



Salem, Saturday, Jan. 4.

REMOVAL.

The FARMER office has been removed to Stewart's block, Commercial street—up stairs, first door at the left.

WHEAT.—We learn that the price for good white wheat has advanced to eighty cents a bushel, at the Salem Mills.

DRILLS.—Read the advertisement of H. H. Tuttle, Portland, in another column. He is agent for the Strayer Drill (incorrectly printed in last week's FARMER as "Stager") the only force feed drill said to be on the Pacific coast.

HORTICULTURAL.—On reference to another column it will be seen that a meeting of the Oregon State Horticultural Society will be held at Portland January 9th, for the purpose of arranging the premium list for the next State Fair.

The call for a farmers' convention in this city last Saturday, was not responded to very largely. No proceedings were had, but it was concluded to make another call for a convention to meet at Salem, Jan 25th. So we are informed by Mr. Wm. Ruble.

ELECTRICITY.—A course of three lectures will be given by J. E. Storing, of this city, before the Willamette University, at University Chapel, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings, January 6th, 7th, and 8th. Embracing Fractional, Atmospheric, Galvanic and Magneto, Electricity; also Magnetism, Electro-Magnetism and the Telegraph; the whole to be illustrated by a great variety of Experiments. Lectures to commence at 7 1/2 o'clock. Admission to the course \$1.00. Single lectures 50 cents. Children under 12 years of age, half price.

TO BE REBUILT.—It has been decided by the directors of the Oregon City Woolen Manufacturing Company to rebuild the mill lately destroyed by fire. R. Jacob, President, has gone East for the purpose of purchasing the necessary machinery. It is thought the mill will be in operation August 1st, 1873.

THROUGH THE LOCKS.—The steamer Maria Wilkins came up through the canal and locks on January 1st, and returned to Portland the same day. Gov. Grover, the commission appointed by the Governor to examine the works, a number of the directors and stockholders of the Company, and invited guests, were on board. Everything was a success.

WALKS.—We took a walk a few evenings since for exercise. We walked about three miles without going over the same ground and without leaving a good plank walk. We might have walked several miles further in the same way. Yet it seems to us but just the other day that the walks in Salem were limited to one side of one block. That was when we first made the acquaintance of the town. We have heard several strangers remark that few towns in the East are as well supplied with sidewalks as Salem.

UMATILLA COUNTY.—A letter to us from A. C. Pettys, at Willow Forks, Umatilla county, Dec. 25th, has the following: "To-day is as fine and warm as an April day. The contrast between this and last Christmas is striking—one warm, and the other cold. I think now our winter will not be very heavy, which we have all been so fearful of. Stock are doing well. The peaceable people of Willow Forks and vicinity were very much disturbed on the night of the earthquake. A few got mad and showed fight, as they thought some were playing tricks on them by rattling their windows and doors, and otherwise disturbing their peace."

Unusually violent storms of rain, snow, wind and sleet have been raging in the Sound region for the past week.

NEW YEAR.

"The year is gone, and with it many a glorious thought Of happy dreams; its mark is in each heart, Its shadow on each brow."

But what's the use of going into tantrums about it? Time would go on just the same without these imaginary mile posts, and life would be just as soon ended. What use is there in urging every body to make good resolutions a certain day in every year, and leaving them to break them all the rest of the year? Is there any power or significance in a point of time? Paul says to the Galatians: "Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain."

There was reason in this fear. The voice of reason and of wisdom ever cries, "Now is the accepted time." One point of time is as sacred as another. If a man has a pet vice which he feels he should put from him, he has no right to wait for the end of the year. There is no power in that particular time to help his resolution.

Every day is a leaf in the book of life, every hour is a line. And as a man turns backward and reviews the past, he may say with many a sigh as he counts the blots and scrawls, "What I have written, I have written." But every page he turns over in his forward progress is pure with hope and promise. And every page is headed, Now. Life begins anew with every day. Every one may require a new resolution. We cannot hope to wind three hundred and sixty-five days into a ball and cover it with one resolution. The cover will wear off in less than a month, and our hopes will be unwound.—There are only two important divisions of time, day and night. One is for work, the other for rest. We have no right to waste one in sloth, nor the other in carousal. And if we are questioned concerning the habit of shooting guns and ringing bells at midnight, when all sensible people desire to sleep, we will say that we consider the custom a relic of heathenism that might better be dispensed with. The young burglars who broke into our churches last Tuesday night and sounded fire alarms for a full half hour, might have begun the new year in a manner more creditable to themselves, without shocking the nerves of sick people or converting the city into a bedlam.

Whatever is to be done or undone, let the day be given to it. Three hundred and sixty-five days are better than a year. There is no electric battery with sufficient power to send us so long a distance at one shock. Every morning the message must be repeated. Every day is a link in the chain that binds us to our old habits, or a step in the line of progress that leads us to light and liberty.

