

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

Annually on the twenty-fourth of May, the loyal subjects of Great Britain, in whatever quarter of the globe they reside, celebrate in some form the birthday of Queen Victoria. Even in America those natives of the "tight little isle" who have transferred their allegiance from the British crown to the government of the United States, meet on this anniversary occasion to testify to the regard they feel for the land of their birth and the queen who presides over its destinies. These observances of the day in the United States usually take the form of a banquet by the British Benevolent Society, an organization which is maintained in every city of consequence in the union, for both charitable and sociable purposes.

Throughout Canada the queen's natal anniversary is observed as a general holiday. The citizens of Victoria make special effort to show their respect for their queen, in whose honor that beautiful city was named, more than forty years ago, and the twenty-fourth of May is annually made a day of festivity and enjoyment. The men-of-war in Esquimalt harbor and the School of Gunnery fire the royal salute, the bands play "God save the Queen," and the people devote themselves to pleasure in numberless ways. See engravings on pages one hundred and eighty-four and five. Special features of the recent observance of this anniversary in that city were horse racing, an athletic tournament and a game of base ball between the Red Stockings, of Seattle, W. T., and the Amities, of Victoria, in which the latter were victorious by a score of 12 to 4. The grounds are located on Beacon Hill, overlooking the Straits of Fuca, across which lie the Olympian mountains, on the American side. The spectators, instead of staring at a high board fence, as is usual in this country, when not absorbed in the varying fortunes of the game, can feast their eyes on a landscape of great beauty. Another popular form of amusement is races and pleasure trips on the "arm," as a long, narrow and placid inland extension of the harbor is called. This passes through the city and inland several miles. It is one of the finest racing courses in the world, where steamboats do not intrude and interfere with either the racers or the multitude of accompanying boats. On every gala day and on Saturday afternoons, the arm is thronged with boats, canoes and barges of every description, their occupants enjoying to the fullest extent the pleasures that surround boating with a peculiar charm. At one point, known as the "gorge," the inlet passes through a narrow, rocky channel, spanned by a bridge. This is a favorite spot with both watermen and equestrians, and a splendid drive connects it with the city. The arm is a delightful bathing place. Its depth is not great, and the sun sufficiently warms the still water to take off the chill which all but the most experienced bathers object to in the ocean surf. It is also free from under-tow, and as safe for bathers as an artificial pond. Victoria is in many ways a delightful summer resort, and is rapidly acquir-

ing the reputation among tourists of being one of the most beautiful, pleasant and comfortable spots to be found in the course of a journey round the world.

EASTERN LINN COUNTY.

Of the foot-hill region lying in the eastern portion of Linn county, a settler writes as follows to the Albany *Herald-Disseminator*:

Thinking the subject might be of interest, perhaps benefit, to immigrants and others seeking homes among us, I would like through your columns to give a short sketch of this section of the county: Eight years ago, settlers through this region were few; not a schoolhouse was to be found anywhere from Waterloo to Brownsville; but great change has taken place within the past five years. Many families have moved in and made comfortable homes; nearly all have erected good and substantial buildings. A number of new school districts have been formed, neat and commodious school houses built as in older settlements. In our district the number of school children is thirty-three, and in the district adjoining us on the east as many more. The soil is rich, easily cultivated, and produces almost everything that grows in this latitude. Of water we have a never-failing supply, and of the best quality. Our timber is principally fir and oak. All kinds of berries and small fruits do remarkably well. We have but few bearing orchards as yet, but have some as thrifty young orchards as can be found anywhere. If, as we hope, a part of the land which is now held by the Willamette Valley & Cascade Wagon Road Company will be restored to the public domain, as it should in justice be, and thrown open to the public, the change would be far more marked in a few years to come than it has been in the past. Many, no doubt, have been deterred from settling among us by the hard stories in circulation regarding the terrible falls of snow we have. We do, occasionally, have a winter so severe that we have to feed stock from four to six weeks during the entire winter. During the past winter there were ten days on which snow fell. The deepest snow was seven inches, January 21st; by the 24th it was all gone. Cattle were in good order the entire winter without feed.

The famous Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, whose lines of railway ramify the whole country north and west of Chicago, is a favorite route for travelers between that city and St. Paul and Minneapolis. It is thoroughly equipped with everything required for the safety and comfort of passengers. Travelers over the Northern Pacific or Oregon Short Line will find that at Omaha or St. Paul they can reach a greater number of points in Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin by the lines of this company than by any other road. Its fast train from St. Paul to Chicago is of special convenience to travelers who desire to see those cities when enroute through them. Mr. W. H. Marshall is the agent of the company in Portland, and has his office at the corner of Ash and Front streets.