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INFORMATION WANTED.

The WILLAMETTE FARMER desires information of the whereabouts of

SQUIRE DUNCAN.

Late of Tangent. We want about \$15 worth of information, that being the amount he owes us. He probably only needs a gentle reminder, when found, and will pay his debt, and when he pays we will give him public credit. He has left Tangent we are told, and left without satisfying his debt to us.

Also

D. W. ELLIOTT.

Late of Summerville, Union county, is among the missing, and we have the same interest in him, and to the same amount, as in Squire Duncan.

We would like very much to have

MR. J. HAYES.

Formerly of Lena, Umatilla county, call and leave his address with some postmaster, to be forwarded to us. We are much concerned, and fear the Indians have got him—will give \$5 for his release, if that is the case. He only owes us \$22.25. We will sell it cheap. These are large ones, but here is one of only \$6—the cause of this is

MR. E. L. CADY.

Of Harrisburg; that was where we sent the paper. But he don't get it now—we have stopped the paper.

To be plain about it, we wish to make it known, wherever these men may be, that they have treated us in this way—never paid what they owe—and if they will remit they can depend upon it that they shall have due credit.

There are many others who are several years in arrears to us, but we hope they will pay up without requiring a public reminder, and next fall we shall close all accounts, and if delinquents will not answer our call any other way, we may have to name them publicly.

ORIGIN OF THE MERINO SHEEP.

Mr. E. Oldendorff, who was commissioner from the Argentine Republic, to the Centennial exposition, and is now editor of a German newspaper in this city, wrote a very able and learned article on the above topic for the Bulletin of the National Association of Woolen Manufacturers, which has been republished in several leading journals. As hairy sheep have occasionally been found in pure merino flocks, he concludes it is not a freak of nature, but a law of reversion, and he sums up his lengthy paper on that interesting subject, as follows:

"To conclude my argument, I beg to recapitulate in short the aforesaid, viz.: That most likely the original coat of our sheep was hair and wool; that wool with neglect, exposure, and hard pastures, will turn back into hair; that hairy lambs are born very frequently in pure merino flocks; that all the ancient authors on sheep agree that there were two very distinct breeds of sheep already at a very early date (long, smooth, and glossy woolled the one, short woolled and crimped the other); that most likely importations of the long woolled sheep have taken place at a very early date into Spain; that, later on, smooth, glossy, and long woolled English sheep were introduced into Spain, and finally that crosses between the English and merino sheep of certain types will give offspring of a very soft, glossy, and long wool. I think after all this evidence I feel justified in saying that the birth of the original Mauchamp in a Merino-Rambouillet flock was not a freak of nature, not accidental, but most likely governed by a law—the law of reversion—going back to a source we know not how remote."

Not \$5,000,000.

The State papers are publishing a story that the Northwestern Railway and Navigation Company have paid five million dollars for the property of the O. S. N. Co. The fact is that the nominal stock of that corporation is five million dollars, but no such price was paid for it. It would be a safe guess to put the purchase price at not to exceed two millions, and we have an intimation that that was about the price paid. Five millions are not picked up every day and it is not every steamboat company that is worth five millions. It is ridiculous that newspapers pretending to have common sense should publish such extravagant rumors.

Our old friend John Millard, of Albany, left at our office this week a small box of the most delicious strawberries we ever ate, which were exquisite in flavor, delicate, and we judge "not transferable," in great quantity, but if a body had them in a garden to pick as wanted to be eaten there could not possibly be anything more desirable. If "God never made a better berry than the strawberry," this must have been the kind.

FROM WASCO COUNTY.

Our old friend Davis Shannon, of Howell Prairie, returned this week from a visit to Wasco county, where he spent two weeks with old friends who used to be his neighbors as citizens of Silverton or Howell Prairie. He spent the time on Ten Mile Creek and Fifteen Mile Creek, and comes back well delighted with the country which he says is fast settling up and proves very productive for grain and especially so for fruit. He says the finest wheat fields are now found on the bluffs, where new farms are made and the land proves excellent. There is some difficulty in procuring fencing, as timber is twenty miles distant, but they use post and rail fence, or post and wire. The land is not all taken up yet and many new settlers can find homes and good land to cultivate, within a few miles of Dalles City. He gives us some account of the prosperity of the friends he visited.

Watkins, formerly of Silverton, is well fixed, has about 50 acres of grain on Fifteen Mile Creek, and a fine band of horses and lots of sheep.

