

HISTORY OF THE COLUMBIA.

A reader asks for information as to the Indian name of the Columbia river. When the first white explorers came into the country the Indians dwelling along the stream had various names for the great waterway—Spokatlicum, Friendly Water, Wahn na, or Big river, and for the upper stream the melodious name Multnomah was sometimes used.

The earlier navigators and explorers found it difficult to unite upon a name for this majestic river. The older charts marked a considerable stream falling into the Pacific, and termed it the Rio de Aguilar, in honor of a Spanish lieutenant who is said to have sailed into these waters in the 16th century.

Other charts indicated the River of the West, the River Thegays, and later the River Oregon. The origin of the latter name is lost in mystery. Jonathan Carver, who penetrated the wilds west of the Mississippi river during the 18th century, is thought to have been the first to employ it.

The most plausible theory of the origin of this name is that it was bestowed by early Spanish navigators in honor of the province of Aragon in their native land. The name Columbia, it is hardly necessary to add, was bestowed by the river's discoverer, Captain Gray of Boston, who sailed in over the bar in May, 1792, in the sloop Columbia.

A few other points in connection with the history of this river may be of interest. The trading post at Astoria was not the first white settlement upon the river's banks. In 1810 Captain Winship attempted a settlement and built the first house at a point forty miles above the mouth.

Prior to the advent of the whites the Indians had large villages along the river. Among them Wishram, at the cascades, peopled by a villainous lot of thieves and cut-throats, whose descendants, half a century later, became so troublesome to Lieutenant Sheridan.

A San Francisco preacher last Sunday took as his theme, "What Need Have We For a Hell?" And the Albany Democrat answers by saying: "We haven't any need for it at all. We got all we wanted Tuesday."

The Albany Democrat says the vote in Linn county was enough to jar the bones of some of the old-timers.

A democratic exchange is sorry to say there are some things surer before election than after.

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