

LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE OF THE OREGON CAPITOL

THE following account of the laying of the corner stone of the Oregon Capitol appeared in the Portland Oregonian on October 9, 1873. The same kind of an account appeared also in The Statesman of the same date, and both accounts are referred to by Frank J. Smith, on the back of the photograph which he a short time ago turned over to Sam A. Kozer, Secretary of State, from which the cut appearing on the picture page in this issue was made. But no files of The Statesman back of the time of the present management of this paper are preserved in Salem—that is, back of August 18, 1884. So, in order to get this historical matter into the files, the following matter was a few days ago copied at the charge of The Statesman from the Oregonian files at its office in Portland. Below is the report in full:

The Order of the Procession, the Route, Governor Grover's Remarks, the Masonic Ceremonies with Nearly Four Hundred Masons Taking Part, the List of Articles Deposited in the Corner Stone, the Historical Address of S. F. Chadwick in Full and a Description of the Building Which Was to Rise and Grace the Beautiful Capitol Grounds and Become the Official Home of the Oregon Commonwealth.

of Portland for 1873; deposited by L. Samuels.
25. Copy of State Fair Gazette, 1873; deposited by L. Samuels.
26. Roll of members exempt and active of Multnomah Engine company No. 2, of Portland, Oregon; also badge of membership; deposited by W. A. Holbrook.
27. Ten shillings, currency of the state of New York of the year 1771; deposited by James R. Loomis.
28. List of members and by-laws of Silverton Lodge No. 45, of A. F. and A. M.; deposited by John C. Davenport.
29. Documents pertaining to the history of the city of Salem; deposited by Hon. J. Quinn Thornton.
30. Translations of the supreme council of the 33rd degree of the southern jurisdiction of the United States, May, 1872; deposited by H. C. Morrice.
31. A Sentinel extra of April 12, 1865, containing particulars of the surrender of General Robert E. Lee; deposited by S. R. Scott.
32. A pebble picked up by Henry H. Gilfrey under the north eave of the tomb of George Washington at Mount Vernon in February, 1872; deposited by Henry H. Gilfrey.
33. Specimen of Santiam quartz; deposited by John F. Miller.
34. Lead impression of seals of circuit and county courts of Marion county; deposited by Chester N. Terry.
35. Address delivered by Past Grand Master S. F. Chadwick at laying of cornerstone of state capitol, October 8, 1873; presented by S. F. Chadwick.
36. Egress on parchment, name of state capitol building, intended and secretaries of the buildings; also photograph of the state capitol building; deposited by John F. Miller.
37. Philadelphia Evening Star, containing the view and ceremony of the unveiling and dedication of the Masonic temple erected in Philadelphia, the grandest building of the kind on the globe, September 26, 1873; cost of building \$1,475,000; presented by William Sayve.
38. Photographic album, containing photographs; presented by C. B. Moore and M. L. Chamberlain.
39. Photographs; deposited by H. A. Griffin.
40. Inaugural address delivered by President Zachary Taylor March 4, 1849; deposited by A. J. Carter.
41. Circular and cut of fireproof safe; presented by W. R. Wiltshire.
42. Daily and Weekly Statesman, October 7, 8, 1873; by Capt. C. P. Crandall.
43. Morning Herald of New York, May 6, 1835, and of September 27, 1873; deposited by F. D. Siron.
44. Weekly Mercury, September 3, 1873.
45. Willamette Farmer, October 4, 1873.
46. Benton Democrat, October 4, 1873.
47. Weekly Enterprise, July 25 and September 16, 1873.
48. The Plaindealer, October 3, 1873.
49. Oregon State Journal, March 12, 1864.
50. Oregon State Journal, October 4, 1873.
51. Daily Bulletin, October 8, 1873.
52. Nashville Christian Advocate, Methodist Episcopal Church South; presented by Rev. Edward J. Dawne.
53. Specimens of gold bearing quartz, selected at the mine of J. W. Virtue & Co., Baker City, Oregon, July 23, 1872; by T. McF. Patton.
54. Impression in lead of the great seal of the grand lodge of A. F. & A. M., of the state of Oregon.
55. Impression in lead of the seal of the most worshipful grand master of A. F. & A. M., of the commonwealth of Oregon.
56. List of the officers and members of Tiger Engine company No. 2 of Salem, Oregon.
57. Order of ceremonies of laying this corner stone.
58. Morse alphabet, numerous signals and abbreviations of the system of telegraphy; presented by A. F. Wheeler.
59. List of the members of the common council of the city of Salem; presented by B. F. Brown.
60. Pope's Modern Practice of the Electric Telegraph; a complete compendium of the system; presented by R. P. Earhart, F. N. Shurtleff and B. F. Brown.
61. Smith's Manual of Telegraphy; presented by R. P. Earhart, B. F. Brown and F. N. Shurtleff.
62. Proceedings of the grand lodge of A. F. and A. M. of the state of Oregon for 1873.
63. Proceedings of the grand

