

TO OUR PATRONS.

Although this is really the April number of the *West Shore*, it is published and dated in May, and our readers will no doubt expect an explanation. We have heretofore published at the end of every month, but our circulation extends now over thirty-two different States and Territories, besides large numbers sent to England and Scotland. As it takes from three to four weeks for the mail to reach a large number of our subscribers, we make this change in order that they may receive their paper the same month it is published in. Another and very important reason is that we desire to publish the Weather Report of the U. S. Signal Department every month, and as that is compiled on the first of every month, we shall hereafter publish on that day, and papers will leave this office on the first, second and third of every month. Our patrons will not be losers by this change, as we shall extend the subscription of each one one month.

We hereby extend a general invitation to our readers to contribute articles for our columns on any subject except politics and religion. We shall pay liberally for any article used, if the writers desire it. They will therefore state whether an article is intended as a free or paid contribution.

We have received from Prof. Chas. Bray, of this city, a superb piece of music, especially written for us, and entitled "The West Shore March." It is now being engraved, and will appear in our next number. We should be pleased to hear from our subscribers on this subject. If it is the desire of the majority, although it is an expensive feature, we are willing to furnish a piece by our local professors, with every number. A vote by postal card is most respectfully solicited.

From a letter received by Edward Akin, of Marion Station, from a gentleman in Schenectady, we learn that the latter is so much pleased with samples of Oregon flax sent by Mr. Akin to him, that he intends, if the proper accommodations can be found, or the proper inducement is held out, to bring his machinery to this State for the purpose of manufacturing shoe threads, upholsterers, sail, and all other kinds of threads and twines. We haven't the slightest doubt but what if he does come he will find his a profitable business in Oregon.

CURE FOR DISCONTENTMENT.

Becoming tired of his house a gentleman determined to sell it. He instructed an auctioneer, famous for his descriptive powers, to advertise in the papers for private sale, but conceal the location, telling persons to apply at his office. In a few days the gentleman happened to see the advertisement, was pleased with the account of the place, showed it to his wife and the two concluded it was just what they wanted, and they would secure it at once. So he went to the office of the auctioneer and told him the place he advertised was such a one as he desired, and he would purchase it. The auctioneer burst into a laugh, and told him that that was the description of his own house, where he was then living. He read the advertisement again, pondered over the "grassy slopes," "beautiful vista," "smooth lawn," etc., and broke out, "Is it possible? Well, make out my bill for advertising and expenses, for I wouldn't sell the place now for three times what it cost me."

DRAINING WET SWAMPS.—A simple method of draining certain wet and swampy tracts, especially those of low basins, consists in sinking an Artesian shaft through the soil to the layer of clay or other substance preventing the proper drainage, and into the sandy strata underneath. The cavity of the well may be filled up with broken stones, among which the drained water percolates and passes off below, leaving the surface entirely dry.

BIOGRAPHICAL.—DR. W. L. ADAMS.



We aim to make the *West Shore* a repository of the lives and acts of the pioneers and representative men and women of Oregon and the North Pacific Coast, and in the furtherance of our purpose we present in this issue a good likeness of Dr. W. L. Adams, of Portland, with the following biographical notice. The character of Dr. Adams is undeniably one of the most unique and original in Western development, and his history certainly entitles him to be placed in the catalogue of the representative men of the State, illustrating, as it does, the resolute spirit and unconquerable purpose that we are wont to associate with the pioneers of civilization.

Dr. Adams was born in Painesville, Ohio, Feb. 5, 1821. His father moved to Jonesville, Michigan, in 1834. In 1835, at the age of fourteen, young Adams left home to enter College in Canton, Illinois, going the 350 miles on foot, with only twenty-five cents of his own money and a "Wild Cat" five-dollar bill that his father gave him the morning he started. He

made him his agent for Illinois and Indiana. In 1845 he was married to Miss Frances Olivia Goodell, having only thirty dollars in money and a "badly-worn suit of clothes" with which to begin life. He settled in Henderson county, Illinois, and in the fall of 1845 he built a log cabin, close by a log-hut school-house. He taught school two years,—bought young steers, put up wild hay during vacation to winter them on, and broke them himself—made his own yokes—and in the spring of 1847 he was prepared to start for Oregon, having paid all his debts for board and tuition in College, and possessing eight yoke of cattle and two wagons. His father's death that spring detained him until March, 1848, when he began the trip with one team, which he drove across the Plains, reaching Foster's October 2d, the same year. The trials and difficulties that Mr. Adams, in common with the immigrants of that day, encountered during the wearisome journey over the desert wastes, and during their first few months' sojourn in the Willamette valley, have been feelingly recounted by himself in his "Rambling Notes on Olden Times," published in the *West Shore*. He took up a "claim" at the foot of the mountains in Yamhill county, and varied the routine of farm life by teaching school at times. Among the lads who were then under his instruction were some who have since been among the most conspicuous men of the State. In 1852 he was elected Probate Judge, beating his opponent nearly a hundred votes in a county where the latter's party had a majority of two-thirds. In 1853 a proposition was made by leading men to present him with a printing-office complete, if he

votes in that county. In 1861 he was appointed by President Lincoln as Collector of Customs at Astoria, which office he held till the Autumn of 1866, when he resigned the same. In 1868 he went East for his health, traveling extensively through the New England and the Southern States, extending his journey down through Central America, and finally to South America, stopping in Chili several months. On his return he lectured in New England on Oregon, beginning at Tremont Temple, Boston. His lecture was extensively published, both in pamphlet form and through the newspapers, and contributed much toward disseminating correct information concerning the Pacific Coast. In 1872 he went to Philadelphia, and attended Medical lectures, adding to his knowledge of the Healing Art acquired by previous study, the most recent improvements of all the Schools. He received the degree of A. M. from Christian College, Oregon; that of M. D. from the Eclectic Medical College of Pennsylvania, also an honorary gold medal, "awarded for eminent attainments in Medical Science," and the degree of LL.D. from the American University of Pennsylvania.

