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#### [For the Willamette Farmer.] BATTLE OF ABIQUA.

As Hon. R. C. Geer, who was a participant in the battle of Abiqua has given the only reliable account of that decisive but small battle from the white man's view, I now propose to give you an account as related by an Indian who told the story in my hearing, as related to him by four Klamath squaws who said that they were the only survivors of the attack.

I will state that at that time I was between 10 and 11 years old, and that I lived with an uncle on what is now known as the Glenn farm, but at the time of the incident was owned by Thomas Cox. the propagater of noted Cox Cling peaches, and about a mile The tall white man with black beard who firing, many of them waked up and came to down the river lived a man by the name of James Howard, at whose place were Mrs. Polly, and the rest of the family except the men who were absent to the lower end of the county where the Indian trouble then was. ed by the chief was James Stanley, who Mrs. James Ford and her family were also lives near Salem. at Mrs. Howards', as Mr. F. himself was gone on the same errand, looking after the Indians. So there were three families at one house, with only one man as protector. There were a great many rumors effeat, which of course were enlarged upon by each narrator, and were not calculated to quiet the nerves of the then justly alarmed sparsely settled community.

About noon that day (Sunday) some Indians were seen coming down the yalley, and of course the women became alarmed, and as the Indians were riding in a bunch and quite rapidly, which is not the usual custom of Indian travel, this was taken as a sure sign that they were hostiles, and every precaution was immediately taken for a defense, and while this was in progress a sudden dense smoke was seen to arise as if the house on Mr. Cox's place had been fired, (as it stood behind a hill sufficiently high to hide it,) and this was to us proof undeniable that they were the Klamaths seeking revenge. Mr. Howard took his station at the door with two well-loaded rifles, the floor was raised and the smaller children thrust beneath, while the women resolutely grasped axes and butcher knives to resist capture.

The Indians now appeared, and rapidly approached under a full gallop; in a few minutes they approached to within two hundred yards of the house, when Mr. Howard called out to them to stop, which they readily did, and seemed to be somewhat surprised at the appearance of the surroundings, and asked what was the matter; when Mr. Howard asked one to approach and talk with him, which the oldest did, who proved to be an Indian with whom he was acquainted, and stated that he was on the way with his family and campers to a more secure place down the river some three or four miles, and that he had been up to the mountains on a hunt, and on his way down home, that morning very early he had been awakened by four Klamath squaws who were going home through Sweet Home and Mohawk valleys so as to get by the settlements, and that they had told him that the whites would kill all the Indians in the vailey, and that he had ridden very hard to his camp, and was now removing his family as above stated. On the strength of this statement the rest were allowed to come up, as it was noticed that they were not in war paint. This Indian then related the following as the Klamath squaws' account of the

BATTLE OF ABIQUA. as near as I can remember. The Klamaths they killed a calf of a white man, and were was in November, 1853. They were supordered away. The Molallas chief, Crocked the Klamaths commenced to shoot, but the I silians said they were coming to trade with whites got in the brush and killed three of them, when they fled up the creek. The next day the whites came again and comseveral of their men hemmed against the rocks where they could not get away, and killed all of them and one squaw who was giving her brave some arrows; and that one tall, black-bearded white man had killed two men and the squaw. Their chief tried to get the whites to come out of the brush, and called them cowards, and rquaws, and threw dirt at them; and then, to show that he was a brave man. went a short distance, and in open ground shot arrows so fast that there were three in air all the time, and wounded one white man. The whites then all shot at once at him, and he fell, but got up and still shot at them, when he was again shot, and died; their young chief was also killed, and the Molsllas would not fight; and the whites followed them until they had killed all of the men, when they made their and children there pale with excitement, re-

escape, that there were ten men and one fused to give any information as to what the were two different words, pronounced difsquaw killed; that they were going home, trouble was; but I was not long in conjecturand the Klamaths would all come in and ing what was the matter, 'As I passed on kill all of the whites in the valley.

This old Indian, of course carried on the conversation in the Jargon language, and I Abernethy creek. They were concealed beat that time could talk it quite readily, but hind logs and trees, and would fire at each the time has been so long that most proba- other as they had opportunity, the creek bly I have not repeated the story exactly correct, but I have given the substance. It When I approached within two or three is evident that the four squaws were mis- hundred yards of them, some of them came taken in their being the only persons who escaped, but probably they had become wish to hurt the whites, and I would be separated at the time of the battle, and so very likely to get all if I attempted to cross believed they were the only ones left alive. the bridge, so I was detained until about 9 I do not know where Mrs. Howard new o'clock, and witnessed a good part of the lives, whether in this State or California. killed so many Indians, was undoubtedly, the scene, until so many came they comf om what I afterwards learned, Mr. Elias Cox, who lives near Silverton, a good shot and of steady nerve. The white man wound- them told me the Klamaths lost five, and the

