

SUNSET SEEN FROM "MARY'S PEAK."

BY W. D. LYMAN.

A mountain begirt with mountains,
And a vale its grassy crest,
All swathed in forests dim;
A silence whose deep worship
Is broken but by bird-songs
Or the pine trees solemn hymn.

Far and shadowy to the eastward snowy peaks
in splendor rise,

On whose frozen slopes the sun-god scatters roses
as he flies:

At whose feet the level valleys bright with gold
of harvest lie,

Rolling like the sea with shadows of the clouds
slow sailing by.

Now the sea-winds louder blow,
And the western heavens glow,
While the founts of sunshine flow,
Transfiguring the land.
Now the mist-hosts landward streaming,
Like a bannered army seeming,
Standards tossing, helmets gleaming,
On the hill-slopes victors stand.

On the swirling mass of vapors, rainbow tints
a moment rest;

Then, like startled birds upspringing, hide behind
the mountain's crest.

Plains of gold and hills of silver, washed by wave-
lets of a double sea;

On its mottled surface, islands, like vast ice-bergs,
floating free.

Longer, fainter, grow the shadows; paler now
the rosy skies:

But while fade their transient glories, stars in
grandeur distance rise.

Splendors of the summer evening, clouds with
shining squadrons bright,

Fall not from the sinking day-star to be buried
in the night.

For beauty has its resurrection in the soul that
gave it birth,

And the light will shine in heaven that no longer
shines on earth.

So the wreaths of broken rainbows fall like cinders
in the sea,

But their lost hues, floating upward, from the star-
realms beam on me.

In Montana, recently, in cutting down a large pine tree measuring nearly four feet in diameter, there was found a smooth bullet imbedded in the solid wood, about twelve inches from the bark. There was also found in digging, about four feet below the surface of the ground, a tooth which weighed five and a half pounds, and which was in a state of perfect preservation.

An establishment for the manufacture of gloves was recently opened in Olympia. A tannery will soon be started in connection with it. It is expected that when in full operation twenty to thirty hands will be employed.

Married life often begins with rose-wood and mahogany and ends with pine.

WHITMAN COUNTY.

Whitman county in Washington Territory, is bounded on the north by the new county of Spokane; on the east by Idaho Territory; Walla Walla and Columbia counties on the south, and the Columbia river on the west. The area of the county is 4,300 square miles, two-thirds of which is cultivable. Rolling prairies are the general surface of the country. Valleys are numerous, and the hills between are specially adapted to agricultural pursuits and stock raising.

THE SOIL.

Is deep, rich and loose loam with an average depth of three feet, except, in some instances, on the south hill sides, it is slightly clayey. The soil is the deepest and richest in the eastern part of the county; growing lighter and thinner toward the Columbia river. On the hills the soil is somewhat lighter than in the valleys, but equally as good for general agricultural purposes.

WATER.

There is water in great abundance all over the county. The hills bordering on Snake river abound with living springs, as do also the hills in the eastern and middle portions of the county. In some localities it is necessary to dig wells in order to obtain water for household use, but the depth to which they have to be sunk, is insignificant, say from six to thirty feet, according to locality.

TIMBER.

The timber of the county is confined principally to the streams and mountains and consists of tamarack, pine, cedar, red and white fir, balsam, willow, and some aspen. Pine is used almost exclusively for fuel. The principal supply of fence timber is obtained from the Cœur d'Alene mountains in Idaho Territory. Fire wood is hauled from one to twelve miles. The timber for manufacturing lumber is rafted down the Palouse to the different saw mills. The present price of rough lumber is from ten to sixteen dollars and dressed lumber from twenty to thirty dollars per thousand feet.

GRASS.

A very nutritious indigenous grass, commonly known as "bunch grass," *Festuca pratensis*, grows spontaneously over many square miles, affording excellent range for stock. It is self-curative and retains its nutritious qualities when allowed to remain on the ground uncut.

CLIMATE.

The average temperature is as follows: Spring, 52 deg.; summer, 73 deg.; winter, 36 deg. The average annual rain-fall is about twenty inches. Our winters are mild compared with those of the Eastern States in the same

latitude. The past winter was the coldest experienced in five years. There has been very little snow this winter and the weather has been principally dry. Our summer days are hot and sultry, but the nights are cool and refreshing.

HEALTH.

In regard to health, Whitman and those counties lying north and east, are most favorably located. Malarial fevers are experienced only by those who were affected before coming to this country. The altitude renders the air pure and invigorating, giving to persons used to inhaling a dense and impure atmosphere, a sense of buoyancy and vigor, never experienced by the inhabitants of low, flat countries. The water is pure and cold, coming as it does, from the mountain ranges on either side of us, in such abundance that it forms one of the chief features of excellence claimed for this county.

POPULATION, PROPERTY, ETC.

The last census was taken in June, 1879, and our population at that time was 6,000. It has increased probably 1,000 since June. According to the above census there were in June last 1,437 children between the ages of four and twenty-one. At the time of the last assessment the taxable property of the county amounted to nearly a million and a half of dollars. Our indebtedness is about two thousand dollars. The political complexion is Republican.

TOWNS.

Colfax is the county seat and has a population of 600. The U. S. Land Office for Whitman District and the N. P. R. R. Land Office for the Pen d' Oreille division are here located. Nearly all the religious denominations are represented, and an academy and business institute receives a liberal support. The shipping points are Penawawa, Almota and Wawawai, on Snake river. Penawawa is 23 miles south-west of Colfax, Almota 17 miles south and Wawawai 22 miles south. Each of these places are supplied with large ware-houses and Penawawa and Almota are business points of some importance. Good ferry boats cross the river at the last named points. Our inland towns are, Farmington, 23 miles northeast of Colfax on upper Pine creek. It is one of the principal towns of the county. Palouse City is situated on the Palouse river 18 miles east of Colfax and is the principal lumbering point in the county. The towns of Leitchville, Irene, Colton and Uniontown, all lying south of Colfax on Union Flat at a distance of respectively 20, 30, 33, and 37 miles. Rosalia is 28 miles north of Colfax, on the Spokane Falls' road. All these towns are supplied with general merchandise stores, hotels, livery stables, blacksmith shops, etc., and churches and schools flourish all over the county.