THE OREGON ARGUS
AND
STATE REPUBLICAN,
Is Published at Salem, every Monday,
BY
D. W. CRAIG & J. N. GALE.
TERMS:
$3 00 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE.

JOB PRINTING
Executed with neatness and dispatch. Payment in all cases must be made on delivery of the work.

The Oregon Argus.

RATES OF ADVERTISING:
One square (twelve lines or less, minion measure) one insertion, ... $3 00
Each subsequent insertion, ... 1 00
A liberal deduction will be made in favor of those who advertise by the year, or quarter.
Obituary notices (other than a simple announcement of death) will be charged half the above rates of advertising.
☞ The number of insertions required should be noted on the margin of the advertisement, otherwise it will be published until forbidden, and charged accordingly.

VOL. IX. SALEM, OREGON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1863. NO. 20.

Letter from Iowa—Description of the Fort Benton Route.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, AUG. 15, 1863.

ED. ARGUS:—I left Walla Walla on the 25th of May, and arrived at Fort Benton on the 19th of June, after a difficult and perilous journey of 25 days.

As there are a quite a large number of persons in Salem, and other parts of Oregon, who contemplate going to the Atlantic States by way of Fort Benton next spring, it may be both interesting and profitable to them to read a short narrative of my experience in traveling that route this last spring. After leaving Walla Walla, in company with four others, we traveled northward over an excellent road to the crossing of Snake river, at the mouth of Paleuse river, a distance of 50 miles. From here the roads were quite rocky and rough to the first crossing of Paleuse. We traveled up this stream for some distance crossing it several times, and then left it and traveled over a very rough and rocky road to the Spokane river, part of the distance through pine timber. The whole country consisted of scoriaceous basaltic rock, which presented the appearance of having been washed over the entire surface with water, leaving about half the surface destitute of vegetation in many places, thus rendering traveling very disagreeable, even on horseback. We had no difficulty along here in finding plenty of wood, water, and grass. After crossing the Spokane river we traveled up the Spokane prairie some 30 or 40 miles, shortly after leaving which we came to the Cour d'Alene (pronounced *cur de lane*) Lake, surrounded almost entirely by high mountains, which rise abruptly from the water's edge to a great hight, and are covered with heavy timber, fir, pine, and tamarack, principally. From here we traveled two days through the Cour d'Alene mountains to the Mission of the same name. The road through these mountains is bad—the mountains being quite high, and the road entirely washed out by mountain streams along it for miles, in places. Arriving at the Mission, we found the Cour d'Alene river high, and employed some Indians—of the same name—to take our baggage across in canoes, and then driving our horses in one gang into river, they were compelled to swim down stream near a quarter of a mile to make a landing, and we came very near being sorry. This stream has its source in the Bitter Root mountains, descending through a great canyon, up which the Mullan road passes to the summit of Stevens' Pass in the Bitter Root mountains, a distance of about 40 miles, crossing the Cour d'Alene river *sixty-nine* times in that distance.

The greater part of these crossings had been bridged by Lieut. Mullan, but now the half of the bridges are gone by floods. At all these places the bridges were gone we had to swim our horses across the river, which ran down trough the mountains like a torrent. Several times part of our stock was swept down stream and with great difficulty recovered. In many places the river ran for miles along the road, and was from knee deep to swimming our horses. One day we did not find dry land enough to let our horses stand on and rest during the whole day's travel. Some days we did not make more than five miles, after working hard all day. Sometimes we would find a place where it was impossible to cross, then we were compelled to work our way up a tremendous steep high mountain through the thick timber and brush—traveling sometimes half a day over one of these mountains and not gain more than half a mile on our journey. We lost much of our provision and came near killing all our animals. In many places the timber had fallen in the road so as to compel us to leave it and search a new one for a considerable distance.

Descending the Bitter Root mountains on the south side for a distance of 15 miles commencing on the summit, we found the snow from 1 foot to 20 feet deep and quite soft, which made it almost impassable in many places. Down this side the road descends through a canyon, through which the River St. Regis flowgis passes, forming almost a cataract the whole distance of 30 miles. Here were repeated the same difficulties which we experienced in ascending the Cour d'Alene, except that we found a high water trail, occasionally, around the crossings where the bridges had been swept away. These bridges were poorly constructed corduroys, and in many places scarcely above the water, with piers or abutments formed of wood instead of stone—built as though it were with a view to have them wash away. The way to avoid the difficult and dangerous crossings of these rivers is to grade around the sides of the mountains and avoid crossing the rivers almost entirely, which should have been done in the first place.

