes in order. Hence there were no schools in session on that day, but instead Saturday was observed as a school day. Christian education of the young was an important canon of their faith; therefore they were diligent in organizing church schools. They erected fine homes, and they prospered in the land of their pilgrimage. Many of the leading citizens of Oregon are descendants of that missionary band.

Sublimity Institute.—Sublimity Institute, a preparatory school, was founded in 1857 at Sublimity, Oregon, by Rev.



Bishop Milton Wright

Jeremiah Kennoyer, a member of the United Brethren Missionary Colony. It was established as the preparatory school of the North District of the United Brethren church in Oregon. The school was prosperous for a number of years, then closed its doors for want of sufficient patronage. Sublimity Institute is remembered by many because of its first President, Rev. Milton Wright, who later was chosen bishop, and who also is widely known as the father of the famous aeronauts—Orville and Wilbur

Wright.¹

Philomath College.—Upon the arrival (1853) of the United Brethren Missionary train in Oregon, it was decided to divide Oregon into two districts, each comprising an area of about three thousand square miles. The south district, under the supervision of Rev. T. J. Connor, was called Willamette, and the north district, in charge of Rev. Jeremiah Kennoyer, was called "Yam Hill." It was the ambition of each district not only to provide necessary church buildings for the growing congregations, but also to build a suitable school for the higher religious and literary training of the young people who, because of the long distance across the plains, were debarred from attending eastern colleges and academies.

Philomath College Established.—Therefore, in 1867, the United Brethren of Willamette District Missionary Colony aided by

¹Orville and Wilbur Wright were born in Indiana in 1867 and 1871, respectively.

friends, established Philomath¹ College at Philomath, Oregon, as the United Brethren school for Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and California. It was chartered as a Christian college for the liberal education of both sexes, and for the training of ministers. Also, according to a provision of the charter, no intoxicating liquor was permitted to be sold within a mile of the institution. For this and other reasons Philomath College



Philomath College

prospered and became so popular that there was a movement to change it into a state institution, provided the United Brethren church surrendered its control, a provision which the church authorities were unable to meet because of certain clauses in the charter of the school.

Beach Mining.—Beach mining was probably introduced in Oregon as early as 1852. In 1853 a thousand miners were engaged in washing gold from the sand along the beach of the southern Oregon Coast. It was gold that had once been carried by stream and freshet from the mountain to the sea, then washed with the sand from the sea to the shore, and shifted back and forth by the waves until it became so fine that much of it could be seen only by means of the microscope. Yet with the aid of

¹From two Greek words meaning a lover of learning.

quicksilver, shovel and golddust pan the miner obtained it in paying quantities.

Oregon Divided Into Territories.—The Territory of Oregon in 1853 being larger than the German Empire in 1914, it was only natural that it should eventually be divided into other territories. But few then realized that this would soon come to pass, and that the new territories would be so large that they in time would become states to be subdivided into other states. Yet within a few years after Oregon was proclaimed a territory this succession of changes began.

Washington.—In response to a petition from a portion of the Oregon Country lying north of the Columbia River, Washington was organized as a territory, March 2, 1853, and admitted into the Union as the forty-second State, November 11, 1889. Its capital is Olympia. Washington is bounded on the north by British Columbia, east by Idaho, south by Oregon, and west by the Pacific Ocean. It has as total area of 69,127 square miles, and (1921) a population of 1,356,621.

Idaho was organized as a territory, March 3, 1863, and admitted into the Union as the forty-third State, July 3, 1890. It is bounded on the north by British America and Montana, east by Montana and Wyoming, south by Utah and Nevada, and west by Oregon and Washington. Idaho has a total area of 84,313 square miles and (1921) a population of 431,866.

Montana.—The northeast corner of the Oregon Country which was secured to the United States by the treaty with Great Britain in 1846, became the northwest part of Montana, May 26, 1864, when Montana became a Territory which on November 8, 1889, became the forty-first State in the Union. Montana has a total area of 146,572 square miles and (1921) a population of 548,889.

Wyoming.—The Oregon Country contained a region which is now a portion of Wyoming. Wyoming was organized as a Territory, July 25, 1868, and was admitted into the Union as the forty-fourth State, July 10, 1890. It contains a total area of 97,914 square miles, and (1921) has a population of 194,402.

