

A Chapter of Items.

EDITOR REGISTER: Having again paid a visit to your county, on a Christmas visit, among friends and relatives, I concluded to pen down a few things under the title of "a chapter of items."

THE RAILROAD.

We went on board the noon train of cars at the store and depot of the gentlemanly proprietors—Davenport & Wolford, Salem, whose kindness and business tact render them so popular. To undertake to write about the incidents of a ride, and the stations along the route, &c., &c., would be superfluous; as these events are of daily occurrence and experience to thousands of persons. It might, however, be proper to state, that the road and cars, and the kind and gentlemanly conductors are all No. 1. This road, leading up our valley, and southward to connect the great National Artery—the Union Pacific—makes an important era in the history of our country; and will tell upon the future growth and general prosperity of our young and growing State. The days of our former isolation are nearly ended; and soon it will be demonstrated that Oregon is not a "cow county" of California. This noble enterprise is but the prelude to other important railroads that will traverse our State. All the advantages of these roads to our State cannot be shown in this short chapter. Time and circumstances will fully develop the vast value of such thoroughfares. It is certainly to the reciprocal advantage of both the owners of the road, and the people of Oregon to foster and promote the interests of the road and of all producers. It is to be hoped that the rates of passage and transportation of freights upon the road will be reasonable, and such as will encourage travel and transportation upon it.

THE WEATHER.

It seems that each tenth winter reminds us of old times in the western and northern States. The snow, which fell eight or ten days ago, was partial to some sections of the valley. On Pudding river, in Marion county, it fell four inches, at Salem 8 inches, and at Shedd's station and on Albany prairie 12 inches. The recent thaw and rain melted off most of it and raised the mountain and valley streams, and covered the low lands with "mist." To-day—Christmas—the sky and the earth assume the appearance of a hard set-in of winter. Although people generally prophesied that this would be a hard winter, yet hundreds of tons of nice, clean straw were burned in this valley, this season, merely to get it out of the way! Stock feed is very scarce and dear. And worst of all, there is a great lack of shelter for stock. I admit that most of writers in Oregon have been too lavish of praise concerning our mild climate, and open winters, and green pastures all the year round. These are general; but there are "striking exceptions," and this winter is one of them. When we take into consideration, the northerly latitude of our State, and the altitudes of our mountains, and the lack of our knowledge of the laws which govern the winds on this coast, and the wonder is, that our seasons are so good, and our winters so mild as they are. Yet, it is worse than folly, for persons to meet these winters without a reasonable amount of stock feed and good shelters and other needful family preparations. Great fears are entertained, on account of the probable condition of stock, and of the snows east of the Cascade Mountains, at present.

It is well known that a very large proportion of the sheep and cattle, and many of the horses of this State, are now quartered on the vast plains of Eastern Oregon. The season was so dry, that but little hay could be made last Summer in most of that region of country. Hence, if a severe, snowy winter

occurs in that region of country, immense losses must be the consequence. I fear the worst, but hope for the best.

GENERAL PROSPECTS IN LINN.

An observer cannot travel through this county, without noting the general thrift and signs of prosperity, which mark the towns and settlements in it. New wagons, new houses and barns, fields lately fenced; and the large amount of fall wheat and fall plowing; and the extended improvements and city-like appearance of Albany—the beauty of the valley—and depots and stations along the railroad, all assure him that Old Linn is deservedly styled the Empire County of Oregon. May her shadow widely expand. Let this short tribute suffice.

DRAINING.

This county has more open and superior farming lands than any other county in Western Oregon. But it is also true, that much of these lands are very flat. Where the sub-soil is clay, and retentive of water, underground draining is essential to the production of good crops. Almost all the lands in Linn county can be successfully drained. If the superabundant water which falls here in our "misty" season, is suffered to remain upon the earth, they chill it, and render it clammy; and frequently crops must be sown or planted late in the Spring, or "muddled" in, which is worse.

These gray lands can be made kind and productive, if well drained and deeply plowed and are pulverized. And for raising heavy crops of grass for hay, these lands should be thoroughly drained. It would be better for the land-holders of such lands to sell one half of their lands and spend half of the proceeds in ditching, and the other half in substantial improvements, than to farm these lands without draining. With the Collins plow, and the Champion Moline and some other strong plows, ditching can be successfully done. I have written so much lately, and endeavored to rouse attention to deep plowing, that I shall not touch upon that subject at present.

