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...THE HOUSEFURNISHER...

GADSBY BLOCK Corner First and Washington



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Moquette, Smyrna  
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### Special this week

Oak Chamber Suits, French beveled mirror in dresser, 24x30 inches \$20

Stoves, Ranges, Baby Carriages, Refrigerators, etc.

## WM. GADSBY, The Housefurnisher

The Gadsby Block, Cor. Washington and First Sts.

# OREGON CITY, PAST & PRESENT.



FOR the many years that the flag of the United States has floated over Oregon her history has been one of romance. The picturesque adventures of Captain Bonneville appealed particularly to the greatest of all American romancers, Washington Irving; and the later expeditions of Lewis and Clark and their band of intrepid followers the men who "conquered the wilderness and fashioned the state"—read like pages from a fairy tale. Interest in this land of romance centers at the great Falls of the Willamette. In this historic region, the most historic spot is Oregon City. What Plymouth Rock is to grim and bleak New England; what St. Augustine is to sunny Florida; what Jamestown is to the whole country; that is Oregon City to Oregon State and the Pacific Northwest.

Situated at the great Falls of the Willamette, 12 miles above Portland, it is destined to become a great manufacturing city. As with the water power furnished by Niagara, or at the Falls of Spokane, nature has been lavish in her expenditures at Oregon City. Its prospective commercial importance does not alone make it prominent. Clustered around the old town are legendary and historic traditions that make it dear to the hearts of all Oregon people.

**First Immigration.**  
The first immigration of American people to the fertile Willamette Valley was in 1842, when a band of hardy emigrants crossed the plains and mountains and settled at the Falls of the Willamette, which spot afterwards became Oregon City and the first capital of Oregon Territory. Thirteen years previous to this Dr. John McLoughlin, the chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, west of the Rocky Mountains, appropriated a large tract of land, where Oregon City now stands.

Between Dr. McLoughlin and the early missionaries who settled there, much litigation followed concerning the ownership of this land; but that is another story, and the matter was finally adjudicated. Dr. McLoughlin might be called the uncrowned king of that great area, a vast domain lying between the Rockies and the Pacific. He had absolute control over the property and even the lives of the 600 employes of the Hudson's Bay Company. In order that he might legally hold this Oregon City tract of land he renounced allegiance to the Kingdom of Great Britain and became a citizen of the United States. In the old cemetery at Oregon City, among the mosses and the lichens, where the briars and the ferns and the flowers grow, exempt no more from the ravages of time than the other rude stones that mark this somewhat neglected spot, stands a plain marble slab. Under this lies all that is mortal of Dr. John McLoughlin. During his life he was the guiding spirit of Oregon's destiny; after his death his memory remained green in the hearts of the people.

**A Bit of History.**  
Prior to 1840 the few Americans who were in Oregon braved many kinds of appalling death. Their only protection was their own prowess, and scores of them fell prey to the hands of red-skinned savages who roamed through the valleys and mountain fastnesses. The river, from Oregon City to the sea, is lined with historic spots, the scenes of historic acts performed by these men. Tidings of the wonderful beauty of the Willamette Valley, the great fertility of its soil, the perennial greenness of its verdure, reached the East, and in the early '40s immigration turned Oregonward. Oregon was debatable ground, over which the United States refused to extend its jurisdiction. Ignored

by the Federal Government, in 1842 the American residents established a temporary civil government for the Territory of Oregon and founded the capital at Oregon City. That was the year that the site of Portland was claimed by William Overton, who, it may be remarked, parenthetically, was afterwards hanged in Texas.

S. W. Moss, who was among the emigrants to arrive in 1842, was employed by Dr. McLoughlin as pilot the townsite. He did his engineering with a pocket compass and a rope, and mapped out the city on the right bank of the Willamette, between the river and the high bluff of basalt rock. The city now lies on both banks of the river, and some of the prettiest residences are on top of the bluffs. The first capitol building of the territory was a rude cabin of split logs, with slab seats for the members. Here, also, was built the first Protestant Church on the Pacific Slope, in North or South America. This quaint old Methodist Church was in the center of the old part of the town, and on the same lot grows the first apple tree planted in Oregon. That part of the town on the west side of the river was at one time called Lynn. It is now all within the same corporation.

When the capital was established here, the place was called Willamette Falls. The seat of government was moved from the falls to Salem; thence to Corvallis and again to Salem; where the State Buildings were erected. For many years the village was kept in a ferment of excitement by the fear of Indians and by the Indians themselves. Peace was secured with the savages only at intervals, and most of the fighting forces were raised at Oregon City. It was here that Klockstock, a sub-chief of the Molalla tribe, who was a cruel and bad-tempered man, caused much trouble. A code of laws had been prepared by Dr. Elisha White, and under these a reward of \$100 was offered for the apprehension of a relative of Klockstock, who had injured a Methodist Missionary named Perkins.