From information efferwards obtained, there is no doubt that two emissaries of the Cayuse Indians had been, or were then, with the Molallas for the purpose of inciting the Indians of the valley to raise simultaneously and massacre the whites in the valley, and that the plunder they would thus obtain would make them rich, besides regaining their country. Another thing that was not then generally known is, that about that time there were several bands of Klamaths camped in various parts of the valley, but that one fight on the Ab'qua undoubtedly prevented a general uprising of the Molalius, Calapooiss, and other bands in our midst, assisted by the Klamaths, and saved the lives of many who still inhabit and cultivate

this beautiful portion of Oregon. As far as the battle of Abiqua being an established fact, and that it did occur, is as undeniable as the massacre of Dr. Marcus Whitman and family and others in November, 1847, and there is no doubt that there were more Indians killed at the Abiqua fight than were killed at any one battle by our brave defenders who were at that time campaigning against the Cayuse Indians; and, besides, it had its influence on the ed them, and this would do no good, so we in a short time, as there was a regular system of transmitting intelligence in those days among the different tribes that was far superior to that of the white people.

### J. HENRY BROWN. "Battle of the Abiqua."

# Indian Battle at Oregon City.

ED. FARMER: I have just read the statement of Hon. R. C. Geer, relating to the right with Indians on the Abiqua, and as I was living on the Clackamas at that time, and had occasion to pass up through that part of country the same season, I gathered the facts from different parties, about that affair, that nearly correspond (according to my recollection) to Geer's statement, that I believe, in the main, he is correct, excepting the last clause in his article where he says, 'The Klamaths never came back," &c. Now I wish to correct Mr. Geer's statement in this particular.

As the Klamatha always had been a terror to the settlers of the Willamette valley, whenever they came among us, they were watched with suspicion, and every movemont of theirs was noted, as they were regarded as our enemies, and their presence here boded no good to the whites. But they had come to trade with the Molallas, and d'd come back, and, if I remember aright, it posed to have crossed the Barlow road, as Finger, told them that it was his illahee, and the settlers on the upper Clackames first to stay. The next day the whites came and saw them, and were much alarmed, but the the Clackamases, and did camp at the Clackamas village, near where the railroad bridge crosses that stream; there were about menced the fight, and six white men got 60 Klamaths, and about 100 Clackamases at the village. They spent several weeks together in gambling, and finally got into a row about some old difficulty that had happened many years before, wherein one of the Kiamaths had been killed by a Clackamss, so the Kismaths pulled up camp and mooved over to Abernethy creek, now in the northern limits of Oregon City, then covered with logs and some standing timber. At that time I had located on the Santiam, but was down at my father's, and starting very early in the morning for home I approzehed the village on the Clackamas about sunrise, and found it nearly deserted. In the meantime I had heard a great many guns fired in quick succession in the direction of Abernethy creek, but the few squaws

nearer to the scene of action, I saw the lying betweed the contending parties. to me and told me to stop as they did not battle. The people of the town hearing the pelled the Indians to desist. While there, I saw them carry off several dead, and one of Clackamases four, killed, and some wounded. The Klamatha packed up in great haste, and left for home, by what route I no not know. Mr. Editor if you think this scrap of the early history of Oregon worth a place in your paper, you are welcome to use it. H. L. MCNARY.

March 24th, 1877.

[Nore.-The Indian fight at Oregon City, occurred in 1854, and an account of it was published in the Spectator at the time.-ED. FARMER.]

#### French Pinks.

SMITHFIELD, LANE Co., March 24. ED. FARMER: I see an inquity in the FAR-MER how to get rid of French Pinks. I have had twenty years experience in these weeds; my father crossed the plains in 1850; stopped the first winter at Oregon City, then moved the following surveyor to Luckimute in Polk county, where we Sayed a while and then moved to Long Tom, in Lane county. When moving from Luckimute we gathered some seed of French Pinks for their beauty, as flowers were scarce in those days. Since then they have scattered over our grain field and choke out grain. We summer fallowed year after year, but of no use; then we mowed them down, and raked and burnmost bothered with pinks, so we did, and turned sheep on them, and they are extinct on this piece of ten acres, and it has been turned out two years to master fern. This is another pest here in high land.

I fully agree with J. J. Finlayson, in the FARMER of the 16th of March, as to the origin of ticks, and how to get rid of fern. Six years ago an man of experience told me if I would mow fern off on the 12th, 13th, and 14th of June, it would not come any more, so I set stakes around a square of 24 yards and mowed it off. Before night the ground was wet with sap from the stalke, and it killed it entirely. The spot is bare yet, as the fern has not regained its hold.

SQUIRRELS.

Now is the time to put your poison around old logs, rocks, and dens, One killed now takes six out of your harvest field. G. W. GIBSON.

