EARLY DAYS IN OREGON.

CHAPTER XVIII.

where the utmost liberty was ar cooking. ferring out-door sports with the

jumping into the wagon of a neighbor who was going to Louisville, Kyn started out in life for himself He "reckoned they did not grieve him at home;" at which conclusion position, and utter contempt for the ordinary and other men apt ly themselves. This truly Virginian and chivalric contempt for "honest labor" has contipued to disgust him throughout his eventful career, even white performing the most arduous duries of the life he had chosen.

should his father grieve for him his step-mother would be alle to console him; this step mother. though a pious and good woman, not being one of the land's favorities as might easily be conjectured. It Mr. Wm. Sublette, of the Rockey you'd better go back home!" pick up recruits for the service. To this experienced leader he offered himself.

"How old are you?" asked Sub

"A little past eighteen." "And you want to go to the

Rocky Mountains?" "Yes."

You don't know what you are

dark eyes, and throwing back his ness. shoulders to show their breadth.

"Come," exclaimed the trader.

and disregard of civilized observ. river.

streams-yet withal no very serious

of the Presidents," has furnished bug one's self. The squalid man dignity yet. many such men, who in the early ner of living of the few inhabitants The first adventure the company plains along the Papa Agie, be beheld the beautiful speciacle of days of the now populous. Western of Missouri at this period, gave a met with worthy of mention after sides furnishing those necessary the encompment as if has been dedays of the now populates. Continues forform aspect to the country which leaving independence, was in cross-bounties, were bornered by pictur scribed, giving life and enchant men, or the fearless ladian fight is lacking in the wilderness itself; ing the country between the Ar- erque mountain ranges, whose ment to the summer landscape ers who were the bone and mices -a thought which sometimes oc kansas and the Platte. Here the naked bluffs of red sand stone changed into a scene of the wildest When young Joe was about eight future. Mountain fare he began to by a band of Indians a thousand sun with a mellowness of coloring until from barmless noise and blus con years of ago, he weather that our corn and pork of the Missouri- upon them in such warlike style recruit. The waving grass of the life. At this first rendezvous the mm at home; at which contrasts without danger or glory, which even a few moments. It is always news; the lodges of the Booshways, once to all the natural and ordion hearing of his heedless d's marked the beginning of his career flight or div, if the assailants are around which clustered the camp many emotions which these veter made him more ambitious of a in the humor for war.

named Robert Newell, from Ohic, eral tribes-the Sioux, Arapahoes, tist could not fail to delight. ness, while it inspired by contrast sharp voice,-

was given somewhat sharply. And

eyeing the youthful candidate with dwelling house, cotton gin, and did with all dispatch, the company But the genuine free trapper readmiration, and perhaps a touch of grocery, the camp tarried for a few puriting as much distance as possi- garded himself as greatly the supity also; "that is the game spirit, days to adjust the packs, and pre | ble between themselves and their perior of either of the foregoing I think you'll do after all. Only pare for a final start across the visiters before making their next classes. He had his own horses be prudent, and keep your wit- plains. On Sunday the settlers camp, Considering the warlike and accounterments, arms and am-"Where else should they been in which some of the travelers superior numbers, it was as narrow thought fit, hunted and trapped "Where else should they be part of the com- when and where he chose; traded New york, though it, or the com- when and where he chose; traded New york, though it, or the com- when and where he chose; traded New york, though it, or the com- when and where he chose; traded New york, though it, or the com- when and where he chose; traded New york, though it, or the com- when and where he chose; traded New york, though it, or the com- when and where he chose; traded New york, though it, or the com- when and where he chose; traded New york, though it, or the com- when and where he chose; traded New york, though it, or the com- when and where he chose; traded New york, though it is took to the com- when and where he chose; traded New york, though it is took to the com- when and where he chose; traded New york, though it is took to the com- when and where he chose; traded New york, though it is took to the com- when and where he chose; traded New york, though it is took to the com- when and where he chose; traded New york, though it is took to the com- when and where he chose; traded New york, though it is took to the com- when and the com- whad the com- when and the com- when and the com- when and the comlaughed Joe, as he marched on, rels. Coon-skins, door-skins and pany as it was an exceptional freak with the Indians; sold his furs to bees wax changed hands freely of generosity on the part of the whoever offered most for them; Then commenced the business of among the settlers, whose skill savages to allow it. But Indians dressed flauntingly, and generally preparing for the journey-making with the rifle was greater than their have all a great respect for a man had an Indian wife and half-breed acquaintance with the other re hoard of silver dollars. This was who shows no fear; and it was children. They prided themselves cruits-enjoying the novely of the last vestige of civilization which most probably the warlike move- on their hardihood and courage; owning an outfit, being Initiated the company could hope to behold ment of Captain Sublette and his even on their recklessness and into the mysteries of camp duty by for years; and rude as it was, yet party which inspired a willingness profligacy. Each claimed to own the few old hunters who were to ac won from them a parting look as on the part of the chief to accept a the best horse; to have had the company the expedition, and learn, they finally took their way across present when he had the power t wildest adventures; to have made ing something of their swagger the plains toward the Arkansas have taken the whole train. Be the most narrow escapes; to have

