

For THE WEST SHORE.
SUNLIGHT AND SHADOW.

BY MISS M. T. GARDY, WIL., DEL.

One stood in sunlight, and one in shade,
Fair Edith and graceful May;
Where the oak trees, tossed by the breeze, made
A golden glimmer across the glade,
At a cottage door stood they.

The one who stood on the outer side,
Was bathed in the sunshine's glow;
It kissed her curls with a lover's pride,
And 'er hair shone did it tenderly glow,
To her crimson mantle's flow.

And as she stood 'neath the roses' bowers,
A robin came there to rest;
She looked to him like a glowing flower,
So he sang to her in the sunset hour,
Ere seeking his leafy nest.

And Edith? She, too, was young and fair,
With eyes of the violet's blue;
But no sunlight fell on her flowing hair,
Only the shadows were resting there,
And her dress was of sombre hue.

Yet still she looked from the dusky gloom
With a tender, wistful smile;
Forgetful not of her darker doom,
But glad of the love and light and bloom,
Which circled her friend the while.

And as the red robin ceased his lay,
And soared to his leafy nest,
May brought to her friend a rambler spray,
With a look of love, that seemed like a ray
Of sunshine out of the West.

Am by diverse paths are the children led—
The children of men, thro' life!
Oblivious and bright are the ways some tread,
While others are lonely and dark and dread,
'Mid shades of sorrow and strife.

But ye who love love and light for your dower,
Be ready to do your part;
A little of your blessings, a smile, a flower,
A kindly word, hath a wondrous power,
To lighten a lonely heart.

EVENING TALKS.—No. 2.

BY AUNT RUTH.

After an early tea, we assembled in the sitting-room, and all being seated, Arthur, with a merry twinkle in his eye, drew from among the papers on the table the December number of THE WEST SHORE, remarking as he did so, "It is customary in associations of this kind to read the minutes of the previous meeting before beginning the business of the session, and as we have here a record of our last discussion, I move that the Secretary read the same; then handing the paper to Mary, requested her to read aloud the account of our 'Talks' as given by Aunt Ruth, which she did. This created some surprise, and Fanny remarked, "We shall have to be careful what we say if our talks are to be published."

"Yes," said mamma, "we should always be careful what we say, for if we wish to improve our minds and gain useful knowledge, that we may become wiser and better, we should not indulge in too much jesting or foolish talking, on unprofitable subjects."

"But, mamma," said Arthur, "you would not have us lay aside all levity; you know some poet says, 'A little nonsense now and then, is relished by the wisest men,' or words to that effect."

"I will illustrate my meaning, Arthur," said his mother. "You remember the conversation the other evening at Mr. Blanks; what was it all about?"

"Really, mamma, I cannot call to mind anything worth repeating."

"And yet there was a great deal of talking and laughing. The poet Montgomery, speaking of books, says—'Books there are with nothing for aught, ten thousand words and ne'er a thought.' The same may be said in regard to the conversation of a great many persons."

"Did you notice Ralph, mamma?" said Harry. "He sat down by one of the tables and read all by himself. It is not good manners for one to read when others are talking, is it?"

"There was no impropriety in this, my son," said mother. "I noticed it

myself, and commended him for it, and no doubt he gained more useful information from his half hour's reading than he would by listening to such talk a whole week. He was reading an agricultural paper, and seemed deeply interested. You know he is a poor boy, and has to work hard to maintain his widowed mother and send his young sisters to school; so that in order to be intelligent he must seize every opportunity for cultivating his own mind. And I doubt not that in a few years, people will wonder how a poor boy could gain so much knowledge under such great disadvantages."

"Mamma," said Mary, "you ought to hear his sisters; they are very intelligent, and they think so much of Ralph. I think they fully appreciate his efforts in their behalf, and are very grateful to him."

"Yes," said mamma, "he is a noble boy, and deserves their love."

"But, Arthur," continued mamma, "how was it when you called at Mr. R.'s the other evening. Can you remember anything that was said, or did you get any new ideas?"

