

are proving themselves to be excellent Christianizers and civilizers. A great drawback to the onward progress of Egypt is the sad want of proper agricultural implements and the requisite skill to use them. What is said in this respect concerning Egypt, might be also said of the whole of Syria and Northern Arabia. We believe Cairo is destined to become a grand head center from which shall flow a thousand streams of material aid to surrounding districts. This city is already the undisputed metropolis of the Holy Land and adjoining countries. The so-called excessive temperature of Northern Egypt is simply a misnomer. During the few days that we have been sojourning here, the thermometer has not indicated more than 87 or 90 degrees. The air is balmy and salubrious and the climate generally well adapted to the growing of various cereals.

We solicit the indulgence of our readers for a short letter this time, promising still larger draughts from our well-filled note book in the future.

ORIENT.

JOHN W. ACKERSON.

This gentleman, a member of the firm of Hanson, Ackerson & Co., the proprietors of the Tacoma Mills, was born in New York city in the year 1828. When eleven years of age he was placed in a bookstore as errand boy, where he remained four years. He was then apprenticed to a printer, and when but eighteen years of age he had charge of the composing rooms of Raper's Printing office on Fulton street. The business, however, owing to its close confinement, did not prove congenial to him, and to have more outdoor exercise he became a carpenter. The gold fever started him to California in 1849, where, after his arrival, he at once engaged at carpentering. In the fall of the following year, however, he was compelled by failing health, to abandon his trade, and after a four month's trip to the Sandwich Islands, he returned to California sufficiently restored to enable him to engage in mining. One year at this proved quite sufficient for him, and he once more returned to San Francisco where he established a milk dairy and did a thriving business for two years. He then moved to Redwood city and engaged in stock raising. Shortly after this the

county of San Mateo being organized out of the southern portion of San Francisco, he was elected Sheriff of San Mateo county, which office he held for about five years. Caught by the sheep mania he purchased a large ranch in Monterey and went to sheep raising; in about two years, however, he sold out and returned to Redwood city. The Sheriff's office was again urged on him, but preferring to engage in business he rented a small wharf and warehouse, and engaged in selling lumber, shingles, posts, wood, etc. After working this business for a time, he soon gained sufficient strength to enable him to purchase an interest in a small saw mill. In two years from that time he formed a co-partnership with Mr. Charles Hanson, whereupon a lumber yard was established by them in San Francisco. In 1868, finding their business increasing, they concluded to build a saw mill on Puget Sound.

The place now known as Tacoma, with its railroad, ocean steamers and other signs of modern civilization, was then almost a wilderness. Mr. Job Carr with his two sons had taken up some land with great hopes for the location of a future city at that place. Previous to the location of the mill, General McCarver believing that Carr was right, settled there and named the place Commencement City.

After deciding to locate a mill at that point, Mr. Ackerson did not fancy the name and therefore re-named it Tacoma after the Indian name for Mt. Rainier, the beautiful snow peak back of the city. The General protested, but Mr. Ackerson was firm, and as Tacoma it is known yet.

Previous to starting the Puget Sound Mill the firm had several small mills in the redwood districts. One of them running to this day. The firm now carry on a business at San Francisco, Puget Sound and Redwood City. They also have their own ships to carry away their lumber, and the finest tug boat on Puget Sound is their property.

In 1874 Mr. Ackerson visited the largest lumbering establishments in the United States, and since then has made so many improvements in the Tacoma Mill that it now stands in the front rank of American saw mills. As a public spirited and generous gentleman, Mr. A. has few equals on Puget

Sound, and he is one of that class of men whose brains and money are devoted towards building up the country.

RESIDENCES IN THE UPPER COUNTRY.

Few people are aware what rapid strides towards civilization the upper country has made within the past few years. We give a few illustrations in this issue of some of the comfortable residences located in Walla Walla and Dayton, W. T., and Boise City, Idaho. Any of the places illustrated would be a credit even to a city like Portland, for in finish and furnishing, both interior and exterior, they will compare favorably with anything we have in this city, and in price they range from \$5,000 to \$20,000, the latter being the expense of constructing the palatial residence of General Cartee. Since these pictures went into the engraver's hands, Mr. Straight had the misfortune of having his residence destroyed by fire, but we understand that he will rebuild at once in the very same style. Our next issue will contain a miniature view of the city of Walla Walla, and also a number of the business houses and manufacturing establishments in the upper country. We also, in this number, show a street view in Silver City, Idaho, so that our readers may see the appearance of a business street in a rich mining camp.

Several months ago we agitated the practicability of cultivating cranberries on an extensive scale on the marshes near Olympia; we now understand that a company is to be formed there for that purpose. There are two or three cranberry marshes or beds under cultivation near that city, and their luxuriance render the assurance doubly sure that their cultivation on a large and systematic scale, in this climate and soil, will certainly prove a "big bonanza" to the projectors.

A POSTOFFICE WANTED.—The attention of Postal Agent Steel is called to the necessity of establishing a post-office at or near the bridge on the main road from Walla Walla to Spokane Falls. Quite a large number of settlers are located there who now have to travel from twenty to twenty-five miles to Colfax to obtain their mail.

The hop crop of Puyallup valley, W. T., amounts to 56,000 pounds.