

LETTERS FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 20, 1877.

In my last I spoke of the fruits of this market—in this one I will speak of the vegetables. Not long since I took a stroll through the leading market here. I there saw green beans, peas, and almost all kinds of early vegetables. I also saw strawberries "of a forced growth;" they have the color and looks of a good strawberry, but are insipid in point of flavor. They meet with ready sales.

The beef which is brought to this market does not compare very favorably with that found in the Salem market. Occasionally a band of Eastern Oregon cattle reaches this market, and a well known dealer informs us that they are invariably the finest that reach here. I understand that they come via Winnemucca, Nevada. They are driven to that place and then shipped by cars the rest of the way. But often they come the entire distance on foot, and then arrive here in splendid order. This most surely speaks highly of Eastern Oregon, and we hope to see the day—which cannot be far distant—arrive when the city of San Francisco shall get the bulk of her meats from Eastern Oregon. Not that there is any possibility of our getting to eat any of it—for, if we know ourselves aright, we will wait till we return to old Oregon.

The steamer Chester, which arrived last week from the North, was quarantined upon her arrival at this port. A passenger speaks of the matter as an "unfounded outrage," and from the facts as ascertained I am inclined to his belief. The steamed passenger speaks in the highest praise of the steamer and her officers—as to her seaworthiness we can vouch.

The streets are literally thronged with people shopping in behalf of the coming holidays. Decorations are now in order, and "nice little" trees are peeping out of every corner. We have purchased a "toy one," as its capacity is sufficient to manage all our socks, etc. There is nothing like going through the ceremony, even if one is away from home.

The steamer Geo. W. Elder, will sail Saturday, for Portland; quite a number of Salemites and Oregonians will return on her, among whom we notice Mrs. J. J. Murphy and daughter, and Col. T. B. Riskey.

Our old friend Dave Fleischman is still here and looks a trifle paler than when we saw him last in Salem. He has not had a vacation since he commenced work here—is of the opinion that he will make Salem a visit in the Spring; he works for L. Wertheimer & Co.

The other day we visited the stock yards of Mr. Rollin P. Saxe, who advertises in this paper, and we were surprised at the magnitude of, and the facilities afforded for the selling and buying fine stock as well as lower grades. It is one of the institutions of this city.

We have met with a great many old friends from Oregon since our arrival here.

The "working men" still hold forth and the Chinamen still survive. There is a steady immigration to China and we hear of two vessels being chartered to carry back some of the discouraged Celestials—but still they seem to be as thick as usual in China town.

The different places of amusement are running with tolerable fair performers—the "Black Crook" at the California; "St. Slocum" at Bush Street; and "Two Orphans" at Baldwin's. The attendance is very good. W. J. C.

CHRISTMAS IN SALEM.

The Christmas just passed in Salem, if not as noisy and boisterous as usual, was most solidly enjoyed by family dinners, social reunions, Christmas trees, and an impromptu hop at the Opera House.

On the "eve before Christmas" the Baptist and Episcopal denominations had a Christmas tree, or its "equivalent." At the BAPTIST CHURCH,

After the crowd of laughing, expectant children had been seated and partially hushed, all eyes were centered on the "bowers" loaded with presents. Shortly afterwards the merry jingle of sleigh bells was heard on the outside, and a few moments later St. Nick, clad in furs from head to toe, entered the room, and after paying his respects to the officers of the Sabbath School and shaking hands with many of the children, entered the bower and commenced handing out the gifts. "Such a time," as one little fairy remarked to us, "as we believed her."

MUSIC AND A PRETTY CHRISTMAS TREE loaded with ornamental and useful presents, which were received in ancient form and manner, made the Christmas Eve festivities at this church simply pleasing and delightful.

GOOD TEMPLAR HALL. What a jam. Even early in the evening people commenced coming and by the time Dr. C. H. Hall commenced the delivery of his address the hall was packed to the point of suffocation. Following the address which was a fine one, and delivered in the doctor's usual happy vein, those present were favored with a short address from Mr. Smith of Indiana, who made some fine allusions and pleasant remarks.

Then came the distribution. Accents of surprise mingled with peals of merriment as each received a surprisingly nice gift or an ingenious riddle, resounded through the room. After the trees were stripped a social reunion took place in the hall, of the more staid portion of the party, while the "gay and particularly festive" portion of the lodges adjourned to the Opera House with their friends, and indulged in

A DELIGHTFUL HOP. Until the "wonderful" music furnished by Prof. H. Diamond's string band, was good; the crowd was not large enough for a "society" and everybody seemed to think it was the nicest and wisest dance of the season. Vale Christmas, 1877.