E. J. Cooper, formerly of Silverton, has a splendid place on Ten Mile Creek, where his orchard of 3000 peach trees look magnificent, and will bear about 300 bushels of fruit. Mr. Cooper is very prosperous and his orchard shows no mossy trunks, and his apple trees look bright and healthy. He has 4,500 sheep and 500 head horses, and seems to have every thing he wants.

Geo. H. Barrett, who used to live at Silverton, has a good place on Fifteen Mile Creek, with 60 acres of wheat looking splendidly, 150 head of cattle, some sheep and a very fine orchard. His old friends will be glad to know that he is doing well.

Sylvester Simmons, formerly of Howell Prairie, has a good place on Fifteen Mile Creek, with 60 acres in wheat; he has but just commenced with good prospects.

Eastern Oregon Wool.

The East Oregonian says:

"Mr. J. E. Hackett has placed on our table ten different samples of wool clipped from his band of ewes this season, all of which are equal to any samples of wool we have ever seen. The wool is clean and looks almost as if it had been scoured, and notwithstanding it is generally said that Eastern Oregon wool is to a great extent injured by alkali, these samples prove that it is only necessary to take proper care of sheep, and as good wool in all respects can be grown in this country anywhere at less cost and more of it to the sheep. Mr. Hackett sheared 1,780 ewes, 1,350 of them with spring lambs, and from them clipped 15,830 lbs of clean nice wool, an average of nearly nine pounds to the ewe. This wool he sold for eighteen cents a pound at the corral, netting Jimmy the snug sum of \$2,849.40, this too without any chances of loss to him. If our farmers would adopt this plan of selling their wool at home, we think they would find it to their advantage, for it would have a tendency to bring buyers here, and when once here, a competition among buyers would get better prices and the purchaser would have to take all chances and run all risks. These speculators who take wool to sell on commission must all make a profit and if buyers direct from the factories come here to buy, the wool-grower will be saved this commission of from two and one-half to five per cent. and will not be compelled to pay the interest they have heretofore paid on advances and be delayed for several months every clip."

While Mr. Hackett did well with his wool we happen to know that another lot of Eastern Wool, brought to Portland by the owners netted them 23 1/2 cents here, and as it is not possible that it costs 5 1/2 cents a pound to ship wool from his corral to Portland, Mr. Hackett can form his own opinion as to whether he did better to sell at home or bring his wool to market himself. The WILLAMETTE FARMER has given the particulars of the wool market more reliably than any other Journal, from the first of the season, and we venture to say that if Mr. Hackett had read the FARMER and acted on the information received, if his wool is as good and fine as represented, he could have cleared from \$300 to \$400 thereby. In the next place the reliable commission merchants of this city are not "speculators," but work fairly for their consignors, and further we venture to say that no agent of any foreign factory has been to Umatilla County, so there was no competition there. We work for the wool-grower against the world, and we believe every wool-grower in Oregon or Washington should take the FARMER, and would make money by it. We have removed to Portland expressly to be where we could study the markets, and we give them from the producers standpoint and not from that of the merchant or speculator.

COMMENCEMENT AT STATE UNIVERSITY.

EUGENE CITY, Or., June 17, 1879.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

In all probability your many readers will be pleased to hear of the commencement exercises at this place. So far your correspondent has been warned to keep clear of the halls of learning, where anxiety sits enthroned upon the brow of the timid, joy and mirth rippling over the faces of the more self-reliant. But we are glad to say, so thorough has been the work of both teacher and pupil, that "fail" is almost unknown.

Our first visit was to Prof. Straub's department class in Progressive Higher Arithmetic, where the pupils showed how thoroughly they had been taught. It was really gratifying to follow them, as page after page was reviewed, and not one rule or question incorrectly answered. We congratulate the Board of Regents on having so proficient a teacher.

Notwithstanding the fact that we hear that "boys are more profound thinkers, better this, that and the other thing," still we must say that the young ladies rather excelled.

The class in German seemed mostly new beginners, hardly knowing if they were right or wrong, answering with much hesitancy. Some few who had been studying it longer answered as if it were the native tongue, doing the Professor much credit.

The class in Latin Reader was listened to with much pleasure.

We find Prof. Condon a very amiable, accommodating, enthusiastic and intelligent man, one we are proud to number as one of the Faculty. One of his amber specimens is a perfect beauty, and has a fly in it, clear as crystal. His collection of native birds is very fine, also shells, etc. So vast is his collection that it would require far more time to examine and tell of the curiosities, and more space than your friendly columns could allow.

