WILLAMETTE RIVER.

It will probably be interesting to many, now and hereafter, visiting Oregon at some future time, to know something of the Willamette, the Great Falls of which are so now rapidly coming into notice, as a means of communication. It is one of the most important water privileges west of the Rocky mountains.

The Willamette rises in the Cascade mountains, in about 43 degrees of north latitude; its course is nearly north, winding through beautiful fertile prairies, now and then skirted by lofty forests of pines, and bounded on both sides by constituting tributaries on both the east and west—all of which have traversed their whole length through a rich and fertile country, and at every point met with beautiful and luxuriant meadows, enclosed with the lofty fir, and interspersed with beautiful groves of oak.

But descriptive of the Willamette in its descent, space and time will not permit us to enter minutely either into a description of the river or the country adjoining. On arriving near Salem, its banks spread out into a wide, deep basin, and run slowly and smoothly until within a half mile of the Falls, when its velocity increases, its width diminishes, and in which water turns around. If both to make the plunge; but is forced forward by the water in the rear, and when still nearer, it breaks upon the volcanic formation, the cascades, and channel, and then, as if resolved in its fate, smooths its agitated surged, and precipitates down an almost perpendicular of twenty-five feet, forming a somewhat widened column. The rising mist, on a pleasant day, forms in the rays of the sun, a beautiful bow—the whole forming a sight, the grandeur of which has been to be seen appreciated.

Below the falls, for the distance of half a mile, the channel of the river is confined by ledges of the volcanoe, and bounded by large-yarded yards in width. About one mile below the falls enters the Clackamas river from the east, which takes its rise near Mount Hood, one of the perpetually snow peaces of the Cascade mountains. Here the Clackamas rapid, another obstacle in the navigation of the Willamette; but the difficulties here presented are of minor importance—about twenty-five yards of water, the length of the Hudson Bay company and descends with but little difficulty. From this place to the mouth of the Willamette, a distance of twenty-five miles, navigation was easy, and the river lead to the foot of the Clackamas rapids. The Willamette, running its whole course from south to north, enters the Columbia in about latitude 45 deg. 30 min. north, longitude 122 deg. 20 min. west.

On the east side of the Willamette, at the falls, the land is claimed by Dr. John McLaughlin, and is one of the most extensive in Oregon City in 1845.

The mouth of the Willamette presents a dense forest of fir and underbrush. The march of improvement has been with gigantic stride. The city is now incorporated with a population of not less than 500 souls, and

NORTH OF THE COLUMBIA.

We are informed by a respectable gentleman, who has been exploring the north side of the Columbia river and Puget's Sound, that the exploring party are highly pleased with the country. North of Puget's Sound, the country, susceptible of settlement, is much more extensive, and the soil much better than before represented. Puget's Sound, the country, surrounded with the rich productions of the earth, with hills of fir, pine and cedar, with a great many beautiful water courses, sufficiently large for steam boat navigation, and possessing water mills, will be eminently valuable.

We are informed by a gentleman, who has spent several weeks in communication with the Indians of that country, and who believes that this Sound, upon the north of Puget's Sound, has an area of one of the best harbors on the Pacific. The Indians have been unexplored by emigrants wishing to settle.

We are well satisfied, that the march of improvement would have been much greater, if we had been informed of what we have been obtained sufficient to make the development of the country.

On the west side of the river, immediately below the falls, the water is forced by Mr. Robert Moore, Esq., who has laid out a city, called Lynn City, and improvements are going forward. We are informed that this gentleman has sold out his stock of forest trees he has in the water power at the falls, to Mr. Palmer of Indiana. From our acquaintance with Mr. Palmer, we feel warranted in saying that he will continue the enterprise, and will, in a short time, pass the water power in an early time possession with energy, the erecting of machinery on the west side of the river, unless we are prevented by the government of the United States, requiring the water power at the falls. Lam City contains a tavern, one chair manufactury, one cabinet shop, one ginnsmith shop, and one wagon shop.

