

Letter from Geneva.

CHOCOCO VALLEY, Feb. 1873. ED. REGISTER:—Now that we have resided in this part of Eastern Oregon since the latter part of October, and being pretty well thawed out from what is termed here an unusually hard winter, it may be interesting to a portion of your readers to learn a few items relating to our climate, the health, and stock interest.

The weather in October and to the last of November, was clear and pleasant, with occasional high winds from the south and west through the day, from the north at night.

Snow fell two and one-half inches about the first of December, laying near ten days, going off with a light rain, grass the while being uncovered. The weather varied—a few days soft and pleasant, then a cool wind, then clear and bitter cold—when, on the 17th, commenced a fall of successive snows, finally reaching a depth of twenty-one inches, settling down to seventeen, clear days intervening, some of which were pleasant, while on Christmas it stormed furiously the entire day, followed by a night of intense cold, the mercury falling to 18° below zero. The cattle came in from a thousand hills and hollows tributary to Ochoco and Crooked river, driven by the storm, lowing most pitifully, seeking shelter, and collecting in bands of one and two hundred head, wandered down stream, bewildered and blind, knowing no home, carrying along even those daily fed, from five to twenty miles away—that gave their owners and herders a job of two weeks to return them to their range.

We were made glad in a few days after by the warm wind springing from the south, termed here the Chenook, which caused the snow to melt rapidly when a sudden blow from the north crushed the snow. But so changeable is the atmosphere that by the 7th of January the south hill sides became bare, while the valleys were covered for ten days longer.

On the fourth day of February snow fell to the depth of fourteen inches, remaining on about a week. To a few of us in this vicinity it was a day long to be remembered, for near the whole day, upon a bleak point in a most terrific snow storm, we were digging the grave of John Macey, an estimable citizen, late from near Harrisburg, who was stricken down at the age of 66 years with apoplexy while conversing and apparently in good health.

The roads have been quite muddy recently, the like of which has not been since the settlement of the valley. The weather is now mild with soft winds. The cattle are seeking their old range in pursuit of the young grass, now appearing from two to three inches high upon the south hillsides, which, from the quantity of melted snow absorbed in their granulated soils, will spring forth more luxuriant than for years.

I think there has not been a general loss of cattle of more than one out of forty, being mostly of cows that became reduced from their calves running with them the whole season unweaned. Hundreds of cattle have survived the storms thus far without other feed than greasewood and other browse.

The winter at Camp Folk has been severe, the snow falling very deep. To save their stock, owners drove them in on the Deschutes.

From Upper Crooked river and Bear Creek, cattle done well—the snow fell about the same as here.

It is not advisable to drive stock from the valley to this country in the fall. They arrive fatigued and foot-sore, fill up with the dry grass which seems to produce inward fever, and they become poorer, so that during the soft weather in winter they are unable to extricate themselves from the mire or heavier holes, or cling on slippery trails. A person to prosper here soon with cattle, needs a stock of thirty to fifty cows, and fifty yearling and two year old steers. He then will be able to sell beef for cash, and keep up by the increase, and thereafter yearly compound. He will need hay or oat lands for winter storage, so cut and stack each season, feeding only when the grass is under snow, which requires a foot depth or more. He may not need it for two or three years, yet the winter may arrive, as it has this, and take it all. These bottom lands are rich, growing forty to fifty bushels of wheat to the acre—of barley and oats one-fourth more. Barley straw is relished quite as much as the wild rye, oats or wheat. Cattle when the grain is in the mill, it is equal to timothy, producing two to three and a half tons to the acre, depending upon the facility for irrigation in many localities.

The number of best cattle in this and Crooked river valley, of various and firm coloring, in next season, rather limited, and not in proportion to the number of stock cattle. At a recent sale, steers, two year old next spring, brought \$22 50, and yearlings \$17. Kirkland has just sold his entire band of cattle, thirty head, at an average of \$23 per head, fourteen being cows, and the remainder one and two year olds. But few stock cattle are offered.

Our hills during the snows are abounded with the white-tail, running in bands of ten to thirty, and many were killed. Wild animals are not numerous—several lynx and catamounts have been killed by the hunters, and a savage cat they are.

The climate is indeed beautiful, nothing more serious than bad colds, which do not seem to effect the lungs. Some persons receive slight attacks of rheumatism in our clear, cold weather.

In all, there has been seven deaths in these two valleys, only one of which was from any sickness produced here. Yet we need a minister, and in case of emergencies, which have occurred frequently, a physician and surgeon.

We have two stores, with fair variety. Also three saw mills and two saw mills—pine lumber at ten dollars per "m."—one thrasher, and a farmer's mill from which good graham can be made. The grain crop the past year was about 4,000 bushels. Price for wheat, one dollar and fifty cents; Oats and barley, each one dollar.

It is remarkable what relish we have for our food in this country, of which there is an abundance, although butter is very scarce. We get no papers to learn of the outside world—the latest dates I have seen was Dec. 8. It is an outrage that this population of six or eight hundred cannot be supplied with mail service.