Klockstock and four of his braves visited Oregon City in 1844, to talk the mat-



height. From shore to shore they measure a half mile. There are several small islands at the brink which divides the stream, and which does not all fall in one body. The factories are located on both sides of the river. The main business portion of the city is 80 feet above the stream. In the southern portion of the town is an elevation which reaches 350 feet above the river. From this point the view is sublime. As far as the eye can reach, either to the north or to the south, can be seen the beautiful Willamette, meandering through the fertile Valley, its banks covered with a carpet of perennial green. A dozen Valley towns can be seen and a good view of Portland is had.

**Beautiful View.**  
The elevation on the west side is greater than on the east side, though the cliffs are not so precipitous, except on the immediate banks of the stream. From this height, the entire city on the opposite bank is spread out like a panorama. This picturesque beauty alone would make Oregon City famous. The falls are not simply a series of rapids, like so many that are noted, but here the whole volume of the river plunges over a cliff of solid basalt forming a cataract of match power and beauty. From the falls the river flows between solid vertical walls of basaltic rock, 25 to 50 feet high and of beautiful columnar formation. Here is the confluence of the Clackamas River. Both the Cascade Mountains and the Coast Range can be seen. Mount Hood looms up, 59 miles away. To the north Mount St. Helens, and to the east, Mount Adams, come boldly into view, and on the south can be seen the Three Sisters and Mount Jefferson. All these peaks are perpetually clad in snow and ice.

Great historic as has been Oregon City's past, it is to the future it must look for its most lasting fame. This it will owe to its matchless water power. According to investigations made by the Oregon City Board of Trade, the Willamette River discharges into the Columbia 15,000 cubic feet of water per second. The only tributary it receives below the falls is the Clackamas River, which is insignificant. The Clackamas does not discharge over 200 cubic feet per second. Thus the volume of water at the falls is 12,300 cubic feet, and these are dry-season figures. This would make the capacity of the falls 56,000 horse-power. During most of the year, it is several times this amount.

The falls of St. Anthony, at Minneapolis, furnish only 20,000 horse-power. At

the afternoon, when there was a dinner. At midnight supper came, and all sat down to a hearty breakfast at sunrise. Sleep did not come in for consideration at all. The "Oregon House," at which this dance occurred, was a small, two-story frame building, on the bank of the river, between Third and Fifth streets, and was owned and operated by Jacob Baum, until the high water swept it away in 1851. Mr. Baum continued in the hotel business, and, after this mishap, purchased the Main-Street House from Mr. Moss, who had built it in 1845, on the lot where Young's Livery Stable now stands. This was first used as a hotel; then as barracks for the First Regiment of Mounted Rifles, most of which was here in 1849 and 1850. Mr. Baum enlarged his purchase and rechristened it the Oregon House, which caused many people to be mistaken in the identity of the original Oregon House.

**Traditions of the Ball.**  
Tradition has much to say concerning this ball, those who attended and their costumes. One man wore a broadcloth suit that he had brought around Cape Horn to California, and thence to Oregon. A few of the Army officers had blue coats, and there were a few silk dresses. One young woman wore a wine-colored English cashmere, balloon-skirted and tight-waisted, but with the waist fastened up the back with a brilliant array of pins whose threatening points protruded, in the intimidation of her partners, in the giddy mazes of the waltz. The music on this occasion was furnished by three men, with accordions, and one "fiddler," who were seated on a high platform in the center of the ballroom.

The site of Oregon City was selected by Nature. Just here a range of basaltic hills, several hundred feet in height, crosses the Willamette, or rather the Willamette has plowed its way through them. At mean low water, the falls, which are semi-circular in shape, are 40 feet in

Great Falls, Mont. 32,000 horse-power is developed. At Niagara 100,000 horse-power has been developed, which saves the City of Buffalo \$1,000,000 annually, in fuel alone. None of these great water powers, possess more advantages than the falls of Willamette, at Oregon City, afford. This great power is practically undeveloped. Not over 18,000 horse-power is being used. This is considerably more than the total water-power of Lowell, Mass.

Boats on the Willamette pass around the falls by means of a canal on the west side. In this canal there are four lifts, of 10 feet each. This canal also feeds the water wheels of several mills, though it was not originally intended for this purpose. The canal was built in 1872. It is about one-third of a mile long, and the whole distance is cut through almost solid rock. It cost over a half million dollars.

