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Crossing the Plains and Living in Oregon.

By Mrs. A. J. DUNNWAY.

Author of "JUDITH REID," "ELLEN DODD," "ANNE AND HENRY LEE," "THE HAPPY HOME," ETC., ETC., ETC.

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Introduction.

Very nearly twenty years ago the author of the following story, having always lived upon a farm, and being wholly ignorant of all practical knowledge of the literary world, her associations confined to the illiterate and struggling pioneers of the land of her adoption, conceived the idea of entering in some way the world's arena of letters.

Dedication.

To the Pioneers of Oregon, and to all friends of the great Northwest who desire to awaken an interest in our State and Washington Territory in the minds of the friends of civilization in the frigid climate of Eastern winters and the torrid temperature of Eastern summers, this revised relic of the reminiscences of her youth is respectfully dedicated, by

CHAPTER XIX

"Oh, Herbert! guess my surprise!"

and Elsie held up a letter to her brother's view, a few days after their return to Oregon City.

"A letter with a Valley Brook post-mark? Let me see it."

"Yes. A letter from Mrs. Stanton with compliments to you, and an apology for neglecting you so long. They are coming to the exhibition in June."

"Read the letter, wou you, sis?"

"MY BRIGHT-EYED BLUE-BELL.—My manifold duties for the day are done, and with a pleasure only equalled by my desire to see you, I take up my pen, lately so seldom used for this purpose, determined to redeem my character by writing all that may be of interest to you. If you know of the tasks that I daily perform, that knowledge would be a sufficient apology for my seeming neglect, but as you are not expected to be acquainted with the duties of a mother, and the wife of a frontier farmer, you will probably be interested in my experience as such a consequential personage."

"Long years have passed since I was last permitted to behold your sunny face. Each of us have had trials, but each has received countless blessings from Him who watches over us all."

"In the autumn of '82, we settled here upon a section of land, and began with but little of this world's possessions, besides our willing hands, healthy bodies, and a square mile of real estate."

"We now have a good farm, well improved, are surrounded by many of the luxuries of life, and are what our neighbors call rich. In five years, I have made with my own hands more than two thousand pounds of butter for market, besides doing all my other work—washing, ironing, sewing, mending, and all the other duties of the time in summer for a half-dozen men, and being sole nurse of my two children, who are models of beauty and good health. I would add 'goodness,' but you might think me incapable of judging. I am a partial witness, I wonder what my Eastern friends will think when they get my letters, for I assure you that I have boasted a good deal in my late messages to them of what I have performed as a farmer's wife."

"My father-in-law, Dr. Stanton, arrived on the last steamer. He is dignified, aristocratic old gentleman, but little to say to me, but is agreeable with the children, who are very fond of him. Now that we do not need his help, he has come to us and given all his possessions into our hands. Maurice would not keep them for himself, but bequeathed all to Flora and Henry, except five thousand dollars, with which he headed a subscription for erecting a church and seminary at Valley Brook. He says if we were still poor, the doctor would not desire to help us, and when we don't need his services, we won't accept them. The doctor is a profound scholar, and though we differ in many theories, I can learn much from his conversation when he is in a communicative mood. He has consented to add me in the magazine article, and with his help and Maurice's, I hope to succeed in what I am designing soon to undertake."

"Mrs. Weiden lives near Valley Brook, about a mile from here. You ought to see how happy she is with her children. Howard is a fine, manly boy of seven. Lucy, a lovely little creature of nine; but Johann is the favorite of the household. Mrs. Weiden says that if her husband had lived to see their children so noble, she would have few things now to trouble her. You remember the black woman she met at Lagrange. She received a letter from her master, Mr. Harris, a short time since, stating that she was dead, and that her last prayer had been offered in behalf of 'little Miss Meggie.'"

"We have a Farmer-Gray sort of a neighborhood here; attend church regularly in the log school-house, and have any amount of old-fashioned stinging-schools. The women, generally speaking, care for nothing but making butter and cheese, and raising chickens for market, besides making patch-work quilts, and 'goin' to meet'! The men like horse-races, and whist, big yarns and tobacco. They consider whist few, ourselves among the number, as being very conventional; but we treat them well, and if they don't fancy our mode of life, they have no reason to tell us so. The girls and boys from ten years old and upward care for balls, backwoods play-parties, and getting married. None that for anything else. But schools are multiplying, and society is growing better every year. I hope the rising generation of youthful Oregonians will be an improvement on the old frontier stock. I look complacently at two specimens of the former, who will, I hope, be exceptions to the general rule of women(?) who ought to be in pantaloons, and men(?) who ought to be arrayed in checked aprons, clattering in addition on the village blackboard."