These valleys are all taken up—a large portion being owned by the W. V. & C. R. Co. No fair situations, except those further eastward. These seeking health more than large profits, can, however, find locations for stock, but limited ground for winter's feed. In this country we are liable to heavy taxation, Court expenses being immense. Jurymen are called 180 miles to trial, which, in State cases, are frequent and not speedy; but as the citizens become richer and more numerous they may be lighter.

I realize that the Willamette Valley is the great agricultural country west of the Rocky Mountains, and indeed a paradise in the Spring, Summer and Fall, with every convenience and luxury necessary to the comfort and happiness of a family. This is a pastoral region, unlimited; with small but fertile valleys, where the herd rambles at will, feeding and multiplying—the general interest and production of the country, the topic of conversation rendering those most happy who have their care and possession.

JAMES ELKINS.

CATTLE NEWS

From the Dalles Mountains of the 25th we copy the following cattle items, furnished by J. W. Parker of Klickitat, Washington Territory:

Mr. Benj. Suipe has lost about one hundred head of cattle out of a band of over three thousand that he wintered in the Yakima Valley. His band are now doing well.

Mr. Foster of Yakima has lost only two head of cattle out of a band of three hundred.

Mr. John S. Golden of Klickitat has lost but five head of cattle out of three hundred.

Mr. D. B. Butler has lost only one head out of his band of Angora goats. The band is doing exceedingly well. He has lost a few sheep, but nothing to speak of.

A number of horses that were taken into Klickitat last Fall, by immigrants from the Willamette Valley, have died.

Nye & Waldron's band of sheep on the Klickitat, Mr. Parker says, are the finest band he ever saw. Their loss this Winter has been very light.

The upper portion of the Klickitat Valley is now almost entirely clear of snow and the large bands of cattle are doing well.

We learn from Mr. M. T. Mulky of Rock Creek that the cattle in that section of our country are doing well, and that the loss during the Winter from the severity of the weather has been very light.

Mr. John Todd of Tygh Valley, who has a large band of cattle on the shores, belonging to Colonel John Storms of this city, reports that they are doing well and that he has sustained no loss during the winter.

The news from the Bridge Creek and John Day river country is all of an encouraging nature.

Mr. J. H. Phillips of this city, who has a band of cattle on the Columbia, near the mouth of the John Day River, informs us that they have got through the winter all right.

Mr. Z. Dounell, of this city, who it was supposed at one time this Winter, would lose a large number of his cattle, informs us that as far as he was able to learn they were getting along finely.

Mr. John Southwell of Fifteen Mile creek has lost about three hundred and seventy-five head of sheep out of a band of fourteen hundred.

Mr. H. Barnum of Grass Valley, on the east side of Deschutes, has lost three head out of a band of two hundred.

Mr. Theodore W. Pyle of Fifteen Mile creek has, by proper attention and management, saved his entire band of fifty head.

Mr. J. B. Smith of Snake River and Johnson Brothers of Blue Springs have not lost more than two per cent.

Messrs. Wiggerman and Lusher of this city, who late last Fall purchased the band of cattle running in the vicinity of Snake Hollow, belonging to the estate of Cornwell, have not lost any. Every thing considered, these gentlemen have been very fortunate, as the cattle were scattered all over the country and the storms set in before they could be got together. But as they were well acquainted with the range they got through the Winter all right.

Mr. Hodge and others from Ochoco Valley arrived on Thursday and report that there has been no loss to amount to any thing in that section of our country.

Captain McNulty has succeeded in bringing his band through the winter without losing a single hoof.

Levi Davenport has been the most unfortunate man. He has lost the largest per cent. of cattle of any person in this section, but exactly how many we do not know.

A gentleman who is well posted in cattle matters estimates that the entire loss in Eastern Oregon from storms and want of feed and water, will not exceed three hundred and fifty head. The loss has been principally confined to sheep—and this has been caused probably more from being diseased than for want of food.

Mr. Connel, of Rockland, Klickitat county, W. T., informs us that he will not lose over one-third of his band of calves. Those that have died had all the feed they could stand in, but perished from exposure. Several weeks ago we were informed from what we then supposed to be a reliable source that Mr. Connell would lose his entire band of young calves; but we are pleased to make the correction.

Mr. William Turnbull, of Yakima Valley, who arrived in town on Thursday evening, informs us that he succeeded in getting through the winter without losing a single hoof of his large band of cattle. Also that Phelps & Wadleigh, out of a band of over one thousand, have not lost but four head; and that the cattle on the Indian Reservation wintered without any material loss. On one occasion during the Winter the thermometer indicated 13 degrees below zero in the neighborhood of where Mr. Turnbull resides.

What few cattle were lost in the Yakima Valley mostly perished in the swamps, where they had broke through the ice and mired down, and being unable to extricate themselves, died.