"O, yes, I remember that I was very pleasantly entertained, though I took no part in the conversation. Mr. M. spent the evening there, and he and Mrs. R. were discussing the present political situation—exchanging views in regard to the cause of, and remedy for, the corruption in political circles. Mr. M. seemed to think the people were at fault in not choosing better men to fill places of public trust, while Mrs. R. thought that in a great many instances the officers chosen were overcome by the temptations which they necessarily meet with in public life. Mr. M. thought that men who were honest at heart would be honest still, no matter what temptations were encountered; and I think so, too, mamma, and I felt more than ever the need of being firmly grounded in correct principles; and if I live to become a voter, I shall sustain for office only those men who are known to be honest in all their dealings and correct in all their habits."

"You are right, Arthur," said Uncle John. "I often wonder at people who seem to be upright themselves, yet cast their votes for men who are known to be tipplers, gamblers, and also for those who are noted for licentiousness. It is no wonder that our nation is on the very brink of destruction. But did your friends point out a remedy?"

"Yes, Uncle, they agreed that one thing, and perhaps the main thing, was to bring the qualification of both voters and officers to a higher standard; that none should be allowed to vote who could not read and write, or who were known to lead vicious lives, to get drunk, or in any manner violate the laws of the land, and that candidates should possess the same qualifications, and that any officer known to be a tippler, or licentious, should immediately be impeached, and forever disqualified to hold office again."

"Well," said Uncle John, "I fear a great many of our officers would retire to private life if such a rule were to be established—and serve them right, too."

"I fear it will be long before the mass of the people will be educated up to that standard," said mamma.

"Mrs. R. made the same remark," said Arthur; "but Mr. M. thought that if teachers of public schools were required to teach the youth of both sexes the theory and uses of government, and to teach and enforce upon their pupils the practice of strict justice, also to teach self-government, requiring them to do right because it is right, and to abstain from wrong because it is wrong—he thought if this were done, one

generation would see the work of reformation accomplished."

"A very pretty theory," said Uncle John, "but an impracticable one, I fear. But as it is getting late, I propose we adjourn, and take up the subject at our next meeting."

"Before we separate," said mamma, "I wish to remark that it gives me pleasure to know that Arthur is waking up to the importance of diligently cultivating mind and heart, and I hope he will always choose the society of those who will be a help to him in acquiring a love for the 'good, the true, and the beautiful,' and whose conversation will strengthen instead of weaken his good impulses."

"Thank you, mamma. I see now the need of being 'careful what we say,' for light and frivolous conversation frequently indulged in tends to weaken our desires for mental improvement."

WASHINGTON TERRITORY—
BY A CITIZEN.

While Gen. Stark, Vice President of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, was here last summer, a resident of the Territory, who has had extraordinary facilities for acquiring information, addressed him a communication, of which the following extract is the principal part:

The agricultural lands of the Territory while generally confined to the river bottoms, are not entirely so. It is frequently found that even on the sides, and sometimes near the summit of a hill or mountain, considerable tracts of rich beaver-dam lands exist. A noticeable instance is near the summit of the immense hill immediately in the rear of Kalama. The river bottoms of the Columbia and its confluent streams, as well as the valley of the Cowlitz, contain large tracts of land of unexcelled fertility. About midway between Kalama and Tacoma is the Chehalis Valley, embracing, with its confluent, over two thousand square miles of the best agricultural lands in the Territory. This valley is to Washington, what the Willamette is to Oregon. It varies in width from five to fifteen miles, and extends from the base of the Cascade range to Gray's Harbor. Large quantities of rich land lie in the bottoms of its lower tributaries. Flowing into Puget Sound, there are the Des Chutes, Nisqually and Puyallup Rivers, on which are some fine arable lands. These river bottoms are usually sparsely timbered with alder, vine maple, crab-apple, etc., which are quickly and easily cleared, at an expense ranging from five to thirty dollars per acre; and will then yield, on an average, from forty to sixty bushels of wheat per acre. I estimate that of the lands earned by the N. P. R. R. on its 105 miles constructed in Washington, more than 250,000 acres are suitable in an eminent degree for agricultural uses. The productions of such lands have been frequently published and exhibited, and can now be seen at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition. The small grains are produced most abundantly with a larger average yield than obtains in almost any other locality or section of the country, and command the highest market price at home. And so long as we have the large non-producing lumbering population, the farmers' market will be at home. These agricultural lands are more fertile, the country more healthy, the climate more congenial, and the commercial and manufacturing advantages greater than are to be found in any other unsettled portion of the United States. It is easier for a poor man to obtain a farm here than one on the prairies of Minnesota, Iowa or Kansas. An absolutely poor man can go on to such land in the Spring of the year, and, if he can buy a side of bacon, a sack of flour, an axe, and a hoe, and will work, he can make a living from the beginning. I know personally of a man who, in 1870, took a homestead of 160 acres, about three miles back of Tenino. He pawned some personal apparel to procure money with which to purchase provisions for his family and a few farming tools. He has supported his family from the products of his farm, and to-day has a standing cash