We were just a little late for a peep into Mrs. Spiller's department, but were just in time to witness the pleasant exercise of calisthenics. The little folks rather excel the intermediate in this exercise.

We spent some two hours in Prof. Bailey's room. The class in trigonometry passed a very creditable examination. So kind, so genial, so good is this man, that all the ambition and good there is in a pupil is brought to the front, and he is impelled forward by a thirst for knowledge. Although we have hints (privately given, though), of secret understandings between teacher and pupils when visitors are present, still we will not admit that such is the case at our State University, as the average standing is something over 90—100 being the standard of perfection. We very much enjoyed listening to the advanced ideas of the Professor, one main one being that men and women must have the same degree of education.

It is being strongly urged to allow only three studies instead of the five to seven as has formerly been allowed. This we think a step in the right direction, and will do away with the cramming process so prevalent on this Coast.

The class in zoology, under Prof. Condon, passed a very creditable examination so far as classification, Latin names, etc. were concerned, yet it was somewhat painful to notice with what diffidence the practical was applied. Names are remembered much more readily than the real object of the Latin name. It is something like teaching a child his alphabet without the letters. He can say a, b, c, but place them before him and he does not know what it is p i g. You see it is a lack of a practical understanding. Please do not infer that all the class exhibited this lack of the practical, for assuredly many of them were very thorough, and do the Professor much credit.

At the exercises of the preparatory department, at 7:30 P. M., we find the auditorium beautifully decorated, and between eight hundred and a thousand present. Being rather below the medium height of humanity, please pardon wherein we fail in description, for verily our eyes were on a level with the sea of shoulders in front.

General Calisthenics first. The young ladies were dressed in white; little girls white dresses, slippers and pink stockings. Our inward exclamation was, "Oh! the little fairies!" The boys and girls all carried bags of sand, about a pound in weight, on their heads; those of the former were red, those of the latter white, and almost covered with wreaths of flowers and ivy. The declamation of D. W. Clarke was rather good and showed careful training. Paper read by J. McCornac and E. Potter could not be called a success; reading only passable. The Mellow Horn by Miss Boise's class was very pretty for the little folks. The Heathen Chinee, by Darwin Bristol, was remarkably well spoken, and brought down the house. Shamus O'Brien,

by Lewis Potter, was splendidly declaimed, although spoken a little too fast. Declamation by Joseph Whiteny, showed a careful training in gestures and elocution, and was good. Extracts from Hebrew Poetry, by some thirty-five pupils from Mrs. Spiller's room was good—and spoke of the excellence of that lady as teacher. Solo, by Mrs. J. P. Hemenway, was most beautifully sung. This talented lady seems to be a general favorite with the people of Eugene, and well she deserves the plaudits of an admiring people.

After recess music by the String Band. We must say if there is one thing Eugene lacks, it is good music. We presume she will have it in time, as the different bands do a good deal of practicing and some serenading. Dora Camp, Anna Patterson and Walter Eakin, were unable to go through with their part on the programme, being so unfortunate as to be sick. Kentucky Bill, by Mary Dorris, was beautifully spoken by this little pet or fairy of Eugene. The shower of bouquets and burst of applause told well the appreciation of the audience. Some folks, sung by the little people from Miss Boise's room was well rendered, and the little folks seemed to like it very much. A declamation by John Hemenway was the best (O, hardly either), of the evening; it was comic; was well spoken; represented an old Dutch lady in trouble with her man; she "scratched his hair and pulled out his eyes, and he don't did conciliate at all." This young man shows a great deal of elocutionary talent. High Tides, by Miss Anna Pengra, was admirably recited. Johnny Schmoker, sung by the little folks from Miss Boise's room, again brought down the house. Paper, read by Misses E. Cogswell and M. Underwood, was well read and good.

"Excellior," by the prize class, was a perfect success.

We cannot call the "class farewell" by both departments a success; it is surely not suited to so many little and big voices.