After leaving the Bitter Root mountains we found no serious obstruction to our travel. We next came to the Bitter Root river, a very large stream, and traveled up it for several days. Along this river we occasionally traveled through long narrow valleys, covered with excellent grass and scattering pine timber. In many places the road was graded for miles over the points of the mountains where they projected high above and almost over the river. Arriving at Hell Gate Roade on the 11th of June, we found quite a valley, with a scarcity of wood, but plenty of water and grass. There is quite a settlement in this vicinity, mostly French. They have two or three flouring mills, a saw mill, several stores, etc., and seem to be getting along pretty well. They are engaged in stock raising, principally. On the 13th we arrived at Deer Lodge Valley, which is a very pretty valley; but the land is much saturated with alkali, though there is an abundance of grass for stock raising, there being already a large amount of stock kept here. There is also quite a large settlement here, and a small town. Timber is rather scarce. This valley lies north and south along the western base of the Rocky Mountain Range. But little snow falls in these valleys and in many places none during the entire year, though they lie at a great elevation above the level of the sea, and in a high latitude.—We found no difficulty whatever in crossing the Rocky Mountains. The summit was well defined yet the ascents gradual.

As soon as we came to the Atlantic slope everything had a different appearance from the opposite side. Instead of the green, grass covered valleys, and mountains covered with ever green timber, we beheld nothing but a dry parched yellow plain; and in many places no grass at all, and when we had left the mountains entirely, and came to the smooth, unbroken Missouri plain, we found the country entirely destitute of any vegetation except along the streams that flow into the Missouri. When we arrived at Fort Benton we found a bleak desert place with no grass anywhere in the vicinity, as the four companies had been keeping large herds of horses there during the spring, so we were compelled to go down the river 5 or 6 miles to find grass enough to keep our stock alive a few days. A few minutes before we arrived at Benton there arrived an express from a boat which said it would be at Benton in a few days, so we sold our animals and made preparations to go down on the boat, but after lying here 6 days we learned that the boat had came within 80 or 100 miles, and could come no further and unloaded its freight on the bank and went back. So we immediately, about 20 of us, hired some mule teams to take us to the mouth of Milk river, 200 miles by land, and 600 by the river. We found the whole distance to consist of a flat plain almost entirely destitute of grass and water. We traveled about 200 miles down Milk river, which in ordinary seasons is quite a large river having its source in the Rocky Mountains, but was now entirely dry except an occasional stagnant pool of water. There is an abundance of cottonwood timber along its banks. On the 24 of July we arrived at the mouth of Milk river, having been seven days on the road from Fort Benton, and on arriving there we found that a boat had been there a few days previous and landed some 40 passengers and a large amount of freight and had returned down the river, also.

The next day about 15 of us went to work constructing a raft to go down the Missouri river to Ft. Charles, about 80 miles by river, and about 40 by land, where we expected to meet another boat. While constructing the raft in the mouth of Milk river, a few rods from camp, we were attacked by several hundred Sioux Indians, all well mounted. They first drove off all the stock belonging to the camp, consisting of 23 good horses and mules. Fifteen of them came to camp and we would have completely goblined them up had it not been for an old Catholic Priest, Father De Schmidt, and the other passengers who came on the boat, and thought that Father De Schmidt could make it all right with the Indians. He accordingly put on his robes and duly fixed up a flag, and went out and gave them a box of tobacco and some crackers, all of which they took with a bow, a smile, and a shake of hands, and immediately left, and about 300 yards from camp they met an expressman from Fort Charles, and took his pack horses, and shot an arrow into him and went off with horses, tobacco, and all. They paraded on the opposite side of the river till evening when they left us to our own glory. Those St. Louis fellows who had come up on the boat were nearly frightened to death, and they immediately organized a military, having forty men out of fifty to stand in picket guards each night afterwards. This military organization to fight Indians would have been a burlesque on a squad of boys fighting with corn stalks. Dr. Mullan, brother of Lieut. Mullan was with them.