"I suppose you are wondering if I am the same wild romp I used to be. I answer, yes. When all healthy, one-day creatures cease to romp and play in their own way, then I will sit down in the rocking-chair, when not in bed, or over the cook-stove, mop or wash-tub, and

The New Northwest.

A Journal for the People. Devoted to the Interests of Humanity, Independent in Politics and Religion, Alive to all Live Issues, and Thoroughly Radical in Opposing and Exposing the Wrong of the Masses.

Correspondents writing over assumed signatures must make known their names to the Editor, or no attention will be given to their communications.

FREE SPEECH, FREE PRESS, FREE PEOPLE.

VOLUME V. PORTLAND, OREGON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1875. NUMBER 5.

finish it; and, meanwhile, he could get embroiled with Yankee peddlers.

"Polly," he said pleasantly, "I'm going to Salem in a few days. They are making Oregon blankets there now, and I can sell a yoke of oxen, and purchase what things you want at the factory. I did think I wouldn't sell the steers, but they don't do anything but help eat up the grass, and as my hay-crop's pretty short, they might starve next winter."

"If you had been so considerate years ago, your wife might have been spared many hours of painful toil, and dozens of somebody's cattle would not have starved. It's never too late to learn, though; I added as I departed, in the best possible humor with myself and them too.

"Three mornings have passed, and she has not yet failed to meet me on our rides. She takes the baby with her, and says he isn't half so cross as when she keeps him in the house constantly. Her cheeks were like June roses this morning, when she basted Mrs. Weiden, and me for a race. But you are wearying of this long story, so I will change the subject."

"I expect to meet you soon. Accept from me all the love I can spare from Maurice and the children, to be divided equally between your brother and yourself."

"I would have known where this letter hailed from if I had found it in Canada, without name or postmark. The words drop from her pen just as they do from her tongue."

"I believe she is the happiest creature I ever saw," Elsie replied, thoughtfully.

"But she has passed through days of darkness, my dear sister. Think of that."

"I know it, brother, but she knows nothing of the bitter sorrow of long years of hope deferred; suspense that at last ripens into a certainty."

"Pshaw! sister. You were my comforter one week ago."

"Sister, as you and I must brave"—

"Hush, Herbert! I don't want to hear that now. You are so happy that you don't appreciate my troubles."

"The darkest hour of the night is just before the morning, pet. The exhibition day will soon be here, and I want folks to see that my sister's long term at school has not been lost."

"I shall do my best, as I have always done, to prepare for the occasion, Herbert. I don't often repine. Never, when I see that other folks are sad, but when I witness the happiness of others, it seems as if my own were long in coming. I want to know what we are going to do after school. I shall teach, if you are willing for me to do so."

"No, sister mine. Our home will not be complete unless you are in it. The money I earned in the mines is now—very dollar—at my disposal. The interest of eight thousand dollars has overpaid our school expenses. I loaned the money to a responsible speculator, who is to refund it on the first day of June, next. The half section of land to which we were entitled as orphans was secured for us by Maurice Stanton several years ago. As you know, it joins his land and is a lovely location. I am going to be a farmer, and show these Oregonians, who don't care how anything looks, what I can do to beautify a claim. Flay is eager to live upon a farm, and I have sent some carpenters, with all the building materials, up the river. We are going to have a Gothic cottage erected upon a spot that Maurice and Ada are to choose. The first of October, your birth-day, is to be our wedding-day. If you desire it, I would be glad if it could be yours too; but I am selfish enough to care nothing about it only for your sake, because I want you to live with me. Look upon the brightest side of every cloud; it is your motto, dearie. We'll see grand times yet."

"Guess the news! Guess the news!" said Eliza Crandall, stopping Herbert and Elsie upon the front steps of the Institute.

Seven years had made but little difference in the appearance or disposition of this fun-loving girl, except that the wild, easy abandon of childhood had given way to a more quiet grace, that softened the roguish outlines of her face into a semblance of womanly beauty.

"Guess the news!" she repeated.

