

CITY AND COUNTRY.

THURSDAY, May 20.

The History of Court House Block.

At this time, when the heirs of Mrs. Willson are pushing their claims to the block of land occupied by the Court House, the citizens of Marion county, and indeed of the whole State will feel interested in reviewing the history of the circumstances by which the said block came to be considered public property. It is supposed that the claim is based on the fact that the block in question was a part of the wife's half of the Willson donation claim that constitutes the Salem town site. Or that the heirs claim a reversion to themselves on account of the transfer from the city to the county of said property, but all the transfer that exists is that, according to stipulations filed, the Circuit Court, July 7th, 1871, made a decree in favor of the right of the county to the block as a site for a Court House, the stipulations prescribing by what time the house should be built and what other improvements should be made on the premises. The facts are that the town plot and dedication by Dr. Willson were made before the passage of the donation act was passed by Congress and before it was known that Mrs. Willson would be entitled to half the land grant. It was used as a public square long before the final division was made between the husband and wife. It is probable that the old Court House was at least planned and contracted to be built before that division was finally made by Surveyor General Preston; certain it is that neither then or afterwards did Mrs. Willson ever raise an objection or dissent from the dedication her husband publicly made of that block for public purposes.

About 1852 and 3 there was a strife between North Salem and the main town for the location of the Court House. J. B. McClane, E. N. Cook, John Baker and others, were anxious to have it in North Salem, or north of Marion Square, while the citizens of this part of town were for having it where it is, W. C. Griswold, B. F. Harding and E. M. Barnum being active workers. Each locality raised a subscription to offer as a bonus. The County Judges at that time were Ben Walden, J. W. Grim and Jacob Conser. Judge Grim was in town last week and gave his recollection of the facts in the case, and we had a conversation with Mr. Conser last evening and find that without any communication with each other and after an interval of twenty-two or twenty-three years, each has the same remembrance, that Dr. Willson showed them his map of Salem and pointed to the block now occupied by the Court House as the one he had dedicated for that purpose. At the same interview he explained that the lower block was for a Court House, the three east of it were for public grounds and the block east of them again, at the rise of the slope, was intended for a State Capitol. Judge Grim says he amused himself very much at the time with the fine plans the Doctor had made, and the fact that they are now being abundantly realized freshens his recollection. Ben Harding was with the Commissioners, Mr. Conser thinks, when the Doctor told of this dedication.

As to the city having forfeited the claim of the public by consenting to the use of the block for County purposes, it is easy to see that the right of the public could not be forfeited by any act of the city. The dedication was to the public, and if the city has allowed buildings to be erected against the interests of the public, they can be proceeded against as a nuisance and removed. The law of dedication is plain on that point, and the law of dedication also establishes that the building of a Court House on public ground is a proper use of the same and in harmony with the intention of the act of dedication for public purposes. It is fortunate that this question is raised while the best witnesses are living to prove the intention of Dr. Willson. Mrs. Willson lived for over twenty years after the first Court House was commenced. She saw it grow old and almost rot down, and made no objection to the use of the block for that purpose. She also lived until it was removed and a magnificent structure erected in its place, a fit monument to the liberal soul of Dr. Willson, and while this action must be considered a puerile and fruitless attempt, we who have lived here since an early day, cannot but regret to see such dishonorable efforts made by those who, unfortunately for Dr. Willson, have no sympathy with his generous nature while they claim to be his heirs.

Some More Court House Items.

The old Court House was finished about twenty years ago and cost one-third as much as the magnificent building that now stands in its place—about \$30,000. The builders were Ferguson & Montgomery. While overhauling the old records to-day we gathered some interesting facts of the past. It is a tradition among Court House officials that the old wooden pillars cost \$300 each. Our readers can examine them as they pass up Court street, where the old building now stands. It is probable that the same house could now be built for one-fourth what it cost twenty years since.