On the 17th of Marcin, 1829, the a dead silence fell upon the party, might cost him many warriors to favorite with the Indian belles, the company, numbering about sixty which remained unbroken for capture the train. Had there been greatest consumer of alcohol, and men, left St. Louis, and proceeded miles of the way. Many no doubt the least wavering on Sublette's to have the most money to spendy on horses and mules, with pack regretting homes by them aban- part, or fear in the countenances of i. e. the largest credit on the books horses for the goods, up through doned, or wondering dreamily how his men, the end of the sifair of the company. If his Leavers the state of Missouri. Camp-life many and whom of that company would have been different. This did not believe him, he was ready commenced at the start; and this would ever see the Missouri coun. adventure was a grand initiation to run a race with him, to beat him being the season of the year when try again. Many indeed went the of the raw rectuits, giving them at "old sledge," or to fight, if fightthe weather is most disagrecable, way the woman of the gourd had both an insight into savage maker in g was preferred, -ready to prove its remance rapidly melted away prophesical; but not the hero of of attack, and an opportunity to what he affirmed in any manner with the sonw and sleet which vari this story, nor his comrade Newell test their own nerve.

ed the sharp spring wind and the The route of Captain Sublette The company proceeded without If the free trapper had a wife, frequent rold rains. The recruits, led across the country from near accident, and arrived, about the she moved with the camp to which wate through all the little mishaps the mouth of the Kansas river to first of July, at the rendezvous, he attached himself, being furnishincident to the business and to the Arkansas river; thence to the which was appointed for this year ed with a fine horse, caparisoned their inexperience, such as involun- South Fork of the Platte; thence on the Popo Agic, one of the in the gayest and co-thest manner they somersaults over their mules on the North Fork of that river, to streams which form the headwaters Her dress was of the finest goods bloody noses, bruises, dusty faces, where Ft. Laramie now stands; of Bigliorn river.

to the head of Wind river.

corded the "young massa" pre Getting up at four o'clock of a assigned to each person, precauthe goods from St. Louis. youthful bendsmen of his father, to, March morning to kindle fires and mals either by straying or Indian trapping parties and Indian allies with his beastful tales, and to study with the bald-headed school- attend to the animals was not the stampeding, etc. Some of the men were gathered togather, so that the amuse bimedif with shocking his master who furnished him the most delectable duty that our labor were appointed as camp-keepers, camp contained several hundred | upit's civilized no ions of propri master who tallines to look men, with their riding and pack ety. Joe Meck did not escape this amphanet on a parties fund of waggish chosen but if he repented of the after besides standing guard. A jugliorses. Nor were Indian we sort of "breaking in," and if it humor, united to a spirit of a lyen- venture he had made notody was few were selected as hunters, and men and children wanting to give should appear in the course of this ture and remarkable personal the wiser. Sleeping of stormy these are free to come and go, as variety and an appearance of do na rative that he proved an appearance of do na rative that he proved an appearance of do not be the proved and appearance of do not be th strength, he unwittingly furnished nights in corn cribs or under sheds. their calling required. None but meeticity to the score. strength, as all the very material of could not be by any stretch of the most experienced were chosen. The summer rendezvous was all ruth—that high spirits and time which the heroes of the wilderness imagination converted into a high- for hunters, on a march; therefore ways chosen in some valley where takents tempt the tempter to win were made. Virginia, "the mother by roundic or heroic mode of lodg our recruit could not aspire to that there was grass for the animals, them over to his ranks. But Joe

"Young chap, I'll bet you run off heart and arm. What were a band single day.

Mountain Fur Company, who was Considering that these frontier a chance for life until the breath is perform any duties required of him disposition, in the fearlessness, the so the young men felt it to be; but ing their weapons above their charge of, load and unload the it was not in the nature of either of heads. Sublette turned to his men, horses, stand guard, cook, hunt them to turn back from a course . When you hearmy shot then fire." fact, or, in short, do any and every because there was danger in it. Still they came on, until within duty. In return for his tollsome The thought of home and some about fifty paces of the line of wait- service he recieved an outfit of body to mend their coats, was how- ing men. Subjette turned his traps, arms and ammunition, ever, for the time very strongly goad, and saw his command with horses, and whatever his service THE NEW HOME SEWING MACHINE CO presented. But the company mov- their guns all up to their faces required. Besides bis outfit he reed on, with undiminished numbers, ready to fire, then raised his own ceived no more than three or four talking about, boy. You'll be stared at by the few inhabitants, gun. Just at this moment the hundred dollars a year as wages. and having their own little adven- principal chief sprang off his horse. There was also a class of free killed before you get half way there tures, until they came to Independial his weapon on the graund, trappers, who were kreashed with said Joe with a flash os his full mitter the last station before com- making signs of peace. Then fol the country by the company they unitting themselves to the wilder- lowed a talk, and after the giving trapped for, and who were bulged of a considerable present, Sublette to agree to a certain stipulated At this place, which contained a was allowed to depart. This he price before the hunt commenced. got together for a shooting match, character of these tribes and their municion. Be took what route he sides, according to Indian logic, theo killed the greatest number of bears Often on this part of the march present cost him nothing, and it and indians; to be the greatest