chapter R. A. M. of the state of Oregon for 1873.
64. One dollar United States legal tender currency; deposited by F. N. Shurtleff.
65. Copy of invitations sent to the different lodges and chapters.
66. Copy of the Catholic Sentinel, October 21, 1873.
67. Copy of the Corvallis Gazette, June 23, 1873.
68. Oregon wheat crop of 1873; deposited by S. F. Chadwick.
69. Constitution and by-laws of Tiger Engine company No. 2 of Salem, Oregon.
70. Seal (lead impression) of the M. E. grand chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the state of Oregon; also list of grand officers for 1873.
71. Quarter of a dollar in gold; deposited by Mrs. T. McF. Patton.
72. Medal of Great Central fair of Philadelphia, June, 1864; presented by T. McF. Patton.
73. Map of the heavens, showing the situation of the planets at 12 o'clock, at Salem, October 8th, 1873; presented by J. W. McAfee, M. D.
74. Christian Messenger of October 4, 1873.
75. Daily Evening News of October 7, 1873.
76. Umbrella of white leather apron, an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason; deposited by J. H. Albert.
77. Daily Oregonian of October 8, 1873.
78. A detailed description of a modern sewing machine; presented by R. P. Earhart.
79. Writing implements in common use in 1873; presented by E. A. Brown.
80. Sealed documents of United Ancient Order of Druids.
81. San Francisco Journal of Commerce of June, 1873; presented by B. N. Rowley, correspondent.
82. Fractional currency of the United States, denomination \$c. 10c and 50c; presented by T. McF. Patton.
83. Silver plate, with brief inscription, giving date of organization of the congregation church in Salem; deposited by F. A. Knight.
A prayer was offered by Rev. G. W. Lizer of Portland, at the conclusion of which the symbolic corn and oil were poured upon the corner stone, and the order took place in the solemn ceremony of completion.
The orator of the day, P. G. M. Hon. S. F. Chadwick, when introduced and the audience listened to the following excellent oration:
Secretary Chadwick's Oration.
Brethren: We have today witnessed a ceremony older than the Christian era; a ceremony as sacred and as binding on our brethren everywhere as a religious feast or pledge. The solemn ceremony of laying the corner stone of a state capitol building is honored like a panorama of gorgeous splendor moving before our eyes bearing upon it massive walls and monuments, exquisite, delicate, majestic, sublime, ponderous and imperishable.
How unlike the arts of the individual are these to which we have referred. The sculptor and painter play the cool and the brush in retirement. However skillful they may be in their art it is the labor of years, the result of diligent study and application. No great order, no admiring multitude gathers to approve their work or to praise their gifts. If perchance by a life of hard and often scanty earnings they accomplish their task, there are a few who appreciate their genius and will record their merit. But a building is the work of many cunning and skillful craftsmen, whose architectural display is the admiration of the multitude, who celebrate their triumphs of science and art by the most gorgeous ceremony. Civil and religious architecture have much to do in smoothing the rough natures of men, and have from their constant study become auxiliaries in the cause of civilization. They are a civilized condition of art. Indeed, intelligent and wealthy so do these striking features become numerous and prominent.
We may here remark that a knowledge of geometry and architecture enabled Pythagoras to revolutionize Greece, and that Euclid taught as the science of geometry what is now known as Masonry. But it matters not to us whether such be the case, or whether Greece borrowed these arts from Egypt, or whether they have been received from Rome, or received by the Italians, civilized and cultivated man finds a property in every structure of art. Indeed, architecture adorns every department of government, and Free Masonry has preserved and moulded its constituent parts into a moral symbolism for the benefit of man. Free Masonry, therefore, as we now behold it, has its origin in the art of building. And