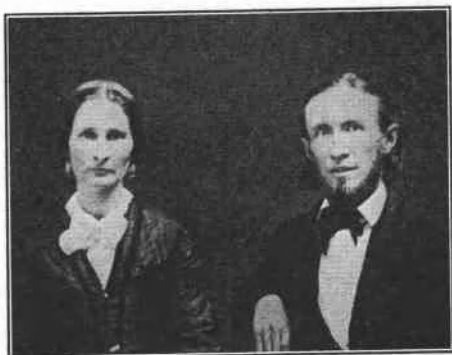
CHAPTER VIII

GOVERNORS DAVIS AND CURRY

(May 19, 1853—March 3, 1859)

"Those pioneers
Who set their plowshares to the sun
Were kings of heroes every one."—*Joaquin Miller.*

Governor George L. Curry was born in Boston, July 2, 1820. In 1843 he started west, and, after an experience of three years in the newspaper business in St. Louis crossed the plains to Oregon, arriving there on August 30, 1846. For a time he was editor of the Oregon "Spectator," and in May, 1853, was appointed Secretary of Oregon Territory, becoming Governor (upon the resignation of General Lane) and serving in that capacity until the following December.



Governor and Mrs. George L. Curry

Governor Davis.—John W. Davis, of New York, was appointed governor by President Pierce, and arrived in Oregon on December 2, 1853, but resigned August 1 of the following year. Governor Davis had been a member of Congress from Indiana for four terms, and had served one term as Speaker of the National House of Representatives. He was also at one time United States minister to China. He was not acquainted with western spirit or customs; hence resigned his office. His career as Governor was uneventful, and after his brief service he returned to Indiana, where he died in 1859, aged 41 years.

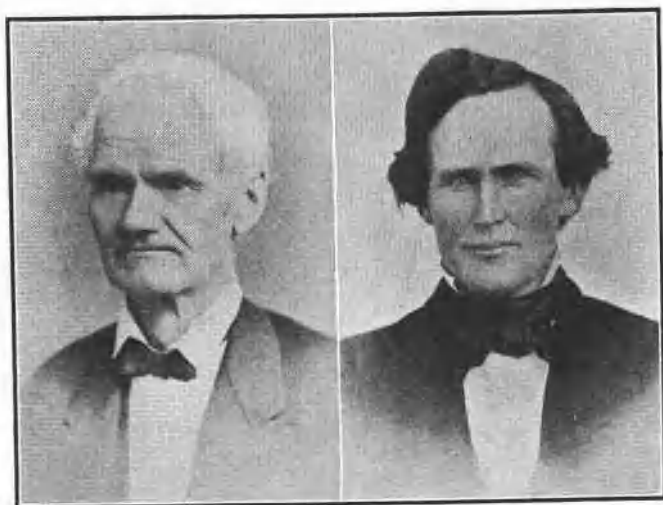
Curry's Second Term as Governor.—Upon the resignation of Governor Davis, George L. Curry, on August 1, 1854, again

became Governor of Oregon. He continued to fill that office until the inauguration of John Whiteaker, the first Governor under the state constitution. Oregon had a territorial government ten years, and Governor Curry was its chief executive for half of that time. He was a cultured man of the people, and left a splendid record. Governor Curry died at his home in Portland on July 28, 1878.

The United Presbyterian Church Originated in Oregon.¹
—Notwithstanding the sparsely settled condition of the country, there were four branches of the Presbyterian church in Oregon in 1851. They were the Presbyterians, Cumberland Presbyterians, Associate Presbyterians, and Associate Reformed Presbyterians. To meet the situation the last two of these organizations came to believe that it would be the part of wisdom for them to consolidate. These two churches were seceders from the old Church of Scotland, one withdrawing as early as 1688, and the other in 1733; and therefore were among the oldest of the dissenting churches. Their secession was principally on account of departure from evangelical doctrine and laxness of discipline on the part of the mother church.

Meetings were held to discuss Consolidation, the result being the passage of the following resolution at a convention made up of delegates from both of the local organizations: "Resolved, that there is not that difference between the public standards of the two churches which warrants the maintenance of a separate communion and ecclesiastical organization; therefore, we do agree and resolve henceforth to unite in one body, to be known as "The United Presbyterian Church of Oregon." The leaders in this movement were: Rev. James P. Millar, D.D.; Rev. Thomas S. Kendall, D.D., and Rev. Samuel G. Irvine, D.D., of the Associate branch; and Rev. Wilson Blain, Rev. S. D. Gager, Rev. Jeremiah Dick, and Rev. James Worth, of the Associate Reformed branch.