offer of \$4,000, gold, for the place. Of course, his is an isolated and exceptional instance; but the same success may be obtained by any practical farmer who will select with the same judgment and labor as industriously.

Your grant in this Territory is essentially a timbered one, and therein lies the immense wealth to be realized by your company in the future; but within its limits lie the only choice farm lands convenient to railroad, water navigation and markets, in the United States, which are open to homestead and pre-emption.

An immense amount of ignorance regarding the climate and agricultural resources of this northwest coast is rapidly being dispelled; it is pretty generally known now, that this section is never troubled with grasshoppers or agricultural pests, that drouths are unknown, and that the climate, instead of being a second Greenland or Iceland, is really mild and pleasant. The numbers of letters of inquiry received by every prominent person and official in the Territory, shows the interest that is being awakened. Hitherto, the northwest coast, notwithstanding the attractions of its genial climate, fertile soil, and immense forests (the only considerable accessible body of timber in the United States, and which has been very properly denominated the timber preserve of the Continent), has been beyond the reach of the ordinary emigrant—of the man whose wealth consists of the labor of his hands—and only the more adventurous and energetic found their way hither. But as railroads, steamships and telegraphs lessened the time for travel and communication, we have been brought practically nearer the centre of population. The influx and efflux population at San Francisco, the entrepot for the whole coast, for the year ending Dec. 21st, last, was as follows: Arrivals by sea, 38,829; departures by sea, 12,752; arrivals overland, 74,899; departures overland, 30,412. Of these departures by sea, it is estimated that between seven and eight thousand came to Oregon and Washington. This would show a total increase of population on the coast for the last year, by emigration, of about 78,000 souls, of which 66,000 remained in California, and the balance chiefly went either by sea or land to Oregon and Washington.

Samish is a rich agricultural district in Whatcom county, W. T., but it is yet sparsely settled. Good farming lands can be bought or rented there on reasonable terms; many desirable claims of Government lands are yet to be had at usual price. The lands in that locality comprise thousands of acres of tide and fresh water marsh and some excellent timber lands.

TOBACCO MANUFACTURE.—The first manufacture of tobacco in the territory has just begun at Elhi, Pierce county, by T. F. Patton. The weed was grown by Mr. Patton, and is being put up by him in the shape of Black Strap tobacco, and is said to be a very good quality. Mr. Patton has about twelve hundred pounds, and will no doubt realize a good thing out of it. His factory was examined by a revenue officer this week, and is denominated "Factory No. 1, District of Washington Territory." This is another industry which bids fair to be an important one in this territory within a few years.—*Olympia Transcript*.

WEATHER REPORT.—The following is the record of the weather at Roseburg for the week ending Feb. 16. We obtain it from Dr. J. Woodruff, who was kind enough to keep it for us. The thermometer was kept in the shade, and examined at 2 P. M. each day, with the following result: Saturday, 60 degrees; Sunday, 62; Monday, 58; Tuesday, 54; Wednesday, 66; Thursday, 58.—*Independent*.

FROM a point on the stage road to Douglas county, a short distance south of Myrtle Creek, can be seen, in fields adjoining, at least four thousand acres of wheat, which now presents a magnificent appearance. The yield will be the season favorable, about forty bushels to the acre or about 160,000 bushels of grain, in all parts of the county, gives indications of an extra crop for the coming year.—*Plainsdealer*.

It is estimated that \$1,500,000 will be expended next summer in developing the Santiam mines.