The next day being the Fourth of July, it was spent in a fort constructed of goods which had been landed by the boat. Not a gun, a word, a speech, or a hurrah was heard, nor was there a day to be seen, but all was quiet and still as though it was not the anniversary of the birth day of the greatest and most free nation on earth.—More than half the camp were secesh.

On the 5th of July in the afternoon, we received an express from Ft. Charles to the effect that there was a steamboat there which would remain till 4 o'clock the next morning and would then go down the river again. Having abandoned our rafting project, 8 of us concluded to take it afloat that night for Ft. Charles, as there were no horses in camp, so we pushed out at 4 o'clock P. M., with our lightest baggage on our backs and after delays of several hours on the road waiting for given out men, another and myself arrived at the Fort at 20 minutes before 4 A. M. of the 6th, having walked 40 miles. We sent back assistance to those who had failed, and before the boat started we were all on board. So ended the great chase after the steamboat on the Missouri river.

In my next I will give the particulars of the trip down the river, and the general conclusions on the route.

HENRY CUMMINS.

THE COWARDLY TRAITORS.—It is stated says the Stockton Independent, that the Copperheads, at their late meeting, in the procession, attempted with their torches to fire and burn an American flag, which some honest Union man had stretched across the street, and which, of course, it hurt their feelings to walk under. They were only prevented from the disgraceful act by the revolvers of Union men, who came on the ground to protect the flag.

SWALLOWING POISON.—Stir in a glass of water a heaping teaspoonful each of salt and kitchen mustard, and drink it instantly; this will empty the stomach in a minute. To antagonize any poison that may be left, swallow the whites of two or three eggs; then drink a cup or two of very strong coffee, or as much sweet milk or cream, if impossible to get coffee.

—Nine negroes, who did not vote, contributed just as much to the Sanitary Fund at San Juan as sixty-four copperheads, who voted, whereupon Judge Stidger asks the pertinent question—who deserve the most sympathy from Union men, the negroes or copperheads?—*Marysville Appeal.*

—The head of the house of Rothschild is reported to have said, that no Jewish house of any character or wealth has touched the rebel loan, nor will they touch it. This, said Rothschild, is because the Hebrews of Europe do not believe in the lean nor the cause.

EASTERN NEWS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE ARGUS.]

Tuesday's Dispatch.

Portland, Me., 16.—Returns from 275 towns give Corry, Republican, over 16,000 majority. The Senate will stand 30 Republican to 1 Democrat. (poor devil, won't they badger him!—Opr. Yreka.) House 110 Repub. to 30 Dem.

N. Y., 17.—Money easy, gold quiet at 32½@32¾; Government stocks without change.

The Times has the following: It is stated on good authority that Gen. Gilmore has tendered his resignation to the President—cause row between him and Dahlgren. Report says the President will not accept it as he cannot give up Gilmore, and Farragut has been approached with propositions to assume command of the Navy at Charleston.

Quebec, 17.—It is reported that steamer Caledonia is taking in coal to supply Confederate steamers.

N. Y., 17.—Rockville (Md.) Sentinel of the 11th says in consequence of the running away of slaves from that section the farmers will not have help to gather fall crop.

Officers in the Army of Potomac complain that fresh horses received by cavalry in exchange for worn out animals are worse than those returned to Government, also that horses received since the establishment of the new Cavalry Bureau are not as good as those furnished before its organization.

Washington, 17.—Nothing whatever has been received by Navy Department in regard to disagreement of Dahlgren and Gilmore. If there has been a row between them there has certainly been no dereliction of duty on part of the Admiral. No action has been taken to transfer him from command.

N. Y., 17.—A Washington letter says the subject of feeding destitute people within our lines is engaging the attention of the President. There are 3,000 between Potomac and Rappahannock who live entirely on contributions of our officers and soldiers. It is not improbable that they will be sent to their friends in Dixie.

