

Oregon Semi-Monthly Argus.

Volume 1.

SALEM, OREGON, JANUARY 12, 1878.

Number 24.

OREGON SEMI-MONTHLY ARGUS.

Issued twice a month,

By **SUMTER CRAIG,**

Publisher and Proprietor.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE.—50 cents a year.

What a Boy did for the Steam Engine.

In his article in the *Popular Science Monthly*, on the growth of the steam engine, Prof. Thurston says that when the engine had assumed a form that somewhat resembles the modern machine, an important defect still existed in the necessity of keeping an attendant by the engine to open and shut the cocks. A bright boy, however, Humphrey Potter, to whom was assigned this duty on a Newcomen engine in 1713, contrived what he called a *scop-gin*—a catch rigged with a cord from the beam overhead—which performed the work for him. The boy, thus making the operation of the valve-gear automatic, increased the speed of the engine to 15 or 16 strokes a minute, and gave it a regularity and certainty of action that could only be obtained by such an adjustment of its valves. This ingenious young mechanic afterwards became a skillful workman, and an excellent engineer, and went abroad on the continent, where he erected several fine engines. Potter's rude valve-gear was soon improved by Henry Beighton, and the new device was applied to an engine which that talented engineer erected at Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1718, in which engine he substituted substantial materials for Potter's unmechanical arrangement of cords.

ADVICE TO BOYS.—Horace Mann writes: "You are made to be kind, generous, magnanimous. If there is a boy in school who has a club foot, don't let him know that you ever saw it. If there is a lame boy, assign him some part of the game which does not require running. If there is a hungry one, give him part of your dinner. If there is a dull one, help him on with his lesson. If there be a bright one, be not envious of him; for if one boy is proud of his talents, and another is envious of them, there are two great wrongs, and no more talent than before. If a larger or a stronger boy has injured you, and is sorry for it, forgive him, and request the teacher not to punish him. All the school will show by their countenance how much better it is than to have a great fist."

George Washington, when quite young, was about to go as a midshipman; everything was arranged, the vessel lay opposite his father's house, the little boat had come ashore to take him off, and his whole heart was bent on going. After his trunk had been carried down to the boat, he went to bid his mother farewell, and saw tears bursting from her eyes. However, he said nothing to her; but feeling that she would be distressed if he went, and perhaps never be happy again, he turned round to the servant and said, "Go and tell them to fetch my trunk back. I will not go away to break my mother's heart." His mother was struck with his decision, and she said to him, "George, God has promised to bless the children that honor their parents, and I believe He will bless you."

A paper has this advertisement; "Two sisters want washing." Millions of brothers are in the same predicament.

The world's master-spirits can make the silence of their closets more beneficial to mankind than all the noise and bustle of courts, senates and camps.