

The Country vs. the Towns.

There is a great tendency for young men to forsake the country and seek business in the towns, which are in many instances already over crowded so that the chances for success are diminished.

The subject is a broad and comprehensive as humanity, and the whole problem of political and social economy comes up as we view it, but we call attention only to the necessity of supplying the best social and intellectual advantages to every rural neighborhood, and so satisfy the cravings of the young mind, by bringing into country homes the best tokens of modern progress and enterprise.

There are many neighborhoods that possess these advantages already; indeed we do not see any reason why every farmer's house cannot have a growing library, and possess the reading matter we expect to see in city homes.

No doubt many join the Grange chiefly with a view to taking advantage of its business features, not recognizing that it has an object and purpose of far greater importance. While its business features are matters of doubt, and experience must guide the progress to be made in that direction, the social, moral and intellectual advantages of the order are undoubted and can be most readily accomplished if thoroughly undertaken.

In the past there has been no suitable field, elsewhere than in the great cities of the world, for intellect to develop and for enterprise to succeed. The material existed in the country, but the magnets—the great cities—attracted the scattered particles to the common center.

The life of the metropolis is morally, socially and financially unhealthy—at least to a considerable degree. The morbid anxiety for riches becomes a disease that poisons and destroys many, while a few become enormously enriched. The "rings" that corrupt politics, thrive and prosper in that crowded atmosphere. The ill success of thousands leads to crime or destitution. The more thronged the cities become, the greater is the increase of criminal expenses and consequent taxation. Country life has more rational rewards and truer successes, with more solid comfort and happiness than falls to the lot of the average millionaire.

The Oldest Pioneer.

Of a few bold voyagers who spied out this goodly land, from thirty-five to fifty years ago, few, very few indeed, are now numbered among the living to behold the changes wrought by time's relentless march.

Hon. Donald Manson, Sr., the earliest pioneer now living within the original boundaries of the Territory of Oregon, is a native of Scotland, and was born April 6th, 1800. He received a good practical education in the country schools of his native land, and was bred to the plow (upon his father's farm) until his 17th year, when he entered the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, and sailed for America, reaching Hudson Bay in Sept. 1817.

The ensuing summer he superintended the erection of Fort Langley, the first trading post established west of the Rocky mountains, north of Fort Vancouver, returning in the fall to the Columbia, where he remained until the spring of 1827, when two American vessels entered the river; the brig Owyhee, and schooner Convoy, the former commanded by Capt. Dominas, and the latter by Captain Tomson. Their object was to establish trading with the Indians.

Mr. Manson was sent at once to occupy the post of Astoria for the purpose of opposing his company's new rivals in the traffic. On arriving at Astoria he found the Astor company's old fort so completely in ruins that for a time he was compelled to live in a tent. Two vessels belonging to the Hudson Bay Co., arrived annually from England with supplies for the trade, and this year, 1827, one of them, the William and Ann, was wrecked on the bar. Every person on board perished. The cargo was likewise a total loss.

At the time Mr. Manson was in charge of the Astoria post, there was no white persons living on Clatsop plains nor anywhere on the lower river. Neither were there any domestic animals below Fort Vancouver. The Clatsop and Chinook Indians were at that day numerically in the full pride of their strength. The head chief of all the Chinooks, Comcomly, whom Washington Irving, in his "Astoria," so graphically introduced to the world, glorified himself in being the "monarch of all he surveyed." Yet his people, as well as the surrounding tribes, lived on terms of good fellowship with their few white neighbors and occasional visitors.

According to the late Dr. John McLaughlin, the first great calamity which befel the Indians of the Lower Columbia and Willamette rivers, was the visitation of the plague which swept through those tribes in the fall of 1829, with such frightful mortality as almost to depopulate entire villages.

In the spring of 1829, Mr. Manson was appointed to accompany Mr. Chief Factor Ogden to establish a post some distance north of Fort Langley, and which is now known as Fort Simpson. The following summer he succeeded in erecting a post in Mill Bank Sound, which he called Fort McLaughlin, and of which he remained in charge until 1829, when, after a most adventurous life of 22 years, of valuable service, he was gratified to receive a leave of absence for twelve months, a respite which was most richly deserved after the long continued and onerous duties he had so faithfully performed. In the spring of the last mentioned year, he left Vancouver and proceeded across the mountains to Hudson Bay, where he took passage for England, and with out anything remarkable having transpired on the voyage in due time reached the desired haven. Arranging his affairs he proceeded at once to revisit his old Caledonia home, where he soon found himself surrounded by those endearing objects which brought most vividly to mind the fond recollections of his early childhood and youth. But time passed pleasantly, but alas! too swiftly away; for the day now drew near when he was literally to realize that sentiment contained in these lines penned by Scotland's gifted bard:

"Strong memory on my heart shall write Those happy scenes when far awa'!"

Once more he bid adieu to his native land and turned his face toward the wild regions of the northwest coast of America, reaching Vancouver in 1841. He was immediately appointed to succeed Mr. Black, who had been shot by an Indian at Kamloops. In the spring of 1842 he was again selected to succeed another officer who had been murdered at Fort Stikine, and in 1844 he was appointed to the command of New Caledonia district; where he continued as executive officer to direct its affairs until the spring of 1857, when he resigned his commission and left the company to whose service he had devoted the best energies of his youth and mature manhood for a continuous period of more than forty years.