thence up the North Fock to the Now indeed, young Joe had an ably ornamented with beads, rib Sweet water, and thence across in opportunity of seeing something of bons, fringes and feathers. Her a still northwesterly direction the life upon which he had entered, rank, too, as a free trapper's wife, As customary when the traveling g ve her consequence not only in The manner of camp travel is pattact arrived at rend evens with her dwn even but in those of her now so well known through the the year's merchandise, there was tribe, and protected her from that writings of leving, and still more a meeting of all the partners, if slavish drudgery to which as the from the great numbers which they were within reach of the ap wife of an Indian hunter or warrior bad colds, accidents in fording have crossed the plains since As pointed place. On this occasion she would have been subject. The toria and Bonneville were written. Smith was absent on his tour only authority which the free trap-Joseph L. Meck was a native of hurts or hindrances. Rough weat that it would be superfluous here through California and Western per acknowledged was that of his Washington Co., Va. Born in the ther and severe exercise gave them to enter upon a particular descriptories. Under the resident Indian spouse, who generally ruled early part of the present century, wolfish appetites, which sweetened tion of a train on that journey. A partner, and the commander for in the lodge, however her lord and brought up on a plantation the coarse camp-fare and amateur strict half military discipline had the previous year, was not yet in; blustered outside. to be maintained, regular duties and Sublette had just arrived with One of the free trapper's special

tions taken against the loss of ant. All the different hunting and raw recruits, to gorge their wonder

and game for the camp. The was not won over all at once. He curred to Joe like a hope for the camp was surprised one morning glowed in the morning and evening carousal, going from bad to worse think must be better than the boil- strong that came sweeping down charming to the eye of the Virginia for it came to fighting and loss of ans. Antelope and buffalo meat that even Captain Sublitte was plain, variegated with wild flowers; was shocked to behold the revolt were more suitable viands for a fain to believe it his last buttle, the clear summer heavens flecked ing exhibition of four trappers hunter than coon and spossum. Upon the open prairie there is no with white clouds that threw soft playing at a game of cards with Thus those very duties which seem such thing as light, nor any cover shadows in passing, the grazing the dead body of a commite for a al undignified, and those hard-hips under which to conceal a party for animals scattered about the mead- card table! Such was the indifferin motely gorb and brilliant color- and of the wild ruses cultivated is more free and hazardous life on Happily on this occasion the lagracy laughter, and the murthemselves, and inculcated in those useful employments to which Among the require week and in the mountains. band proved to be more peaceably mur of soft ladian voices, all made who came under their is document. Among the recruits was a young disposed than their appearance in- up a most spirited and enchaning Scenes like this at first had the man not far from Joe's own age, disposed than their appearance in-

One morning when the company Kiowas and Cheyennes, who had But as the goods were opened the nort of penitential and religious was encamped near Boonville, the been holding a council to consider scene grew livelier. All were eager feeling also. According to Meek' two young men were out looking probably what mischief they could to purchase, most of the trappers to account of those easly days in the for their mules, when they encouns do to some other tribes. The spec- the full amount of their year's mountains, he said some secret Joe probably believed that browth will be worth will be wo from the milking yard with a gourd at full speed on horseback, armed, by free trappers went in debt to the But this did not last long. The mark on the style of vessle she and yelling in first rate Indian after spending the value of a year's the force of ridicule, is very potent carried, when she broke out in a style, was one which might well labor, privation, and danger, at the with the young, nor are we quite strike with a palsy the storiest rate of several hundred dollars in a free from their influence later in

the savages, whooping and swing his command, to make him take about him.

the market afforded, and was suit-

dili hts was to take in hand the scholar, it will but illustrate a

was such thoughts as these that from your mother! Who'll mend of sixty men against a thousand. The difference between a lived. If the gambling, swearing, drink kept up his resolution to seek the them boles in the clbow of your armed warriers in full fighting and a free trapper was greatly in ing. and fighting at first astenished STONEWALL far west. In the autumn of 1878 coat" You're a purty looking char trim, with spears, shields, bows, favor of the latter. The hired and niarmed the unsophisticated he arrived in St. Louis, and the to go to the mountains, among pattle axes and not a few gues? trapper was regularly indentured, Joe, he found at the same time following spring he fell in with them Injuns! They'll kill you. But it is the rule of the monate and bound not only to bunt and something to admire, and that he 4in men to fight-and that there is trap for his employers, but also to felt to be congenial with his own making his annual visit to that people knew what Indian fighting out of the body; therefore Captain in camp. The Booshway, or the contempt of vordic gain, the hearty frontier town to purchase merchan. was, no doubt sound and disinter. Sublette had his little force draw trader, or the partism, (leader of merriment and frollesome abandon dise for the Indian country, and ested advice, notwithstanding it apin a line of battle. On came the detachment,) had been under of the better portion of the men

(To be continued:)

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