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OREGON PIONEER HISTORY.

SKETCHES OF EARLY DAYS.—MEN AND TIMES IN THE FORTIES.

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John Dunn, who was apprenticed to the Hudson Bay Company, and was eight years with that company in Oregon, wrote a volume on Oregon in 1844, detailing the methods of that company, and intended to establish its claim to territory. This book is as radically British as some others written about the same time were American, and possesses interest now as showing how the violent partisans on that side looked at matters. He details some incidents worth perpetuating, for instance, a vessel under a Captain Thompson, was in the river trading for furs and salmon and got aground. The Indians mustered from various quarters to attempt its capture. The Americans, they said, had given them cause and they wanted revenge by taking a ship of that nation. They supposed that the Hudson's Bay Company would not object to having a rival in trade removed, but Dr. McLoughlin heard of their intention and dispatched a party to their camp to inform them that to injure an American would be the same to him as if they injured his people. "This stunned them and they relinquished their purpose." The incident shows Dr. McLoughlin in his true light.

Dunn also tells that a party of Americans was murdered on the way to California, near the line—no doubt meaning the Rogue Rivers. They claimed that Americans had killed some of their people, and thus took revenge. This may relate to the story Hawkshurst told, given in a former paper, to account for the implacable hatred of that tribe toward the whites. They tracked this party for days, and finally ambushed them in a mountain trail, where they could not escape or make a defense. They killed horses and men, and they were slain unresistingly. Two men survived of all the company. As he tells it, this party was going to California from the Willamette settlements to purchase cattle there. As it was told by Laframboise, who was in charge of Hudson's Bay Company trapping parties in Southern Oregon at that time, it was probably true. But it would seem that if such a massacre happened it would have been given in accounts of the early settlers. The Indians learned some way that this party consisted of Americans only. It is possible they may have gotten this information from Laframboise or some of his men. How else? They might have given that information without knowing the use to be made of it, though it must have been known to them that all Americans lay under the ban of Rogue River hostility.

The only date we find in Dunn's book is on the title page. It was printed in 1844, but he does not tell what the years were when he served the Hudson Bay Company. He gives a description of Wapato island (Sauvie's) and of the Willamette settlement. It would seem that he was there from 1835 to 1843. He describes the falls of the Willamette and says the company was preparing to erect a mill there. The Willamette settlements were about fifty miles up from the Columbia. Dunn's prejudice is amusingly displayed in the following description: "The Americans make a great boast of this settlement as an American establishment, and speak of it in their public papers and speeches as if it were a settlement exclusively American, and founded by Americans, capable of being made the nucleus of a great community; that it is a most thriving colony; that it continues the right of possession to the government of the States; that it owes no favor to and is independent of the Hudson Bay Com-

pany; and there it stands, and will stand a memorial of American right; that it is the duty of the American government to protect it while it holds out every incentive to industrious and enterprising citizens to "join it." All this and much more has been said and written by gasconading traders on the passion and weakness of the populace about this vaunted establishment, and has been believed.

He speaks bitterly of American prejudice against "Britishers" and says: "Much of this misrepresentation and exaggerating nonsense has been believed, too, in England, simply because the public could not imagine that statements so pertinaciously reiterated could be without at least some foundation." Mr. Dunn announces in his preface that he proposes "to convey a fairer and more concentrated impression than all the American factious books that have been published on the subject."

In the preface he also says: "I was, from my knowledge of those Americans that trade on the coast or had squatted in the southwestern part of Oregon, or have lately been employed by the company as trappers, prepared to hear any monstrous assumptions of right set forth by the American populace, through their loco foco organs of the press," etc. No one can doubt that John Dunn entered on his work with an impartial spirit who reads his preface, to say nothing of the book.

His own account of Willamette settlements is given thus: "About seventeen or eighteen years ago, when the settlement at Vancouver, as the western headquarters of the company, acquired a distinguished and very prominent position, and became the rallying point for all the servants of the company, far and near; when the surrounding country became well explored; when from the long and undisputed possession of it by the company it began to be considered by the company's servants as British land—British, too, as to its climate and the capabilities of the soil—some of the company's servants, when they had determined to enjoy the tranquility of independent retirement after their long and arduous services, fixed on the banks of the Willamette as their last place of residence, rather than return to Canada, or Scotland, or England, from which they were weaned by long absence. The company gave every encouragement for the formation of a settlement, giving them stock, etc., to start with."

He goes on to specify that McKay made him a farm there, and a number of others opened farms without dissolving their relations with the company. By aid of the free trappers word spread to the States about this colony, and the company decidedly encouraged it.