PRICES OF LANDS.

These are so low that strangers are suspicious that our land titles are not good. Unlike California, we have none but good, original titles in our State. The idea that good lands with some improvements upon them can be bought without from five to fifteen miles of our valley railroad at from ten to thirty dollars per acre—clear title—is rather hard on strangers to believe or accredit. Yet, such is the case. One crop of wheat will generally pay for the land on which it grows. We hope that the day is near at hand when those old donation sections and half sections will be subdivided, and ten times the population sustained here, that are here at present. It is not yet known how much a given amount of this land can be made to produce if fully and properly tilled.

TIMBER.

There is a lack of valley timber near the best prairie lands of Linn county. And here the great benefit of the railroad is manifested. Surplus timber from those districts where it abounds in such abundance, can be brought in lumber for fences, buildings, &c., upon the road, and distributed along the line at reasonable rates. Brick in vast numbers can be made of the gray clay here and laid up in buildings. And here let me call attention to the matter of Osage Orange hedges in this valley. The hedge of Mr. Joel Houston, twelve miles south-east of Albany, fully proves that the Osage Orange can be made a perfect success here, in hedges. I could give full directions as to cultivating and forming hedges of this most valuable hedging timber, but space will not permit.

THE FUTURE CROP.

It is manifest that our crops should be more varied. A much larger amount of root crops and hay should be produced here than are. As proof, I would refer my readers

to the price of hay here now and scarce at \$25 to \$30 per ton; potatoes at \$1.50 per bushel and scarce. But if I can obtain pardon of you, Mr. Editor, and of your readers, for this long chapter of items which I have penned, I shall be pleased, and so close this writing. DAVID NEWSOM.

A SINGULAR CASE.

The Bed-room of Two Young Ladies Entered at Night and the Hair Shaved Close from Their Heads.

(From the Louisville Courier-Journal, June 20.)

A small cottage on East Market street was the scene, night before last, of a most remarkable occurrence. If the history of the most noted burglaries the world over furnishes a parallel case it must have happened in the days of knight-errantry, when the slippers of some troubadour's "lady love" or a lock of her golden hair was held in more esteem than the fabled wealth of the Orient.

The cottage consists of only three rooms, all on the first floor, occupied by a family of taste and refinement, as the clinging vines and beautifully adorned flower-pots in the front yard indicate. On Saturday night last, the back room was occupied by two young ladies, daughters of the family, the father and mother sleeping in a room adjoining.

SOME TIME DURING THE NIGHT

the room of the ladies was entered so noiselessly that nothing was known of the intrusion until next morning. The burglar left behind abundant traces of his romantic adventure, but nothing to indicate his identity. For entering the window he had brought into requisition a small ladder used as a framework for flower-pot, placed then on the ground in such a manner as not to injure them, and then moved the ladder to the window sill until his purpose was effected, afterwards replacing everything as he found it.

The sash was raised, noiselessly, almost breathlessly it must have been, and the midnight rover entered. There

with all their errors, and all their charms like death without its terrors, they slept his beautiful victims, their wealth of golden hair sweeping in rich profusion and immitable negligence over the snowy pillow. He approached the bedside, gaily rolled down the covering until neck and shoulders lay bare—and, then what?

IS IT A MURDER,

be it on deed of blood? or an escaped maniac, possessed of an infatuation for drawing the glittering steel across swan-like throats? Happily neither. A few clicks of the scissors, making "less a sound," and all is over. Those flowing tresses, the "glory of a woman," as Holy Writ declares, are shorn closer than Sampson's beneath the faithless fingers of Deilah, taken off as close to the scalp as a barber might have done by daylight. Several articles of jewelry were taken from their proper place, but none were taken away. The apartments occupied by other members of the household were entered, clothing thrown about confusedly, a gold locket, a breastpin, several pieces of money scattered around, but all answering promptly next morning.

It is evident that whoever the intruder, he or she, was only bent on getting possession of "the glory of the sex."

