

## IN FAR OREGON.

HAVING been requested by friends in Memphis, New Orleans and elsewhere to write, giving an account of this country, which I have adopted as my home, and finding it quite impossible to address a letter to each one severally, I will comply in a manner even more satisfactory, by writing to the *Appeal*.

In reply to special inquiries, I will refer all to the board of immigration, Portland, Or., which will send upon request, free, their admirable and trustworthy literature upon the subject of the great northwest, the most attractive region of the United States, and as little known east of the Mississippi as the great plateau of Central Africa. I can only state in general terms my observations concerning Oregon as a field inviting the industrious and enterprising in quest of fortune and a delightful home.

Writing this letter in response to inquiries is purely a labor of love, for the theme is a pleasant one to me, and it may, perhaps, be as the casting of bread upon the waters for some sun-scorched and blizzard-blasted denizen of the Mississippi valley.

I will purposely avoid the descriptive, touching scenery, and climate unsurpassed, the never failing and abundant harvests, the extraordinary quality in size and deliciousness of fruits and vegetables, because a plain statement of actual facts would sound to eastern and southern ears like the wild exaggerations of an enthusiast. I will temper my statements with the hum-drum monotony of the Arkansas swamp, so to speak, which is about the lowest dead level of fact any truthful writer could select as his base.

Considered climatically, in variety and extent of resources, in present prosperity and assured prospects for a brilliant future, Oregon is incomparably ahead of any other state in the union. In making such a sweeping statement I am thoroughly guarded, for, having visited every part of the United States, I am reasonably competent to judge by comparison.

To come here, however, and succeed without the aid of capital already in hand, requires such elements of manhood as energy, willingness to turn a ready hand to any employment for present support, and a spirit of contentment. With good habits, established purpose and a determination to succeed, the field is here, open to all that ambition could desire as the reward of honorable effort. For the timid, the idle and the dissolute, this country, with its population and driving energy of truest American stamp, with its love of law and order, together with a public sentiment in favor of an industrious life, is about the last such persons should select. Wholly out of place here, they would be driven to the wall to make room for their superiors.

It would be impossible in the brief compass of a letter to attempt a particular mention of the vast and varied resources of Oregon and the reasons of its commanding advantage as a place of residence, including its splendid system of public schools and private educational institutions, its churches, libraries, and all else that belongs to the highest progressive enlightenment and public enterprise. I will mention incidentally that this city has raised for improvements of a public kind on its own streets, within the past six months, \$2,000,000.00, and apparently without an effort. These facts are better appreciated when it is remembered that on account of the difficulty of access, this state remained, until within the last five years, almost entirely unknown. Now, however, with its steamship lines, and four transcontinental railways entering here, with feeders pushing into every part of the country, the world is quickly finding out the extraordinary attractions of this great northwest, and thousands of the best citizens from the Mississippi valley and states of the eastern seaboard are pouring in, under no stimulus of a speculative boom, but drawn by inducements of a normal kind; are bringing their families to make their homes in this new "western empire," and to become an integral part of its greatness. I speak with the assurance of ascertained fact when I say that no man who has lived here three months can return to his home east of the Rocky mountains and contentedly remain there. Among the many thousands of others I tried this myself, and although finding myself again in my old home, with the delightful renewal of former associations, and every inducement that hosts of friends and a successful business could offer to remain there, I soon became thoroughly discontented and actually unhappy because of a continued longing for the cool and life-giving climate, the majestic scenery of the snow-capped mountains, the lovely valleys clothed in richest verdure, and the cold, limpid waters of Oregon. The wisest move I ever made was when I laid aside every tempting consideration and came, as I hope, to live and die on this Pacific slope, for this is essentially a white man's country, and public sentiment is unanimous and absolute that it shall so continue.

As an American, or, rather, as a citizen of the United States, using that expression in its highest sense, I am proud to know that this wonderful domain constitutes a part of the union, and am chagrined to reflect that superlative ignorance and stupidity in congress came within an ace of losing the whole of it. If the old proposition of "54 40 or fight" could be reconsidered we would stand on 54 40 and fight forever. Acquainted somewhat with this heritage won by the splendid courage and indomitable hero-