¹Gleaned from a paper read by Hon. C. H. Stewart at the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the organization of the Willamette Congregation at Oakville, Oregon.



Rev. Thomas S. Kendall, D. D

Rev. Wilson Blain

Two of the originators of the United Presbyterian Church

The Organizations Merge Into One.—Accordingly a meeting of the presbyteries representing these branches was held at the residence of Rev. Wilson Blain, at Union Point, three miles from Brownsville, in Linn County, Oregon, on October 20, 1852, at which time both organizations formally merged into one under the name mentioned. The basis adopted was: "The Word of God is the only rule of faith and practice, and the supreme authority for the regulation of doctrine, worship and government—the Westminster Confession of Faith, and the Catechisms, larger and shorter—all matters of previous separation to be held as matters of private opinion and Christian forbearance."

First Psalm-Singing Congregation in West Half of America.—Of the congregations forming the union in 1852, but one has had continuous existence to the present time. This is "Willamette Congregation," located at Oakville, six miles to the southeast of Corvallis. This congregation was organized in July, 1850—the first congregation of psalm-singing people in the western half of the United States.

First United Presbyterian Church in North America.—Under the auspices of the new denomination a congregation was organized in Albany, Oregon, October 10, 1853, which is still in existence, and it bears the distinction of being the first congregation organized in North America under the name of "United Presbyterian."

The Mother Churches in the East had been anxiously watching this movement, and at the first meeting of the synods to which the congregations belonged their action in concluding the union was approved. In fact the two small organizations in the West had, through force of circumstances, accomplished something that the mother churches had very much desired for many years; and no doubt aided in bringing about the union between them six years later at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The new church in the East was known as "The United Presbyterian Church of North America," and it set forth a declaration of principles strikingly similar to those previously adopted by the church in Oregon. Steps were taken immediately to bring into the organization the little band in Oregon that had blazed the way to union, and at a meeting of the Oregon Church, held at Kendalls' Bridge, Linn County, on May 5, 1859, they became a part of the United Presbyterian Church of North America.

Results of the Consolidation.—The formation of the United Presbyterian Church in Oregon is an instance where the members of two church families, holding practically the same doctrine, and being almost altogether cut off by distance from fellowship with the mother denominations, were led to adapt themselves to prevailing conditions; and the local union thus effected proved to be so happy in its results that the parent bodies in the East, after witnessing the course of their children for several years, emulated their example and brought about a general family reunion. And now one may travel from the mother United Presbyterian Church at Albany, through almost every State in the Union, then to South America, Europe and Asia, and then ascend the Nile to the United Presbyterian University in North Africa, and yet worship every Sunday in a sanctuary of the Church that originated in Linn County, Oregon.

Pacific University.—Following the advice of Rev. George H. Atkinson, who had been sent to Oregon as a special missionary superintendent with instruction to found an academy, the Congregationalists and Presbyterians in conference at Oregon City in 1848, decided to establish an academy at Forest Grove; and Mrs. Tabitha Brown's Orphan School, opened the year before, formed the nucleus of the institution. In 1849 the school was formally incorporated under the special act of the Oregon

Territorial Legislature as Tualatin Academy. Rev. Atkinson and his co-workers erected a college hall in 1851. Two years later Rev. Sidney H. Marsh, the first president of the proposed college, came through the wilderness from New England and took up his residence in the new hall. In 1854 the legislature chartered the college under the name of Pacific University. The University held its first commencement in 1863, graduating but one student. This was Harvey W. Scott, who came to be one of the foremost newspaper editors of the nation.

Japan Patronizes Pacific University.—In 1872 the pro-

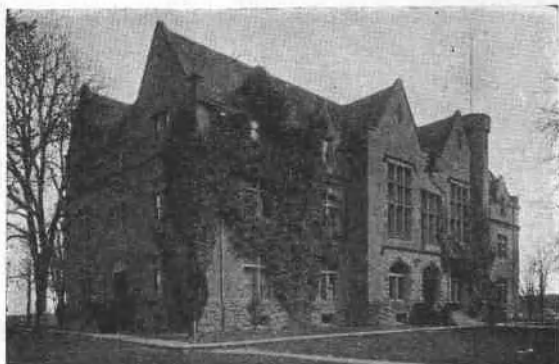


Sidney H. Marsh
First President Pacific University



Mrs. Tabitha Brown

gressive movement in Japan resulted in sending many of the sons of prominent families to schools in America and Europe. Pacific University was selected for three of them, all of whom



Marsh Hall, Pacific University

graduated in 1876. They were Yei Nosea and Hatstara Tamura, both of whom became prominent educators and writers; also Kin Saito who is chief justice of the Court of Hokaido, Japan.