A dozen girls came forward, eager to hear what their Punch had to communicate. Some of these girls were the smaller children of Elsie's first acquaintance at school, but the majority of them had not been connected with the Institute but two or three years, the older ones having almost all either married or moved away into the country. After keeping them in suspense until she was satisfied, Eliza began her story:

"There was a certain girl, fair to behold, with raven curls, and eyes like lightning, once gazing listlessly into the singing waters of a limpid stream. Her face was perfect as a sculptor's model, and upon her snowy hand rested thoughtfully the queenly head. An open-browed youth, an Adonis in appearance, with thoughtful mien and downcast eyes, pursued his solitary walk along the shaded margin of the gleeful brooklet. Suddenly a vision stopped him. Eyes from whose dark, clear depths light gleamed forth, brighter than the most effulgent sunbeams, were gazing into his own. And the youth bowed as though a goddess smiled upon him, and the maiden returned the smile with a look that Venus might have envied. For several days they continued to meet at intervals, along that rippling stream, and then their paths diverged. Adonis had not used his eyes in vain; neither had Venus exerted her charms for naught. The youth and maiden were sorely smitten, yet each longed to kiss the smiling hand. Years passed, and they met not again, though they sought each other with despairing energy. At length they met, I will not tell you

where. The maiden's Venus-like form had ripened into womanhood, and upon the brow of the noble youth the diadem of manhood rested. Still, O Cupid, wast thou with them, and they bowed before thy blinding mandates. One sad misfortune troubled them. As though the blind god had determined that they should suffer, he had cast the barb of a half-charmed arrow from another source into the vicinity of the maiden's heart. She had bowed to what she thought was destiny, but the slumbering other flame broke forth anew at sight of Herbert Goodwin, and Florence Willard yielded to its sway."

"Eliza Crandall! when will your Quixotic propensities cease?" exclaimed Herbert, half angrily, his face suffused with tell-tale blushes.

"Just when I cease to find attentive listeners, Monsieur in Herbert," she answered archly.

"Encore!" said Bartholomew Barton, A. M., as he emerged from behind a pillar, where he had been stationed, an unobserved but attentive listener; but he now came forward, laughing as the dignitary had not laughed since boyhood.

"If you have another story of that kind on hand, I would be pleased to hear it. If not, please repeat the first one, as it is yet ten minutes to school time. I see you are to have more listeners."

He added, glancing toward his dwelling, from which Mrs. Barton and the assistants were emerging.

"I should be happy to oblige you, Mr. Barton, but I really couldn't repeat it if I should try. Perhaps, before I leave school, I can find another subject; if so, I promise to summon you to the rehearsal," she replied, a little confused, but the ludicrous, comical air she assumed was so complete that all who heard the story were enjoying a real anti-dyspepsia explosion of laughter.

"I think this joke is rather more about equal to the one you got upon me about my 'first offer.' Do you not remember my 'sentimental' stage?" said Elsie to her brother, as he started to his own department.

He smiled as he recalled the old scene.

"Yes, I should call it considerably more than 'equal,' though that was quite a 'circumstance,'" and he passed hurriedly on.

"Hang it! is that girl a necromancer, that she finds out the private affairs of everybody in the school?" he muttered to himself.

It was not her first attempt of the kind. Many had left that school and married, who had been as ludicrously exposed as Herbert had been, though they thought they had been equally shy about their future intentions. He had intended the whole affair to be an agreeable surprise to his companions at the exhibition, when Florence, a stranger to the whole school, would appear in company with Miss Martin. He had a little conceit, too, that when he should pay open attention to the strange beauty, there would be some disappointment, much astonishment, and many conjectures as to where she had come from, and how he had become acquainted with her. How Eliza could have discovered the plot so soon, was a mystery which subsequent events were destined to unravel.

(To be continued.)

MUSINGS ON SCIENCE AND ART.

NUMBER THREE. BY G. F. MASON.

We have now traversed with the mind, infinite space in a circle of nearly six thousand millions of miles in diameter, and have yet measured but a span of the endless realms of infinitude. We have just reached the border of our system, but still outside of this, in the dim vista of seeming nothingness, worlds and systems of worlds, whirling around grand and majestic suns, continually exist. Far beyond this system I have described can be seen unnumbered suns, "sparkling with eternal glory." They are called "fixed stars," from the fact that they always appear to us to be in the same place. These stars are so remote that when viewed with the telescope they appeared even smaller than when viewed with the naked eye, and are divided by astronomers into various classes or magnitudes, and are each supposed to be a sun like unto our own, though some of them many million times larger. Around these systems of worlds revolve other systems, each performing its functions in the great system of the universe. All these stars were divided by ancient astronomers into groups and figures representing various beasts, animals, etc., and denominated constellations. The imaginary outlines of these animals are yet retained for convenience, and in all maps of the heavens now made these figures can be seen. Twelve of these figures are called the signs of the zodiac, sometimes the constellations of the zodiac. These constellations extend from the Tropic of Cancer to the Tropic of Capricorn, and the sun appears to us to travel back and forth once each year, from one to the other, producing our seasons, but in reality it is the inclination of the axis of our earth to the plane of her orbit, as she makes her revolution round the sun, which produces this effect. These constellations of the zodiac in ancient astrology were very important; in fact, upon them astrologers based nearly all of their calculations. I speak of astrology from the fact that it was so closely connected with ancient astronomy—but, like mythology, it has not many advocates of the present day.