During a visit which he made to the Willamette valley soon after his resignation was accepted, he purchased from the late Dr. Newell his donation claim, situated at Champeog, Marion county, to which he removed his family in 1858, and upon which he now resides.

Mr. Manson, in person, is above the

medium height, straight as an arrow. His hair, under the snow of 75 winters is as white as the frosty paws of St. Helen and Hood.

Mr. Manson is a member of the Oregon Pioneer Association. The question as to who is the earliest pioneer now living within the limits of the original Territory of Oregon, having heretofore been discussed through the medium of the press, that distinction, I believe, was decided by those who engaged in that discussion, in favor of Hon. Solomon H. Smith, of Clatsop plains, who, like Mr. Manson, came to the Territory under the auspices of a Fur-Trading Co., Capt. Witte. Mr. Smith is a native of Lebanon, New Hampshire, born Dec. 26th, 1809, and arrived in Oregon, Oct. 30th, 1832. Owing to the facts above stated, it is deemed proper at the present juncture, in vindication of the truth of history, to give to the public the above synoptical sketch. WILLARD H. REES, Battleville, Feb., 1876. —Oregonian.

An Unfortunate Set of Men.

When the doors of the Senate were closed on Thursday in executive business a lively and interesting discussion, which was entirely unanticipated, sprung up.

Mr. Hanlin, who has been in the Senate on and off for a full generation, is a great stickler for traditional customs. He complained that a custom was growing up by which unprivileged persons were constantly gaining access to the floor of the Senate, crowding the sofas and chairs and the retiring rooms, and interfering with the comfort of Senators, until, he said, "we are getting as bad as that mob at the other end of the Capitol." He lectured the youthful President pro tem, Mr. Ferry, very severely, and said he was responsible in admitting people to the floor who had no right there; that he should not be assuming prerogatives which did not attach to him.

Mr. Ferry demurely responded that he had only followed the precedent set him by former occupants of the chair.

Other Senators followed, and said they were persecuted to the verge of distraction by hummers and office-hunters, male and female; that many of these people pursued them even into the Senate chamber, and if they desired to put their noses outside they were surrounded and badgered so that they did not know where to turn.

Mr. Conkling said that recently he had taken account one day of the number of cards brought to him, and had ascertained that if he responded it would have given him just about five minutes of the whole day's session.

Gen. Ransom, whose seat is near one of the doors, said that he was made a messenger of; that men and women poked their heads in at the door and asked him to call this or that Senator.

Mr. Conkling referred to the fact that the late Senator Sumner made it an imperative rule to refuse to see visitors while he was engaged in official duties. When a card was brought to him, no matter whose name was on it, his invariable reply was, "tell him (or her) the Senate is in session."

Senator Cameron remarked that he was much less annoyed by the visitors and the cards than he was by the blather-skite speeches of Senators.

Finally, on motion of Mr. Merrimon, the Committee on Rules were instructed to prepare a rule which will prohibit the annoyance to Senators, occasioned by the sending of visiting cards while the Senate is in session. The reception room of the Senate is crowded during the whole day with persons waiting to interview Senators, most of them after place, and the persistence which they show, especially the females, would scarcely be credited by those who are not eye-witnesses.

THE NATURAL AGE OF FRUIT TREES.—It seems to be the common belief that there is no limit to the natural age of apple trees. But this is certainly a mistake. We all know that the peach tree fails to be profitable at 12 to 15 years of age, and the cherry and the plum average only 20 to 30 years; the pear, in favorable circumstances, 40 to 50 years—in rare cases a much longer time. So, also, the apple tree has its natural limit, and, although, like man's life, the duration of the period of health and vigor varies greatly according to constitution, nurture, climate, etc., its approaching termination is clearly indicated by signs of debility and disease. On very deep and favorable soils, and where trees are not damaged by the severity of climate, apple orchards are found bearing fair crops of fruit at 70 to 100 years of age, but these are nearly as rare as for their owners to live so long. Very few farms have soil of the best kind for an orchard, and everywhere our climate is either too warm, or at times too cold, for the health of the trees. Injury by severe cold, blackening all the wood, except as new growth is formed, I am convinced is a very common cause of the failure of orchards; but starvation, in consequence of exhaustion of the soil, is still more common, and this is a more difficult matter to remedy than most people suppose, especially when trees have attained full bearing size.

"Everything is lovely and the goose hangs high," is a corruption of the saying, "Everything is lovely and the goose hangs high." The honk is the note sounded by the wild goose in its flights, and is about the only music in which that graceful bird indulges. The meaningless word "hangs" should be immediately eliminated from this beautiful and popular description of the situation.

F. A. Smith, Artist, Salem, Oregon, dealer in Stereoscopes and Stereoscopic Views, and Scenes of Salem and the surrounding country. Life-size Photographs, in India Ink, Oil or Water Color.

How to Obtain Patents. Any person desiring information as to the mode of taking out patents, can send a request to the FARMY office, accompanied by a one-cent stamp, and will receive by mail a copy of the revised Patent laws and pamphlet containing full information as to how inventions can be patented.

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1874. 1876.

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