Beginnings of Oregon.

Exploration and Early Settlement at the Mouth of the Columbia River.

ocean.

ASTORIA, April 18.—The Ciatsop Coun- | to the 20th of May. He ascended it about ty Teachers' Institute finished its second 25 miles. Meares left as a memento of day's session this evening. The morning his failure the name of Cape Disappointwas devoted to routine work. In the af-ternoon addresses were delivered by Pro-side, where the river debouches into the ternoon addresses were delivered by Professor D. P. Dyer, of Bishop Scott Academy, on "Manual Training," and by Professor Young, of Eugene, on "The Oregon

This evening the exercises were held in the M. E. Church, which was crowded with members of the institute and citizens. Hon. C. W. Fulton, president of the school board, presided. Rev. William Seymour Short, of Grace Episcopal Church, pronounced the invocation, and Professor W. W. Payne, principal of the city schools, delivered an address of wel-

Professor J. H. Ackerman delivered an address on "Progress of Education in Oregon." He spoke highly of the advancement Oregon had made in the past few years in educational matters, especially in the securing of favorable legislation, and the growing interest taken by the parents and people generally in the welfare of the public schools. He gave the name it bears as a comp

land, who gave an interesting and instructive lecture on the discoveries and early explorations in the territory adjacent to the mouth of the Columbia River. He spoke particularly of the voyage of Captain Gray, the first mariner to enter the mouth of the Columbia, and of the trip of Lewis and Clark across the plains and mountain ranges to the Pacific. Mr. Scott spoke in glowing terms of the early pioneers and missionaries, who came to was associated in his mind with the acqui-Oregon and laid the foundation for the sition of Louisiana. Each was a necessary greatest commonwealth of the Pacific Northwest. He urged his hearers to study carefully the early history of the state, had planned an expedition across the conas the centennial anniversaries to be celebrated within the coming few years will bring prominently before the people of organized, however, before the purchase the whole country many important events from France was completed; for in fact full was as follows:

I trust I may be able to present the discourse is to be devoted to the discovery

Man, says the poet, is given power to welfare of our posterity.

I believe it is with satisfaction that our more and more, a part of the education of into the great Pacific sea, our children and youth. Our system of the amount of material is almost an emcan do no better than to imitate the manat any part of the story.

made. This locality was the destination of our very first pioneers. Here was the of the poet, was the band of pioneers, founders of commonwealths, the first low wash of the waves of migration, where soon was to roll a great human sea. We tenary cycle of this movement and beginning of the second. It is especially history should now be awakened. paration for the Lewis and Clark

Centennial there will be much to say also will be busy with it. We had the Professor John Fiske was here and delivered his admirable address on the authievement of Captain Gray in his good | rolls the Oregon," that did most to spread | forty, till the final settlement in the ship Columbia. We are now soon to have the name before the world. the centennial of the exploration which transactions, as the beginning of Amer-

the shores of the Pacific, missed the Cogreat estuary since known as Puget Sound. Nevertheless, it is well attested that the Spanish navigator, Heceta, in August, 1775, was off the mouth of the great next thirteen years the place was dismouth of the San Roque. It was examined by Meares, an English navigator, in July, 1788, who, however, reported that no river existed here. Nearly four years later "this opinion of Meares was subscribed without qualification by Vanconver after he had examined the coast ditions of wind and weather, and, notwithstanding the assurance of Gray to the contrary." Thus Greenhow, The actual erson hastened the organization of the discovery of the mouth of the river was exploring expedition to go overland from ade May II, 1792, by Captain Robert Gray, a New England navigator, who says strengthening the rights we had acquired of life, has been too little studied by our in his log-book, under that date: "Beheld through Gray's discovery, and of antici. people. It should be in all our libraries; our desired port, hearing east-south-east, pating further expeditions and claims of knowledge of it is indispensable to any being a little to the windward of the here too soon, for the English already history. It should be studied as the "Anentrance of the harbor, bore away and had other expeditions in preparation, and abasis" of the Western World. We are ran in east-north-east between the break- their explorers were on the Upper Co- coming to the first centennial of this exers, having from five to seven fathoms of lumbla but a little later than the return | pedition and intend to celebrate it; but found this to be a large river of fresh