The commencement exercises of the collegiate department occurred on the evening of June 19. The first to appear was Miss Mary Hays, who was very handsomely dressed in white. Her subject was "Our Aspirations," and we will give a few quotations from it:

"As prisoners in castles look out of their grated windows at the smiling landscape, where the sun comes and goes, so we from this life, as from dungeon bars, look to the heavenly land that shall be ours when we are free. In every soul there is an innate desire which is continually drawing us onward, lifting us to plains of higher thought and feeling—a desire for a life and deeds better, higher and nobler than any we have hitherto lived. The human mind must have a standard of some kind placed before it, whether it be high or low, ordinary or extraordinary, to which it is striving to lift itself. Let them be to us as the lighthouse is to the sailor near the rock-bound coast; so long as the lamp is kept trimmed and burning, it sends its beams far across the treacherous, turbulent waves of old ocean, ever and at the same time, both pointing with its warning fingers to the rocks and shoals at its feet and offering to guide the weary mariner into the friendly harbor near at hand."

The oration by John McGinn, "Oregon—Past and Present," was very good, although his delivery and gestures could be much improved. The essay by Miss Julia Adams was a fine production.

In reference to the orations, each one showed that they missed the drill in elocution and gestures under Mrs. Spiller. Mr. Percy's valedictory was very good.

Miss C. Cornelius was very becomingly dressed in white. Her subject was "Windings of Life's Pathway." She read in a clear, distinct tone. We quote a few lines:

"As the great tablets of rocks and carvings of the glacier beds are leaves in nature's long revelation of life, which tell the epoch of her history, so man in his ever-winding pathway at every turn leaves sculpture and signs by which we may know where and what he may have been. In grotesque cliff or gentle slope we may find the impress of the passion of a moment. Suspended down like heavenly garlands from the throne of the Creator, at regularly recurring intervals along the high-ways of life are symbols which guide, star-like, our souls far into the depths of life's mysteries."

Mrs. I. L. HILLBARY.

Sabbath School Convention Postponed.

The Executive Committee of the General Sabbath School Convention, proposed to be held at Salem July 1-4, find that they must postpone the convention to October, two or three days before the annual State Fair.

Oregon, Washington and Idaho papers will confer a favor by publishing this notice.

G. H. ATKINSON,
Cor. Sec. S. S. Convention.
PORTLAND, June 10, 1879.

Cultivators and Plows.

COTTAGE GROVE, June 16th, 1879.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

In answer to an inquiry in the FARMER in regard to cultivators, I would say: That Van Brunt & Davis' seed sower is good to cultivate corn, potatoes, and fallow ground, in fact it is a good thing to kill weeds (especially sorrel) and to loosen up the ground that has been well plowed during the winter or spring. By having regard to the width of the machine and plant the crop just wide enough apart so when the horses and machine stands astride of one row the wheels of the seeder will stand just inside of the rows on each side. Then set the center plow back and up so it will not hurt the plants. Then go ahead, and one man can clean as much corn in one day as three could with a shovel plow.

I also notice that the Grangers propose to discuss the question: Which is the best plow to use. Now I propose that the best way to kill the majority of trash that preoccupies our ground (our ground is not worn out, but preoccupied) is to smother or strangle it. And I propose that the Oliver Chilled with a jointer will cover the trash the deepest and the most perfectly and complete. And being the cheapest and most durable and lightest draft, it is the best plow for the majority of farmers to use.

But some hill land that will not bear deep plowing is too sticky for the Oliver, then the Garden City and Moline comes in, and are splendid and nice to handle, but are too expensive for general use.

I noticed one man speaking, some time ago in the FARMER, of the ashes of straw as manure. Now if it were the ashes that made his grain grow so, the surrounding fields would have received almost equal benefit with the place where the straw was burnt. Doubtless the ashes did good wherever distributed, but it was the destruction of the seeds and rootlets which preoccupied the soil, that made the great difference. And that is the case where brush heaps are burned on new ground.

The folks about Row-town are fixing for a grand celebration. Yours truly,
J. P. TAYLOR.

Important to Donation Claimants.

Oregon City Enterprise says: We are informed that as soon as Dr. Watts receives his commission as receiver of the land office, the register and receiver will issue a notice to those who took claims under the old donation act of Sept. 27th, 1850, or their legal representatives, and have not furnished a definite location of their claims in connection with the public surveys, requiring them to do so within thirty days, and also those who have not made final proof will be required to do so within six months. In those cases where the requirements of the notice shall not have been complied with within the period specified, the claims will be held for cancellation. This notice will be given pursuant to instructions from the commissioner of the general land office.

From Washington County.

SCHOLL'S FERRY, June 23, 1879.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

By request I will give you a few items from this part of the county.

In regard to crops I never saw a better prospect for a large yield of both fall and early-sown spring wheat and oats. The wheat looks as if it would yield from 20 to 30 bushels per acre. But a small amount of oats was sown early, but what was looks as well as it can at this time of year. The late-sown grain looks well, but a very dry, hot summer might make it a little short. That is something we do not look for in this State—the best place in the world.

