

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE

THE INDEPENDENT.

HILLSBORO : : : : : FRIDAY.

Free of Postage.

Under the new postal law subscribers in the county will not have to pay postage on their county paper, so in your order for the INDEPENDENT.

Mr. Reid's Letter.

On the first page we publish Mr. William Reid's letter giving a description of the resources, climate, soil and condition of this State. The description is a fair one, something nearer the truth than many of the pamphlets sent East from the Pacific Coast.

Our Eastern readers must understand that the climate described in the article applies only to Western Oregon. In Eastern Oregon (east of the Cascade mountains) the climate is colder in winter with but little rain. The thermometer sometimes goes down to 20 to 35 degrees below zero in the winter and often rises to 100 in the shade in the summer. Most of the land in that region is only fit for grazing. The fertile valleys lie along the streams, and for the most part are unfit for cultivation without irrigation. And we fear that the breadth of these valleys is over estimated by the writer. We know that the valley of the John Day river is not ten miles wide. Its average width is from two to three miles.

Mr. Reid's relation who said that snow never lasted longer than a day or two at a time here could not have known much about Oregon. In the winter of '61-'62 the snow fell from 12 to 18 inches deep all over the Willamette valley and lay on five weeks. The winter of '68 the snow lay on a month. These of course are exceptional winters but such do come here occasionally. Mr. Reid states also that it had not rained on an average more than two hours at a time for the five months that he had been here. That was because it was in the fall and early winter. Occasionally an Oregon "mist" will last 24 hours, and sometimes, as in the winter of '61-'62, it has been known to rain for forty-eight consecutive hours. But these discrepancies do not disprove the general statements of Mr. Reid. He tells about the truth about Oregon. But in publishing this letter, which presents valuable statistics and is a fair description of the country, we feel some responsibility to our Eastern readers wishing to give them as nearly as possible a correct idea of our State.

One thing Mr. Reid did not notice and that is our facilities for education. For the age of our State it will compare favorably with the Western States in educational institutions.

The time of the mail from Portland by Middleton, Tualatin and Lafayette having been changed from Saturday to Friday morning we will be compelled to change our day of publication to Thursday. So next week we shall publish on Thursday. As it is, our subscribers in the lower part of the county do not get their paper for a week and sometimes two weeks after publication. But two weeks is too long and indicates that there is something the matter at the Portland Post-office.

We will publish W. D. L.'s poem, "To the Columbia," next week. It is a production of more than ordinary merit, and gives promise of the Oregon poet. Passages in this poem are strong and grand and reminds us of "Thanatopsis." There is no tinsel or flattery work in it, though some of its gold is in the amalgam yet.

It is reported that C. A. Ball, well known in this county, will probably be appointed Police Judge in Portland, to succeed Judge Denny who was recently appointed Collector of Internal Revenue in that city. Mr. Ball's ability, experience, education and social standing eminently fit him for the responsible position.

A jaw eight feet long has been unearthed in Wisconsin. It is supposed to have belonged to a lady of the miocene age.

A polygym: The good die young. Brigham the Mormon will die young. Therefore Brigham is good.—Lowell Courier.

Reflection on Our Schools

Mr. Reid's letter is important to the family. It is important in society. So also is it important in the school. What but religion makes the family what it is? In Christian lands: Is it not religion that has made us what we are as a people? Are not our civil and religious institutions the fruit of a religious principle in the hearts of the people? I need not answer such questions. Every intelligent reader of history and observer of the knowledge, religion and the foundation of society and national prosperity. Religion will make the school better and give its purpose. There will be better instruction and better learning. The teacher will be more efficient, the pupil more docile and more faithful, and by its presence it enlarges the usefulness of the school. It makes it instrumental in developing character as well as intelligence. It makes it a place where children will not only learn certain useful facts and rules and to employ certain instruments of the mind, but where they will acquire also practical principles and maxims of conduct and ideas of life and honorable action that, without religion, the school would not impart.

We ask again, can any body object to so benign a presence in the schools where their children are gathered for instruction? M.

PROF. CONDON'S LECTURE.

Forest Grove, Monday, Feb. 15th, 3 p. m. The Professor lectured on Mineralogy to the students of Tualatin Academy and Pacific University and the general public.

In opening, he said that the chemical composition of the minerals on the table would not be specially considered but only attention called to those characteristics of each kind by which they are most readily distinguished to the sight and touch.

One of these characteristics is that of form of fracture, making a natural break into rhombic planes, as this rhombic spar, another into irregular masses as this feldspar, and a third into a shell-like surface as this flint.

Another of these external characters is that of hardness so easily perceived that while this talc can be scratched by the finger nail your pocket knife will make no impression on the quartz. It is with these external characters that we have to do.

We begin with a family known by its importance as part of the earth's crust in which its distribution and combinations it forms so important an element as to constitute three-fifths of its whole bulk. In its present form it is known by different names founded mainly on color and structure—these for convenience we will call species. Of these species the

1. *Quartz*. This is the purest in the form of the quartz crystal, always six-sided, with three slopes or facets to each side, making 18 sides when the crystal is complete and, invariably, every side in perfect parallel plane to one on the opposite side of the crystal.

II. *Chalcedony*. This mass of Chalcedony, as you see, resists my knife as the quartz did. It only differs from that in color—the presence of some color and always of uniform tint. Often this color is due to the presence of iron, giving a wide range of tint—here is one of delicate violet; another white; still another quite neutral to these two. Some of these specimens of chalcedony, you see, are plain and massive; others arranged into stalactite forms indicating the work of a dripping fluid over the inner surface of a cavity.

III. *Agate*. When the different tints of chalcedony are laid in parallel belts, or irregularly belted, it forms the agate. One form of this belted agate is here before you in this beautiful Onyx from Uruguay, a stone prized very highly among the ancients, admitting as it did of figure carving of one tint upon a ground of another. In a looser sense the word agate is used for any mingling of colors as in the moss agate. All these are either transparent or translucent. A

darker shade is seen in

IV. *Common Flint*.

Another,

V. *Jasper*, is opaque and many of them of brilliant shades of color.

The lines that separate these 5 species of the quartz family are not always well defined. They often run together so as to embarrass the student in their study.

Still another large group of rocks will claim your recognition of them as a distinct family—
The Lime Rocks—or Calcifies.
Let us divide these too into species. Most prominent among these are:

1. *Common Limestone*. Here you see is a good specimen of this species. Here is another and this shows you how the lime rock was constructed. It is filled with broken fragments of the stems of corals while the finer portions on closer examination are seen to consist of finer fragments of the same substance, proof that our limestones were many of them made of broken coral stems.

2. *Gypsum or Plaster of Paris*. The common limestone is a carbonate of lime this is a sulphate of lime. It is much softer than the other, so soft indeed that you can scratch it with your finger nail.

3. *Derbyshire-spar and fluor-spar*. This is composed of fluoride of lime.

4. *Phosphate of Lime*. This fine greenish mass of crystallized rock is the same substance of which our bones are composed. It is often used as a fertilizer.

One more family and I close for to-day. I have here 2 species of Mica.

The darker one is Muscovite. It is a potash mica. The lighter color is Magnesian mica.

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