

HOW IT HAPPENED.

She was a dainty creature
 As ever you did see,
 Her cheeks were like the peach-blow,
 Eyes blue as blue could be—
 Her hair like rippling sunshine
 Fell almost to the knee.
 I have not done her justice,
 No artist could do that;
 Depict the sweet, shy coyness
 Beneath the rakish hat—
 The tantalizing dimples
 He never could get at.
 They played in wild abandon,
 They nestled in the chin,
 And in among the peach-blow
 A-creeping out and in—
 Till all my heart was aching
 To kiss where they had been.
 We sat upon the door step,
 The moon was hanging low,
 The stars were leaning toward us,
 And all the world below
 Was still as parting lovers—
 Seemed in a fervid glow.
 Now what transpired I'm certain
 I never could make clear,
 But this—I felt a stinging
 Sharp blow upon my ear—
 She left me on the door step
 With thoughts you shall not hear.
 But that is how it happened,
 (And you will all agree)
 That cruising after dimples,
 I said was not for me—
 And so I took to Blackstone
 And let the maidens be.

MEM LINTON.

THE OREGON STATE FAIR.

One of the annual events of Oregon is the fair, held every September at Salem, known as the "State Fair." These exhibitions are largely attended, chiefly by residents of the Willamette valley, though numbers come from Eastern Oregon, Southern Oregon, Northern California, and even from more remote localities. Crowds come in wagons and camp near the grounds during the fair week, making this a holiday season in which they may enjoy a brief vacation and rest from the year's toil on the farm. The hotels and private houses of Salem are crowded with visitors, the streets thronged with pedestrians and vehicles, and the city presents for a week an exceedingly lively appearance. The grounds are located about two miles from the city, and are reached by a splendid drive and by the O. & C. railroad. During the progress of the fair local trains are run every few minutes, and a constant stream of hacks, busses, carriages, wagons and conveyances of all kinds, passes backward and forward on the drive. The grounds are large, enclosed by a high board fence, and are supplied with numerous large buildings for the various needs of the fair, a splendid race track, pens for the display of stock, and all the accessories necessary for a successful exhibition.

The fair recently held, extending from the thirteenth to the eighteenth of September, was a most successful one financially. Two years ago, the society having become involved in debt to the extent of about \$27,000.00, the legislature came to its relief with an appropriation of \$5,000.00 annually for two years. With this aid, and

more judicious management, \$7,000.00 of debts were cancelled last year. The surplus this year will be about the same amount, reducing the debt to that extent. When this load shall have been lifted from the society's shoulders, it will be in a condition to give Oregon an exhibit more representative of its varied interests, and more creditable to the state.

The directors of the fair realize that the display of stock, machinery, agricultural products, manufactures, minerals, natural resources, etc., has not in the past been as complete as it should be, and the state has never been fairly represented. They are anxious to correct this evil, and propose to use every possible means to induce a general display from every portion of the state. It is recognized by them that the feature of horse racing has been allowed too much prominence, and while they do not propose to reduce this attraction, which is no doubt one of the strongest the fair can have, they do intend to give more attention than formerly to the other elements which constitute a complete and successful exhibition. A number of good suggestions have been made, some or all of which will no doubt be adopted. It is first suggested that a man of capacity and experience be employed as superintendent, not only of the actual conduct of the fair, but of the preliminaries; that he begin his labors in sufficient season to visit every portion of the state and make arrangements for the presence of exhibits from all localities, and representing every branch of industry and every form of natural resources. Another suggestion is that a first premium of \$1,000.00 be offered for the best county exhibit, with second and third premiums of less amounts. This will not only stimulate rivalry and bring out more and better displays, but by the increased interest created will add largely to the attendance. A third idea is that of forming a military encampment of the militia of the state, at which there shall be competitive drills, sham battle, dress parades, battalion drills, etc.; and that instead of offering a large cash prize, a suitable state championship gold medal be given to the best-drilled company, and the sum which would otherwise be given as a prize, say \$500.00, be devoted to aid in defraying the expenses of the encampment. This would also assist in drawing a large attendance from all over the state. There are numerous others, all of them tending to increase the attractions and create new interest in the fair in sections which now view it with indifference, and make it even more popular in that portion of the state which is now almost its whole support.

In discussing this question much has been said about changing the location of the fair to this city. It is eminently proper that a state fair should be held at the capital of the state, especially when that place is a city of the size of Salem, and possesses the needed facilities. All effort to remove it from its present location is unwise, and a discussion of the question has a tendency to do harm by creating a feeling of bitterness which can only be detrimental to the society. Harmony and a united effort to gather at Salem, in 1887, an exhibit of products, resources, manufactures and stock that will be fairly representative of Oregon, and present a list of attractions that will draw the people, will work a wonderful revolution in the fair itself and in its reputation among those upon whom it must depend for support.