Prior to 1838, all the water power privileges at Oregon City were owned by the Willamette Transportation and Locks Company. In that year the Willamette Falls and Electric Company was organized, and it obtained most of the rights of the old company. This company had in view the generation of electricity and transmitting it to Portland for illuminating purposes. It accomplished its object, and this is the first instance where electricity was transmitted to so great a distance, to furnish light or power, on so large a scale.

**Bought to First Rank.**  
The Portland General Electric Company was incorporated in 1882, with a capital of \$4,500,000. Both the old companies were merged into the new one, which contained some Eastern capitalists. With this organization began plans that brought the Oregon City water power up to first rank. The company owns the water power, the locks, the canal and 1900 acres of land.

The electric-power station for turning the falls into commercial use, comprises a great plant. The capacity is 12,000 horse-power. The concrete foundation of this station was laid on bed rock, at the bottom of the river, 30 feet below the surface of the water. The foundation does not have walls, but is a solid mass of concrete. The canal was made 80 feet wide for a long distance and, in fact, all the old plans were broadened. The following table, showing the water-power capacity, the number of employes, and the value of the products of Oregon City, was prepared by H. E. Cross, of that place, and is authentic.

**Interesting Statistics.**

	Water-power, h. p.	No. employes	Approx. annual product, \$
Oregon City Ice Plant	150	25	500,000
Portland Flouring Mills	250	25	500,000
Dr. City Woollen Mills	500	300	1,000,000
Or. City Pumping Station	100	100	1,000,000
Willamette Pulp & Paper Co.	9,000	500	1,725,000
Portland General Electric Co.	4,700	18	25,000
Capeau Shoe Co.	25	11	25,000
Total	17,725	1037	\$3,150,000

Of raw material, 1,600,000 pounds of wool, 40,000 cords of wood, 15,000,000 feet of wood for paper making, and a million bushels of wheat are annually utilized. Nine hundred barrels of flour and 89 tons of paper are manufactured every day. A new pulp mill was put in operation last year.

Six thousand people live at Oregon City. It is the county seat of Clackamas County, and the public buildings of the county are located here. The principal business thoroughfares of the city are paved with vitrified brick. It is an educational center. Seven large schoolhouses are in the city and immediate suburbs, and a Chautauqua is conducted at Gladstone Park, three miles away. As a residential town, Oregon City's advantages are unsurpassed. The great scenic beauty, the salubrity of the climate, the sanitation, the congeniality of the people, and the close proximity of the town to the metropolis (Portland), unite to make this an ideal home city. In a way, it is a center of learning and culture.

It is a town of homes and churches, as well as a manufacturing center. As Portland continues to grow, so will the population of Oregon City increase. Transportation between the two cities is easy, cheap and rapid. Portland morning papers are received before breakfast, and the afternoon papers arrive before 6 o'clock. Residences and pretty suburban towns are springing up all along the

river, and the electric line between the falls and Portland.

The first newspaper published on the Pacific Coast, or west of the Rocky Mountains, was established at Oregon City, in 1842. This was the Oregon Spectator, which was printed on a Washington hand press that was brought to the territory from the Sandwich Islands. Later on, a paper was printed at Milwaukie, between Oregon City and Portland, and in 1859 the first issue of The Oregonian was printed.

Oregon City has practically the same transportation facilities as Portland. Steamers ply regularly on the river at all seasons of the year, and the river is navigable 150 miles above the falls. The Southern Pacific Railway passes through the city. The river not only gives means of transportation, but serves to keep the freight rates of the railroad down to the lowest notch. It is believed that several motor lines will soon be built, from the town to points in the surrounding country, so as to more easily gather the products of the valley.

Salmon come to the base of the falls, in large schools. In pioneer days the California Indians used to catch them there in large quantities, during the months of May and June, when they ran up stream. In those times it was a common sight to see as many as 50 or 100 large fish leaping out of the water at one time, endeavoring to climb the falls.



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**COTILLION PARTY.**  
Your company is respectfully solicited to attend a cotillion party, to be given on Thursday, the 10th day of October, at the Oregon House. Party to commence at 7 o'clock.

Managers:  
Noyes Smith,  
Joe Halston,  
George McCarty,  
Wm. S. Ordley,  
A. Post,  
C. S. Hilland,  
Andrew Jackson,  
Jno. F. Brooks.

Oregon City, October 4, 1850.

In those days, dancing parties began early and continued all night. Sometimes festivities began as early as 4 o'clock in