Along in 1854, when the work was drawing near completion, the Commissioners borrowed \$1,100 of David Prealey, who lived out this side of the Fair Grounds—or where the Fair Grounds now are. The old records of that date show that he was to receive twenty per cent interest on the loan—by the way, the clerk had it "lone." Wiley Chapman did the plastering, and the contract price was \$1.40 per square yard. The price now is 40 cents per square yard. On the 8th of September, 1854, Ferguson and Montgomery drew a warrant on account of work done, and there being no cash on hand to pay the same, the court ordered that they should receive twenty-five per cent interest on the same until paid. That was the way they built Court Houses 21 years ago.

Quicksilver in Douglas County.

We have read considerable of late concerning quicksilver discoveries in Southern Oregon, but the most reliable we have is contained in a letter from Mr. J. H. Hackleman assistant Treasurer of State, who writes from Roseburg to Hon. A. H. Brown that new mines have been discovered quite near there that promises quite favorably. A test was made that yielded half a pound of quicksilver from four and a half pounds of rock. That is an immense yield and even at the present reduced price of quicksilver good cinabar mines are a big thing. We may look for stirring times in Douglas county.

SPELLING MATCH OVER IN POLK.—We learn that Rosa Lodge, of Good Templars, has challenged Valfontis Lodge, of Zena, to a spelling match. The banter is accepted, and the first spell will take place at Rosa Lodge Hall on Friday evening, May 21st, the second spell will be held at the Zena Hall, and the third at the Rosa Lodge room. There will be twelve on a side. The meetings will be held on successive Friday evenings.

THE LEABO FERRY.—We learn from Mr. Lewis Pettijohn that the new boat made for his ferry does very well, but the third trip they made with it the old wire rope broke and stopped operations. He had roads to and from the ferry well fixed and will have a new wire rope up from below and ready to operate in a few days, when that will be a good route of travel.

CURRENCY TO BE CASH.—S. Freidman informs the immigrants coming to Oregon that he will receive currency for goods at usual prices. Those who owe old book accounts must pay cash, but he proposes to honor the National currency as worth par for merchandise sales. S. Freidman is a live man and wants to favor immigrants.

NEW BAKERY.—Amos Strong and Calvin Bain, young men well known to the citizens of Salem have opened a bakery opposite our office. They have a fine, new oven, built by our old friend James Bowker, and are able to get out some of the finest bread, cakes and pies to be found. Their ad. will appear soon. Give them a trial.

W. S. Barker yesterday returned to the Insane Asylum at East Portland with Mrs. Beatty, of this city, who was recently discharged from there, but seems not yet to be in her right mind. Her case is a very distressing one, and Mr. Beatty has the sympathy of all who know him.

HEALTHY SIGN.—Not so healthy for lawyers and officers of courts as for the public generally, is the fact that there is not yet a new case on the docket for the June term of the Circuit Court for Marion county. There is some old work to grind, but no new cases as yet.

Dave Hill and Tecumseh, the two Indians with Mr. Meacham who belonged to the Klamaths, were expecting to start home on the first of the present month, but since then we see by the N. Y. papers that Dave is among the missing.

The son of Rev. Joseph Hoberg, of East Portland, lately had a fish hook cut out of his lip, where it caught while another boy was fishing.

DIED.—In this city, 19th inst., at 5 o'clock P. M., Velina, youngest daughter of H. M. and Sarah Thatcher, aged 7 years, 5 months and 12 days.

FRIDAY, May 21.

STEADY.—Gen. Stephen Coffin wanted a family nag the other day and traded for one that was warranted not to start until he was ready to say the word go. Gen. Coffin rather reluctantly owned that he was getting old now and wanted a horse that would not start off sudden. His new purchase was harnessed and hitched into the shafts, and sure enough he made no motion to go until the General was duly seated. Even then he didn't offer to move, and at the end of two hours' persuasion he hadn't budged a single rod. That animal's qualifications were too extensive in that direction, so the trade fell through, and the General's present purchase goes right along.

MONTEREY CYPRESSES.—After the severe cold weather last winter the cypresses all doffed their beautiful foliage and had every appearance of being dead. In many instances a great part of the wood appeared dead, and the last year's growth was so. Dr. Skiff had two beautiful trees which he dug up only a while since, and it was noticed that the bark was green. We left one, shortened in, as a support for climbing vines, and within a few days discovered that the sap is circulating and green sprouts are forcing their way out; there is no doubt that it will soon send out new foliage. Mr. Parrish had a nursery of 4,000 young trees, the tops of which are dead but the roots seem to be still alive and will probably send up fresh growth.