A Morris Island letter to the Herald of 11th, says: ever since our occupation of Wagner and Gregg, rebels have been exceedingly morose and savage. They do not allow a moment's peace, but blaze away night and day on Wagner; but they left us such an admirably constructed work and so capacious a bomb-proof, that no one has been injured since Thursday. 12 deserters have come from James Island belonging to Louisiana regiments. They report general desire to escape from service among the rebel troops. They say rebels are building new batt[illegible] Evan's Island about half [illegible] channel; also building [illegible] approved style between Fort [illegible] the entire city on James Island on which they are mounting 10-inch columbiads and 7-inch Brooks rifles. On the green at the city, rebels have mounted a 13-inch Blakley rifle, which they have just received from Mobile. It was brought with another of the same calibre in an Anglo-rebel blockade runner 2 weeks ago. The second of these guns is in Charleston, but not mounted; it was at first proposed to mount it in Fort Johnson, but that was given up; and so far as deserters know, no place had been determined upon where it would be put. Rolls of these monsters lay by side of the gun on Charleston green.

The health of our army is good; the soldiers need only fresh vegetables. Gen. Gilmore issued a general order giving 30 days' furlough to privates who had distinguished themselves during the siege.—They are not to exceed two per cent. of the effective force on the island, and must be recommended by their colonels.

Fortress Monroe, 17th.—Richmond papers contain the following: Charleston, 15th.—A lieutenant and five men were killed by the explosion of our magazines on James Island. A telegraph to connect Cummings Point with Fort Pulaski is being built by the Yankees.

Cairo, 17th.—Reports from headquarters of the Arkansas expedition say little is transpiring, except such as would be contraband to report at present. Several reconnoissances made reveal the fact that the approaches to the rebel works are difficult; the roads being flanked by dense canebrakes and cypress swamps, which enable rebel sharpshooters to annoy the advance. Trees that they felled also aid in rendering the advance very slow.

Washington, 17th.—Our troops were eight miles beyond Culpepper on Monday.

Richmond Dispatch, 16th, says Federals are perfecting arrangements for permanent occupation of Morris Island, building telegraph lines along the whole Island, converting Wagner into a powerful work, enlarging bomb-proof, &c. Gens. Johnson and Forrest had a skirmish with Yankees on Friday, Forrest was wounded. Yankees advanced to Tunnel Hill. Gen. Wheeler had a skirmish near Lafayette same day; the enemy (Friday) being too strong, he fell back. [This last is in Rosecrans' department.]

New York, 17th.—Eagle from Havana with dates to the 12th has arrived. Rebellion in San Domingo still continued—troops are being sent there. Robberies, murders, and incendiary fires were becoming frequent at Havana. Arrivals there from Nassau report that blockade runners had arrived from Charleston and Wilmington.

Washington, 17.—Some writs of habeas corpus in military cases were discharged to-day under proclamation suspending the writ in military and naval cases.

San Francisco, 17th.—To-day's dispatches state that the white flag over Fort Moultrie may have been a rebel flag faded. Gen. Gilmore says 36 pieces of artillery were captured on Morris Island, and others still remained.

Private New York dispatches to-day quote pure spirits at 60 cents; alcohol in barrels $1,10 per gallon.

HOW THEY GO.—The St. Joe (Mo.) Herald of Aug. 14th, says:

Over 100 negroes took their masters' horses and wagons in Saline county last Sunday, and in open day formed a procession and marched to Kansas.

Additional Eastern News.

On the 8th September, at 11 o'clock at night, a boat expedition left the squadron to attack Fort Sumter, but they were repulsed. The flotilla consisted of between twenty-five and thirty boats, commanded by Lieutenant Commander Williams of the Wissahickon, and 100 marines under Capt. McCauley, the entire force being under Commander Stevens of the monitor Patapsco. They were towed to within a short distance of the fort. Three boats, under Commander Williams, Lieut. Reaning, and Ensign Porter, landed, and the men attempted to run up the ruins to the parapet. They were fired upon by musketry, and hand grenades were thrown down upon them. The slope was so steep that they were unable to [illegible] pet, when a signal was given, and in an instant all the rebel batteries opened on the fort, shelling it terribly. The three boats were smashed, and all who landed were killed or captured. Lieut. Bradford, of the marines, was mortally wounded and captured. Commander Williams and six lieutenants were also captured. From 40 to 50 sailors and marines were killed and wounded. The entire list of casualties will number 80. The remainder of the command returned in safety. A flag of trace states that our captured officers and men were in Sumter, and well treated.—Another account says some of the boats grounded on shoals, and but for that there would have been a different result.