Gray, sailing out of the river to the northward, met Vancouver, who had sailed into the Straits of Fuca, and was completing his examination of Puget Sound-so-called by Vancouver for a member of his party. Later in the year Vancouver sailed for the Bay of San Franisco, leaving his lieutenant, Broughton, to examine the Columbia River. Broughton, in the Chatham, entered the river in November, 1782. Finding it difficult to ascend the river with his bark, small as it was, he took his launch and made his way up the stream 100 miles. To the ultimate point he reached he gave the name of Vancouver. All the way up and down he sprinkled names plentifully. Walker's Island was named for one of his men. To Tongue Point he gave the name it bears to this day. Young's River and Bay he called for Sir George Young of the British Navy. To Gray's Bay he mentioned many innovations yet to the discoverer whose ship had lain needed, some of which were alresdy in it some months before. When Broughplanned. Among them is the establish- ton entered the river he found a small ment of manual training departments at English vessel which had been up the all educational institutions. He consid- coast to the northward on a trading voyered these departments absolutely es- age, and on its return southward had sential as a means of teaching the pupils turned into the Columbia River. This to be self-reliant, providing them with vessel remained in the river till Broughan avocation for gaining a livelihood, and ton was ready to sail with his own brig, educating them to look upon any class the Chatham. It was the bark Jenny, of honest labor as an honorable calling, and her commander was Captain Baker, The principal address of the evening His name is perpetuated in Baker's Bay. was that of H. W. Scott, of Port- The Chatham and the Jenny went to sea together; and Baker though disappearing then and there from history, has left his

The importance to the United States of

name to us forever.

obtainment of a footing upon the Pacific was seen even at this early day; but it was appreciated only by a few of our statesmen. To Thomas Jefferson the honor is due to quick and early apprehension of the significance of Gray's discovery. Confirmation of our title to Oregon part of the imperial scheme. Even before the acquisition of Louisiana Jefferson tinent to the Oregon country and to the Pacific Ocean. The expedition was not of Oregon's ploneer days. His speech in we had no right to send an exploring party through the country of the Upper Missouri. A few years later the expeditheme on which I am to speak tonight, tion of Zebulon Pike, into Colorado and though my treatment of it will necessari- southward into Spanish territory was arly be inadequate, in a way that will pos- rested by the troops of Spain; but after sess some interest for this audience. My the members had been held as prisoners for a time they were returned to the and exploration of Oregon, and to the first United States. France probably would settlement in Oregon, of which Astoria not have been prepared to arrest an expewas the seat. I can give the sub- dition from the United States traversing ject but slight treatment, yet I indulge her territory to reach the Pacific Ocean; ome hope that I may present some parts but with the completion of the Louisiana of the history in a way that may enter- purchase the danger of such an incident was averted. The Lewis and Clark party was organized quickly after the purchase,

though the name had as yet obexpedition had appeared both in the pearance of "Thanatopsis," but undoubtedly it was Bryant's expression, "Where

The men of the Lewis and Clark expeconfirmed to us the great country reached dition were the first Americans who came by the discovery. The history of these across the continent to the Oregon country and the Pacific Ocean. Alexander ican empire on the Pacific Coast, is a Mackenzie, twelve years earlier, had come record of profound interest. It has its from Canada, passing through the contiplace among the events of first importance nent and over the mountains from Peace in the development of the United States. River, which flows into Athabasca Lake, The Spaniards, earliest navigators along and thence discharges its waters through the Great Slave River and the Mackengle. lumbia River, and never penetrated the into the Arctic Ocean. From the headwaters of Peace River Mackenzie passed on west to the stream which later took the name of Fraser River, and after following the river for some distance, struck cial Weather Bureau to gauge it. The giver, noted its position and observed the directly west for the Pacific, which he country round about is very fully and acwast flow of fresh water; and within the reached in July, 1783. Mackenzie was the curately described in the journal. It is first man who crossed the continent to tinguished on Spanish charts as the the Pacific Ocean north of the Spanish be acquired for the state. Officials of the possessions, which at that time had an State Historical Society have visited it, indeterminate northern boundary. This and some negotiation has been had conboundary was fixed afterward at the cerning it. The spot where sait was By the painstaking annotations of Dr. forty-second parallel by treaty between made by evaporation of sea water for