And these thoughts should take the most practical directions. Whatever our convictions tell us we should do, whether to provide new stalls for our horses or build extra sheds for our cattle; whether to provide better roads for our teams, or better schools for our children; whether to leave off bad habits, and live for higher aims, or to cease extravagance and lay up for the future.—"Now is the accepted time."

"Heaven is not reached by a single bound; We must build the ladder by which to rise From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies, And mount to its summit round by round."

GAS.—The *Bulletin* claims that Portland is a bigger city than either London or New York. In London they pay eighty cents per thousand, for gas, in New York \$3, and in Portland, Oregon, six dollars. The Capital of Oregon leads you, Friend *Bulletin*. We pay eight dollars per thousand for our gas. But then our gas is all furnished to us, while the Portland editors manufacture considerable themselves.

TO AGENTS.—As we wish to arrange our books for the new year, agents who have money on hand for us will confer a favor by forwarding the same to us as soon as convenient.

The Old Institute.

This old building was burned by incendiaries on Friday night, Dec. 27th. It was built in 1844 by the Methodist Missionaries, and originally intended as a school for Indians. But as the plans for educating the Indians failed and the country became settled by whites, the plan was changed and the institution became what is known as Willamette University. In 1865 the school was moved into the new building, and the old "Institute" has been used but little since. It is a little remarkable that it should be burned the very day Father Waller was buried, and just about as it was to be removed by order of the Trustees. The only loss was a few fine shade trees that were scorched by the heat.—Some of the former students, who received many of their best impulses and earliest helps under its roof, felt more than a momentary sadness as they saw its massive frame go down with a crash before the pitiless flames.

New Enterprise.

Parmenter & Babcock, furniture dealers of this city, have closed out their retail business, and leased for a term of years the fine water-power near the woolen mills, where they intend to devote their energies entirely to manufacturing. They have sent East for the necessary machinery to do a large business in their line. They will probably soon add to the branches of the business heretofore followed, the manufacture of cane-seat chairs. The prospect is good for them to work into a prosperous business.

We are pleased to note every new effort to establish manufacturing enterprises in our midst. Every chair and bedstead manufactured here is a clean saving to our circulating capital of its cost price; and there is nothing to prevent our home-made articles being equal in every respect to those made in the East.

STEPHEN MAYBELL.—This new candidate for literary honors gave the people of Salem a chance to hear him on last Saturday evening. The opportunity was not so well improved by the people as it should have been.

Some of Mr. Maybell's own compositions have considerable merit, and he renders them with spirit. His "Hermit of the Cascades," is quite up to some of Bret Harte's efforts in the same direction. He has a style of his own, and a way of linking his different recitations into a chain, and so passing from one to another as to keep the audience awake and give his performance a decided air of originality. He renders the Irish characters well, but we think devotes too much of his time to that particular style of wit. A little pepper in one's food is good, but enough is enough; and Mr. Maybell has talent that is worthy of cultivation in a better direction. He is less cultivated than Plummer in his elocution, more manly in bearing than Joaquin Miller, and far superior to Stephen Massett in every thing but "cheek." Time alone can prove whether or not he be the "Hycinth" of his own song.

WINTER ABROAD.—Ice six inches thick in the Potomac! Gorge in the Mississippi below Memphis! Trains stopped all over the West! New York City minus her mails! Several persons frozen to death in Brooklyn! Two men freeze in their own house in Illinois! Floating ice in the Ohio sinks steamers and barges! Terrible floods and hurricanes in different parts of Europe! Such are a few of the startling messages that come to us from other lands, over the tell-tale wires. The Oregonian who reads them must feel that he does not live in the worst country in the world.

ARRESTED.—Walter S. Kitchen has been held to appear before the U. S. District Court for Oregon on a charge of robbing the mail at Yantis Station, on the Boise road. The depredations on that road have been going on for a year or more.

In Memoriam.