The evacuation of East Tennessee has caused the greatest surprise and gloom in Richmond, as all anticipated a battle instead of a peaceable occupation by the National troops.

Troops from Lee's army are arriving in Richmond; destination unknown. The general belief is that Charleston will be captured.

The rebels were routed near Ft. Smith, Arkansas, and that place taken. Western Arkansas and the Indian country are now in our possession.

Gen. Grant has arrived at New Orleans. On the evening of the 4th, he reviewed the troops with Gen. Banks. Subsequent to the review, his horse became frightened, and attempted to run away, and coming into collision with a carriage horse, fell on the General. His injuries were not of a formidable nature.

Gen. Grant has issued an order that the trade of Memphis and New Orleans with Cairo, St. Louis, and the towns and cities of the upper Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio rivers, is thereby declared free from any military restrictions whatever. The trade of the Mississippi at intermediate points within the Department of the Gulf is held subject to such limitations as may be necessary to prevent supplies of provisions and munitions of war being fur-

[illegible] cedar aqueduct in Indiana, that the mill at [illegible] furnished about 1,700 over her proportion of all calls, including her quota of the present draft.

When our forces entered Fort Wagner a lighted fuse attached to the magazine was discovered a few moments before the fire could reach the magazine. The bomb-proof of Wagner had not been penetrated by our shot. The first intelligence we had of the evacuation was brought by three deserters who came into our lines at one o'clock in the morning. Numerous torpedoes are scattered over the premises, but as yet they have caused no injury.—Gen. Gilmore has set the rebel prisoners to taking up the torpedoes. Dead and mangled bodies of rebels and animals have formed a causeway from Wagner to Gregg.

The Richmond Enquirer of the 11th says the offices, type, and presses of the Raleigh (N. C.) Standard [anti-secesh] were destroyed by a party of Virginia soldiers. In return for this outrage, the citizens and friends of the Standard destroyed the office of the State Journal [rebel.]

BOMBARDMENT OF FORT MOULTRIE.

The bombardment of Fort Moultrie by Gen. Gilmore and Commander Dahlgren continued all day on Tuesday, Sept. 8th, and up to six o'clock on Wednesday, with great fury. The injuries to the fort were of such a character as to indicate that its reduction will be effected with comparative ease. Though the fact is not positively known, yet there is no doubt in the minds of persons who witnessed the explosion of the magazine, that even if it was not the main one of the fort, yet the havoc created inside was such as to materially lessen the capacity of the fort for resistance. The firing ceased on Tuesday night, except from the rebel batteries.—On Wednesday morning the fight was resumed by two or three of Gilmore's batteries, which succeeded in getting the range of Moultrie. They were assisted in the cannonading by only a part of the monitor fleet. The New Ironsides approached toward Fort Moultrie, and was firing rapidly when the Arago left. Observations were made by passengers on Morris Island late on Wednesday afternoon, and it could be seen through the hazy atmosphere that the parapet walls of the fort were broken and the guns dismounted. The entire dismounting of the guns in the fort will speedily follow the planting of batteries on Cummings' Point, a work that will soon be accomplished.—The firing from the five rebel forts and batteries, in range of Morris Island, on our forces there, began on the morning after the evacuation of Wagner, and has since been severe and continuous. As Gilmore can use the ground he has taken, in spite of the rebel fire, when his new batteries are completed there will scarcely be a position in the harbor but will be commanded by his guns, and Charleston will be within easy shelling distance. The immediate fall of the city is not, however, expected.

ENDURANCE OF THE MONITORS.—A letter written on board the Nahant monitor, after the fight with Fort Wagner, states that she carries the marks of a hundred shot, and that her stack is completely riddled; still she was as good as new, and had been ordered to Warnaw Sound to attend to a rebel iron-clad which it was reported was on her way down from Savannah.

THE STATE FAIR.

The Annual Address, by Hon. J. Quinn Thornton.