# That Spelling School.

PIKE, LINN Co., March 26th, 1877. ED. FARMER: The old adage that "things are not what they seem," was never more true, than in regard to the challenge sent me by Mr. Hodges for a contest in all the branches taught in a common sebool. I organized a weekly spelling school at this place, and gave out that we would be glad to have every one turn out and spell with us, as the more opposition we had, the greater would be the inducement for my pupils to

perfect themselves. Mr. Hodges and school came over to spell with, or rather against us. After his school were all down, I pronounced the word "cetaceous" to him. He stated that he was not "acquainted" with the word; he wanted the defination of the word, which I gave, and then he could not "place" it; and ended by demanding the page, the first word of the table, &c. After giving him at least five minutes to spell, and failing to do so, 1 passed it to the next. He then sent me the above challenge, which I declined from the fact that I had been with my school only about two months, and he had been with his about four. Our spelling schools continued for some time, when Mr. Hodges came over

again, full determined to spell us down. \* We spelled but a short time, when Mr. Hodges went down on the word "Hey," spelling it "Ha," claiming it to be the same word. We appealed to Mr. Webster, and found that I was right, in affirming that they | case at last.

ferently, with meanings nearly the same.

Mr. Hodges has ever claimed that I conducted my school unfairly. We use the Pa-Indians were fighting near the bridge on cific Coast Speller, and I have not pronounced a word but what can be found in the book. He claims that I should commence on a lesson and pronounce every word in succession. People that were present, and not connected with either schools, say the contest was conducted on the right principle, and that Mr. Hodges was fairly beaten and had not the manliness to own it.

He wants us to come out and show the public we are scholars. He has never given a spelling match himself to the public; we have; we have "fanned" him out twice, and can do it again. We won't get angry about and disgrace ourselves by wanting to whip some one, either.

Mr. Hodges, we cannot except Centaur by any means. If there ever appeared a "host" of fanters in the Cultivator, we did not see, or write them, if they were there. We claimed to be able to spell then, and do not retreet, or except any now,

What I have written is the sentiment of every disinterested person that has attended my school, and they will vouch for my statement.

I have labored the past winter for the ad vancement of the youth of this vicinity, and think I have attained the end sought.

MERRITE ELLIOTT.

### A Narrow Escape.

PEKIN, COWLITZ Co., W. T., March 25, 1877.

ED. FARMER: A narrow escape from a watery grave or a happy experience in a mud bath. There was a party given at Mr. David Kenyon's on the 23d inst., about 8 miles from Pekin, on the north fork of Lewis river. There was a party of eleven on their way to the dauce, in a wagon; while driving a round a grade along the bank of Lewis river their wagon capsized and came near spilling them into the river. There were a few small stumps that saved all from 20 feet either way, back or forward, we would have missed the stumps and went into the river, where the water was about 20 and drying winds have enabled farmers to feet deep and went into the river, where the water was about 20 and drying winds have enabled farmers to going into the river, wagon and passengers; that the wagon capsized: the ground was very soft, and the wheels on the lower side cut down so that it was obliged to turn the other side up, after we got righted up, and the mud scraped off, we went on our way rejoicing, thanking God that we escaped as well as we did. We were all fond of good music, and we had a little of that kind that did not chord very well in going around the grade, but after driving about one mile from the grade, we reached the hall, where the music was charming to all. We soon drove dull cares away. We had a splendid time, a good tu:nout, considering the bad weather; also a splendid oyster supper. Next morning we returned home, feeling amply paid for all of our bad luck in crossing the grade. The ball was well managed by J. S. Bozarth and Albert Luciling. J. S. STILL.

# U. S CIRCUIT COURT.

Monday, March 26, 1877.
W. T. Wythe vs. John H. Moores; cause dismissed and plaintiff has judgement against defendant for the costs. Same vs same; proceedings.

Same vs Rufus Mallory; same proceed Same vs Eliza Strong, same proceedings. Same vs L. S. Dyar; same proceedings. Same vs J. D. Mc Curdy; same proceed

Same vs Ladd & Bush; same proceedings. Same vs Viola Green; same proceedings, Same vs A.bert Gilbert; upon stipulation judgment for defendant that he is the owner in fee of the premises described in the complaint and entiried to the possesson thereof and for costs.

Grand Jury returned a bill of indictment

endorsed "not a true bill."
U. S. vs J. W. Bercaw; indictment for doing business as a retail liquor dealer without paying tax. Grand jury presented a bill of indictment endorsed not a true bill which was received by the court and ordered filed and that said defendent be discalinged and go hence without day, and that the sureties on his bond be exonerated from any further

W. T. Wythe vs Geo. Mollenkoff; judgment that the defendent is the owner of the premises described in the complant and is

entitled to the possession thereof, and that plaintiff have judgement against defedant for his costs in this case to be taxed.