the United States and Spain. On the results of the expedition of Mackenzie and of the voyage of Vancou. minutely, under the most favorable con- ver the British Government was already the Necanicum and the ocean, and since basing a large and general claim to sovereignty on the Pacific. President Jeffthe United States, for the purpose of a distance of six leagues. At 8 A. M., Great Britain. Lewis and Clark were not fair comprehension of the basis of our water. When we were over the bar we of Lewis and Clark from the mouth of we shall not know much about it, unless the stream. Simon Fraser, in 1806-8, fol. we study the journal of Lewis and Clark, water, up which we steered." Captain lowed to the sea the river that bears his Oregon is under great obligations to the

before him had believed, that he was on his edition of 1893, with notes and comthe Columbia; and another Englishman, David Thompson, whose name is perpetuated in the well-known tributary of the Fraser, was the first man who explored the upper courses of the Columbia River, and some years later he followed it through its whole course to the sea-arriving at Astoria in July, 1811-some four months after the occupation by the Americans. President Jefferson had been exceedingly anxious that the Lewis and Clark expedition should escape the notice of Great Britain and of the British Northwest Company, with whom disputes about territorial right were feared-but in fact, the expedition did not escape their notice; for no sooner did Lewis and Clark appear on the Missouri than their expedition was discovered by the British, and in 1805 the Northwest Company sent out its men to establish posts and occupy territories on the Columbia. This party, however, got no further than the Mandan villages on the Missouri. but another party, dispatched in 1806, crossed the Rocky Mountains by the passage of Peace River. and formed a small trading establishment near the 54th degree of latitude, the first British post west of the Rocky Mountains But it was not until 1811 that any Englishman came through to the country of the

his "Astoria" is overlaid on almost every mentary-the best ever published. A first-rate authority for the condition page by the romantic. He is everywhere of affairs at Astoria, from the arrival of on the borderland of romance, when not the Astoria party in March, 1811, till wholly within its realm. But the art is abandonment of the enterprise in 1813, of so high quality, simple and unobtruis Gabriel Franchere, whose book, writsive, that the reader scarcely suspects ten in French and published in Montreal the narrative, which is true, indeed, in in 1819, was translated into English and its outline, and apparently the perfection republished in New York in 1854. Franof truth, from the way it appeals to the chere, it is well known, came in the Tonimagination, through the attractive dress quin and remained in the country till in which it is presented. Irving's story Astor's partners here sold out the but is an epic. Of his tale of the jourto agents of the British Northwest Comney of the overland party of the pany; when he returned home, across the Astor expedition, an appreciative reviewcontinent. It was a large party that left er has said: "No story of travel is more Astoria April 4, 1814. In all there were familiar to the public than the tale told ninety persons, who embarked in ten caby Irving of this adventure, because none noes. Franchere reached Montreal in Sepis more readable as a tale founded on tember. His statements make it certain that the partners of Astor could have undisciplined mob that struggled across maintained their position in the country, the country were terrible; some deserted, had they possessed resolution and cour some went mad, some were drowned or age. Astoria was not in fact captured murdered, and the survivors reached Asby the British, but was transferred under toria in pitiable plight, in separate para business arrangement to agents of the ties, at different times. This was the Northwest Company. True, the British second transcontinental expedition through sloop of war Raccoon, of 26 guns, arrived the United States, having been preceded at Astoria soon after the transfer had only by that of Lewis and Clark; but to been made and it would not have been this day no one knows exactly the route. possible to hold Astoria after that, even Irving plies his golden pen elastically, had the Americans desired. But Franchere

says the Pacific Fur Company need not and from it flow wit and humor, stirring Lower Columbia, and then the Pacific Fur have retired from the country. "It was scene and startling incident, character

ASTORIA AS IT WAS IN 1813.