in peace and in war, in prosperity and in adversity, are proud to be upon these grounds today.
We rejoice that in our day and generation the foundation of this state capitol building is to be laid and the edifice erected, grand, noble, and bearing the impress of a building much inferior to this in every respect, was reared upon this spot, which, for a brief season served the territory, but in an unguarded moment it took to itself flames of fire and passed away.
It is good for us to be here, not only the possessors of Oregon, those who first founded the institution of free government on the Pacific coast, but the patrons of the arts and sciences, friends of education, mechanics, farmers, commercial men, tradesmen, laborers, professional men, representatives of every department of industry—it is well for us all to be here today.
We have come up to these capitol grounds from near and distant valleys homes, from yonder eastern and southern and western mountain passes, from the extreme parts of our state, to honor this occasion and upon her altar to renew our vows as faithful and dutiful citizens of industry, as steady handmen, when harvest is passed, come forth from the plain each bearing his gracious golden sheaf, there to erect a generous shock, around which, free as the winds of heaven, stout hearts of the harvesters gather and about the joys of harvest, the busy day of the year, the glad day of the year, the day of plenty, frugality and prosperity, so do we come here today.
But there are those who are not here—those early friends of the immigrant, those missionary fathers, those self-sacrificing alms-givers, the influence of our territorial life. Where are the McLoughlins, the Lees, the Shepherds, the Thurstons, the Leales, the Wallers, the Barclays, the Beerses, the Gervaises, the Willsons, the Scotts, the Smiths, the Facklers, the Gainses, the Russells, all these noble names, whose names are now household words?
Spring may bring forth its green leaves and flowers; autumn may come and wither them; wintery winds with their melancholy variability may throw streaks of cloud and sunshine over our walks; the dove may sorrowfully coo, the cricket may sing its dismal song; but where are these sons of Oregon?
We hear them in yonder waterfalls, in the rattle of machinery, in the shriek of the steam whistle, in the clang of church bells, in the click of type, in the rumbling of the wheels of industry. We see them in our cities, in our churches, in our institutions of learning, in our laws, in our contented farm houses, in all our enterprises; we behold them everywhere around us, still they are not here today.
We read in all these things that they have fulfilled their mission in our behalf, and have built up these monuments to their ever green memories, to be honored by grateful posterity forever, and now they sleep in the valley's stillness.
It is good for us to be here. May we not ask what has brought us hither? What messenger from the clear blue arch above has descended from his seat of progress and intelligence and blessed us all with strength and ability to assemble around this foot stone and rehearse in brief a history that seems fabulous in detail and impossible in its grand outline?
Let the occasion answer.
It is but a few years since, and within the memory of many here today, that this was disputed territory. Various were the views of opinions at that time concerning this then almost entirely unknown land. None of them were wholly correct, and time with all its advantages has not materially changed the current opinion that then existed in the eastern states concerning this territory.
During the Oregon controversy, writers, editors, members of both houses of congress, all who discussed the matter, were very much in their opinion of what Oregon was, or what she was good for. Some said that Oregon was a barren, sandy waste, here and there dotted with a few clumps of chaparral brush, the shelter of a poor rabbit or two; but worthless in country to fight over. Some said that Oregon was tropical, beautiful in the extreme, a spot where figs, citrons, lemons, spices and melons could be raised in great profusion. Others thought this region was at the end of the world, that it was sterile, and without any chance of future wealth. Lewis and Clark reported after their exploration of the Columbia river that during the winter months they were nearly drowned out. It was claimed that it was adapted to the raising of sugar and cotton. One learned senator, in a flight of eloquence, exclaimed: "Let England possess Nooka Sound, the finest harbor in the world, commanding as it does the Straits of Fuca, and consequently access to Puget's Sound, and she has all of Oregon worth possessing." He would hold the straits of Fuca and Puget's Sound as securely as the trade holds the mouse. There is no harbor below that would give shelter to a fleet of canoes." We read that the first mention which is furnished by the Jesuit Fathers, "to whom the world is indebted for its early knowledge of the interior of North