Light travels at the rate of nearly two hundred thousand miles per second, and admitting the creation to have been some six thousand years ago, what a vast number of seconds have elapsed since that time; and yet science tells us that there are suns so remote from us that one ray of light from our sun has not yet reached them—for space is unlimited, and throughout its broad expanse worlds on worlds exist.

Now, taking this view, and admitting that this system to which we belong is but one in the unlimited number which comprise the universe (and perhaps a smaller system at that), for each one of those fixed stars which ornament and bedeck the blue concave on a cloudless night must be a sun like our sun, and the center of a solar system of its own, and we must not deny to each the dignity which it is acknowledged that our sun possesses. And supposing that around each of them, as a common center, innumerable worlds revolve, planets as large as Jupiter, as Saturn, as Herschel, with unceasing regularity and precision, performing their periodical revolutions, and reflecting for a moment the countless thousands of these systems, and bearing in mind the great distances of each of those suns, the one from the other, we find that the mind fails to comprehend the vast extent of space which they represent, or the boundless realms of infinitude.

With these outlines of the general principles of astronomy, we will now proceed upon our course of reasoning, and deduce by analogy from these principles the evidence that supports the proposition that "distant worlds are inhabited;" but first allow me to say that "infinite wisdom is a distinguishing trait in the character of the Great Architect." I have taken it for granted that all admit that there is a great, all-wise, overruling Power, the Creator and Preserver of the universe. Who is so dull as not to see something majestically sublime in that grand system of unnumbered worlds which surrounds us? Who will say that chance has placed them there? that chance directs them in their places? that chance directs their movements? that by some great, mysterious freak of nature this earth on which we live, clothed with its rich verdure, and diversified with oceans, lakes and rivers, mountains, valleys and plains, has been thrown into its present position in the universe and without any apparent cause whirled in ethereal space, for thousands of years, with unceasing regularity and precision, that it follows in its eternal course from year to year, through trackless space, freighted with its myriads of intelligent beings? Who can believe that those beings, endowed with reason and understanding, capable of feeling for others' woes, of rejoicing in prosperity, and sorrowing in affliction, and of knowing and distinguishing good from evil, sprang from the dust of the earth, and shall sink back to the earth again, and be no more forever? Who, I say, can believe that all these things came by chance, and that we owe our existence to some frantic freak of nature which may be overthrown at any moment? If chance did all this, what may it not do? Why should not you snow-capped mountain rise from its solid base, and go wandering through the air? What holds it to the earth? It is but an atom when compared with those bodies which are suspended in ethereal space. Can not a creative power be seen in all these things? What power directs the wandering comet in its eccentric flight? Why should it not collide with other bodies, if it is not governed by Omnipotent power? Is not some "great first cause" plainly manifest in everything we see? Whether we take the animal, vegetable, or mineral kingdom; whether we view His greatness in giving us those faculties by which we attain knowledge, or whether with those faculties we view the insect communities which exist upon the quivering leaf, or scan the vast extent of territory, where the mind regales itself upon objects of greater magnitude, all, all tell us that there is a Being who rules supreme.

Then, if everything has been created for an all-wise purpose, and that purpose is manifest in the works of a Creator, we are at liberty to use our faculties in the solution of His problems, and reason upon His works; and having made ourselves somewhat familiar with the nature of those distant worlds, by the use of the science of astronomy and the telescope, the rules and laws which govern them, and their likeness to the world which we inhabit, is it not natural for us to conclude that they are inhabited? If we cannot so conclude, then for what purpose have they been placed there? Not for us, surely. Can we believe that those countless globes were set in ethereal space for our use alone? Was it necessary for a Creator, in order to make and people one small world like this, insignificant when compared to others which surround us, that he would be compelled to create millions besides, to set about in the midst of space, to hold, as some would argue, by their attractive power this world in its place. Can we with justice to a Deity suppose that out of the innumerable worlds that exist around us, none save this, a smaller world of a smaller system, should be especially chosen as the abode of man? Does it not strike the mind with force that beyond this system of ours other systems successively arise, presenting similar prints of creative power? Suppose, for instance, that we should use this earth as an observatory of creation, and take a broad survey of the unnumbered worlds in the amplitude of space; and then, gazing with steady eye upon the outstretched scope of immensity, where we behold distant suns, myriads in number, round which countless worlds revolve—can we attribute to each of them less importance in the grand masterwork than we do to our own?