Frontispiece in Franchere's Narrative.

tablished here. But north of the Columbia River there was basis for the claims of Great Britlook before and after; and he adds that and started up the Missouri River in the ain; and the controversy known in our some small stream, and await results. The look down upon those hapless Astorians; surely this power was not given "to year 1894. Wintering at Mandan, on the history as the Oregon question, arose. rust in us unused." Another remarks Missouri, it pressed on in 1805, passed over Neither party was, in truth, able wholly the case I suppose she would have found that if we are indifferent to our ances- the Rocky Mountains in the Summer of to exclude the other; but it was the expe- nothing, she would have left, after settors and to what we have derived from that year, descended the Kooskooskle dition of Lewis and Clark that gave us them, we are not likely to look to the branch of Snake River, and followed the the strength of our argument. The talk great water courses of the West, till on on our side of "fifty-four-forty or fight" the 7th of November, 1805, the horizon of was merely a cry of a party; say rather people note an increasing interest in the Pacific Ocean burst upon the view be- the insolence of partisanship, for Great the history of the "Origins of Oregon." tween the two lines of breakers that Britain's claims to a standing below Attention to this history must become. marked the debouch of the great river "fifty-four-forty" rested on a basis too solid to be disposed of in this way; and, The country was already called "Ore. besides, our claim of "fifty-four-forty" as the main agency in this work. The tained very little currency. In Carver's the United States and Russia, through materials of the early history of Ore- Travels, published in London in 1778, the which the latter had named "fifty-fourgon are very rich and abundant. Indeed name had first appeared. The origin of forty" as the southern boundary of her the name is one of the enigmas of his- American possessions. But to this conbarrassment; and he who begins an ad- tory. Carver professed to have received vention Great Britain was not a party. dress, which necessarily must be brief, it from the Indians in the country of the and she justly declared that her rights Upper Mississippi, where he had been could not be concluded through any negomer of the epic cyclist, who, in his in- pushing his explorations. The Indians, tiation in which she had not participated, vocation of the muse, asked to be in- he says, told him of the River Oregon, or in whose results she had not promised structed or permitted to begin anywhere flowing to the Western ocean; but how agreement. The question, therefore, was much of the tale was his own invention still open as between Great Britain and By invitation I am today to give a short it is impossible to say. He had a geo the United States. Both countries had account of the beginnings of our history, graphical theory and was seeking confirm- undoubted claims. Great Britain, by reat this place where those beginnings were ation of it; for the great breadth of the trocession of Astoria to the United States, country was known from the general after the War of 1812, had acknowledged trend of the Pacific Northwest Coast line, our right in the country. She had, inscene of their work. Here, in the vision and it was naturally believed that so deed, never made any serious pretension great a country must contain a great to the territory south of the Columbia river. Yet the Indians of the Upper River, but had insisted on that stream Mississippi country could not have known as the boundary line. We had, however, anything about it. Carver hit upon the in Gray's discovery, in the exploration are approaching the end of the first cen- name "Oregon" in some way we never of Lewis and Clark and in the settleshall know. Jefferson used the word in ment of Astoria, a chain of title that his instructions to Lewis and Clark, show- made it impossible for us to consider this fit, therefore, that new interest in our ing that it was beginning to have a vogue claim. Still, there could be no termina before "Thanatopsis" was written; but tion of the dispute till the slow migration it was Bryant's solemn poem, with its of our people to the Oregon country gradsonorous verse, which appeared in the ually established American influence here; and do, till that event shall have been year 1817, that familiarized the word "Ore- and finally the considerable migration of disposed of. During the next four years gon" and soon put it on every tongue, 1843 gave the Americans a decided pre-Oregon, and we trust, neighbor states, Various accounts of the Lewis and Clark ponderance, especially in the country south of the Columbia. But the boundary centennial of discovery in 1822, when United States and Europe before the ap- question dragged along, the British claiming as far south as the Columbia and we claiming as far north as fifty-four-

> The hibernation of the Lewis and Clark party to Fort Clatsop is a familiar story here, especially, since so many of people have visited the spot and are perfectly acquainted with the surroundparty first encamped on the north side but exposure to Winter's winds caused them to seek a more sheltered position on the south side, to which they removed about one month after their arrival. From the journal of Captain Lewis we ascertain that rain sometimes fell here, even before there was an offihoped that the site of Fort Clatsop may use during the Winter and for the return journey has been identified and inclosed. It is in Seaside Grove, between identification the "salt cairn" is seen by everyone who visits Clatsop Beach