Members of the Oregon State Agricultural Society:

The occasion of our Third Annual Fair has devolved upon me the duty of addressing you preliminary to declaring it open for examination by visitors, and for the exhibition of specimens of the mechanical, agricultural, artistical and household skill and industry of the people.

And first, permit me to thank you for the confidence implied by your having placed me in a position which presupposes, at least a desire on my part to contribute something towards developing the resources of Oregon.

I [illegible] that I may claim an honest [illegible] pose, [illegible] State through [illegible] pursuits, and by means [illegible] to give honor to skill.

I congratulate you upon the contrast between our present large and widening field of usefulness as compared with our small and by no means encouraging beginning. To say nothing of the difficulties encountered in awakening public attention to the great importance of an organization like this, we cannot fail to mark the difference between this and our first annual fair. The latter, we did indeed, regard as a great success, full of most encouraging promise, when we considered it with regard to either the number of visitors, or the quality, character and number of articles entered. But if that was a success, this is indeed a triumph that should cause us to thank God and take courage. At our first exhibition the number of articles entered were at most a few score. Now they are at least as many hundreds. Then our visitors did not exceed a few thousands; but now they are still greater. This occasion is interesting, considering it not only as an annual fair for the exhibition of the best specimens of fruit, cereals and stock from the fields, and of specimens of industrial skill from the work shop and the household, but as an annual festival or gala day to which we come up from all parts of the State with warm hearts glowing with gratitude to God for crowning the year with goodness, and with cheerful countenances, in which we at once express our social affections and our appreciation of the blessings of a benign Providence.

The season of Autumn, when the harvests have been gathered into barns, and while the trees of the orchard are yet red with drooping boughs, is a time peculiarly appropriate to come up with general and united expression of gratitude to a Supreme Being for the fruits of the earth, for the enjoyment of health, and for civil and religious liberty. The return of the season in which circumstances make it necessary to hold our annual fair, is well calculated to remind the sober and thoughtful farmer (and most of this class of persons are such) that another agricultural year is completed, with all its incidents, its toils, its hopes, its fears, its perplexities and its rewards. He is feelingly reminded that "the harvest is past, and summer is ended;" and it would be indeed strange if he did not in such a connection ask himself the most solemn question the human mind ever ponders. No man so much as the farmer realizes that only God can give success to his efforts. Not in lectures or books he learns that the bright rays of the sun, the descending shower, the fleeting zephyrs, the early cloud and the morning dew, and even the hoary frosts of winter are the agencies employed by a beneficent and most bountiful Providence to fill the mouth with food, and the heart with glad ness. Associating so much with Nature, and seeing so much of her various moods and aspects, he has almost necessarily a higher appreciation of her beauty than persons have who are confined within the precincts of towns and cities. He, more than they, sees the force of that first line in the pastorals of Virgil, where he addresses Tityrus as "playing upon his lute under the shade of a spreading beach tree."

The waving fields of grain, the ripening fruits, the opening flowers, and the forests vocal with the song of birds, together with all else which diversifies the scenery of the landscape, gently solicit his heart to muse the praise of Him without whose notice a sparrow does not fall to the ground.

The degree of health and competence which have been enjoyed by the people of this State since we last met here, is a subject of congratulation. With no very marked exceptions, the body of the people have enjoyed the blessings of life, health and competence, as will be seen by any one who will look around upon this vast assembly and observe the bright and blooming cheeks of the multitude, giving testimony that earth's first physical good is bestowed upon those, in a preeminent degree, who labor in the rural districts. This consideration of health should tend to check any envy which the farmer might be tempted to feel in view of the rapid gains of the merchant, who not unfrequently sacrifices health of body and serenity of mind as the price of his rapid gain, which, when accumulated, forces upon him a conviction of the fact that great wealth and all its supposed advantages exist only in comparison.

Agriculture is more than ever attracting the attention of statesmen at home and abroad. It is coming to be regarded as the great commanding interest of nations, and is, with the increase of light and knowledge, challenging an increased attention; and although the nation has been engaged more than two years in defending itself against a most wicked attempt to overturn the Constitution and laws of the country and to erect upon their ruins institutions that dishonor free labor, yet our Government has within that time and under these most adverse circumstances, done more to encourage agriculture than was ever done in all the previous history of the nation. The National Legislature is for the first time beginning to have something like a just conception of the application of mind to agriculture, and of uniting its practice with its philosophy.