FRUIT DRYERS.—We have no answer to make to the spurious correspondent "S" who pretends to hail from McMinnville. This paper is not an organ for a fruit dryer. True Mr. Clarke is agent for one, but its manufacturers guarantee that it will do certain work or no pay is asked, and as one will soon be in operation to speak for itself we see no reason why there should be a newspaper controversy about it before hand, especially with a nameless and irresponsible nobody. That isn't business and we don't care about it for recreation.

WILL FRED PIONEERS.—Mr. John Martin, his sons and Richard Sayre have agreed to furnish a supper for those who attend the Pioneer Ball at the Fair Ground, on the evening of June 15th, and Mr. Martin assures us that they intend to do it in handsome style. He wishes it understood that they will keep a restaurant on the ground during the day, so those who attend the reunion need not have any fears that they will not find a dinner ready for them.

UMATILLA COUNTY.—We had a pleasant call last evening from Mr. Pruett, Sheriff of Umatilla county, who was raised in Marion and finds it pleasant to have business furnish occasion to visit his old neighbors. He brought down a lady to the insane asylum and was here to collect the expenses of the trip.

Murder Cases in Jackson County.

Mr. Silas J. Day, writing from Jacksonville to Mr. James Tatom, of Polk county, speaks of the work on hand for the courts of Judge Prim's district, as follows:

The Brown boys begin to look considerably bleached out since their confinement. They will be tried at Linksville at a term of court, fourth week in June. A special term has been called to try 5 others cases now in jail, three for murder, and two for larceny—meets next Monday week, and will run into the June term, so we expect to run court right along from now until hay harvest. The Briggs will be tried here at the regular June term for murdering the school teacher, in Josephine county, about one year ago. Prim has the two Briggs, two Browns, Barden and Carey, and Doty, seven in all, to try for murder before he goes to the Supreme Court, which meets in July at Salem—this getting to be sadly dehumanized; it is a good thing we had a new jail for these Hombres. When the prisoners were removed from the old jail two weeks ago we had just enough (six) to fill the new jail comfortably. The Commissioners at last term talked of enlarging it—we expect to have to do some judicious hanging in this county about July next, as Barden doesn't die between now and then, as he is very low at present and not expected to live.

PASSENGER LIST.

The O. S. S. Co.'s steamer J. L. Stephens sailed from Portland for San Francisco at the usual hour, Saturday afternoon, with the following

PASSENGERS:
C A Ellinger, E Hall,
L E Wood, wife & Jacob Mayer,
mother, Samuel Beck,
Miss Emma Holder, Lieut F A Boutelle,
& father, Joe Lukes,
Alex Schlusael, wife, T J Lee,
& infant, I Stane & wife,
Mrs L M Lochman, C M Osborne,
& infant, O H Irvin,
J M Powell, J F Be'breath,
Jno Janson, Miss Fannen,
J Gallagher, E M Morgan,
Ang Kock, Sol Frohman,
J B Williams, Mrs Goldsmith & fy,
Capt McDonald, Mr Gunnig,
Mr. Armstrong, C B Gallup, wife & son,
And 8 in the steerage.

Will be Defended.

The Court House case is to be well defended, and the motto of our County Court will certainly be "millions for defense" and not one cent for black-mall. Judge Peobles is in town making arrangements to have the case thoroughly defended, and the practical attempt will be apt to prove a poor venture on the part of the speculators who want to fleece the county, and the lawyers who have undertaken the job on shares.

WATER PIPE FOR ASTORIA.—Mr. A. Prescott, who manufactures wood pumps and piping at the lumber mill here, sent last week one thousand feet of wood pipe to Astoria, to be used in conveying water to the premises of several families. The work has been successfully done and Salem is ready to supply Astoria or any other place with all such pipe in any quantity.

