

IN EARLIER DAYS.

Fred Lockley, in Portland Journal.

ONE of the oldest settlers of Coos Bay is A. G. Aiken, or Glen Aiken as he is usually called. "I came out with my two brothers just 60 years ago," said Mr. Aiken. "We took the boat at Pittsburg, Pa., went down the Ohio River and up the Missouri to Independence, where we joined Captain U. Hiles' wagon company, and by the way, his widow lives in Portland. We went to Marysville, as Corvallis was then called. My brother Jim took up a claim near Albany. I worked around Marysville and Albany that winter. In the spring of '54 the Government sent a party to build a road from Fort Walla Walla to Fort Stillman in Washington territory. I worked with them for three months and then I went to visit by brother John at Whidby's island. "We started on horseback for the Willamette Valley to visit Jim. We found that Jim had gone in February to Coos Bay. Father had owned a coal mine in Pennsylvania and all three of us boys had worked in it. Jim heard there were indications of coal on Coos Bay so he sent word out to us that he had struck a coal mine and to come down. We went there in the fall. We arrived on October 8, 1854. Perry B. Marple organized a company at Jacksonville to go to Coos Bay and take up claims. F. G. Lockhart, one of this party, took up a claim where North Bend is now. He was warned by the Indians to leave, so he went to Empire, four miles distant, where his wife taught school and thus became Coos County's first school teacher. Mrs. Lockhart is still alive and resides in Marshfield. "The company put Frank Wilcox on Lockhart's claim when Lockhart left it. We spent the winter of '54 getting out coal from Jim's mine on Boatman's Gulch. We got out 200 tons and Flanagan and Mann, who were about to open the Newport mine, shipped it to San Francisco for us. Frank White, who later became a Lieutenant in the United States Army, was one of our bunch that helped get out the coal. "Doc' Gaddis, Sam Darlington, Frank Ross and Dick Learn also worked in the mine. "One night after we quit work Frank Wilcox came up to the mine to see if he could sell his claim at North Bend. He wanted me to buy it, so I finally gave him my horse, saddle and bridle for his quarter section and he mounted and rode away and I never heard of him again. I wasn't of age, so John, my brother, agreed to hold it till I could prove up on it with the understanding we would divide equally whatever we made out of it. After we had held the claim for two years Alf Pennell, an employe of A. M. Simpson of San Francisco, bought it of me for \$90. In the summer of 1856, Simpson built his mill there. H. H. Luce built his mill at Empire the same year. I suppose you know that Empire was the county seat of this county at one time. I helped Old Man Luce get out the timbers for his mill. "The year before, that is, 1855, I enlisted to fight in the Rogue River Indian war. Captain William H. Harris was in command of the Coos County troops. All of the men at the coal mines and practically every other able-bodied man in the county enlisted. There were 43 in all. During the Indian war the Coos County Indians came in and said they were in danger of being killed by the Rogue River Indians for not fighting against the whites. We had them camp near the block house at Empire and Judge Mann, quartermaster at Empire, hired Sam Dement and Jack Pence, now of Bellingham, to kill elk and deer for the Indians. They made about a thousand dollars apiece out of their contract. "Dement was a blacksmith. He took his money out to the Willamette Valley and bought cows and brought them to his ranch on the Coquille River. He sold his butter to the miners on Sixes Creek and on the headwaters of the Coquille. His cows made him rich. From '56 to '63 I worked in the mines most of the time getting meat to supply the miners. I got elk, deer and bear meat. Later I punched bulls for 20 years in the logging camps. For some years I got out logs for the Simpson mill. In those days we cut the timber that was handier to the water, paying no attention whether it was on private or government land. Timber was so plentiful it wasn't thought of very highly. The three oldest settlers in the county are Mrs. Lockhart, who is about 87, and who came the year before I did, Lyman Noble and myself."

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"LEARN ONE THING EVERY DAY"

No. 3. LAKE GENEVA AND THE CASTLE OF CHILLON. Copyright, 1913, by The Associated Newspaper School, Inc.

