

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

The only Republican Daily Newspaper in Wasco County.

EASTERN OFFICE—230 to 234 Temple Court, N. Y. City. E. KATZ, Agent.

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WHITMAN ONCE MORE.

This long-continued discussion is not of general interest, most surely. Yet to those (and they are not a few, nor among the least intelligent of our community) who are interested in state-building, anything relating to the early period, the formative stage of our state, is of intense interest.

The statement that Dr. Whitman's admirers were hunting for a hero, and having found him, they proceeded to "unduly exalt him," may be said without fear of contradiction, as it is purely a matter of opinion, and not of fact. What in one person is grateful appreciation of services rendered in almost, but not quite, unsurmountable difficulty, is characterized by a person of different temperament as "undue" exaltation.

The statement that Oregon would have belonged to the United States government had Dr. Whitman never lived, is probably uncontradictable. If it were not true, we could not possibly prove that negative. America would no doubt have been discovered if Columbus had never been born. The editor of the Oregonian would no doubt have lived and thrived had he been born in Timbuctoo. As Captain Cochrane says in Pinafore, "This kind of thing can go on forever," and as argument or proof it amounts to but little.

These are the facts: A number of men, subjects of Queen Victoria, organized to trade with Indians for furs, were here, and their business well in hand. It takes no great insight to know that however kindly disposed, nor how humane these persons were, nothing was farther from their plans or wishes than that this land should be open for settlement by United States citizens. Some other persons, of whom the chief presumably was another Canadian gentleman, a native of Stanstead, Canada East, were here with the purpose of ameliorating the condition of the savages. Nothing should be said belittling in any degree the noble purposes of these missionaries and their families. It was not written that their plans should be matured and finished with a success that should call the world's notice. Very much the reverse. Some others with a similar purpose with Dr. Whitman and Mr. Spalding as first-comers, were located east of the mountains.

History has shown Dr. Whitman to be a man of undoubted far-reaching sagacity, an organizer, a builder, a planner. A letter is now before us written by Dr. Samuel J. Parker of Ithaca, N. Y., the first coadjutor of Dr. Whitman, wherein by inference we can see that he considered the location of Dr. Whitman among the Cayuses as especially unpromising. Be that as it may, most surely Dr. Whitman looked upon his work as brief, and upon this country as the future home of his countrymen—the home of American citizens. The evidence is abundant that he exerted himself to bring this about in a way that could not be expected from any subject of Her Majesty, and which we have no reason to believe such subject ever did exert himself; though in so doing Dr. Whitman most certainly signed his own death warrant.

If to honor the efforts and success of this man with warm and appreciative gratitude is to "unduly" exalt him, we have been wrongly taught the lesson of patriotism.

The next steamer in the Oregonian line will carry from Portland 10,000,000 feet of railroad ties and 7,000,000 feet of stringers.

Some 1,500,000 feet of other lumber will be included in the cargo. The railroad material is intended for the road now building through Manchuria, in China. One of the most encouraging features in the trade situation in the Northwest is the continued increase in business between the Northwest and the Orient. In all sorts of products there is an increase in demand, and the steamer service has been repeatedly improved to meet the requirements of the trade. The completion of the Great Northern and the wise policy of the O. R. & N., have done a great deal towards bringing about this condition, and it looks as if Portland will be able to keep up the competition with other ports and be the gainer, as in the past. In the meantime all enterprises with products to sell should keep watchful for the opportunities presented by trade with China, Japan and the Orient. In this way the seat of a great commercial empire will be permanently established along our northwest coast.



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