DIED.—Yesterday, May 20th, at the residence of her husband, one and a half miles east of Bethel, the wife of Charles Alderman, aged about twenty. She was out in the fields only a few hours before and died of a sudden fit before a physician could be summoned. She was a person of apparently excellent health, but had complained for a few days previous.

FOR CALIFORNIA.—Mr. William Watson, who has for several years had charge of the stock breeding farm of Mr. S. G. Reed, at Reedville, Washington county, goes to California, having formed a business connection with Mr. Jesse D. Carr, of Monterey county, one of the most famous stock men of California. We wish Mr. Watson a pleasant future, and regret that he is about to leave Oregon.

CINNABAR.—Mr. Hackleman came home last evening bringing with him some nice specimens of the ore of cinnabar found in the vicinity of Roseburg, Douglas county.

Mr. D. H. Looney yesterday purchased of R. H. Dearborn an elegant silver mounted harness made expressly for him, and said to be the finest piece of work ever manufactured in Salem.

SATURDAY, May 22.

FROM MINNESOTA.—A family arrived from Minnesota last evening and stopped at the Chemeketa, expecting to remain permanently in Salem. The husband came on in advance and is logging on the Santiam. He is expected down. They complain that the winters in Minnesota are unendurable and say that nearly all would leave if they could do so. They had a comfortable home there but the climate caused them to leave. We hope they will have good fortune in Oregon. They report that they had terrible stories told them in California about Oregon as a land of perpetual rain and fearful earthquakes. Earthquakes in Oregon is a very brilliant idea, especially for Californians to advance.

DIED.—In Polk county, near the Salem Ferry, Mrs. Pond, wife of R. S. Pond, lately of Kansas City, Mo. Mrs. Pond had been an invalid for seven years, from rheumatism not being able to take a step during that time. Death came as a relief from suffering. She was sixty-three years of age.

Rev. E. K. Chandler of Rockford, Ill., son of Rev. Dr. Chandler of Forest Grove, is on a brief visit to his home and friends in Oregon. He is spending the present Sabbath in this city and will preach this morning at the Congregational Church and at the Baptist Church in the evening. Mr. Chandler formerly attended school at Willamette University.

Prof. Crawford expects soon to call a meeting of those who are willing to sing at the Pioneer reunion. They will get together next Saturday for a rehearsal.

The river is falling some at this point, probably because the weather is too cold for the snow to melt in the mountains.

Firemen's Picnic and Ball at Albany.

Yesterday was a festival day with the firemen and citizens of Albany which was participated in by Maany Meyer, Willie Clarke, and some others from Salem. The picnic was held in Hackleman's Grove, under a most beautiful grove of oaks, not far distant from the depot. A good band of music was in attendance and a nice social time was enjoyed. A fat man's race was run, in sacks, for which Mart V. Brown, State Printer, Fred Hill, County Clerk, and Mr. Hughes entered that we know of, and the race was won by Hughes. They all fell in a heap and Hughes crawled out of the tangle first and won the race. About half past two the baskets of eatables were brought forth and the hungry appetites were assuaged, after which the firemen formed and marched back to town, where, at five o'clock they had an engine drill in handsome style under the command of Joe Webber.

The grand affair was in the evening when the Fireman's Ball came off. Maany Meyer informs that this was a grand time. People were in attendance from Portland, Salem, Corvallis and other places, and Albany turned out her gayest and most beautiful youngsters and belles and did everything that was possible to treat everybody well.

Interesting Discussion.

We gave notice some weeks ago that a very interesting discussion was in prospect between Rev. J. H. Small, of the Waldo Hills, and some champion of Universalism. This debate will commence on Monday next, May 24th, at the McAlpin school house, and will probably last during the week. The question will be: "Resolved that the Old and New Testaments teach the final salvation of all men?" and the affirmative will be supported by Rev. E. A. McAllister. Mr. Small will support the negative, and an interesting debate will probably result from the contest.

Spelling over in Polk.

