

was simply a fur trader and was not engaged in a voyage of exploration or discovery, as were Cook and Vancouver. No agreement as to the boundary line could be reached, and in 1827 a treaty was signed extending the period of joint occupation indefinitely, to be terminated by either party upon giving a year's notice.

During this time, and for fifteen years thereafter, subjects of Great Britain had almost sole possession of the Columbia region, having established posts on all the chief tributaries of the Columbia. To be sure, several parties of American trappers made strong efforts to establish themselves, especially Captain B. L. E. Bonneville and Nathaniel Wyeth, the latter representing a Boston trading company, but so complete was the hold of the Hudson's Bay Company upon the allegiance of the natives that these American intruders found it impossible to do business with them, and were compelled to abandon the effort. In 1834, however, began a new era. A new element was then introduced, which paved the way for complete American ascendancy. Rev. Jason Lee and a party of assistants were sent out by the board of missions of the Methodist Episcopal church, and founded a mission in the Willamette valley, but a short distance from the present site of the city of Salem. From the mission school then established has been evolved the Willamette university, located at Salem, one of the leading educational institutions of the state. Only two years later the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, representing the Congregational and Presbyterian denominations, dispatched a missionary party, at the head of which was Dr. Marcus Whitman, who, with his devoted wife, fills a martyr's grave on the spot where he labored so long for the welfare of those who took his life. This mission was established at Waiilatpu, in the Walla Walla valley, near the border line of Oregon and Washington as now constituted. Other missions were founded in Oregon and Washington as branches of these two, and in 1838 the Catholics entered the field. The representatives of this sect were British subjects and made their headquarters at Fort Vancouver, pursuing their missionary labors zealously throughout the entire region dominated by the Hudson's Bay Company, and founding subordinate missions in many widely separated localities. Between them and the Protestant missionaries a bitter hostility soon sprang up, and the ignorant savage was pulled hither and thither and given to understand that he was the bone of contention between two religions, the representatives of each of which declared by word and deed that the other was false. In the work of proselyting, the Catholics were the most successful, and the Protestant missions, as such, were

discontinued within ten years, though not fully so until the noble Whitman, with his wife and eleven others, was murdered by his savage and misguided charges. If the "blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church," then ought the church reap a rich harvest in this land of the Columbia. At all events it was the seed of the state, for the missions were the foundation upon which American settlements were established, and from these grew the state.

As soon as the missions were founded, they became the nucleus about which a few Americans gathered. Some of these men were independent trappers who had become enamored of the lovely Willamette valley, and had come here to settle down from their life of danger and excitement. Some of them were sailors, who had concluded to abandon the sea and dwell in this land of plenty, while still others were of that restless, roving class who had, by one avenue or another, reached this region in advance of the waves of immigration which swept into it a few years later. Including the arrivals of 1840, there were in the fall of that year one hundred and thirty-seven Americans in Oregon, nearly all in the Willamette valley, about one-third of whom were connected with the missions in some capacity. There were also sixty Canadian settlers, former employees of the Hudson's Bay Company, who had left the service of the company and settled in the Willamette valley. In this enumeration the officers and employees of the Hudson's Bay Company are not included.

Now again a new element made its appearance, the genuine emigrant in his white-topped wagon, though, as a matter of fact, the wagons of the first two years failed to complete the journey. Then began that steady stream of young and vigorous life which has annually flowed into Oregon for nearly half a century, the end of which will not be seen for many years. Deep and moving causes existed for this living stream to force its way through rocky barriers and alkali deserts, and cut a deep and lasting channel to Oregon. Trappers returning to St. Louis had sung the praises of the lovely and fertile valley of the Willamette, where winter was unknown and the grass remained green the year round. The western frontiersman caught up the refrain as it passed from cabin to cabin, and in a few years the tale was an old one with the hardy pioneers of the west. The publication of a book by Dr. Parker, a missionary who visited Oregon in 1835, of a historical and descriptive work by John Dunn, of the charming narratives of "Bonneville" and "Astoria," by Washington Irving, and especially of a letter written by Robert Shortess, who had come out in 1839, combined with a general financial depression in the western