The press of the country is busy just now conveying the news of the death of Rev. Alvan F. Waller, generally with the accompanying information that the deceased was "pioneer in the settlement of Oregon, and a devoted servant of the Christian organization (the M. E. Church) of which he was a minister." It is true that Alvan F. Waller was a devoted friend and servant of the Methodist Church, and well deserved all the respect for and recognition of his services which can be accorded to him; but it is doubtful whether the public at large will fairly realize the worth of the man as a citizen who sympathized with all branches of human advancement, and took a keen, though unostentatious, interest in the political affairs of the State and nation. He was a firm believer in Christianity, for the comfort and hope it conferred upon himself personally, and he labored for its advancement, because to advance the spread of Christianity in his judgment was the surest way to multiply human happiness. In his young days this feeling took the form of that religious enthusiasm which makes the missionary, and such he became, and his becoming such made him one of the earliest settlers on the Pacific coast. The innate character of the man made him a pioneer of pioneers, if I may use such a term to define his character. His early bias in favor of the occupation of a Christian teacher, combined with a singularly patient persistency, made him amongst the last to give up the missionary efforts in behalf of the Oregon Indians, and as soon as that object was abandoned by those who had control of his action, he turned his attention to laying the foundation of the means of instructing the youth of the white race then commencing to occupy the country, and with this object in view he has labored for the establishment and endowment of the Willamette University for many years past, with a singleness of purpose and self devotion, which would doubtless have insured him success in any course of action adopted for his own personal aggrandizement. He seems, however, in a very early period of his residence in Oregon, to have put aside the idea of accumulating property for himself. He did avail himself of his privilege as a citizen of the United States, and received a donation of land as an early settler; but if money-making had been his object, he would have clung to the donation claim which he first took up, viz: the land upon which Oregon City now stands, including the immense water power of the falls of the Willamette—which was first located as a claim by Mr. Waller, but was given up, doubtless because the development of its value was deemed inconsistent with objects he held in higher estimation than material wealth. I do not wish to intimate that Mr. Waller did not appreciate this world's goods; indeed, I am inclined to think that few men could have better enjoyed the pleasures that wealth can give than he, and yet I know of no man who has lived in Oregon the same length of time who has practiced a closer economy than he did, and given anything like the same proportion of his time and means to the furtherance of worthy objects.

The general public knew "Father Waller" as a sedate, almost austere, man, diligent in his business of seeking aid to build high schools and churches, but those who knew him privately knew him to be a patriotic citizen, always (though without ostentation) interested in public affairs, a statesman of no common order, rather than a politician, in his manner of looking at public objects. His most prominent traits were a never faltering perseverance and a corresponding amount of patient endurance. These traits so predominated in his character as to give to his personal presence an appearance of coldness which was in reality foreign to his nature. Doubtless many who attended his funeral at the University the other day were surprised to see men as old as himself weeping over his remains, declaring

as they did so that his loss was more than that of an earthly brother. So children (and not of his own family only) wept for him as for a father, and with good reason. If there was a weakness in his nature, it was his kind and indulgent disposition toward children. "The whole thing will go down now," said an old man who has for twenty-nine years stood opposed to "Father Waller" religiously, but who yet recognizes the efficiency of his self-denying labors in behalf of Willamette University. Let us hope the good man has not labored in vain, even from an earthly point of view, but that the agencies for human good which he devoted his life to will not fail to bring forth fruit, and that his death may bring forward younger men who, making him an example, will carry on the work of human advancement.

J. M.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16, 1872.

Congress has been in session since Dec. 2d, very constantly disposing of some matters, but it has thousands of measures in hand that must be disposed of, and after the Holidays it will be necessary to work harder and hold night sessions. The morning is the time when committees meet and prepare their work. The House and Senate meet at noon, and the session continues until the worthy members become weary of legislation, which sometimes is by 2 o'clock, though sessions do sometimes extend until towards evening. Many private bills have been disposed of and there is always a host of such. The House has had the appropriation bills under consideration and has passed some of them. They adjourn this week on Friday, and take a vacation of at last two weeks over Christmas and New Year's, and the work of the session really commences after that. There will be only two months left of the session then, and it will be necessary to work hard and hold night sessions to dispose of the most necessary measures.

GREAT IMPROVEMENTS.

An effort is now making to convert Washington into a beautiful city, which it must certainly become with time. I was here some years since, when the city wore an antiquated look, being built up of old style brick houses without the least pretension to modern elegance. Of course some of the Government buildings were elegant, but some of the private residences and building places were assuming occasional forms of the new, but a great portion of Pennsylvania Avenue even was antiquated, and the streets, where paved at all, were roughly laid with a cobble stone surface that was entirely too aggravating to be pleasant. Washington is undergoing a very great revision and improvement. Of course it is incurring a heavy debt also, but it is rapidly emerging from the old time look and condition. Its streets are being paved in some substantial manner, its sidewalks relaid and widened and its numerous parks, squares, and avenues, laid out and improved wonderfully. It is making more decided progress than any other modern city of its population, that is to say, in the way of this public improvement, but it does not yet add any manufacturing or business interests, such as give importance and growth to our commercial cities. Its public and private edifices are more elegant, but the city is merely the National Capital, and its business and population are such as depend on its condition as such. Something else may come in the future, but there is no promise of it yet. The wide streets and avenues and large blocks admit of great beauty and elegance. The beautiful Government reserves and numerous public squares all promise that it will some time be a city of great cultivation and beauty, and it will be graced with magnificent national buildings.

IMPORTANT MEASURES.

Civil service reform does not meet with the most emphatic endorsement from even the friends of the Administration, simply for the reason that