Weatherford & Co., the popular druggists, remembered this office pleasantly, as is their old-time custom on the recurrence of the Holidays. "The liberal soul shall be made fat," is the scriptural promise that applies to James.

The number of marriage licenses issued in Multnomah county since the first of January, 1877, are 147.

Letter from Hon. Wm. Cyrus.

Scio, Dec. 25, 1877.

ED. FARMER: When you last heard from me, I was in Cincinnati, Ohio, attending the eleventh annual session of the National Grange. Since which time I have re-crossed the mountains, and plains, and am again in my mountain retreat. Happy in the thought that nothing has gone seriously wrong with me, mine, or my neighbors, during my two months' absence.

The National Grange held a harmonious and I think a profitable session of ten days' duration, adjourning on the 30th November, agreeing to hold the 12th annual session in Richmond, Virginia, commencing on the third Wednesday in November, 1878. At I will say that it might help to satisfy some dissatisfied Patron with Oregon, to take that trip. Many dissatisfied Oregonians know not of what they complain. During our stay in the Queen City of the West, we had not six hours of sun, and it rained or snowed nearly every day, no Oregon weather was ever more disagreeable. We passed St. Joseph, Mo., and reached Omaha, in a snow storm coming from the north upon the wing of such a wind as the Willamette valley never experienced during a snow fall; and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, soon after daylight farmers were seen from car windows in their fields with teams, gathering corn. Complain, if you like, of Oregonians harvesting in the rain, but it cannot be worse than harvesting corn in such a snow as was seen and there blowing.

Crossing the Rocky Mountains, the snow was not deep, but the weather was very cold. At daylight, 180 miles this side the summit, the thermometer stood at fifteen degrees below zero, and no snow on the ground. At Cheyenne and Laramie City, it appeared to me to be much colder; the snow was from three to five inches deep. On the Sierras the snow was two and three feet deep, but as twenty-eight miles of the road is shaded and we passed the high mountain in the night, we felt no inconvenience. On reaching the Sacramento valley, the weather resembled Oregon's early September, except the absence of vegetation. On the 12th of December there had not been rain enough to start grass to do any good; on land where grain has been sown in the dust, and well put in, it was just appearing above the surface. Farmers in that State were then fearing another drouth. But how changed as we neared and traversed Oregon. In Rogue River valley the grass was starting nicely; in Umpqua the grass was sufficient for stock to be doing fine; and in the Willamette we have had a little too much of a good thing, but better too much than not enough. WILLIAM CYRUS.

The Palouse Country.

PINE CREEK, W. T., Dec. 5, 1877.

Emigration to the Palouse country still keeps coming, notwithstanding old Joseph's hostilities, but I think it must surely stop now, as winter has set in and the old gent has commenced picking his goose, for a shower of white down is coming from the clouds. Snow is some two inches deep, and still it comes. The youngsters have already commenced brushing up their cutters.

Anyone wishing to come to Whitman county would do well to take the Palouse Gazette. I say Whitman county, for there is more tillable land in Whitman county than any other two counties in the Territory. Whitman county lies west of the Coeur d'Alene mountains. It is a rolling, rich country, almost every foot of it good, rich soil. Some of it is too broken for cultivation. There are small streams putting out of the mountains winding their way through the rich soil. Water is plenty as there are springs all over the county. West of the Coeur d'Alene mountains, about 35 miles, is Rock Creek, running southwest, and considerable of timber on it. Between the two points mentioned it is almost destitute of timber. West of Rock Creek is used as a grazing region. There are a good many places yet to be taken close to the timber. WM. ALKIRE.

"SEASICKNESS"—Under this head, in our issue of Nov. 9, Mr. D. M. Morris wrote a short and well expressed account of his voyage to San Francisco, and touched properly and pleasantly upon the horrors of "seasickness." He also noticed Astoria in a very proper way. He sends a communication in which he replies to some would be humorous remarks of "Aunt Hepzy," suggested by his communication, taking exceptions to what he seems to think was an attempt to ridicule him, which we do not think was the intention of "Aunt Hepzy." We think he has a right to object to his name being used at it was, and we make this respectful mention of his objection in preference to publishing what might lead to further controversy, which we should decline, at all events.

At the last meeting of Beaverton Grange, (Washington county) the officers elect were as follows: M. M. L. Nicholas; O. R. F. Wilmut; L. G. Hornbuckle; S. Wm. Tucker; C. Mrs. C. Hornbuckle; T. W. O. Hockens; S. T. Tucker; G. K. Miss Maggie McKay; Caree, Miss Della Tucker; Pomona, Miss Zantia Fanno; Flora, Miss Jane Tucker; I. A. S. Miss Viola Robinson. These officers will be publicly installed the first Saturday in January.

