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SPECIMEN NUMBER.

Any one receiving this copy of the WEST SHORE will please consider it an invitation to become a regular subscriber.

VOLUME EIGHT.

With this number the WEST SHORE enters upon its eighth successful year of publication, and the publisher takes the opportunity of thanking the public for the liberal patronage bestowed. The renewals and new subscribers so far for this year are more numerous than have ever been received in any previous year during the month of January, and we therefore have every reason to believe that our efforts are appreciated. The excellence of the WEST SHORE will be kept up and such improvements made during 1882 as the growth of the country and patronage of the public will warrant.

MARION COUNTY.

HISTORY AND SETTLEMENT.

A complete history of the settlement of Marion county, would involve a very large portion of the history of Oregon. But this of course is impracticable in this sketch. Some historical retrospect, however, will prove interesting to many readers, and be of value for reference.

Without encumbering the readers attention with the detail of many dates, we may begin the history of this county with the settlement of the Rev. Jason Lee, in 1834, at the "old Mission," nearly opposite the present town of Wheatland, in Polk county. There may have been, and doubtless was, other temporary locations on French Prairie and near Champoege, by persons in the interest of, or connected with the Hudson's Bay Company; but it is problematical, to say the least, whether such locations had been made with a view to permanent settlement and occupation of the country. But Lee came with the true spirit of colonization, planted his stakes in earnest, erected the banner of Christianity as the insignia of his countrymen, and set his great heart to the task of redeeming the wilderness from the wildness and savageness of barbarism

Jason Lee was from Stanstead, Canada East, and was ordained to the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church by Bishop Hedding in 1833, and commissioned to establish a missionary post among the Indians of this country. He came across the continent from the State of Connecticut to the then wilderness of Oregon, on pack horses with a few companions, traveling the whole distance from the Missouri river to his final resting place among savage Indians. The trials, labors, hardships and dangers of such a trip at that day, cannot be pictured even by the imagination at the present time.

Happy the man, whom indulgent fortune allows to pay to virtue, what he owes to nature; and the great soul which enabled Jason Lee to do this, stamps him as a hero of the highest type, who could show that contempt for creature comfort and external good which alone could be measured by itself and the great ends in view. Marion county and Oregon, may proudly and lovingly enshrine the memory of this brave pioneer settler, with a respect and veneration, equal to that which crowns the names of William Penn or Roger Williams.

Marion county is further distinguished as being the birth-place of the provisional government, which was not only the first organized government in Oregon, but also the first on the Pacific coast between Mexico and the North Pole. This provisional government was organized at Champoege, in this county, on July 5, 1843, the formal organization being preceded by a "wolf meeting" at the house of Mr. Gervais, on French Prairie in March, and by a meeting to discuss the necessity of organization held at Champoege in May, both in 1843. At that time, while the American settlers were claiming the country, it was not known whether the territory was really American or British soil.

Marion county is further noted as being the birth-place of the first schools in Oregon; Jason Lee planting the germ of the Willamette University at his humble log house at the "old Mission"

in 1834, and christening it the "Oregon Mission Manual Labor School."

Under the provisional government, this county was known as "Champoege district," and embraced all the region south of the Clackamas county line, and east of the Willamette river. In 1845, the provisional legislature changed the name of "district," to that of "county," and in 1847, that part of the county south of the Santiam river was erected into a separate county and called "Linn." In 1849, General Lane, the first governor, arrived in Oregon, and put an end to the provisional government, and called the first session of the territorial legislature, at which session the name of Champoege county was changed to "Marion," in honor doubtless, of General Francis Marion, the "swamp fox" of the Carolinas, who gave the British such infinitude of trouble during the war for Independence.

CENTRALLY LOCATED.

Marion county has been far removed from all Indian wars and other "dread alarms." And what experience it has had, shows a much better record for the cabinet than the field. The "battle of the Abiqua," where a half a hundred mounted rangers and home guards attacked a peaceful company, a dozen "bucks and squaws," and put them to inglorious flight, is about the sum total of bloody war within the confines of this county:

From morn to night, those men of might
Displayed amazing courage;
And when the sun was finally down
Retired to sup their porridge—(with milk con-
fiscated from Uncle Sammy Allen's milk house.

LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY.

The location and natural features of this county, are favorable to securing and maintaining a large home business and adjacent regions. What is known as the "Minto Pass," opens a gateway from the county through the Cascade mountains into the central portion of Eastern Oregon; through which, not only the eastward trade of this county but also much of the trade of the Willamette valley and Eastern Oregon, will find its highway, both by wagon road, and in the near future by railway.