Hitherto the journal of Lewis and Clark with its descriptions of the country as it was then, of the Indians and their mode Gray remained in the fiver from the 11th name, believing at first, as Mackenzie labors of the late Dr. Elliott Coues, for

Company, or Astor party, was already es- only necessary," he explains, "to get rid to the life; but he never tells us where pany, who were completely in our power; then remove our effects up the river upon sloop of war arrived, it is true; but as in ting fire to our deserted houses, None of their boats would have dared to follow, even if the Indians had betrayed them to our lurking-place. But those at the head of affairs had their own fortunes to seek, and thought it more for their interest. doubtless, to act as they did; but that will not clear them in the eyes of the world, and the charge of treason to Mr. Astor's interests will always be attached

> A picture of "Astoria as it was in 1813" is the frontispiece of Franchere's book, It will be reproduced with publication o this sketch. It strikes one as a very ac curate outline of what the site of Astoria

may be supposed to have been at that day The principal in this betrayal of Ma Astor's interests, as well as those of the United States, was Duncan McDougall, who had left the Northwest Company in 1810, to enter Astor's service. He cam out in the Tonquin, and soon after took to wife the daughter of old Concomiy chief of the Clatsops. An amusing account of the unctuous and piscivorous nuptials is given in some of the chronicles of the time. There are features of the story better suited to private read ing than to public recital. McDougall re mained here till April, 1817, when he finally left "Fort George" and returned to Canada. In selling Mr. Astor out he seems to have been overborne by the superior tact and force of J G McTavish the principal agent of the Northwest Com pany. One of his associates in the Pacific Fur Company (Alexander Ross) says that McDougall was "a man of but ordinary capacity, with irritable, peevish temper the most unfit man in the world to hear an expedition or to command men." An other chronicler says that old Concomly after the transfer, "no longer prided himself upon his white son-in-law, but whenever he was asked about him, shook his head and said his daughter had made a mistake, for, instead of getting a great warrior for a husband, she had married a squaw." But we shall dwell here no further on these incidents in the early social high life of Oregon.

Other writers at first hand, besides Franchere, who have dealt with this early history, are Alexander Ross and Ross Cox, both of the Pacific Fur Company or Astor party. Ross came in the Tonquin. Cox in the Beaver, Astor's second vessel; Cox's book was published in Lon don in 1831; that of Ross in London in 1849. Ross spent not less than fifteen years in the Columbia River region, after which he settled at Red River. book covers six years at Astoria from 1811 to 1817. Both narratives have high value. The same must be said of that portion of the journals of Alexander Henry, which is devoted to the Lower Columbia country. Coues, these journals also have been made to possess an inestimable value to all who feel an interest in the early history of Oregon. Alexander Henry, of the English party, came to Astoria November 15, 1813. In his journal he has minutely described the conditions then existing here. He visited the Willamette country, of which he has given a description; in one way or another he mentions every man in the country at that time, and moreover he made a special catalogue of their names His journal terminates abruptly, with an unfinished sentence May 21, 1814. On the following day he was drowned in going "Fort George" to the ship Isaac Todd, which was lying in the river below Donald McTavish, one of the old proprietors of the Northwest Company, and five boatmen, were drowned at the same time Incomparable among those who have

contributed to the literature of this time

of the land party of the Northwest Com- these people went, perhaps for the simple reason that he never knew. He wafts us westward on his strong plume, and we but we might as well be ballooning for aught we can make of this celebrated itinerary." As to description of the route, this is a true criticism; but Irving has supplied the imagination with a truer picture of the hardships of the expedition, coming and going, than any diary written on the journey could have given us. Men who go through hardships can seldom describe them. Indeed, the most dreadful horrors that men suffer are little remembered.