Ladies—We are happy to see you here supporting and encouraging by your presence and the many specimens of your skill, neatness and industry, a Society which legitimately tends to diminish your toil and to elevate your character and position.—Do not imagine that you are without your influence and power for great good here to-day. Ladies, I fear, are sometimes inclined to think, when they reflect upon the subject, that they are placed in a situation inferior to man's and that they have no influence in society and scarcely any duties to perform. But could all the ladies of a nation be brought together in one vast assembly to be addressed upon the subject of their powers and influence, how would they listen to the burning words of eloquence and the hallowed accents of phil[illegible] [illegible]nity, portraying [illegible] men[illegible] most impre[illegible] upon mind and [illegible] forever, marked with the [illegible] own temper and spirit.

Soldiers—In the name of the Soci[illegible] have the honor to represent, and in behalf of which I speak, I welcome you here to-day. At a period like the present, when traitors, maddened by disappointment, and driven to desperation by the conviction that the intelligence and virtue of the people of the United States had deprived them of power, now seek to pull down the pillars of State, and overwhelm all in one common ruin, an armed and loyal soldiery is, under God, the salvation of the Nation. It is for you and men of pure hearts like yours, to defend the Altar of Liberty from the profanation of traitor hands stained with fraternal blood. No one of doubtful loyalty carries a weapon in your ranks, while in many ways he shows that his good will and sympathies are secretly with those who are wading through rivers of blood to destroy that Constitution, and to subvert the best government God in his goodness ever vouchsafed to man. With such a patriot soldiery the pages of our history will continue to brighten with the ages of increasing glory until the Recording Angel shall blot out the last syllable of time, and the trumpet of judgment shall summon patriot and traitor to the Bar of God.

Although there are such vast hosts arrayed in an unnatural struggle to destroy their country, I will not cloud the pleasure of this day with even a shade of doubt that as a people we shall continue to enjoy the protection of that Supreme Being who nursed our infancy in the lap of His Providence, and who has led us up to the mature manhood of a great and puissant people, whose brilliant prospects invite to enthusiasm, and whose history furnishes us with so many motives to still greater effort in the fulfillment of our destiny, and with so many proofs that in order to our continued growth as a Nation we must cherish principles, morals, institutions and pursuits, such as orininally planted the Nation and gave vigor to its growth.—[Cheers.] And, soldiers, be assured that this God is a God of justice, as well as of Providence, and that for those who "fired the Southern heart," He has in reservation Greek fire in time, and hell fire in eternity. [Cheers and laughter.] And, indeed, every day is even now bringing to us, upon the breezes of heaven and upon the swifter lightning, the news of some fresh victory, some signal triumph, of our arms, that causes rejoicing among holy angels in heaven and among loyal men on earth—but weeping and wailing among the devils in hell and "among the traitors down South"!

Although present dangers demand our vigilance, we will look in vain for anything in our circumstances as a nation that can awaken serious apprehension as to the future. The scenes immediately surrounding us, if we except the glitter of these weapons of warfare, all betoken the habits and pursuit of peace. The graces of matronly virtue, the smiles of youthful beauty, the dignity of hoary age, the strong intellect of a mature manhood, the happy faces in this vast multitude, and all these specimens of mechanical and household arts, and these products of the field, the garden and the orchard are so many proof[illegible] that as a people we are still pro[illegible] and that our doom is not writ[illegible] enemies would affirm) [illegible] contain the s[illegible] decline a[illegible] [illegible] commonw[illegible] dened into implaca[illegible] of a standing prophecy, pub[illegible] trumpet tongues when doubt and [illegible] marked the first collision of opinions.—(Voices, "No," "no," "no.") The very birth of our greatness witnessed the same calumny from the lips of despotism, which still has too much interest in our delamation ever to award us the meed of praise.

When the walls of Sumter were beleaguered by a host of traitors, and the citadels of the nation were ascertained to have been betrayed by the treachery of Buchanan, at that time commander-in-chief of the army and navy, the clouds hanging over the country did appear to be very dark and threatening.

