

THE FACTS OF HISTORY.

ED. FARMER: In the Oregonian of March 2d, under the above heading, ex-Gov. Curry gives a few very interesting historical notes of the early days of Oregon, and terminates them with allusions to a battle spoken of in the WILLAMETTE FARMER, by G. W. Hunt, as fought between the settlers of Abiqua Creek and vicinity and a band of Klamath Indians, in the spring of 1818, as the "romance of history." Mr. Curry, however, though he was may not have heard of the circumstance, but I submit that it is not proof that there was nothing of the kind occurred. I am glad, however, that the question of the Abiqua fight, and its results, is raised, as, not long ago, I had occasion to inquire by what route that band of Klamaths had entered and retreated from the Willamette valley, and from the writer quoted by Mr. Curry I learned that more of the Indians had been killed and wounded than I had been led to suppose at the time I first heard of the occurrence, twenty-nine years ago about this sixth day of March. There are many of those who participated in that fight yet alive to speak of it, and I presume Mr. Curry would not question the fact of such a fight having occurred when it is testified to by men like the venerable Daniel Waldo, than whom there is no man who ever lived less given to "romance," and who gave his counsel on the subject of forcing the Indians to return to their own country. Messrs. R. C. Geor, Wilbur King, and Jas. Brown, of Silverton, had positions of command in the lastly formed company, James Stanley, who lives a few miles east of Salem, was with the little band that drove a part of the Indians against the bluff of the Abiqua, where the most of the Indians (ten) were said to have been killed. From what I can learn, the fight was not intended on the part of the whites, but the plan was to surround the Indians and see them out of this valley on the way to their own country; but the Indians—who had robbed several houses where they found the men who owned them absent, and had attempted to levy tribute of fat cattle by surrounding at least one house (Oreio Dicky Miller's) when the owner was at home—were evidently expecting the whites, and did not stop to parley. The first place where they met was on the river about under arms against the Cayuses, who had perpetrated the Whitman massacre. The remaining men living between the Abiqua and the Santiam were lastly warned of these actions of the Klamaths, who numbered forty-two men, and a number of women not ascertained. There was every indication that if not stopped immediately the Molallas would join, if they had not already assisted the Klamaths in their depredations, and a would soon grow to murder and massacre. With these views, strengthened by the conduct of the Indians, who had shown fight upon the first attempt to parley with them by James Brown and party a few days previously, the whites needed no more than the "zip" of the first arrows sent by the Indians, in order to know what was best to be done, and they did it accordingly. It is passing strange that Mr. Curry—who, I suppose, was acquainted with the reasons Gov. Abernethy had for apprehending a union of the Indians against the whites—should not have looked to the Molallas (an offshoot of the Cayuses) for the first notification of the combination that, two months previously, had secured so favorable a result in the Governor to send Hon. Jesse Applegate to attempt the winter journey to California under the escort of Capt. Levi Scott and sixteen picked men, in order to lay before the commander of the U. S. army in California the threatening condition of affairs here, and our great need of arms and ammunition at least. The effort then made to get much-needed assistance failed by the unknown obstacles of snow covering an unknown route, and the endurance of the little company who made the attempt is another "fact" of history which few have ever heard of, and if told now might be put down with the affair of the Abiqua as "the romance of history."—There is no one who knows better than ex-Gov. Curry that the early pioneers of Oregon were men of action rather than of skill in writing, hence there is many a lively incident which, put on paper, might have been handed down as "facts of history," but will pass down the stream of family tradition, and in after times be rated as "romance."—Messrs. Geor, Caplinger, Brown, King, Hunt, Stanley, and others, give us all the facts of the Abiqua affair! There is not yet anything like a complete history of the settlement of Oregon, and facts yet given, well authenticated, will not be too late for the making up of the final record. J. MINTO.

Value of Rape Seed.

Below we publish an article taken from the Land and Water, a newspaper published at Berlin, New Zealand. If, as the article states, the cultivation of Rape will eradicate thistles, it is something worth knowing to our Oregon farmers. Rape has already been introduced into Oregon by Mr. S. G. Reed, and we learn it is one of the most profitable crops raised. Planted in drills, and worked with a horse hoe, it answers for a summer-fallow, besides affording large quantities of green food for sheep and hogs after the grass dries up. If we are correctly informed, Mr. Reed saved quite a quantity of seed from his last year's crop:

The Berlin correspondent of Land and Water records that rape being sown near thistles, the latter will be completely eradicated. "Whoever knew," he says, "of two plants being so inimical to one another as to kill the other by a mere touch? This, however, seems to be the case when rape grows near the thistle. If a field is infested with thistles, give it a turn of rape seed, and this plant will altogether starve, suffocate, and chill the thistle out of existence. A trial was made with different varieties of rape seed, in square plots, when it was found that the whole ground was full of thistles, and nobody believed that the rape was having a fair run. But it had, and as it grew the thistle vanished, faded, turned gray, and dried up, as soon as the rape leaves began to touch it. Other trials were made, and the thistle had always to give in and was altogether annihilated, whether old and fully developed or young and tender."

Elder David Brower will preach at the Simmons school house, (Salem Hills) the 2d Sunday of each month, and at the Stipp school house (Waldo Hills) the 3d Sunday of each month, and at the North Howell prairie school house on the 4th Sunday of each month.

The Cultivator has merged into the WILLAMETTE FARMER. This as it should be. THE FARMER is a good paper, in fact, one of the best agricultural papers in the United States, and deserves success.—West Shore.

The revised premium list of the Washington County Agricultural Society will be out soon. In the two-year old races, single dash of three-fourths of a mile, the entrance is \$10.

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Willamette Farmer.

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