Next to the city comes Multnomah City, laid out by Hugh Burns, Esq., immediately adjoining Lynn City, and opposite to Oregon City. Multnomah City is located on a low bank, and must, in a short time, be in appearance as well as a town. The falls of the Willamette afford ample water privileges for the erection of water works, and very desirable for saw-mills and flouring mills; as the company desire, and we believe, that in a few years, there will be constructed a canal on each side of the river, commencing at the mouth of the Willamette, and leading off the surplus power of one mile, which improvement would afford power for manufacturing every thing necessary for internal purposes, as well as steam navigation. With these advantages, together with the great quantity of timber immediately in our neighborhood—healthy climate, a productive soil, and minerals yet to be found, we are satisfied that the time is not far distant when we must become great, and we hope, good.

EASTWARD BOUND.—Hugh Burns, Esq., informs us that himself and party will leave early in March next, for the United States. Their route will be across the Rocky mountains to the coast of the South Pacific, wishing to send east by the party, do well to avail themselves of this opportunity.

FIRE.—On Saturday the 7th instant, the plank kilt of Dr. John McLaughlin was discovered to be in fire, which was, however, extinguished by the united efforts of the Americans, English, Irish, and Canadians, together with the Indians. That occasion was hard to tell which nation had the preference. It was a perfect heterogeneous company of men, and every one of them in his way, a real "Blacksmith," the only audible sound we could hear, and that was from the doctor himself, which meant fairly well! Lost about 1000 feet of lumber.

THE ETHICAL INTELLIGENCE.

TREATY ON NORTH AMERICA.

W. G. BANFIELD, Ensign.

Oregon City, Thursday, Febr. 10th, 1842.

To the editor of the "Ethical Intelligence."—We have just received a letter from Mr. Macneil, our correspondent in Oregon, who represents the treaty on North America to be of the utmost importance, and the attitude of the British government to the treaty to be satisfactory. The treaty is intended to settle the boundary between the United States and the British possessions in the north-west, and to provide for the settlement of the Oregon country, which has been a subject of dispute between the two nations for many years. We understand that the treaty was signed at a conference held in London, and that it was accepted by both parties. The treaty is said to be a fair and just settlement of the boundary, and to provide for the peaceful and friendly relations between the United States and Great Britain. We are assured that the treaty is designed to put an end to the late war, and to establish a permanent friendship between the two nations. We shall be glad to hear from our correspondent more details of the treaty, and to know how it is received by the American government.

CATTLE BILL.

We are informed by Mr. Macneil, our correspondent in Oregon, that the bill for the encouragement of cattle raising in the United States has been passed by the Senate and House of Representatives, and is now awaited by the President. The bill is said to provide for the establishment of a board of commissioners to regulate the introduction and distribution of cattle, and to give encouragement to those who engage in the business. It is also said to provide for the protection of the cattle against disease and depredations, and to give a bounty for the exportation of cattle to foreign countries. We understand that the bill is designed to encourage the raising of cattle in the United States, and to provide for the distribution of the produce among the people. We shall be glad to hear from our correspondent more details of the bill, and to know how it is received by the American government.

BAIL AT VANCOUVER.

Mr. Ball, the postmaster at the fort, has given bail to a man for a debt of $200, which was contracted in Canada. The man is said to be a respectable citizen, and to have given satisfactory security for the debt. We understand that the bail has been given with good effect, and that the man is doing business satisfactory. We shall be glad to hear from our correspondent more details of the case, and to know how it is received by the American government.

H. B. M. S. MUSQUAM.

We are informed by Mr. Ball, the postmaster at the fort, that the H. B. M. S. Musquams, a small sloop-of-war, has been anchored in the bay of Columbia, for the purpose of exploring the coast. The sloop is said to be well armed, and to be commanded by a skilled navigator. We understand that the Musquams is designed to explore the coast, and to establish a station on the coast at a future time. We shall be glad to hear from our correspondent more details of the sloop, and to know how it is received by the American government.