Mr. Prettyman informs us that the promised spelling match of the Rosa and Valfontis lodges I. O. G. T. came off last evening. There were eight champions of the latter and twelve of the former who stood up to do wordy war for the supremacy. The spelling went on vigorously for a long while, and the Valfontis people finally won the victory, the best speller proving to be Mrs. Cavit and Mrs. E. M. Vandeventer of Rosa Lodge being next in precedence. They are to have another bout at it next Friday, and still another the week after.

Col. Lang, of Dixie, has been in very feeble health for some time, and has been under medical treatment. We learn from Col. Nesmith, who was over to-day, that his relative is somewhat better though not yet able to be out.

Wm. Ewing, who some years ago lived in Portland and moved two years ago to South America, is back again and didn't find anything to beat Oregon while he was absent from here.

FOR BUNCH GRASS.—Jesse Lewis and brother, of Polk county, this morning crossed four hundred head of sheep at the Salem ferry, which they are driving to the bunch grass regions of Eastern Oregon.

I. O. G. T.—On the 20th inst., W. R. Dunbar organized a Lodge of Good Templars at Carlton, with a good membership, Sumner Carr, W. C. T.; Mattie Shelton, W. V. T.; Jacob Messinger, L. D.

WOOL.—Farrar Bros. want to purchase 300,000 pounds of wool of which we hope wool growers will take due notice. They have cash in hand to pay down and are ready to contract.

Weatherford will not be back from San Francisco until about the first of June, but the house received a lot of new goods direct from New York yesterday.

Gen. Michler went down the Columbia this week and arranged for the completion of the light house at Point Adams. He selected a light-house depot and inspected other works.

The Oregonian hears tell of good silver mines discovered on Eagle Creek in the Foster settlement. A quantity of ore has been taken out and sent for assay.

The Upper Columbia at Wallula was falling a trifle at last account.
Wheat is quoted \$1 50@1 55 per cental in Portland.

MONDAY, May 24.

EXCITEMENT AT THE STATE PRISON.

Prisoners Arming and Preparing for an Outbreak—A Conspiracy Foiled.

Saturday evening there was a great commotion at the Penitentiary in consequence of revelations made by Jim Wilson, a convict who was an accomplice with Shultz in his famous operations about Portland, five years ago.

The story he told was that Arthur Cox, who has been assistant in the blacksmith shop to A. J. Brown who has the contract to do the iron work for the State Capitol, and who has charge of the gang of convicts doing that work while Mr. Brown is busy at the State Capitol, had entered into a conspiracy with a number of desperate characters, to supply them with arms to enable them to make an outbreak. He had already supplied them with a revolver, a bullet mould and lead, which Wilson produced, and was to bring a double barrel gun into the grounds that night. It is supposed that another revolver is still somewhere in the possession of the prisoners. The plan was to seize the Superintendent to-day, and under threats of his life compel him to open the doors and effect a general jail delivery.

Arthur Cox is respectably connected, and for some time past he has been in Umatilla county, and the belief is entertained that this attempt is made in the interest of Dick Alexander, a young man from Umatilla who

is serving a long time on conviction of highway robbery. Alexander is said to have a wealthy father back in Iowa, and it is said that abundant means can be furnished to secure his release. He is a bad fellow; has had trouble several times in the prison, and hates several of the officers bitterly. He is described as a very desperate and dangerous character.

Saturday evening a warrant was secured for the arrest of Cox, and Deputy Sheriff Barker made several trips to his mother's house near town to serve it, and did not find him at home. About midnight he made his appearance at the house of Sheriff Shaw and gave himself up, remaining there all night, and yesterday he was released on giving \$500 bail. The examination in the case will take place this afternoon and we shall give all the particulars at hand. The Prosecuting Attorney, J. J. Whitney, Esq., came down from Albany on the early train and will be present on the part of the State.

Examination of the Arthur Cox Case.

The preliminary examination was held this afternoon, before Squire Johnson. Young Reynolds testified that he gave a pistol, resembling the one in court, to Arthur Cox, and that it was one that belonged to the Penitentiary which he used once in a search for an escaped convict, and then left at his father's house.

