

EDUCATION IN PIONEER DAYS.

LOOKING back to the early days of Oregon I recall one fact worthy of note. Coming over an almost untraversed region, and traveling by the slow process of ox teams mostly, and encumbered with only the absolute necessities for the route and a very meagre supply for present need after arrival, it is not to be wondered at if not many books were brought. The missionaries and others who came by the "Horn" and the "Islands" were more fortunate, for they could box up and bring what could not be hauled over the "Plains." Well do I remember the first stove shipped direct from the New England home, arriving some time after the owner did, who came overland. It cost him only \$8 for transporting that luxury. And a luxury it was. But I digress.

Like the pioneers of Pennsylvania, the founders of society in Oregon made use of the means within reach, and laid deep and well the foundations for as good an education for all as could at that time be had. The Willamette University at Salem was started. Common schools came in as soon as possible, and all were anxious to have the rising generation obtain knowledge sufficient for all ordinary duties. The *Oregon Spectator* did a good work through its columns. George Abernethy, the proprietor, issued an edition of Webster's Elementary Spelling Book in 1846 or 1847. This helped along the good work very much. And these few recollections show the wishes of the early settlers. Labor was then fifty cents a day, payable in wheat, then selling at fifty cents a bushel. This wheat was to be delivered at the landing, which meant where "batteaux" could take it to mill or market. The school teacher received orders on some store or took his pay in wheat. The writer had an agreement with the lamented Dr. Whitman to go to his home at Waiilatpu, in the fall of 1847, and teach school for \$14 Vancouver orders or \$16 McKinlay orders.

Thus did our builders lay a good foundation. What a superstructure has been reared! Oregon and Washington can offer opportunity for as complete an education at this time as any portion of our newer settled regions. Our State and our Territorial universities, and our young but flourishing colleges, are worthy to receive full endowments, and to be put on such a basis as will make them worthy the patronage of our rapidly growing population. We are not ashamed of the building which has been done upon the foundation laid by the pioneers.

CARLOS W. SHANE.

LAST year the semi-weekly *East Oregonian* of Pendleton, Oregon, issued a Fourth of July number of the paper, upon which the Stars and Stripes were tinted in red and blue. It received much favorable notice from the press throughout the Union. This year a mammoth number will be issued, ornamented in the same manner. The edition will be 5,000 copies. It will contain matter of general interest, stories, sketches, etc., and carefully prepared descriptions of the counties and towns of Eastern Oregon. It will be a splendid publication to send away to friends. Price, 25 cents per copy, or five for \$1.

ALASKAN EXPLORATIONS.

A LETTER from Dr. Willis B. Everette, who recently left Vancouver for an exploring tour into the interior of Alaska, thus speaks of his experiences after leaving the mild atmosphere of the coast: "I went up Lynn Channel from Juneau, and was four days and nights in an open boat. What a weird looking country! All mountains and glaciers and snow-covered peaks. I am sketching some of the glaciers and scenery to be exhibited on my return. Imagine yourself at the foot of an immense wall of solid ice, 130 feet high, six miles wide, and extending back into the interior 150 miles. In places the glacier narrows down to one mile in width, but the mouth is over six miles wide. There are crevices in this solid body of ice in which a plummet let down 4,000 feet touches no bottom. Specimens of gigantic algae, or seaweed, will be sent by the next steamer." He expects to pass beyond the limits of communication about the 1st of July and plunge into the untrodden interior. His report will be an interesting one.

A steamer has been built in San Francisco by private parties to be employed in exploring the great Yukon. She has a screw propeller and is brig-rigged, and is about 250 tons burthen. She is under the command of J. Hardy, late mate of the bark *Alden Bess*, and will carry as passengers the four owners of the craft and two others. Among the owners are the Schieffelin Brothers, who last year spent so much money in prospecting Alaska, and reported the minerals rich but the season too short for successful mining. This new venture seems to indicate that such was not their true opinion.

PICTURES.

DON'T purchase a picture in a hurry. They stand alone. A dozen other articles of adornment or use may be put aside, thrust into quiet corners, draped with this or that, or even entirely hidden. A picture once put on the wall is a decorative landmark. It asserts itself loudly and perseveringly. Whatever you miss seeing in a room, you never miss the pictures. The first golden rule of the picture buyer is not to buy a daub. Daubs which are cheap are generally so hideous. They have also the ill-gotten and most annoying merit of putting all other tasteful and quiet arrangements of a room out of harmony. One bad thunder and lightning, red and blue and yellow nightmare, on canvas, will do more to make a room look hideous than any other article on the premises. What you buy let it be good. A single fair engraving of some famous picture, an autotype, or a chromo-lithograph from the works of an acknowledged master, will do more to beautify your parlor or bedroom than a dozen muddled, ill-colored, ill-drawn transcripts—so called—of local or other scenery.

"THAT'S not what I meant," responded the professor. "In ancient days knowledge was confined to a few learned men, but nowadays almost every donkey knows as much as a professor." The students looked at each other, nodded, and whispered, "That's so."