THE MARKETS.

The Wheat Market.

There is no change yet in prices. The market is weaker for shippers, but prices are kept up by millers, who are now in the field as purchasers. Freight is advanced, or at least higher rates are charged for cargoes, though there is yet abundant shipping to the river waiting to be loaded. We do not learn that any change whatever, has taken place in the Liverpool market and though conditions are somewhat changed it may be said that the market remains as before. Salem mills W. J. Heron, at Farmers' version, continue to offer \$1.11 1/2 per bushel. (As is as before, the market weak, and 47 1/2 cents per bushel offered for shipment.)

The Salem Markets.

Dec. 28, 1877. Wheat at Salem mills \$1.11 1/2 per bushel. Oats for shipment 47 1/2 cents per bush. Hay is high, and some parties are purchasing on the Columbia river at \$14 per ton, and bringing up for use here. The retail market is exorbitant, sales being sold at \$1.50 per cent. Loose Hay may be quoted \$18 to \$20 per ton, with some coming in. Bran is \$3 per ton. Shorts \$30 per ton. The holiday demand for butter and eggs will soon be over and prices must decline. Butter is quoted 25 cts. to 30 cts. per lb., at d

eggs 25 cts to 30 cts per dozen. Potatoes 30 cts to 37 1/2 cts per bush. Apples for shipment in good demand at 40 cts and per bush will send to the country after them at that.

European Grain Market.

London, Dec. 25.—The Mark Lane Exchange in its review of the British corn trade says the aspect of the winter sown wheat plant gives rise to no complaint, but its too rapid development may render it more sensitive to the action of frost later on. In the present scarcity of roots and winter fodder, the weather and greenness of the pastures are favorable for stock raising. The approach of the holidays has exercised the usual quieting effect upon the grain trade. Business has been confined to the sale of immediate requirements of millers, and as a rule prices are fairly sustained. Large arrivals of American grain from Atlantic ports, in a few instances to a slight extent, but it has been scarcely quotable, and as Baltic ports are now closed, there is no alteration in Russian wheats. Stocks on hand are large and imports from India show no diminution, while the export movement continues fairly active, and a healthy tone animates the market. In maize, last week's prices for grinding have been fully supported. Barley and oats have given way slightly.

Philad 10th, Dec 26.—Wool quiet, supply light, & unchanged. But n. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Full prices sustained for all grades of domestic wool. Sales have been of fair average for this season of the year with fair prospect of increased demand after first of January. Medium X fleeces, have been most in demand and there is scarcity of desirable grades of combing and delaine and good lots of super and X pulled are difficult to find. Sales in choice. Ohio, Pennsylvania fleeces, 44@46 for medium X, and XX Wisconsin and Michigan fleeces, 40@42 for good and choice lots and 50@55 for combing and delaine fleeces. California wool is in fair demand at 14X22 for fall, and 20@36 for spring, super and X pulled wool 30@55 for low and choice and an occasional lot of very choice super at 4@47.

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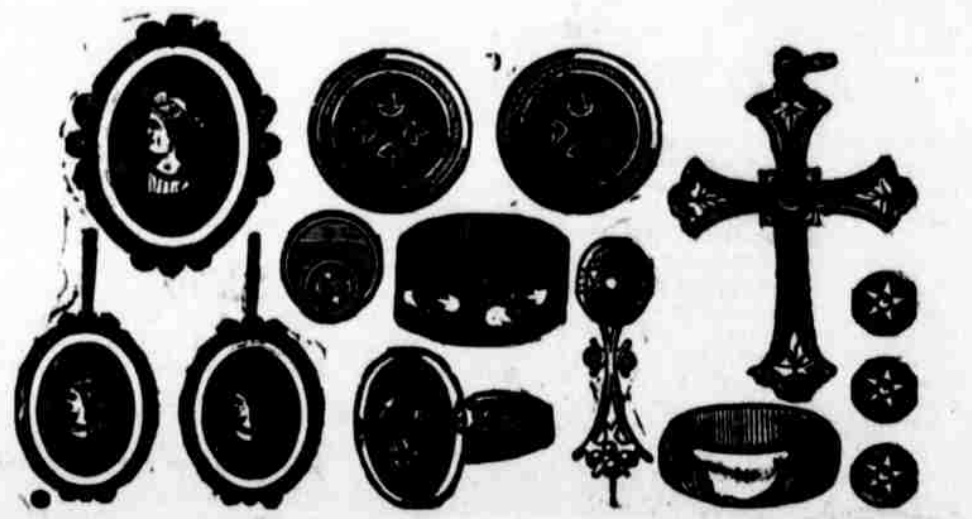
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