The most important evidence was that of Jim Wilson, a convict, sent up for highway robbery, who worked in the blacksmith shop with Cox, who revealed the circumstances of the conspiracy. His story is very different from that current on the street, which is told elsewhere. He says Cox came to the prison to work about the 7th or 8th of May, that soon after he asked of him (Wilson) what tools a man needed to effect his escape, and that he gave no reply. Soon again he wanted to know of him if shooting irons would not be of use. Afterwards they grew to have frequent conversations on the subject. Last Saturday Cox told him he had secreted a revolver in the stable under the hay—where he afterwards found it. He brought some bullet moulds in the afternoon and was to bring another revolver and some ammunition this morning. He was also to bring to the grounds on Saturday evening a double-barrel gun and secrete it where it could be found.

Wilson said that there were others more in the affair than he was, and they wanted him to manage it because he worked in the blacksmith shop with Cox. Those in the conspiracy were Bargeman, alias Shultz, Green, Alexander and Hardy. Alexander had a rich father at Dubuque, Iowa, and was to give Cox an order on his father for \$300, to pay for assistance to get out. The letter to the elder Alexander he saw written and sent. Cox wrote a letter to Dick Alexander, which he (Wilson) presented and then it was returned to Cox who burned it, but a copy was taken while he had it.

Wilson claims that he all the while deceived his comrades and reported the interviews with Cox to Mr. Magers, the Chief Warden, from whom he says he received great kindness which he wished to thus repay. The following he says is a copy of the letter Cox wrote for him to take to Alexander:

P. S.—As to the proposition you made Wilson, use your pleasure, for if you boys are successful I will be outside.
FRIEND DICK: I hold your pardon in my hand which shall be yours. A FRIEND.

Chief Warden Myers informs us that his testimony will corroborate the story of Wilson that he communicated to him the conversations with Cox.

Wilson, the convict witness, was dressed in plain clothes and gave his evidence plainly and slowly. Cox, the defendant, was neatly dressed with white shirt and blue neck tie, and seemed to be very little upset by the circumstances surrounding him. His appearance is hardly consistent with hardened villainy. The case is still continued as we go to press.

PASSENGER LIST.

The O. S. S. Co.'s steamer Ajax sailed from San Francisco for Portland Saturday afternoon at the usual hour with the following list of

PASSENGERS:
James Laidlaw, G M Sproat,
Elliot M Best & wf, C F Hyde,
H Benedict, P A Sherman,
Judge N Patterson, H C Baker & wf,
Mrs O A Renocoe & ch, James Lotan,
S W Church, C A White,
O F Graves, M V Rover,
Irvn Smith, L W Pitta,
J R Daniels, L F Hutton,
E L Haselings, L F Henderson,
Mrs C L Henderson, Mrs George Hume,
Mrs A Brown, Mrs E Sexton,
H A Griffin, Mrs CHasselmann & ch,
Boss Schenck, O N Hall,
J Kowland, W F Hitchcock,
D Malarkey, M H Rose,
G Englehardt, S Oppenheimer,
W S Smith, J Calhoun,
J M Clayton, Miss E Davis,
Miss J Avon, Mrs S Smith,
N A Hull, wf & daugh, G Sheppard & family,
H Middaugh & family, Mrs L D Rycraft,
Mrs Johnson, Mrs B Fuson,
Mrs T W Sterns, Mrs Hadley,
Mrs F Hadley & son, Miss C S Thorn,
H Wortham, B Alov & wife,
J M Goldswon & family, R D Lewis, son and
C E Teague & family, daughter,
H Golden, E Aicken & family,
C Candle & family.

Mrs. O. T. Daniels sends us a very beautiful bouquet to-day, and Mrs. Sarah A. Condit, of Mill Creek prairie, sent us a floral offering last week. We like to have a breath of flowers to illusionise the dull work of newspaper life, once in awhile, and always feel grateful for the kind remembrance.

The Pioneer Hosiery Works at Jefferson are to start up to-day to commence the manufacture of knitted goods. We hope it may prove a great success, for Stinson is one of the kind to "knock the socks off" of anything he undertakes.

For books and stationery call at the store of Mr. Leo Willis, in Patton's block, who has on hand all you can ask for in that line of goods.