The only descendant, so far as I know,

of any member of the original Astor party now living in Oregon is Colonel Crooks, of Portland: who holds an official posttion in the O. R. & N. Co. His father, Ramsay 'Crooks, came with the overland or Hunt party, and returned in the same way. Much of the journey both ways of the party from destitution, fatigue and cold were extreme. Ramsay Crooks and John Day were separated for a time from their main party, were robbed by the Indians and stripped of their clothing, and as the weather was still wintry (it was early Spring), they were saved only by simple good fortune. Perhaps we should say it is "one of those miraculous es-Some of their companions, capes." whom they had not seen for a long time. and were not known by them to be in the vicinity, appeared, and they were rescued. Day became insane, and died, it is believed, at Astoria, for to that place he was sent back by Indians after the party had started on its return to the East. Crooks lived to an old age, and died in the State of New York in the year 1859. It has come to pass now, in the course of nature, that the citizens of longest residence in Oregon are those who were born here prior to 1840, or perhaps I should say 1842. With the single exception of the venerable William, of Forest Grove, I know no survivor of the immigrants of American nativity who came

previous to that year. But there is a man still living at Port Hill, in the Kootenar country, North Idaho, who saw Oregon before any other person now living saw it. This is David McLoughlin, son of Dr. McLoughlin, now over 80 years of age, He was here, in his early boyhood, with his father, over 70 years ago. I am permitted to read an extract from a letter written by him to a friend in Portland, only a few days since, which is very interesting. He says:

"Oregon was a fine country in my early days-a park on a large scale, that could not be surpassed even by artificial culture. It mattered not at what point immigrants or travelers entered this Western shore of America, at each of its thresholds a scene of beauty awaited them. Before the Anglo-Saxon race penetrated the Rockies there was no civilization in the country that is worth mention. It was in its natural state of beauty, romantic and grand, with its endless prairies, streams and forests and wild animals of all kinds for the use of man. Here and there, scattered throughout the country, snow-capped mountains were to be seen. enhancing the grandeur of its scenery.

"The Rockies for many long years served as a barrier against the advance of civilization. This barrier was at last overcome by the immigrants seeking after Columbia in 1835-49. But this is not the place to commemorate the trials and privations endured by the immigrants before they reached their final haven. From the slopes of the Rocky Mountains they struggled on with a constancy almost unpar-

alleled in history. "The savage man, the savage beasts,

with Anglo-Saxon tenacity-yet the long their families had shaken the hearts of the stoutest among them.

"It was between Walla Walla and Willamette Valleys that the immigrants suffered most, on account of the rains and bolsterous weather in the Fall of the year. I believe there was not one but gave a heartfelt prayer of thanks when they saw the broad valley of the Willamette bathed in the sunlight beneath them and learnt from others that this was the land of Ophir they sought and that these virgin acres were to be theirs.

"Therefore, the immigrants and ploneers of Oregon, men and women of the Anglofact. The hardships and sufferings of the Saxon race, who have given to the Western shore of the continent its greatness, deserve the greatest praise, honor and reward for their valor and endurance in raising the Oregon region to its present rank of greatness in so short a time. It is marvelous. It surpasses imagination of man. It has grown to an empire state in wealth, population, culture and in trade,

all in about 60 years. "They have cleared away the forests, bridged the streams, built cities, spanned the continent and crossed and recrossed and checkered it with highways of iron: they have planted orchards and vineyards upon side hills and in every valley within its borders. It is marvelous to contemplate the achievements and exploits of these people."

And to the missionary effort that preceded the general immigration a debt is due that never should miss acknowledgement, when the story of the acquisition and settlement of Oregon is recited. The missionary enterprise began with Jason Lee in 1834. Next came Samuel Parker in 1835. Whitman and Spaulding, with W. H. Gray, followed in 1836. In 1838 came Walker and Eells. By 1840 there were in Oregon 13 Methodist and six Congregational ministers, 13 lay members of the Protestant missions, three Roman Catholic missionary priests, and a considerable number of Canadian settlers of the Roman Catholic faith. If the missionary effort did not succeed as its authors hoped in its direct purpose of helping the Indians to uplift and regeneration, it did succeed greatly in its secondary purpose, which the American missionaries ever kept in view, namely, in lending aid to the foundation of a commonwealth under the sovereignty of the United States. Long time there was disinclination to give the missionary work in Oregon the credit that justly was its due; for after the rush of immigration began the missionary people were, so to speak, inundated by it, and what they had done was for a time overlooked. But going back, as now we must, to the study of our "origina"-and we shall do this more and more-we are compelled to recognition of the great work which the missionaries did. I do not say that Oregon would not have been held without then; but they were a powerful factor in holding it.