Christian College.—In 1854 Rev. John E. Murphy, Elijah Davidson, J. B. Smith, A. H. Lucas and S. Whitman donated

a mile square of land in Polk County on which to found a town, the proceeds from the sale of town lots to be used in establishing a college under the supervision of the local Christian Church, and to be called Monmouth University. At a mass meeting the town was named Monmouth. Money was donated, a small building erected, and the school was placed in charge of the Christian Church of Oregon. An endowment of \$20,000 was immediately raised from the sale of forty scholarships at \$500 each; thus what had



T. F. Campbell
President of Christian College

been a cow pasture and a wheat field came to be the site of a college community. In 1858 a wooden building was erected at the cost of \$5,000 on the present State Normal School grounds; and the name of the school was changed from Monmouth University to Christian College. On account of the inadequacy of the building, President T. F. Campbell secured donations and erected a brick building, at the cost of \$16,000, which forms the north wing of the State Normal School Building. In 1882, under the presidency of D. T. Stanley, the name of Christian College was changed to Oregon State Normal School. The buildings and grounds were given to the State for a Normal School, free of debt, and the gift was accepted by the Legislature of 1891.

Capital Located at Corvallis.—All of the following cities have appeared in school geographies as the capitals of Oregon: Oregon City, Salem, Corvallis, and Eugene. We have already learned that the capital was located at Oregon City and then at Salem; and now we are about to see how it happened that Corvallis and Eugene, each in its turn, came near being chosen as the permanent capital. January 13, 1855, a bill was passed by the legislature removing the seat of territorial government from Salem to Corvallis,¹ and the university from Corvallis to Jacksonville. Since work had already been commenced on the public buildings at Salem, opposition to the change was very strong. Governor Curry at once referred the matter to the Secretary of the Treasury, who deemed the



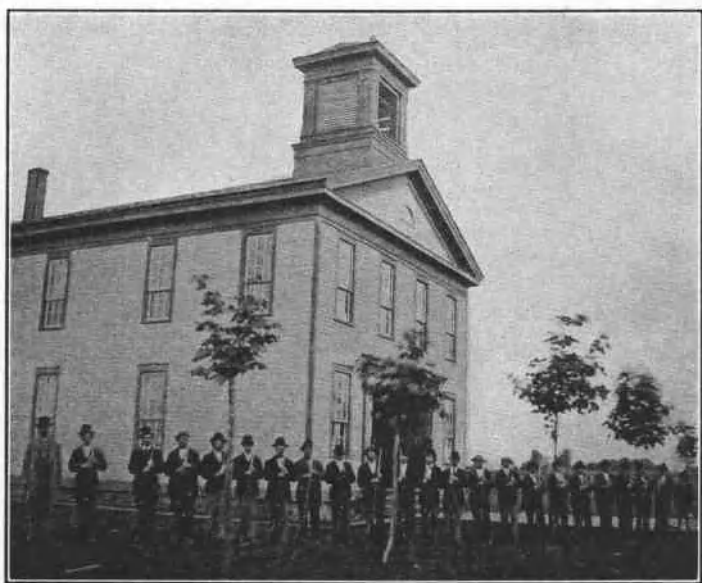
Territorial Capitol at Corvallis, 1855

¹In April Mr. Asahel Bush moved the "Oregon Statesman" from Salem to Corvallis, as he had previously done from Oregon City to Salem. Much newspaper comment was made upon the matter, but the editor replied that the "Statesman" was published at the seat of Government wherever that might chance to be.—Wells.

change inoperative until acted upon by Congress. Thereupon Governor Curry and Secretary Harding removed their offices to Salem, and for the second time Oregon had two capitals. On the third of December both houses convened at Corvallis, and the first bill, introduced on the sixth, was to relocate the seat of government at Salem, and the bill became a law on the 15th. The capital was immediately removed to Salem, where the Legislature was opened on the 18th.