Besides his reputation as a politician, Dr. Adams is equally well known throughout the State for his literary abilities. For twenty-five years he has been a contributor to the press, either as editor or correspondent. During the early days of the *Oregonian* he enlivened its columns with the productions of his pen, in both prose and verse. The best remembered of these was the *Melodrama*, which was also issued in pamphlet form, and widely circulated. Like all political pasquinades, the *Melodrama* lives in the recollections of those only who were cognizant of the scenes and actors it satirized, but its publication had a prodigious effect at the time, and fully accomplished the design of its author.

Whilst speaking of his mental endowments, we must not omit to make mention of his talent for oratory. When a young man he studied theology, preparatory to entering the ministry, and frequently ascended the sacred rostrum and expounded the Gospel, and in later days he often harangued his fellow-citizens from the "stump." It is the opinion of one of his intimate friends that had the Dr. chosen a career in life that would have given full scope to his forensic powers, he might have added another illustration to the saying of the ancient sage—*Orator nascitur, non fit*.

As a writer and speaker, Dr. Adams is logical and argumentative, and his thoughts are invariably expressed in strong language, and often in terse and vigorous Saxon. One of the most philosophical of men, he is yet combative in disposition, and, as editor, was always eager for a contest—like the Irishman at Donnybrook Fair, he boldly invited any man to tread on the tail of his coat. Able, forcible, and adroit in argument, his shafts were hurled in every direction, especially where he imagined error was ensconced, and, from this habit of indiscriminate attack, he was often styled the "porcupine editor" of Oregon. But that was in days when political rancor was at its height. Time and adversity have somewhat mellowed his prejudices, and many of those who were formerly the objects of his keenest thrusts are now on terms of the kindest friendship with him, and it is highly edifying to a spectator of those old-time conflicts, to hear Dr. Adams, with earnest, but amusing, ingenuousness, speak of the reforms that "God and the Democracy" are about to accomplish. This, however, is but an evidence of his independent turn of mind—error and unprincipled ambition are sure to receive his maledictions, under whatever guise they present themselves, and, notwithstanding his modified views of men and theology, there are two subjects he never allows to be assailed in his hearing without speaking in their defense—"Abe Lincoln and the New Testament."

Though not much given to reading, he is nevertheless a deep thinker. It is related of him that, whilst editing the *Argus*, he read the newspapers of the day but rarely, confining himself when he did so to the leading articles and a summary of the debates in Congress. In this way, he unconsciously avoided the disjointed style of thought of the modern newspaper-skimmer, and produced those admirable papers on political topics, some of which would have done honor to the *Tribune* in its palmiest days.

As a citizen, Dr. Adams is honest and truthful. His only ambition, apparently, is to be known as a man of his word, and as one who will never betray a friend—loathing an untrustworthy man more, perhaps, than most people know how to do.



ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL, PORTLAND. Photo by Buchtel & Stoltz.

made the journey in fourteen days, spending only seventy-five cents on the way, but reaching Canton completely worn out and sick. From there he went to Galesburg College, and entered its first Freshman Class, which was made up of four members, namely: Martin Gay, Henry Blichcock, El. Holbrooke, and W. L. Adams. He supported himself by teaching school occasionally, and by working in the harvest field. He finished his collegiate course at Bethany College, Virginia, an institution of learning founded and presided over by the renowned Alexander Campbell. When he left Illinois for Bethany he had only seventeen dollars, and on reaching his destination there remained but twenty-five cents in his pocket. On the final examination he received the highest honor of the class in Mathematics, and though having, as he himself says, "only one badly-worn suit of Kentucky-jeans clothes in the world," he was chosen by a large majority vote of the "American Literary Institute," a society connected with the College, to represent the Institute in an oration on Commencement day, the 4th of July, which Society was composed of many young men of talent and wealth from all parts of the Union. He broke himself down with hard study, and his eyesight failed him entirely, compelling his return home two months before the close of the College term. On leaving, President Campbell offered to

would start a Whig newspaper at Oregon City, which offer, however, he declined, deeming its acceptance incompatible with his ideas of political independence.

In April, 1858, Mr. Adams purchased the old *Spectator* printing materials, and began the publication of the *Oregon Argus*, at Oregon City. This journal continued under his editorial management during its entire existence, a period of eight years and a half. The *Argus* proved itself a power in the Territory, and assisted greatly in forming into a consistent and cohesive body the scattered materials that afterward composed the Republican party. His views of public policy relative to the important issues then agitating the American people, as enunciated through his paper and on the stump, were comprehensive and statesmanlike, and ever boldly outlined the principles that finally triumphed by the election of Abraham Lincoln and the subsequent overthrow of slavery. And while in this task he had as co-laborers many men of talent and influence in various parts of Oregon, it is not going beyond the bounds of truth to say that Mr. Adams was regarded by most of his associates as the leader in the movement, and in drafting addresses to the people and in suggesting measures of public policy, his assistance was invaluable. If we mistake not, he called the first Republican Convention ever held in Oregon, and in 1858 he was run in the Republican ticket for State Senator in Clackamas, beating his competitor, Hon. W. A. Starkweather, thirteen