The story of the tollsome march of the wagon trains over the plains will be received by future generations almost as a legend on the borderland of myth, rather than as veritable history. It will be accepted, indeed, but scarcely understood, Even now to the survivors who made the journey the realities of it seem half fabulous. It no longer has the appearance of a rational undertaking. Rapid transit of the present time seems almost to relegate the story to the land of fable. No longer can we understand the motives that urged our pioneers toward the indefinite horizon that seemed to verge on the unknown, Looking back at the movement now, a mystery appears in it. It was the final effort of that profound impulse which, from a time far preceding the dawn of

Oregon, from the circumstances of her settlement and its long isolation, and results so plainly run back, stands therethrough natural interaction of the mate- fore as one of the leading episodes of ou rials slowly brought together, has a character almost peculiarly its own. In some respects that character is admirable. In others it is open to criticism. Our situawas made in Winter, and the sufferings tion has made for us a little world in which strong traits of character peculiarly our own have been developed; it has also left us somewhat-indeed, too much-out of touch with the world at large. We do no adjust ourselves readily to the conditions that surround us in the world of opinion and action-forces now pressing in upon us steadily from all sides.

The life of a community is the aggre-

gate life of the individuals who are its units, and the general law that holds for the individual holds for the society. Only as the conduct of the man as an individual and of the man in society is brought into harmony with surrounding forces, under the government of moral law, can any community make progress; and of this progress experience becomes the teet. In our day the multiplying agencies of civilization operating with an activity constantly cumulative and never before equaled, are turned, under the pressure of moral forces, into most powerful instruments for the instruction and benefit of mankind. It is probable that nothing else has contributed so much to the help of mankind in the mass, either in material or moral aspects, as rapid increase of human intercourse throughout the world Action and reaction of peoples on peoples. of races upon races, are continually evolving the activities and producing coanges in the thought and character of all. This influence develops the moral forces as rapidly as the intellectual and material; it has brought all parts of the world into dally contact with each other. and each part feels the influence of all the rest. Common agents in this work are commerce in merchandise and commerce in ideas. Neither could make much progress without the other. Populations once were stagnant. Now they are stirred profoundly by all the powers of social agitation; by travel, by rapid movements of commerce, by daily transmission of news of the important events of the world to every part of the world. Motion is freeiom; it is science, it is wealth, it is moral advancement. Isolated life is rapidly disappearing; speech and writing, the treasures of the world's literature, diffused throughout the world, enlarge and expand

The true life of a people is both a history and a poem; the history is a record of the material development resulting a new country in the valleys of the far from their industrial energy; the poem represents the growth of character the evolution of the moral, intellectual and spiritual forces that make up their inner life. These two phases must unfold tobanks of the Missouri to the Western gether, if there is to be any real progress. There is an antagonism between them, yet each is necessary to the other. Without cultivation of the material and mechanical, which acts upon matter and prohunger, thirst and disease; in fact, every duces wealth, man is a mere idler and Sixteenth street, have been improved.

the general mind, and show how much is

contained within humanity of which men

nce never dreamed.

is Irving; but the historical element in kind of impediment which nature could dreamer, at his best little better than the place in their way, had all been overcome Arabian nomad. Without cultivation of the moral sentiments, or attention to the journey and accumulations of terrors for calls of his inner and higher nature, he loses himself in gross materialism, and no answer is found in him to appeal to

ideas, to heroism or to exaited virtue. Phases of the life of a people pass away, never to return. In the first settlement of a country the conditions of nature produce our customs, guide our industries, fix our ways of life. Later, modifications take place, fashioned on changing conditions. This process, long delayed through our isolation, is now going on rapidly, before our eyes.

In one of his "Rambiers" Dr. Johnson says, truly: "Whatever withdraws us from the power of our senses; whatever makes the past, the distant or the future. predominate over the present, advances us in the dignity of human beings." The study of our own history is chiefly