E. M. Warre. Same vs same; same proceedings in this

#### BY TELEGRAPH.

STAFFORD, Conn., March 27.—The dam of the Staffordville reservoir gave way this morning, causing in this village learful dam-age. The railroad freight bouse and all the cars were washed away leaving only the passenger depot. The Stafford National Bank, Congregational church and about ifteen other buildings have been washed away. The flood came upon the village suddenly, and its effects have been yery disastrous; three miles of railroad track are washed away also two bloom truss bridges hetween away also two Howe truss bridges between Stationd and Tolland. The flood has caused trouble all along the line of the telegraph, which was promptly brought into requisi-tion, and neighboring towns warned of the miguty rush of waters that was causing great destruction of property and threatening the loss of life.

The accident is a terrible blow upon the valley. About 1,000 hands are thrown out of work. Industries are sadly crippled. The loss as far as Stafford Springs is estimated at from half a million to a million dollars.
Mach of this is in small sums. The damage
below Staffor I Springs is not easy to get. It
consists of injury to bridges and roads, but no other mills are thought to be destroyed. The superintendent of the New London and Northern road states that the track is all gone from the Stafford passenger depot half a mile South, and with the track went the freight cars and fleight house and two Howe truss bridges. Two miles south of Tolland the track is washed away. Wellington bridge is probably undermined. South of that another other piece of track is washed and another bridge is endangered. The water is now up to the floor and is reported still rising. No damage is reported on other railroads in the

Philadelphia, March 27.—Wool quiet and in moderate demand: Colorado washed, 20@28c; unwashed, 16@25c; X and merino puiled, 36@42c; No. 1 and super pulled, 30@36c; Texas fine and medium, 20@28c;

Postal Changes Washington, March 26—Postmasiers appointed — Seneca H. Abbott, Alvord, Grant county, Oregon; Peter B. Settle, Reikman Springs, Lane county, Oregon; Chas. Dewey, Ellensburg, Curry county, Oregon; James C. Kelty, Lafayotte, Yambill county, Oregon; Lerow S. Starr, Monroe Benton county, Oregon; Geo. E. Cole, Portland, Multnoman county, Oregon.

# European Grain Masket.

LONDON, March 26 .- The Mark Lane Ec-

feet deep, and run very rapidly. The most of the passengers were covered with the falls of rain as well as snow and sleet. These wagon bed and hay; no one seriously hurt, have not injured growing wheat, the condibut all badly scared. Mr. J. S. Bozarth was the only one that leaped from the wagon, he being the teamster, lit to his feet and held which are too sodden to be werkable. Adon to the reins. It was no fault of the driver vices from Scotland state that fair progress has been made with the sowing of oats, beans and peas. But a short acreage of barley is expected owing to the unworkable state of heavy lands. Although the season has been more favorable than last year at this time. Little alteration is noticeable in the country Little alteration is noticeable in the country trade which is steady but inactive. Home grown grain and malting barley have advanced one shilling both in the country and in Mark Lane. The week imports of foreign wheat into I ondon have been light, principally from the East Indies and Germany. About 2,500 quarters came from France, and it is possible that the wants of our near neighbers may have been overrated. The continued supply from Germany is also remarkable after the report of a deficient havest last year. Notwithstanding report that the Australian harvest completely failed we shall probably get all the white wheat reshall probably get all the white wheat required this year from California and India. Spot business during the week has been quiet and without special interest, being confined to samply the present requirements. Consumption has not yet reached the extent when depletion of granaries exercises an influence on prices. Indecision has been noticeable throughout the trade, by no means an unusual feature at this time of the ear, when importers and consumers aliko must measure their requirements against probable supplies, and estimate the imports which may be expected for ports on the sea-board during the winter, which is almost clear of cargoes of wheat. Russian descriptions for prompt shipment have attracted more attention. California rules steady. The sales of English wheat last week were H 717 quarters at 654, against 45,048 quarterat 4.2-9 last year. Imports into the United Kingdom during the week ending March 17th were 958,810 cwt, of wheat and 198,860

cwt. of flour.

Liverpole. March 27.—Breadstuffs firm except for corn, which is dull. Corn—22 9d for new mixed Western, 24s 3d old. Wheat—10s 7d@11s 3d for average Califoria white, 10s 10d@11s 3d for club, 9s 8d@9s 0d for Western spring. Receipts of wheat the last three days. days, 10,000 quarters; American 20,000.

# Seeds and Grains for Distribution.

I have received from the Department, at Washington, an assortment of grains, &c., including Spring and Winter wheat, Oats, Barley, Mangrel Wurtzel, and Sugar Beet. The Early Touzolle Spring wheat is large, and farmers who have seen it pronounce it a

E. M. WAITE, Secy State Agl Society.