Now, returning to our system, we will select therefrom Jupiter. Some astronomers of late have advanced the opinion that he is a planet in course of maturing progress; that is, he has not yet reached a sufficient stage of development to be capable of sustaining inhabitants, his growth being incomplete. There are various reasons for the opinion, some of which are, first, his density is not nearly so great as ours, being about the weight of the same bulk in water; second, the land and water on his surface appear to be differently arranged, in smaller bodies than on our earth; and third, his clouds are differently distributed, being formed into belts which float round him in certain fixed places, at certain times, and several other reasons which, perhaps, may be conclusive to some. For my part I would rather incline to a different theory, the one that he is a perfectly matured world, and has been for ages, and though differing from our earth in some unessential particulars, is capable of sustaining and does sustain a numerous population of sentient beings, probably more advanced than we are, and endowed with all the attributes that we are. Still I would not set up my own opinion in opposition to any of them. I offer it here only for what it may be worth, as musings.

HOW TO STOP A PAPER.—Do not take your paper to the postmaster and tell him to send it back; in nine cases out of ten you will fail to stop it in this way. Do not attempt to stop it yourself, and write on the wrapper to discontinue; this is against the law, and lays you open to a fine. Before your subscription expires send to the editor a postal card, such a date; please discontinue at that time. Sign your name, also the town and State where your paper is sent, in full. If the paper has been sent two weeks or more over the time for which it was paid, don't send a postal card; it will do no good; rather write a letter and inclose what is due for arrearages, always allowing that one number will be sent before the letter reaches the publisher and his list is corrected. By observing these simple rules your requests will always be promptly attended to.—Printers' Circular.

There is a village in New Hampshire that has produced twenty-six editors, and it was in allusion to this circumstance that a pious old deacon there remarked, "Yes, there were twenty-six on 'em, but as they've all left town, I reckon the Lord won't lay it up agin us."

The Columbus Journal, describing an Ohio politician, says: "He is an honest man, and earns his bread by the sweat of his jaw."

The Milwaukee Sentinel remarks that "it often puzzles the doctors of this city to tell whether they have a case of mumps or a mosquito bite."

Who Is Most to Blame?

Is woman usually a seducer? A few years ago I sought to better my fortunes by going West to teach in the public schools of Illinois. I made the long journey entirely alone, and was not molested in any way, and my journey out was most pleasant. I often chatted with elderly gentlemen about the change of cars, time of trains, etc. I remained in the West about two years, and then again started homeward alone. One day I was sitting in the waiting-room of the great Union depot of Indianapolis, waiting for an Eastern bound train which was late. I had my note-book before me and was carefully jotting down thoughts that were occurring. Presently a portly, distinguished-looking man, somewhat past the prime of life and elegantly dressed, entered and took a seat near me; a map of my proposed route, which the agent had given me, lay on the seat beside me.

"Can I see your map, miss?" was his first question.

I looked up in his face as I handed it to him. I am no dull student of human nature, and there was an expression in his eyes which I disliked. But thinking there could be no harm in talking for a while with a man as old as my father, whom the next train would bear from my sight forever, I civilly answered his questions as to where I had been, and which way I was going.

"Do you like teaching?" he asked, after a while.

I told him that I did not like it, on account of the ignorance and prejudices of the people, and the true method of imparting instruction.

"Of course," he asserted, "it must be a most wearisome business. Now, how would you like a position in one of the departments, Post Office, Treasury, or Agriculture?"

"I have not seen it in a member of Congress. Just jot down my name in your book, Hon. W. C. C."

I will not write the name in full for the sake of that sweet daughter whose pictured face I once saw. If any man had dared to make the same proposal to me, which that miscreant afterwards made to me, the father would have promptly shot him down on the street. But to return to my story. I told him I would very much like a position in one of the "departments," and if he would secure it for me I should be under lasting obligations to him.

"I should like to have you down in Washington," he said, jocosely. "My wife and daughter are absent in Europe; the latter is finishing her education in Heidelberg."

So I gave him my address, and we parted on very good terms. Shortly after my return home, he opened a cautious correspondence with me in reference to the situation in one of the "departments." The Agricultural Bureau seemed to be the department over which he had most influence. After a certain amount of correspondence he seemed to think the victim was ready to fall into his hands, and he wrote in the following terms: "I have secured you a light, remunerative position, sorting seeds, etc. You need not trouble yourself about board and clothing and such, for I am going to attend to all that myself. I have taken the desired position in one of the departments," and there we will enjoy each other's society all alone. I have arranged to keep my family in Europe for another year. Next summer we will spend at my cottage at Long Branch. You will figure in the columns of the 'departsments.' The Agricultural Bureau seemed to be the department over which he had most influence. 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