ONE night less than a century ago a little boat grated on the shore of Lake Geneva, and there stepped from it a man enveloped in a long black coat. For over an hour he remained all by himself in the historic dungeon. When he had gone a new name was found carved on the post to which Bonnard had been chained. That name—Byron—may be seen today by all who visit Chillon.



Bonnard, the defender of Swiss liberties, was imprisoned in the Castle of Chillon nearly four centuries ago by the tyrant Charles III. of Savoy. For six years he languished in his gloomy cell chained to a post in the center. For six long, dreary years his jailers heard no word of complaint or suffering pass his lips. And when at last he was rescued by his countrymen his first thought was not of himself, but for his fatherland. Pale and emaciated, still chained to the pillar round which he had walked so many years, he was but a shadow of his former self. "Bonnard, you are free!" they cried.

No. 4. CHAMONIX

THE valley of Chamonix has Mont Blanc, but it does not need it, for it has beauty enough of its own. The green fields, the swift running waters of the River Arve, the huge rivers of ice that flow down into the valleys, and the everlasting snows that cap the summit of Mont Blanc itself, have made Chamonix one of the most popular of all mountain resorts.



The valley of Chamonix runs from northeast to southeast and is watered by the Arve, which rises in the Mer de Glace, Chamonix, the village, 3,445 feet above the sea, is visited annually by thousands of tourists, as it is the best starting point for the exploration of the glaciers of the Mont Blanc chain, as well as for the ascent of Mont Blanc itself.

Mont Blanc dominates the valley of Chamonix. It is 15,779 feet high, and its summit is always covered with snow. Jacques Balmat, a guide, first conquered this peak in 1786. De Saussure, the great Swiss scientist, in 1761 had promised a large reward to the man who found a practicable route to the top. During the twenty odd years that followed many vain attempts to win this reward were made. But it was not until 1786 that young Jacques Balmat, who had been born after De Saussure made his offer, succeeded in climbing the mountain. The ascent has been made many times since, and in 1892 Dr. Janssen built an observatory on the summit.

Many of the greatest poets and prose writers have told of the feeling of awe inspired in their breasts by Mont Blanc in its majesty—Goethe, Victor Hugo, Byron, Shelley, Wordsworth. But perhaps Coleridge has expressed this feeling

He slowly rose. "And Geneva?" he asked. "Free also!" they replied. To tell of all the tragedies that have been enacted within the walls of the time-worn stronghold would be impossible. One of the most terrible is the story of the hundred Jews who were tortured and then buried alive on the foolish suspicion that they had poisoned all the wells of Europe.

But the tragedy of Bonnard is the most famous of all, and this is due to the poem, "The Prisoner of Chillon," written by Lord Byron. And, strange to say, Byron's "Prisoner" was a purely imaginary person. The real Bonnard's story was quite different. The Lake of Geneva, the lake of poetry and song, is sometimes also known by the name of Lake Lemah. Its waters form a beautiful blue crescent, forty-five miles long and eight miles wide. It is said that Neptune, the sea-god, once came to see the Lake Geneva, and was so charmed with its beauty that he gave it his own likeness in miniature.

The names of many men of genius are associated with this famous lake. Byron often sailed upon its surface. The poet Shelley nearly drowned there. Madame de Stael lived at one point along its shore. Voltaire, the great genius of France, held his literary court there for years. Gibbon finished "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" near its waters.

Many have praised the Lake of Geneva. Tyndall said that its water was the purest natural water ever analyzed; Voltaire declared it to be the "First of Lakes;" Alexander Dumas compared it to the Bay of Naples. It is indeed a lovely lake, and only to linger on its shores for a few days is a delight not to be excelled the world over.

best in his "Hymn Before Sunrise in the Vale of Chamouni": "Who made you glorious as the gates of Heaven Beneath the keen full moon? Who bade the sun Clothe you with rainbows? Who with living flowers Of loveliest blue, spread garlands at your feet? God!—let the torrents like a shout of nations, Answer! and let the ice-plains echo, God!"

Chamonix has long been well known as a place to visit in the summer; but it is just beginning to become known as a winter resort. In winter there is fine skating, skeeling, tobogganing and bob-sledding. There are two skating clubs of Paris whose headquarters are at Chamonix in the winter and some of the most expert skating in the world is done there.

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