

# THE WEST SHORE.

VOL. 7—No. 11.

L. Samuel, Publisher,  
5 Washington St.

Portland, Oregon, November, 1881.

Entered at the  
Postoffice.

Per Annum, Single copies  
\$2.00. 12 cts.

Send this number of THE WEST SHORE to your friends in other States. It will give them a correct idea of the general location and appearance of Portland.

## NOVEMBER.

There is no poetry about November unless some day breaks in with cheerful glow and bracing air to wake life again to thoughts of pleasure. The plow has done its fallow work and waits for spring. The Indian summer time is past. Bleak winds shiver through leafless orchards and drive the trooping dead leaves into the hollows of the fence and midst the thickets. They once made shadow for the August sun and rustled to the summer breeze, but now there is no call for shadow, and oak and maple throw off their foliage that they may better battle with the cruel winter winds. The "houk" of the wild goose is only heard where some belated flock is hurrying to its southern home and all the migratory birds have bid their summer homes good-by, the cold rime of winter touches the early day with frostwork fringes; the morning sun comes coldly up the southern sky or else the leaden clouds drop their rain in gloomy silence. The chill of November's breath makes one love the evening fireside after the working day. The farmer hauls home his winter wood and the city dweller lays in stores for months to come. But the perfect year must have November in its train to contrast with the blushing spring and gorgeous summer. Somber firs and sullen pines throw their shadows on the landscapes, yet nature is not dead but rests her forces as if in sleep, all her promises have been filled. Smelling buds grew into bloom and leaf, and the growing fruit has ripened and been gathered. After the toil of spring-time and harvest man, too, enjoys the products of his labor, that the lately fallowed fields are green with growing grain, and through all the realm of nature, bud and root and seed and bulb rest in the soil of mother earth, fully matured, waiting coming ray that shall

warm them to new life and bloom and fruitage.

## PORTLAND OF TO-DAY.

The history of Portland, from the time the fate of its name hung on the turn of a copper cent down to the present time, has been so often in print that it has become as familiar to Oregonians as the omnipresent splendors of Mount Hood or the boast of their never-failing crops. The Portland of to-day can be seen for itself and its growth felt by its citizens. In as brief an article as the nature of this magazine demands it will be impossible to consolidate all the points of interest in our city, as it exists at this immediate writing, but it has nevertheless been suggested that something entertaining might be prepared, of interest at least, to those not residents of Portland. With no idea of presenting a methodical, statistical and exhaustive description has this sketch been prepared, but rather with the purpose of showing in a random statement of facts, something after a bird's-eye-view pattern, the present status of our metropolis.

Situated upon rolling lands, the drainage of Portland is easily directed, and its mortuary report shows of what great sanitary benefit to its population has been the selection of such a town site. Independent of this, where is the city for which Nature has spread out a more beautiful panorama, constantly in view? The hoary-headed sentinels that tower up into the clouds "and wear their caps of snow in the very presence of the regal sun," the grand water-courses, the fir-fringed mountains, the fertile valleys are a daily feast for eye and soul. Around us we have gardens perennially in bloom and trees green throughout the year, and houses free from the icy blasts of other climes.

As a business centre Portland is without rival on the Pacific Coast, except San Francisco. Her Front and First street stores are a wonder—to visitors—immense in dimensions and in actual trade. There is no city in the United States of not more than three times the population that does anything

like as much business as Portland, or that has expended more money in the last two years on new buildings; and no city anywhere in the world where the people are richer *per capita*, and no where in the United States where they are less burdened with taxes. Portland's stores are vast warehouses for the entire Northwest, from which the merchants of Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Idaho to a great extent draw their supplies, and the city itself is the only foreign shipping port on the Pacific Coast, north of the California metropolis of real importance. Situated advantageously at the outlet of the rich Willamette Valley, and practically at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia rivers, the fertile regions drained by those streams pay tribute and empty the treasures of their fields into our lap, year after year. As the centre of the Trans-continental Railroad Company's system of transportation, with ocean steamers plying between here and California, with steamboat and railroad lines running north, south and east, and two separate lines to connect us directly with the Atlantic States rapidly working towards Portland for their Pacific terminus, who can wonder that much of our real estate has almost doubled in value within two years and that there is practically speaking not a dwelling house or store within the limits of the city for rent?

Our schools would be an ornament to any city, and the cost of maintaining them is less per pupil than in almost any other place. The fire department consists of six steam fire engine companies and one hook and ladder; is well managed and satisfactory to property-holders and insurance men. The police force is efficient, but scarcely large enough in numbers, for the growth of our population; while the municipal government is simple and economically conducted. The principal streets are paved with Belgian block, and many of the others with macadam, and are all well lighted with gas, and coal-oil lamps in the outskirts. As yet we have but a single street car company, but one embracing the principal thoroughfares has been recently organized and will