

# THE WEST SHORE.

VOL. 6—No. 1. { L. Samuel, Publisher,  
112 Morrison St. }

Portland, Oregon, January, 1880.

Per Annum. } Single copies  
\$2.00. } 25 cts.

## OUR MAMMOTH NUMBER.

As rapidly as possible the material for the mammoth number of **THE WEST SHORE** is being gathered, and in early spring we hope to have the same ready for delivery to our subscribers. It will consist of 160 pages, will be handsomely illustrated, and contain a vast amount of historical, statistical, and literary articles of rare merit. This number will be alone worth the entire amount which we charge for a year's subscription. We shall, however, furnish one copy of the same free to every one of our yearly subscribers. A limited number of extra copies will be sold at one dollar each. Persons who want this number ought to send their subscriptions in without delay.

## SEEDS FREE OF CHARGE.

Any of our readers who will send us one new subscriber for the **WEST SHORE** for 1880, may select fifty cents worth of flower or vegetable seeds from any seedsman's catalogue, and we will forward the same free of charge. For a club of five subscribers, we will give as a premium seeds to the value of three dollars. This seed offer will hold good only during the month of February.

## SHELL BEDS OF CLATSOP BEACH, OREGON.

BY H. B. CLARKE.

The coast of the Pacific ocean, some distance below the mouth of the Columbia and above, even to the colder latitudes, show, in its shell mounds or beds, evidences of a dense population that must have long ago lived and thrived on the bounteous sea-food that the ocean provides. Up the little streams and inlets may these beds also be found, but not of the immense proportions to be seen on this ocean beach.

While swimming at the sea-side house at Clatsop, my attention was drawn to the material with which the roads were being macadamized; shells of oyster and clam predominated, but the rather frequent sight of human bones and skulls excited my curiosity. Following the wagons, I found my way to the pits from which this dump

was taken. The excavation showed a depth of from five to six feet of this debris, and the original dirt strata had not yet been reached.

I stood by the wall of this seemingly unlimited bed, and with a stick dug into the bank, finding shells of various kinds, some of which are not now found on this coast, all bearing evidences of having been used for food, sometimes calcined; also the bones and vertebrae of fish, bones of birds, deer, and other animals, and among them the bones of the human body, sometimes the tiny rib of a little child, and sometimes the arm bones or the shoulder blade of an adult; skulls, too, were not infrequent. The horrible suspicion of cannibalism suggested itself to my mind. These remains were scattered indiscriminately, just as one might imagine the garbage of a house might be thrown day by day, and so accumulate in a heap, while earth and stones were mixed with the bones. Of the length of this bed I have no knowledge, and can only imagine the age. It was in shore half a mile, and must have, in ancient times, been the beach proper.

Agnes have passed since these wild people encamped by the booming waves, for immense old firs, five and six feet in diameter, are growing over the prostrate giant trees that preceded them. I saw no implements of any sort, nor did I hear of any being found in these beds, though they might be easily overlooked, as no one had ever before exhibited any interest or curiosity in the matter.

I have been told that similar beds are found on the Alaska coast. Remains of ancient junks are said to be found there. Certainly the almond-eye may be traced in the physiognomy of the Indians at this day.

While Lewis & Clark, and afterwards, Catlin, found in the Northwest, on the upper Missouri, three small, neighboring tribes, one of whom—the Mandans—had no affiliation with any other known family. They lived in huts which were very neat in appearance and had separate apartments for lodgings. They were a mere handful of a tribe, and, while

they acquired the language of other tribes, none learned theirs. They made a great variety of pottery, and manufactured beads which were highly prized.

Catlin suggests that they are the remaining tribe or descendants of the Mound-builders which have been driven from the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi.

Among the many relics of this ancient race, which were found by Squier during his explorations of the valley of the Mississippi, was a most characteristic head, made of red pipe clay, the workmanship of these unknown builders, which exhibits the peculiar Indian features.

He says, further, "that the Mound-builders were American Indians in type, that time has not changed the type of this indigenous group of races, and that the Mound-builders were probably acquainted with no other race but themselves. In every way proving the views of the author of *Crania Americana*."

As to what became of this prehistoric race of Mound-builders, but little can be said beyond conjecture. The numerous temples of Mexico and Central America are said to be as ancient as the mounds found in various parts of the United States.

These two localities may have been the birth-place and centre of original American civilization, or the Mound-builders may have been the original occupants of the Mississippi valley, and themselves given the civilization to Mexico, but in reference to these questions no decision can yet be given, and every one is left to his own conjecture.

## AT THE SHIP-YARD.

Messrs. Hall Brothers, of the Port Ludlow ship-yard, have just launched the schooner "Kau Kioule," and will immediately place another one of the same size and model on the stocks. They disposed of the one just completed, to Allen & Robinson, of Honolulu. She is 160 tons measurement, is expected to be a rapid sailer, and will at once enter into the island trade.