



SALEM FLOURING MILLS.—PHOTO BY F. A. SMITH.

Oregon's Capital.

On this and the opposite page we give views of buildings in Oregon's capital city, Salem. We have, on several occasions, described the town, its beautiful location, advantage of good schools, numerous churches, etc., and have but to add, that a number of substantial improvements have been made the year in the past year, and a still greater number are contemplated for 1879. After possessing a population of only a little over 5,000, the many handsome and solid public and business structures and numerous elegant and expensive private residences give Salem the air of a city having a population of 10,000. The Marion Co. Court House, located here, is a beautiful building, constructed of brick and iron and cost upward of \$100,000. Salem has four newspapers offices, although only "The Farmer" is about to be removed to Portland. "The Statesman," publishing semi-daily and weekly editions is the leading newspaper in the capital city. It is the second oldest in Oregon, and at no time since its first introduction has it been so bright and so way as at present. Head-quarters like its editor Mr. Child are dignified and contain words of wisdom in a nutshell. In position, it is thoroughly Republican—its Democratic opponent, "The Mercury" is published in the same building and, as if to demonstrate how the two can hang on, we find both papers using the same press. This paper is one of our most welcome exchanges. "The Record," a Greenback paper, is published here daily.

One of the most prominent business houses in Salem is the best and show store of John W. Gilbert. He came to Oregon in 1850, worked at his trade (shoemaking) for three years and then started business on a small scale in 1852, since which time, by untiring attention and liberal dealing with all, his business has grown so that his annual sales now run up to \$200,000—this we are certain is exceeded by no other boot and shoe house in the State. Mr. G. makes direct importations from Eastern houses and makes a specialty of the goods manufactured by Canfield, Brox, Emerton & Son and Holbrook & Lowell. He also deals in shoddy and leather and does an extensive business in the purchase and export of hides and furs. Besides his business, Mr. G. owns a choice 500-acre lot of black loam land six miles north of Salem and here his taste for farming and stock-raising is gratified. He makes a specialty of thoroughbred pigs, and in this line he is also very successful, for not only does he gratify his taste, but his business has managed to make it profitable as well.

The manufacturing interests of Salem are very large for the size of the city, and they are on the increase as the water-power is abundant. We give illustrations of two of the most important ones. The Salem Flouring Mill has a world-wide reputation, and notwithstanding its capacity of turning out 500 barrels of flour per day, is crowded to its utmost to supply the demand for its particular brands. The Mills, the third largest on the Pacific Coast, are owned by the Salem Flouring Mill Co., incorporated in 1870, of which A. W. Kinney is the agent. Their principal trade is with Victoria and Puget Sound ports, but they also export direct to China and England. The merit of these mills were handsomely acknowledged at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia by the award of both a diploma and medal for superior quality of flour.

The Salem Iron Works, of which Mr. B. F. Drake is the proprietor besides turning out an immense amount of other work, manufactured 20 sets of saw and gristmill frames during the past year. Mr. Drake is an old Oregonian, is enterprising and master in his trade. He has been in this State since 1851, started in Salem in 1859, and eight years ago erected the present foundry at an expense



MARION COUNTY COURT HOUSE, SALEM.—PHOTO BY F. A. SMITH.