

OREGON TEN YEARS AGO.

When Goldsmith wrote that prophetic line—

“Westward the star of empire takes its way”—
he could have had but a faint conception of the wonderful manner in which its truth would be illustrated in such a comparatively brief space of time. A new world has sprung into a prosperous existence, whose commerce whitens every sea with its heavily laden carriers of peace and plenty to mankind—whose moral influence has gone abroad and is felt in the uttermost parts of the earth—whose tide of population, flowing westward, has rolled over the rocky barriers of civilization, and is causing the wilderness of the Pacific “to blossom as the rose”—to open its unsunned depths to the glorious light of day, and the almost magical achievements of cultivation. Truly the veriest “rhapsodist” might well be satisfied with the rapid advancement of his race, and the increasing magnificence of freedom’s ocean-bounded home.

But ten short years since civilization had scarcely made a settlement in Oregon, excepting the few and limited occupations of the Hudson’s Bay Company, and the Missionary location at what is now Salem. Silence and solitude held undisputed possession of waste and wild; forests covered the town-sites; uncultured vegetation filled the fields, and the rushing waters of the many streams that made music in their seaward course, gave power to neither grist or saw-mill, nor bore forward the barge loaded with the rich fruits of production. In such a contemplation of the situation and condition of this country a few years ago, we are very naturally brought to a consideration of

OREGON AS IT IS.

A country with a civilized population of upwards of sixteen thousand souls, which is rapidly increasing, notwithstanding its isolated position, and remoteness from the crowded portions of the globe. Its settlements extend south as far as the Umpqua valley, and north along the waters of Puget sound. The character of its soil for production, and the extent of its agricultural operations, are exhibited most conclusively in its luxuriant harvests. The wheat crop alone of Oregon, exhibits an annual yield of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND bushels, and the prospect this year is a much greater yield. Oats, barley, and other grain, is equally productive, according to the manner and amount of their cultivation. While the soil, as a general thing, is so excellently well calculated to advance the interests of the agriculturist, there are portions of it most admirably adapted to grazing purposes; indeed, the grasses of Oregon are of the highest nutritious quality, which, together with their constant and prolific growth, render them unsurpassed.

The church, the school-house, and the comfortable dwelling, are to be found in every settlement; and the hum of industry resounds throughout the land. The white wings of commerce have been folded and unfolded in our harbors and rivers with the happiest result, while everything seems to promise that

OREGON, TEN YEARS HENCE,

will have exceeded the most sanguine expectation.—The steamboat and the railroad, “those annihilators of time and distance,” will plow her waters and intersect her prairies, through which means the enriching returns of commerce and agriculture will be conveyed with greater certainty and despatch. Judging from the history of the past, large and splendid cities, teeming with populousness, will flourish within her borders; temples of the sciences and arts will abound, encouraged and most heartily cherished—a high order of civilization will exist, and happiness be enjoyed with it. There are many things that will be wrought out, so to speak, for the good of Oregon, in ten years—so many that we cannot properly even allude to the most probable of them in the compass of this article. Will there not be a continuous chain of railroad from the Willamette Valley, across the desert and the mountains,

to the homes of our childhood, that the people of a great country, stretching from ocean to ocean, may be brought closer together in the social compact—that they may sympathize, and knowing no differences, be as one.—These railroads, steamboats, and electro-magnetic telegraphs, are great moral agents—great reformers.—They are helping man work out his moral as well as political redemption, and the ten years to come will have a tendency to illustrate the point in reference to this country, whose destiny, linked with our common country as it is, cannot but be brilliant.

SOMETHING NEW.—Our friend Truesdale has finished his boat—steam-boat, we had nearly said—but that wouldn’t do, for it’s a “horse boat”—that is to say, its wind, its steam, its motive power is furnished by horses. It is 82 feet long—18 ft. wide, and 80 tons burthen. It will make an experimental trip to-day.

MARINE.—The Brig Eveline, for the Islands, went to sea on the 7th inst. The Sch’r Mary, for San Francisco, is on her way down the river. The Bark Janet, for California, will probably leave Portland next week.

DIED,

On the 9th inst., of Cholera Infantum, PATRICK HENRY MAGRUDER, aged 3 years, 10 months, and 21 days.

Ere sin could blight or sorrow fade,
Death came with friendly care,
The opening bud to Heaven conveyed,
And bade it blossom there.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

FOR REPRESENTATIVES.

The name of PHILIP FOSTER is announced as a candidate for Representative for Clackamas county, at the ensuing election.

Mr. CURRY—

Sir—Through the solicitation of many friends, JAMES D. HOLMAN has consented to become a candidate for Representative of Clackamas county.

We are authorized to announce the name of WM. J. BERRY as a candidate for Representative of Clackamas county at the ensuing election.

FOR SHERIFF.

THOMAS A. BROWN, at the solicitation of his friends, has consented to become a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Clackamas county, at the ensuing June election.

GEORGE E. FRASER will be a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Yamhill county at the ensuing June election.

P. G. STEWART,
CLOCK AND WATCH MAKER.

ALL orders executed with neatness and despatch—
on reasonable terms.
Oregon City, April 7. 1ts.

TVVAULT and THURSTON.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW,
AND SOLICITORS IN CHANCERY,

Will practice in the Supreme and Circuit Courts of
Oregon Territory. Office in Oregon City. 1s.

KILBORN, LAVVTON, and CO.,
GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
And Dealers in Oregon Produce.

A GENERAL assortment of merchandize constantly
on hand.

NOYES SMITH has retired, as a partner, from the concern, and the business will be continued as heretofore.
Oregon City, April 7. 1ts.