America," who seeing the waters of a thousand lakes, held in equilibrium on a vast plateau in the center of the continent, from which three great rivers went off, north, south and east to the Atlantic, and hearing the Indians speak of the west called in their language "Oregon," naturally sketched an "Oregon" that lay on the Pacific, still to be seen on some old maps. They were right in their conjecture as to the existence of the river, though mistaken as to its source. Nearly seventy years ago it was written by Humboldt that the banks of the Columbia presented the only region on the northwest coast of America fit for the residence of a civilized people. How little was then known of Oregon, and how little is known of our state outside of its own borders? Much less is now known of Oregon in the eastern states than when the senate of the United States stood appalled in congress in support of the claim of the United States to this region. The people were aroused. Oregon was the theme of the orator and the journalist. It is true, that in that case, as in all exciting controversies, much was said that appears now to be a little extravagant, but in the main the facts were presented with such power that Oregon became then known to some extent and favorably considered throughout the United States. Long prior to this event to use a fact of history, President Jefferson, "that man of rare endowments followed up the grand idea of Columbus, and taking up the unfinished enterprise of LaSalle, and anxious to crowd into his administration a galaxy of brilliant events, early projected the discovery of an inland route to the Pacific Ocean. The Missouri river was to be one connecting link in the chain of communication; the Columbia or any other that might serve the purpose on the west side of the mountains was to be another. Lewis and Clark were sent out to discover a commercial route to the Pacific ocean. So judiciously was their enterprise conducted, that their return route must remain the route of commerce, in latitude 47 degrees."

This great idea in later days was seized upon by Colonel Benton, and he advocated the opening of this new route to Asia. He it was who insisted that we should have an outlet to the west, and it belonged to the United States, and who labored to obtain that for his country which Great Britain was seeking to gain, that is to say, an outlet from the shores of the Pacific to Asia. He wished to connect the Missouri with the Columbia river and thus to throw open a great natural highway to the Pacific ocean and thence to eastern Asia. His thesis, no doubt, would have been on the Columbia or Willamette, his eye at St. Louis, Missouri. This was the hope of his better days. He foresaw the greatness of Oregon from her geographical position and her importance in the new commercial era then dawning on our country. The trade of the east has always been the "richest jewel in the diadem of commerce." Leading nations in all ages have sought it as essential to their progress, and those that have obtained it have "attained the highest degree of opulence, refinement and power."
We have alluded to some errors committed by the friends of Oregon. These are common when men are actuated by an unrestrained enthusiasm. Evidence of this sort are abundant in history. The mistakes of men are never from that class of men, however noble and whose plausible features are presented in an apparent spirit of fairness in order to give them force. These are misleading and mischievous. They consist of the most serious errors, those which have method in their arrangement, and whose plausible features are presented in an apparent spirit of fairness in order to give them force. These are misleading and mischievous. They consist of the most serious errors, those which have method in their arrangement, and whose plausible features are presented in an apparent spirit of fairness in order to give them force.
As to the errors to which we have alluded the history of Oregon is but an example of what the world has often witnessed. That man will never understand the truth of history who is not well informed upon the personal feelings, and capable of making allowance for the personal errors of the great actors in the drama of nations. Think for a moment of the gratification of Columbus when he discovered the coast of Venezuela, and declared it to be the hope of his life, the paradise he was seeking, a northwest passage to the orient. But this delusion was afterwards dissipated by Balboa. Columbus hoped to reach eastern Asia by his course westward, and though he had found the transverse of the world, what must have been the unbounded enthusiasm of Henry VIII, after he had granted a license to the Cabots to open a northwest passage to Asia, to learn that Newfoundland and other islands had been discovered by them, and their possession secured as outlying islands of China or Japan. Time and subsequent explorations have corrected this error. Another instance of the same sort is

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