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THE Christmas number of THE WEST SHORE, which will be ready early in December, will be an elegant one in every respect, superior to anything which has ever been produced on the Pacific Coast.

THE year is now rapidly drawing to a close, and one more number will complete the tenth volume of THE WEST SHORE. The great superiority of that volume over those of previous years has won for it many flattering comments, which can but be highly pleasing to the publisher. This gratifying evidence that his efforts are appreciated has caused him to make extensive arrangements for still greater improvement in the volume for 1885, by additions to his artistic and editorial corps, and an increase in his facilities for doing more and better work in every department. The magazine is now superior to any other publication with a subscription price of but two dollars per annum, and this superiority will be rendered more marked and evident during the coming year.

A MOVEMENT is on foot to erect a monument to the memory of General Joseph Lane, Oregon's first Territorial Governor. General Lane distinguished himself in the war with Mexico, earning the soubriquet of "The Marion of the Mexican War," and when selected by President Polk to organize the Oregon Government, left his home in Indiana within forty-eight hours after receiving notice of his appointment, crossed the arid deserts of New Mexico and Arizona, resisting in his passage through California the influences of the gold excitement, which caused the desertion of all but two of his companions, and reached Oregon in time to proclaim the organization of the Territorial Government on the 3d of March, 1849, just one day before the expiration of President Polk's administration. His subsequent devotion to the interests of his adopted State and his national prominence as a candidate for Vice-President in 1860, are well known to

all. It is fitting that the people of Oregon should erect a suitable monument to his memory, and we hope the Legislature will make an appropriation sufficient to supplement the liberal private donations which will doubtless be made.

AN EXPENSIVE FOLLY.

NOT to characterize it in stronger terms—and the act often deserves a more forcible expression of condemnation—the change of school text books from one series to another is an expensive folly. Often, by some mysterious influence brought to bear upon those in authority, a set of text books, such as readers, geographies, histories, arithmetics, etc., and frequently several of these series, are arbitrarily thrown out and others adopted in their place. Yet a little thought seems to be taken of the hardships thus forced upon the parents of the thousands of school children who are affected by the change, and a balm is offered by the publisher to soothe the outraged feelings of the indignant parents called upon to support these little official eccentricities. This is called "exchanging." To get the old books out of the way, simply to show his "good faith" in trying to "benefit" the schools by supplying them with these "very superior" books, he offers to "exchange" the new books for the old ones and a little money consideration, just enough to cover the "bare cost" of the transaction. This is not an original idea of the school book publisher. His slender stock of originality is entirely exhausted in making "improvements" upon the old editions. The exchange idea was an old dodge of the sewing machine agent long before the publisher became enamored of its beauties and a convert to its purely philanthropic principles. There is, of course, constant advancement being made in methods of imparting instruction to the young, and the evolution of the text book has been steady and marked. To be sure, sound reasons may be advanced, in case a selection between contending series of text books becomes necessary, why the choice should fall upon the most modern and most practical; but when a series has already been adopted, when it has been in constant use for a sufficient length of time to test its value, and is pronounced good by the practical teachers under whose supervision it is used, no satisfactory reason, that is none which is convincing to those upon whom the burden of paying the bills rests, can be advanced for changing it. Our people have built commodious and comfortable school houses, have employed competent teachers in every department, and have cheerfully paid the heavy taxes imposed for educational purposes, and their reasonable demand that the unnecessary expense of exchanging text books be not forced upon them should be heeded; also their demand to be relieved of the constant annoyance of a repeated and persistent agitation of the school book question.