Eugene and Corvallis Lead for the Capital.—*The Legislature in Salem, December 18, 1855.*—By a strange coincidence the new State House in which the Legislature met, was destroyed by fire on the night of December 29th. Upon the sudden loss of the State House with the library and archives of the territory, the Legislature decided to submit the question of locating the capital to popular vote at the next general election; and it was provided that in case no town had a clear majority of all the votes cast a special election should be held the first Monday in October to decide between the two receiving the greatest number. At the general election in June (1856), Eugene City received 2,627 votes; Corvallis, 2,327; Salem, 2,101; Portland, 1,154. Neither had a majority, but "Eugene and Corvallis were the highest two and the final decision was to be made at the popular election in October." However, four counties failed to make election returns according to law, hence the official result as announced by Secretary Harding gave Eugene City 2,319, Salem 2,049, Corvallis 1,998, and Portland 1,154. "Hence the vote was to be taken on Eugene City and Salem. The citizens of Corvallis were greatly incensed and the public much disgusted. So when the first Monday in October came few people took the trouble to vote. Less than a hundred votes were cast in Portland, while in many places no polls were opened. Five counties made no returns to the Secretary. Eugene City having received the largest majority of the votes became the seat of justice; but the election was ignored, and both the Legislature and the Supreme Court assembled at Salem in December,"¹

¹Wells.



Corvallis College (1876)

(The First College Cadets in the Pacific Northwest were organized by Captain B. D. Boswell, U. S. A., in Corvallis, 1872. See page 164.)

Corvallis College Founded.—Corvallis College took its name from Corvallis,¹ the town in which it was located. The edifice housing the institution was erected by a private corporation in 1856. Although called a college, the institution was opened as an academy. In 1858 it was chartered as a non-sectarian school. Later the property belonging to the institution was transferred to the Pacific Conference of the M. E. Church South. In 1865 Rev. William Finley was chosen president and under his administration the school offered an advanced course of instruction leading to the degree of bachelor of arts. In 1868 the college was incorporated by the M. E. Church South. During the same year also it was designated by the legislature of Oregon as the Oregon Agricultural College. Upon the

¹The name had its origin in French words, Coeur de la Vallee—"Heart of the Valley."



President B. L. Arnold

resignation of President Finley Dr. B. L. Arnold was chosen president, and the chair of agriculture was established in Corvallis College under the direction of Professor B. J. Hawthorne; whereupon, in 1873, scientific agriculture on the Pacific Coast was taught for the first time. In 1885 the State of Oregon assumed control of the school; and three years later the agricultural department of the school was transferred to the present site. At the end of one year Corvallis

College—the original institution—closed its doors; and in 1899 the building was razed.



Portland, Oregon, in 1853

LaCreole Academic Institute.—In 1856 three men donated 112 acres of land adjacent to the present site of Dallas for the establishment of a school. February 15th of that year the board of trustees was organized, with Reuben P. Boise as president and Horace Lyman as secretary. The following year the school was opened as LaCreole Academic Institute, with an attendance of 57 students. The school was commonly called LaCreole Academy. It steadily increased in popularity, and in 1900 was united with LaFayette Seminary under the corporate name LaCreole Academy and Dallas College.

Oregon Decided to Hold Constitutional Convention.—The most important event occurring during the administration of Governor Curry was the convention which formulated the state constitution. The question of authorizing a constitutional convention had been submitted to the people by the Legislature in 1856 and was carried by a vote of 7,209 in favor and 1,616 against. The Indian wars of 1855 and 1856 had resulted in many claims against the United States Government, and it was thought better opportunity for their favorable consideration would exist if Oregon were represented by men who could vote in Congress.

The Constitutional Convention.—The constitutional convention, consisting of sixty members, met in Salem on August 17, 1857. Among them were 34 farmers and 18 lawyers. All three justices of the Territorial Supreme Court were members—Judge Matthew P. Deady, Judge George H. Williams, and Judge Cyrus Olney. Judge Deady was chosen president of the convention, and with Chester N. Terry and M. C. Barkwell as secretaries. On September 18 the convention adjourned, having adopted the proposed constitution by a vote of 35 in favor and 10 against, 15 being absent. At a special election held on the second of the following November, the document was adopted by the people by a vote of 7,195 to 3,215 against, and on February 14, 1859, Oregon was admitted into the Union as the thirty-third State.

