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REFERENCE to the index given in the current number of THE WEST SHORE will show what a multitude of topics have been described and illustrated during the year. Complete volumes for 1884 or 1883, bound with paper cover, are now ready. Upon receipt of \$2, either will be sent to any address, postage free, or both for \$3. One desiring information of this region will find the money well invested.

THE large saw mills on Puget Sound are again running on full time and being worked up to their full capacity for ten hours daily. Hanson's Mill, at Tacoma, is turning out 225,000 feet daily, the Berkeley Mill 212,000, and others in proportion. More vessels have been chartered during the past two months than ever before during the same period. Sixteen vessels cleared at Port Townsend for foreign ports in October, carrying cargoes of lumber aggregating \$109,559 in value. Revival of activity in the lumber trade will make times easier on the Sound, and must have a beneficial influence throughout the whole Northwest.

THE WEST SHORE will enter its eleventh year with the January number. Its history has been one of steady progress toward greater excellence, and at no period have the improvements been so marked as during the year just closed. The volume for 1885 will be far superior to its predecessors in every particular. As an illustrated journal, giving valuable information about the Great West, and original engravings of its scenery, cities and industries, THE WEST SHORE occupies the field unchallenged; and as a clean, wholesome illustrated family magazine, it has no equal at the same low subscription price. Special attention is called to the index for 1884 in this number.

"EASY COME, EASY GO."

So often has it been used in that connection, and so expressive is it, that the mind instinctively associates this trite aphorism with some homily on the subject of economy; but, urgent as is the need of impressing upon our people the advantages of frugality, temperance and moderation in expenditures during these times of financial depression, it serves, in this instance, to introduce a few thoughts on an entirely different topic—the subject of divorce. Our laws are too flexible, and our courts construe them too liberally. It has of late become the tendency to look upon marriage simply as a contract, to be entered into lightly, and to be nullified for any of a score of general causes, each of which has many subdivisions; and it is to be regretted that such it is rapidly becoming in the popular estimation. Contracts are agreements between parties for the performance of some specific act, which may at any time be annulled by the mutual consent of the contracting parties, except in certain instances where the rights of others are affected; not so with marriage; and this constitutes its chief distinction from a civil contract. The institution of marriage is the foundation of society. Were it but a contract, to be entered into carelessly by any one, no matter how unfit to sustain the married relation, and dissolvable at pleasure by the contracting parties or by the simple formal application to the courts, it would certainly be an unstable foundation upon which to build. To hold otherwise would be to subscribe at once to the doctrine of "natural selection" as advocated by certain free love communities which have established themselves in some of our great commonwealths. Good government has its seat in the virtue of the people governed. There can be no moral government for an immoral people, no honest administration of laws for a people who are dishonest, and who choose from their own number those who shall make and execute them. Therefore, for the protection of society, for the preservation of that social morality which forms the essence of good government, it is necessary that the institution of marriage be considered as higher than a mere contract, and that it shall be regulated by law; that unfit persons should be denied its privileges; and that once entered into voluntarily, it should be difficult to shake off the responsibilities and duties thus assumed. Yet the same consideration for the general morality of the people which makes it necessary to elevate and protect the marriage relation, equally requires that the marriage be set aside when either party is guilty of such conduct as to render the continuance of the relation an unendurable burden upon the other, or a provocation of the very immorality which it is primarily supposed to prevent. That one of average moral nature and refinement should be chained to another whose every thought