

THE WEST SHORE.

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WALLA WALLA AND VICINITY.



ONLY by lapse of time can large cities be built, yet the rapid development of our western country greatly shortens this time for many of them. Such is the fact regarding Walla Walla. Let not him who now hears of that city for the first time—if such there be in all the broad domain of the Union—imagine it to be one of those board cities of mushroom growth, peculiar to the West, or that it is situated on the “frontier” in any sense in which that word is popularly understood. It has a history covering more than a quarter of a century, and for the greater portion of that period, has been a business center of importance, the metropolis of a large and thriving agricultural region, whose product, wealth and population increase yearly, at a rate surprising to those unacquainted with the almost phenomenal growth of the great Inland Empire.

Pleasantly situated on a level tract of fertile land, in the midst of the Walla Walla valley, ornamented with shade trees, tasteful yards and handsome residences, surrounded on all sides by well improved farms, and lying almost in the shadow of the Blue mountains, it seems to lack little which the hand of nature could supply. Through the heart of the city flows Mill creek, a stream of clear mountain water, running over a bed of pebbles. The wide streets, lined with imposing business blocks, palatial residences, elegant cottages, flowery gardens and long rows of shade trees, wear a cheerful aspect, but are particularly inviting to the weary traveler arriving from the East over miles of dreary, dusty desert. The tall Lombardy poplars, which are a peculiar feature of the city, beckon the dust-covered wanderer onward to cooling shades, as the date palm of the oasis beckons the begrimed nomad of the Sahara. It is a city of homes, and this in our western regions, where the charms of home life, of hearth and garden, are too often neglected, means a great deal.

For the few years immediately prior to 1860, the townsite was occupied only by a few traders, attracted thither by