Members of the Constitutional Convention were: Marion County, Geo. H. Williams, L. F. Grover, J. C. Peebles, Joseph

Cox, Nicholas Shrum, Davis Shannon, Richard Miller; Linn, Delazon Smith, J. T. Brooks, Luther Elkins, J. H. Brattain; Jas. Shields, Jr., R. S. Coyle; Lane, E. Hoult, W. W. Bristow, Jesse Cox, A. J. Campbell, I. R. Moores, Paul Brattain; Benton, John Kelsay, H. C. Lewis, H. B. Nichols, William Matzger; Polk and Tillamook, A. D. Babcock; Polk, R. P. Boise, F. Waymire, Benj. F. Burch; Yamhill, W. Olds, R. V. Short, R. C. Kinney, J. R. McBride; Clackamas, J. K. Kelly, A. L. Lovejoy, W. A. Starkweather, H. Campbell, Nathaniel Robbins; Washington and Multnomah, Thos. J. Dreyer; Multnomah, S. J. McCormick, William H. Farrar, David Logan; Washington, E. D. Shattuck, John S. White, Levi Anderson; Wasco, C. R. Meigs; Clatsop Cyrus Olney; Columbia John W. Watts; Josephine, S. Hendershott, W. H. Watkins; Jackson, L. J. C. Duncan, J. H. Reed, Daniel Newcomb, P. P. Prim; Coos, T. G. Lockhart; Curry, William H. Packwood; Umpqua, Jesse Applegate, Levi Scott; Douglas, M. P. Deady, S. F. Chadwick, Solomon Fitzhugh, Thomas Whitted.

Negro Slavery Submitted to the People.—Two questions were submitted separately to the people: one as to whether the new state should adopt slavery, and the other declaring that free negroes should not be permitted to reside here. The vote for slavery was 2,645, against 7,727. Against free negroes as residents, 8,640; and for, 1,081. The new constitution thus declared against free negroes living in Oregon, but this provision was never enforced.



Bethel College, 1917

Bethel College.—Bethel College, near McCoy, Oregon, was built by the religious denomination known as The Christians (1857). The school prospered for a number of years. But as Bethel College and Christian College were dependent

upon the same sources of support, the doors of Bethel College were later closed and the working force of the institution was moved to Christian College, located at Monmouth.

First Woolen Mill West of the Rocky Mountains.—Oregon women first manufactured wool into yarn by hand labor; and by hand the yarn was knit into stockings. Hand looms were soon introduced into homes where material for clothing was woven, and homespun garments were common. However, housewives' duties were somewhat diminished in 1854, when a wool carding mill was erected in Albany. The next year machinery was installed on LaCreole, for carding, spinning and weaving of flannel; and in 1857 William H. Rector, as superintendent, built at Salem the first woolen mill west of the Rocky Mountains. The next woolen mills erected were: one at Oregon City in 1864, another at Ellendale (Polk County), 1866, and the third at Brownsville in 1875. It required several years to establish a reputation for Oregon woolen products. It was very difficult at first to market in our state the goods that were manufactured by our mills. It was frequently necessary, at first, to ship the Oregon-made fabric into other states, where it was purchased unwittingly by our merchants, who brought it back to be sold to their customers. But a wonderful change took place. Oregon woolen mills were very fortunate in competing for medals in national and international expositions. In course of time, foreign and domestic recognition was won for our woolen manufacture, resulting in the erection of several other woolen mills.

McMinnville College.—Pioneer Baptist missionaries established Oregon City College in 1849; but for want of ample support the school was closed and the property sold. The money thus acquired was paid into the funds of McMinnville College, which in the meantime had come into existence in the manner related by Bancroft, the historian, as follows: "The Legislature in 1857-8, granted a charter to the Baptist College at McMinnville, a school already founded by the Disciples, or Christian Church, and turned over to the Baptists with the

belongings, six acres of ground and a school building as a free gift upon condition that they should keep up a collegiate school."

Federal Court Established.—By an act of Congress of March 3, 1859, the State of Oregon was constituted a judicial district, within which a district court should be established with powers and jurisdiction like the District Court of the United States for the District of Iowa, and the judge of said district court was authorized to hold regular annual sessions at the seat of the government of the State, to commence on the second Mondays of April and September, respectively, in each year. Judge Matthew P. Deady was appointed District Judge by President James Buchanan. He opened the first term of the district court at Salem, Oregon, on the 12th day of September, 1859. Judge Deady was dissatisfied with Salem as the place of holding the Federal court, and succeeded, in September, 1860, in having it transferred to Portland.