THE FIRST INTIMATION

of the night's doing; came from the young ladies, who awoke and found themselves the victims of this "taking off." Like Rachel, they wept bitterly—Rachel for her hairs, the ladies for their locks. The whole transaction is most mysterious. Did some one invade the sacred precincts and thus violate "vested rights" in the latest of the braid manufacturers; and even now to those wavy tresses adorn some shop window on Fourth street? Or has some envious female, with carryot hair, turnip nose and bean eyes this deprived her rivals of their chief ornament? Or has that strange gentleman who insisted this city about a year ago, breaking into houses and indulging his mania for gazing at sleeping folks, returned, with an addition to his programme? We wet not. Surmises that chloroform was administered are rife in the family, for the ladies declare they are extremely wakeful. However, and whoever, and whither, it is or was, this modern "rape of the lock" may be set down as one of the most daring successes and romantic enterprises that ever startled this quiet and usually well behaved city from its propriety.

Postal Telegraph.

The following article is from the Pittsburg Leader of Dec. 10th: The Associated Press papers published yesterday morning a long extract from the New York Tribune against the postal telegraph project, and opposing it principally on the grounds that it will give the President the power to influence public opinion for a day or two just as he pleased. The publication of this very extract shows that the Western Union monopoly, in private hands, can be made "to influence public opinion" quite as effectively, for it secures the wide dissemination of the Tribune article against the postal telegraph, and ignores the articles of the other papers in favor of it. Commodore Vanderbilt controls the Western Union Company, which controls more than three-fourths of the telegraph lines in the United States. He is as likely to try to "influence public opinion" through this powerful instrumentality as the President, and to be much more unscrupulous in the means he employs to do so. If we must have an autocrat of the telegraph, let us rather have the President of the United States hedged in by the Constitution and watched by Congress and the people than an irresponsible speculator and railroad "operator."

An Irishman, on being asked which was the oldest, he or his brother, replied, "I am the oldest, but if my brother lives three years, we shall both be of an age."

IS THE MOON INFLAMED?—The question whether the moon is inflamed seems to have been partially solved by the following German tale:

Agos ago there went one Sunday morning an old man into the woods to hew sticks; he cut a faggot and slung it over his shoulder, and began to trudge home with his burden. On his way home he met a handsome man in Sunday suit, walking towards the church. This man stopped and asked the faggot-bearer:

"Do you know that this is Sunday on earth, when all must rest from their labors?"

"Sunday on earth or Monday in heaven—it is all one to me," laughed the wood-cutter.

"Then bear your bundle forever," answered the stranger, "and as you value not Sunday on earth, yours shall be perpetual moon-day in heaven, and you shall stand for eternity in the moon, a warning to all Sabbath-breakers."

Thereupon the stranger vanished, and the man was caught up with his stick and his faggots to the moon, where he stands yet.

The superstition seems to be old in Germany, for the full moon is spoken of as wood or coal, a faggot.

An exchange pithily remarks: "Men eat too much, fret too much, exercise too little, sleep too little, and then drink whisky. Let them turn themselves into the fresh air, eat simple food, sleep enough and they will be more healthy." Says Dr. Guthrie: "If you want to keep a dead man, put him in whisky; if you want to kill a living man, put the whisky into him."

PATENT GATE, ETC.

Self-Opening and Self-Closing GATE.

PATENTED BY JOHN DICKSON, June 4, 1857.

THE GATE IS SO CONSTRUCTED THAT when the vehicle approaches it the wheels on one side pass over a lever which is connected to the gate hinge by a rod, thus opening the gate before you and meeting it open. After going through, the carriage passes over a similar lever, also connected with the gate hinge, causing the gate, in its rotation, to shut behind you and fasten.

No Getting Out of Your Vehicle! No Raising of Latches Nor Pulling of Strings, Except the "ribbons" of your team. It is often called

THE "LAZY MAN'S GATE."

And a

"Dead Open and Shut."

This gate is simple in its construction, both of iron and wood work, and not likely to get out of order. If a neat, cheap gate is desired, it may be made light, with three cross bars of wood and one-fourth inch wire, neatly curved at the top, the lower end hid in the bottom bar, which is the style of a factory made gate. The gates are now in successful use in several of the counties around San Francisco, and plenty of testimonials can be given.