A horrible accident occurred a few days ago. Mr. Grable, living near Minter Bridge, went out to mow some grass for his horses, and set his scythe over the fence. He then climbed over, and as he got down on the opposite side of the fence he slipped and fell with his knee on the scythe, cut the knee cap off, and nearly unjointed his leg.

A large black bear was killed this week by R. K. Ennes, in company with J. McCurneen. It has been in the neighborhood for several years, living on pork, mutton and apples, but all efforts to get him had heretofore proved failures. A SUBSCRIBER.

Marion County Pomona Grange.

The next regular meeting of Marion County Pomona Grange will be held on Friday, July 4, at the Grange Hall in Salem, commencing at 11 o'clock A. M.—that is, if a quorum convene on that day.

E. STROGO, Secretary.
SALEM, Or., June 23, 1879.

At Foot of Chehalem Mountain.

LAUREL, Washington Co., June 18.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

I became a reader of your paper by chance, as I was formerly a subscriber to the Bee, and an very well satisfied with the change, and as my time of subscription is out I still wish to take the FARMER.

As this section of the country is entirely neglected, I am prompted to try and write.

Laurel P. O. is situated on the foot of Chehalem mountain, nine miles south of Hillsboro, eighteen miles west of Portland, in a good, fertile region. This is a new part of the country, but we have churches and school houses plenty, and we have a flourishing Union Sabbath school in our neighborhood, and intend having a Union Sabbath School picnic next Saturday. We shall have a banner, with a motto on it to read: "UNION SABBATH SCHOOLS—IN GOD WE TRUST."

I think this is as good a country for fruit growing and vegetables, as there is in Oregon, and as for grain, it looks well this season, but our land is hazel brush and timber land mostly, and needs cultivation two or three years before it is fit for small grain.

J. W. M.

The County Map Question.

MCMINVILLE, June 14, 1879.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Having seen in the West Shore a brief allusion to a certain Atlas or Map of Marion and Linn Counties, as not giving satisfaction to those who have purchased them, I determined to make an inquiry, which I did, while at the State Grange, and there learned that such was the case. Now there are a great many who have subscribed for the same Atlas to which is to be added a map of Washington, Yamhill and Polk counties, and if the same defect is to attend the second edition I should be glad to know if there is any remedy for such an outrage upon the unsuspecting inhabitants of our State. I would be glad to hear from those who read the FARMER about this matter, as to the satisfaction given; and to propose a remedy.

Yours,
B. F. FULLER.

FROM TURNER.

TURNER, June 21st, 1879.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

Campmeeting commenced here to-day.

Three Celestials have rented a house in this place and will "wash, wash;" and we begin to look forward to the time when sufficient of the institutions of civilized society will be ours that we may begin to put on city airs.

The Turner dramatic and literary society has rented a hall in Cromwell's building and that institution has now a "local habitation and a name."

Only one hotel in Turner.

The rain that came on the evening of the 21st, to lay the dust, still continues to-day. The hill farmers say, crops need rain; the low-land farmers say they don't. But all unite in the assertion that crops are very promising.

Wagons and agricultural machinery of various kinds are being displayed in this place. Eastern made of course. Small wonder that we complain of money stringencies. All the Oregonian's money goes to buy that which he could make himself, and how can he expect to have money, and send it East too?

Wheat Cleaners and Horse Powers.

About this time you should read the advertisement of Mr. Thomas Holman, of Salem, who manufactures the best kind of wheat cleaners and has for sale a few of the well known Pelton Horse Powers. Probably there is no man in Oregon that can do you more good in that line of goods, and when you patronize him you aid a home industry.

Death of Mrs. Crump.

At a meeting of Salem Grange, June 7th, the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, the Death Angel has again visited Salem Grange and removed our worthy Sister Tabitha Crump, therefore,

Resolved, That by her death the Grange has lost an exemplary, a faithful and devoted member.

Resolved, That the relatives have our heartfelt sympathy in their sad bereavement.

Resolved, That these resolutions be entered in the records, and that a copy be furnished the FARMER for publication.

ELISHA STROGO, Secretary.

OUR Salem subscribers will bear in mind that Samuel W. Church, at the Money Order window, Salem, has full authority to receipt for monies on our account. Call and see him.

Our good turn deserves another; but a shirt-collar is only capable of two.