But in the midst of the portentous gloom, of this darkest period of our history, the fires of patriotism kindled in the hearts of the people. The glory of the past lighted up the great highway of duty, leading into the menacing future. The people heard the call to arms made by our present Chief Magistrate and a million of true men seized their weapons to vindicate the national honor, and to fling once more to heaven's sweet breath that symbol of our nationality which had gone down amid the fire and smoke and the thunder of Sumter. With this example of the alacrity with which these our countrymen sprang to arms, at the first summons of duty, fresh in our remembrance, we cannot distrust the future. We will not heed the voice of the timid and skeptical, who tell us that the last beacon fire of liberty is waning, and that enthroned tyranny will soon riot in the gloom and disaster of a nation's ruin, upon her tears and misfortunes. Every page which records the history of this most wanton and causeless rebellion, affords ample proof of the permanency of our institutions, and that this government will survive the shock of collision with traitors, whether open and avowed or secret and deceptive. ("Yes, yes," and cheers.) Firm as the mountains which traverse the interior of our [illegible] institutions w[illegible] one of peri[illegible] useful[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] erty, of the [illegible] the constitution [illegible] tion to be over[illegible] jealousy of parties, or [illegible] tion, and that with the last [illegible] precious blood he will defend the [illegible] symbol of our nationality,

"And smile to see its splendors fly
In triumph o'er his closing eye."

In conclusion, it only remains for me to declare that the Third Annual Fair of the Oregon State Agricultural Society is now open for the examination of visitors, and for the exhibition of specimens of the agricultural, mechanical, household, and artistic skill and industry of the people.

Charleston and its Surroundings.

The military operations at present going on near the city of Charleston, add to the interest of the following description of its harbor, forts, batteries, &c., as given by a correspondent last spring, who obtained the same from Capt. Platt, of the U. S. Coast Survey steamship Bibb. The reader will bear in mind that Batteries Wagner and Gregg did not bear the importance, when this account was written, that they have since assumed, and of course do not figure prominently in this description. They stand on Morris Island, near its northern extremity.

"What is termed Charleston Bar is a gentle elevation of the bottom, extending across the whole front of the harbor, a long and broad ridge of sand, rendering the water too shallow for the passage of large vessels, except through three channels, which were carefully buoyed and marked out by the Government before the rebellion, but these buoys have been taken up by the rebels. They have also cut down the trees on the islands that were used by pilots as ranges for the channels, and have thrown all obstacles in their power in the way of our entrance. With the aid of the Coast Survey charts, and the still more valuable personal services of Capt. Boutelle and Lieut. Platt, and the other officers of the steamer Bibb, but little difficulty is apprehended in finding these channels.

There are three channels through the bar to Charleston, one called the Ship Channel, running in front of Morris Island, on the south side of the bar; the second, the Swash Channel, in the center; and the third, Sullivan's or Maffitt's Channel, running along in front of Sullivan's Island, on the north side of the bar. The distance by either of these channels from outside the bar to Fort Sumter is four to five miles; that by the Swash Channel, being more direct, is less than four miles.

Morris Island is on the south [illegible] bar, and is three miles lon[illegible] house Inlet to Cum[illegible] in the rear of [illegible] points along [illegible] four [illegible] [illegible] opp[illegible] points bei[illegible] and a half [illegible] nels converge into one [illegible] Sumter, which stands precisely [illegible] between Moultrie and the Comm[illegible] Point Battery. Fort Sumter, however, is not in a direct line between the two, but is located about a half mile nearer to the city than either of them; consequently its position is at an angle three quarters of a mile from the shore on either side.

The harbor of Charleston, inside of Sumter, is three miles long from Sumter to the city front, and has an average width of nearly two miles. Fort Pinckney is on Shuter's Folly Island, immediately opposite the city, and at the mouth of Cooper river. It is a small stone structure of no account, and could be shattered to pieces by a 15 inch shell. There are, however, numerous sand batteries said to be located along the shore within the harbor, commanding the approaches to the city. There is also said to be a wonderful fort located on the middle ground, which is in the centre of the harbor, a mile and a half from Sumter and from the city. The City Battery, a public promenade, similar to the New York Battery, but much larger, is also said to be mounted with heavy ordnance.

The location and form of the city of