RELATION OF IGNORANCE AND CRIME.—A Washington dispatch of the 9th November contains the following lines:

Hon. John Eaton, Jr., Commissioner of Education, is printing a series of statistics to be embodied in his annual report, setting forth the relation of education to crime in the New England States. From this, it appears that first: Eighty per cent. of the criminals in these States have no education, or not sufficient to serve their available purposes in life. Second: Eighty to ninety per cent. of the criminals have never learned any trade, nor are they master of any skill or labor. Third: Not far from seventy-five per cent. of the crimes committed are by persons of foreign extraction. Fourth: Eighty to ninety per cent. of the criminals are intemperate. Fifth: Ninety-five per cent. of the juvenile offenders came from idle, ignorant, vicious, and drunken homes.

A member of the British House of Lords the other day, in a discussion on the American claims, presented to the Government the following questions: If A and B, partners, sue C for fraud, and defendant C proves that B, one of the plaintiffs, acted with him in committing the fraud, whether such proof would not be a complete answer and bar all damages? Applying this to the question at issue with the United States, he argued that the North and South are now partners in the Alabama claims, and if this law in the case of persons is good it ought to hold good in regard to nations.

Forty Years' Experience have tested the virtues of Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry, and the result is that it is the best remedy extant for pulmonary and lung diseases; embracing the whole range from a slight cold to a settled consumption. Were it not for its merits, it would long since have "died, and made no sign." 25w5.

"I weeded my friends," said an eccentric old man, "by hanging a piece of stair carpet out of my first-floor front window with a constable's announcement affixed. It had the desired effect. I soon saw who were my friends. It was like firing a gun at a pigeon house. They forsook the building at the first report."

An insane Chinaman lately entered a house in Butte county, California. In the night, armed with a sythe-blade, with which he slashed about at everything. The man of the house at length knocked him down with a club, when it was found that the maniac had cut off two of his fingers with his own weapon.

They have a new way of getting up surprise parties in Troy. A resident receives an anonymous letter stating that a surprise party will be with him on a certain evening. He prepares for it. Nobody comes. He is surprised. Almost anybody would be.

An establishment at New Lisbon that occupies a corner, keeps a little sign upon the side of the house, bearing this inscription: "These loafers won't work." It has the desired effect. There are never any loafers seen on that corner.

A lady noticed a boy sprinkling salt on the sidewalk to take off the ice, and remarked to a friend, pointing to the salt: "Now that's benevolence." No it isn't," said the boy, somewhat indignantly, "it's salt."

"Why don't you get down and lead the horse?" That is the way to keep a horse," said a gentleman to a boy who was riding a horse. "No," replied the youth, "it is a horse's horse, and I'll ride him if I choose!"

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And MANUFACTURER OF

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And Cabinet Ware, BEDDING, Etc.,

Corner of First and Broadalbin Sts., ALBANY, OR.

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THE LARGEST LOT OF New and Elegant FURNITURE,

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

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The Largest Stock of Goods USUAL TO THEIR TRADE

ABOVE PORTLAND, 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

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SPICES, PERFUMERY, (All kinds), TOILET SOAP,

EVERYTHING USUALLY OBTAINED IN A STRICTLY First Class DRUG ESTABLISHMENT.

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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, sacks, aprons, etc. Dress Trimmings—An extensive variety of silk, satin, cotton and woolen dress trimmings, always in store. Cloaking—Honey-comb, astrakhan and waterproof cloth, of the best qualities. Paras, Etc.—Ladies' and children's complete sets of furs and swan-down, of latest styles. Childrens—Latest styles constantly on hand, at low figures. Miscellaneous—Linings and findings of all grades and qualities, a full assortment. JACONETS, MUSLINS, EMBROIDERIES, MAPLE LINEN, KID AND ALL OTHER VARIETIES OF GLOVES, HOSK, 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. MENDSHALL & GODLEY. MRS. C. P. MENDSHALL. MRS. SARAH G. GODLEY. Est. Agent for Messrs. Carpenter's CLIP-BRATED IRONS MODELS. Nov. 4, 1874.

PATENT GATE, ETC. Self-Opening and Self-Closing GATE. PATENTED BY JOHN DICKSON, June 4, 1867.

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 hinges by a rod, thus opening the gate before you and fastening it open. After going through, the carriage passes over a similar lever, also connected with the gate hinges, 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 practical 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. Wherever it has been used it has received the highest commendation, 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, Monticello & Co.'s Building, Albany, Oct. 20, 1871-72.

STOVES—INSURANCE, ETC. THE OLD STOVE DEPOT. JOHN BRIGGS, Dealer in RANGES. COOK, PARLOR AND BOX STOVES! Of the best patterns. ALSO: TIN, SHEET IRON AND COPPER WARE. And the usual assortment of furnishing goods to be obtained in a tin store. Repairs neatly and promptly executed, on reasonable terms. Street rear of the corner of Broadway and Ferry Street, Albany, N. Y. Dec. 5, 1867. I AM AND HAVE, a splendid lot of goods to try, by