THOMAS J. SAFFORD, Having purchased the

Right for Linn Co., Oregon,

Has now on hand, and will manufacture the above described gate. Whenever it has been used it has received the highest encomiums, as the large number of certificates from prominent farmers in all parts of the country, now in my hands, will testify.

CARRIAGES AND WAGONS, Of All Descriptions, On hand and manufactured to order. Blacksmithing and Repairing Done to order at most reasonable rates. Shop foot of Ferry street, opposite Beach, Monteth & Co.'s flooring mill.

THOMAS J. SAFFORD, Albany, Oct. 28, 1874

MILLINERY, DRESS MAKING

MILLINERY, DRESS MAKING, —AND—

LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S FURNISHING HOUSE!

THE UNDERSIGNED HAS OPENED A new stock of millinery goods, trimmings, ladies' and children's furnishing goods, of all kinds, of the latest and most fashionable styles, which she offers to the ladies of Albany and surrounding country at the lowest rates. In the

Dress Making Department I guarantee entire satisfaction. Charges liberal.

SPECIALTIES: Clothing.—Always on hand, ladies' and children's ready made under clothing, cloaks, suits, aprons, etc.

Dress Trimmings.—An extensive variety of silk, satin, cotton and woolen dress trimmings, always in store.

Cloaking.—Honey-comb, astrachan and water-proof cloth, of the best qualities.

Furs, Etc.—Ladies' and children's complete sets of furs and swandown, of latest styles.

Chignons.—Latest styles constantly on hand, at low figures.

Miscellaneous.—Linnings and findings of all grades and qualities, a full assortment.

JACONETS, MUSLINS, EMBROIDERIES, DIAPER LINEN, KID AND ALL OTHER VARIETIES OF GLOVES, HOSE, ETC.

My determination being to give satisfaction in style and quality of work and prices, I ask a share of public patronage. Call at store

Opposite A. Carothers & Co., First street, Albany, Oregon. MENDENHALL & GODLEY. MRS. C. P. MENDENHALL. MRS. SARAH G. GODLEY. 627 Agent for Mrs. Carpenter's CELEBRATED DRESS MODEL. Nov. 4, 1874

P. C. Harper & Co.

DRUGS, ETC.

R. N. ARMSTRONG.

Would respectfully call the attention of the Public to their large stock of

P. C. HARPER & CO.,

BARRELED SHOT GUNS AND FIXTURES, POWDER, SHOT AND CAPS, AND SHOT GUN WADS; BUCKEYE SEWING MACHINES—THE BEST AND CHEAPEST IN USE; NAILS, ROPE, CROCKERY, GLASSWARE, Groceries, Wood & Willow ware, Hats, Caps, Mirrors, Picture-frames, &c., &c. TERMS—CASH OR MERCHANTABLE PRODUCT.

CONSISTING IN PART AS FOLLOWS: A WELL SELECTED STOCK OF CLOTHING, GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS, LADIES' DRESS GOODS, DOMESTIC GOODS, BOOTS AND SHOES, A NO. 1 ARTICLE OF DOUBLE-

"They Who Have Nothing for Sale are Farthest from Market"

A. CAROTHERS & CO.,

WHO KNOW THIS TO BE TRUE, Are now keeping, and also constantly receiving additions to,

The Largest Stock of Goods

USUAL TO THEIR TRADE

ABOVE PORTLAND,

And AT SUCH PRICES

That Purchasers Shall be Satisfied.

Besides a Large Stock of

DRUGS, CHEMICALS,

PATENT MEDICINES,

Paints, Dye Stuffs, and Oils,

They keep Yankee Notions,

Confectionery

Finest Tobacco & Cigars

WOSTENHOLM'S CUTLERY,

SPICES, PERFUMERY,

(All kinds),

TOILET SOAP,

—AND—

Everything

USUALLY OBTAINED IN

A STRICTLY

First Class

DRUG ESTABLISHMENT.

NO ARTICLE SOLD

But what is

Guaranteed To Be

JUST AS REPRESENTED,

And

Must be Good.

Arctic Soda!

A. CAROTHERS & CO.