valuable for its moral significance and influence. It fixes our attention upon the organization and structure of our society. and carries the influence of other times on into our own. It stirs up to activity the forces and agencies that build up character, that indicate duty, that prompt to action. These are the forces we want, Busted only with our own times and the conditions they present, we fall into levity; we forget what we owe to our prodecessors, and therefore do not know what we possess, nor realize its value. Only can we know what we have or where we are by study of the course through which our present position has been attained, To live merely in the present, without regard to the past, is to be careless of the future. If a people do not know their own history it is the same as if they had no history. For, as Bucon says, in one of his pregnant sentences: "The truth of knowing and the truth of being is all one; the man is what he knoweth." It is not enough that this historical knowledge be possessed by the few. "The remnant" should not be the only custodians of such a heritage. We may hope that study of our Pacific Northwest history will now and henceforth receive the wide attention it deserves. Not the least, therefore, of the grounds upon which we ought to welcome the coming centennial of exploration is the educational work in our own history that it will effect among us. The inspiration of their past is the greatest of motives for a progressive people. This is a rambling address, not intended

to concentrate attention upon any particu-

lar event in our history, but merely to contribute a little to the interest of a special occasion, by passing before the mind some of the incidents and events readily offered to the gleaner of our earliest records, with some reflections there-The approach of the Lewis and Clark centennial makes all this mass of matter-and the mass of it is greatworth renewed study; for in the celebration of this centennial we should have a knowledge of the underlying facts of our history, as well as of detail and proportion. It was the Lewis and Clark expedition that enabled us to follow up the claim based on discovery of the Columbia River, and enabled us, moreover, to anticipate the English in their further exploration and discovery. It enabled us to hold the country west of the Rocky Mountains and south of the 49th parallel to the United States. It gave us the footing that enabled us to negotiate with Spain for the southern boundary of the Oregon country, which was fixed at the 42d parallel, And, as we were already firmly placed on the Pacific Coast at the time of the war with Mexico, it was one of the direct sources of our acquisition of California by the double method of conquest and purchase. Thus we have acquired on the Pacific a vast coast line; we have established great and growing states, supported by a cordon of interior states from the Mississippl westward; we are in position for defense in war and for defense and aggression in trade; at our history, has pushed the race to which we Pacific ports we are nearest of all the belong to discovery and occupation of great nations of commerce and civilizaand Clark expedition, to which the great National history. We must celebrate its centennial in 1905, and celebrate it in a manner and on a scale commensurate with its National and historical importance. Oregon, of course, must take the lead in the preparation for this event. It is worth while, then, to use every opportunity to awaken interest in the history of the beginnings of American dominion in the Pacific Northwest.

It is in this spirit that I have responded to the invitation for the present occasion. On such a subject it is almost natural to fall into tediousness or prolixity, by attempting to cover too much ground Short essays, or lectures, in series, offer an excellent method for popular treatment of this great subject, and this can be done with special thoroughness under direction of our state educational sys-

Tomorrow the members of the institute will take an excursion to various points of historical interest in this Vicinity.

BURNED 150 GOLD BONDS.

Port of Portland Commission Destroys Last of 1801 Issue.

Paper which, if it had been legally signed and authenticated, would have been worth \$150,000, was reduced to ashes in a couple of minutes in the furnace of the Worcester building, yesterday after on. Port of Portland bonds Nos. 351 to 500 inclusive, all payable in gold after 30 years, were destroyed by order of the commission. They were the last of the issue of \$500,000 authorized by the Legislature of 1891. In the past 10 years the commission has issued \$55,000 of bonds. The act of the recent Legislature under which the commission was reorganized prohibits any further issue of bonds and the commission yesterday decided to destroy the 150 blank bonds on hand. After the bonds had been counted, Clerk Stovens made them into a bundle and took them to the basement of the building. Commissioners Selling, Banfleid and Reitly were appointed a committee to accompany the clerk to the furnace and bear witness to the act of burning \$150,000 that might have been. While Clerk Stevens stirred the burning paper so that the draft could get at it, Commissioner Banfield told the man that his furnace was using mighty high-priced fuel. Paper, he said, makes the finest fuel.

'How does it compare with sawdust?" asked Commissioner Selling.
"Sawdust of equal quantity with those ds would last no time," said Commissioner Banfield.

The committee reported that the bonds effect was made in the records.

Opposed to Improvement.

There is opposition to the proposed improvement of East Seventh street, and a remonstrance has made its appearance. The petition has been in circulation several days. Some have stated they want the improvement carried northward across is considered unfortunate for Central Elast Portland that both East Sixth and East Seventh streets should remain in their present condition, when all the other streets, north and south, out to East