Then he resumes: "The Americans, who had already made many attempts at a lodgement in the country, but on every occasion failed, either from their want of skill, or of capital, or of integrity in their dealings with the natives—whether they attempted fur trading companies or fishing companies—having never seen that a fair opportunity of securing a possession was open to them under the company's shelter, bethought them of dispatching missionaries, with the ostensible and benevolent view of giving religious culture to the rude and ill-educated servants of the company and the denizens of this growing little community."

"A few missionaries did arrive, and they, as becoming their professed purpose, received every encouragement and favor from the governor of Fort Vancouver—Dr. McLoughlin—and, as became their true purpose, commenced resident farmers, teaching, it is true, the natives the great elements of Christianity and forms of prayer, but using their gratuitous labor for the cultivation of their fields. These missionaries did not hide their lamp under a bushel; but on the contrary proclaimed their light before

all men, and sent to the States flattering accounts of their success. The consequence was that some adventurers with a little property were induced to brave the perils of the long and formidable journey—leaving millions of more fertile acres at home, requiring less capital and labor for cultivation—to the Oregon. Some of these settlers came in their real character as farmers, but they were very few. Others came in the guise of missionaries as their predecessors. Men who gave a little preaching as an equivalent for much bodily labor performed by the native converts. Some of them have located themselves in other districts and there are, by American writers, given the most pompous accounts—accounts, to those who are acquainted with the real facts, sometimes laughable and sometimes calculated to excite indignation and disgust—of American sentiments." When I was stationed at Vancouver and in the detached forts and in the trading ships, the excessively benevolent encouragement granted by the governor to the new importation of American residents, under the designation of missionary settlers, used to be freely discussed. There were two parties, the "patriot" and the "liberal." The arguments pro and con, may be summed up thus: The British or patriots, maintained that the governor was too chivalrously generous—that his generosity was thrown away—would be badly requited—that he was nursing a race of men who would by and by rise from their meek and humble position as the grateful acknowledgers of his kindness into the bold attitude of questioners of his own authority, and the British right to Vancouver itself. This party grounded their arguments on an appeal to the conduct and character of the Americans whom they had seen—especially the free trappers, and the remnants of American companies, which still dodged about the country. They did, too, take into account the missionaries who were then tried, and who, of course, did everything in their power to conciliate, at their first appearance on such a new stage, the good opinion of those whose applause or condemnation could retain, or expel them from the scene of their labors and prospects, had a very lively feeling for the improvement of the Indians in all the arts of civilization, and thought that if any attempts were made for the conversion of the natives to Christianity and to their adoption of more humanized institutions (which they limited to British institutions) a solid and permanent foundation should be laid—the Indians should not be instructed by halves—a thoroughly lasting system should be adopted towards them, which would make them not merely professed but practical Christians.

Leaving off considerable that Dunn says in this same strain we look for a moment at his so-called philosophic or liberal party. As to the American lynch law, and other usages which were repugnant to justice and humanity, they were rather exceptions to the American code than examples of American principles of legislation, which in commercial and civil matters was, generally speaking, just and humane, and from which even British legislation derived some useful hints.

So it appears that Dr. McLoughlin was severely criticised for kindness to Americans, and disputes raged high concerning his conduct. It is amusing to see how truly bigoted and British the subordinates could be while their chief was proving himself to be all that was humane and big-hearted—entirely above sect or nationality in his conduct towards his fellow men. When we look at all the circumstances that surrounded and attended him, how noble a specimen of manhood he presents, and how necessary it appears that his memory shall be handed down in the annals of time exactly as he was. We have heard our friend John Minto assert that he felt

that his life was better worth the living because he knew Dr. McLoughlin, for he was one of the noblest men it had ever been his fortune to meet. Minto had many and familiar occasions to know him without disguise; he personally experienced his kindness, and was the medium of its own bestowal upon others.

Mr. Dunn says that Willamette farms were of all sorts, represented by the log huts of some and comfortable homes of others. McKay had a farm there and had built a grist mill that cost \$10,000. He quotes Lieutenant Wilkes of the exploring expedition. He found sixty families there and was disappointed not to find many more from reports made to him. Dunn rejoices over this and figures upon it thus: "He says the number of families were sixty—not more. Of these, many were British subjects. So that the number of subjects of the United States were inconsiderable. The American missionaries were merely speculative small farmers. All are not thriving, but only the industrious." Dunn goes off then into a rhapsody based on his hope that there are not Americans enough to create any permanent sentiment. Poor Dunn! That was when a few stragglers and some missionaries and lay members were in that vicinity. Evidently Whitman had not piloted through the emigration of '43. How his virtuous soul must have been racked before this paragon of a book had earned a title page, to know that Americans had made them a wagon road across the continent and were coming to Oregon by thousands!

In Farnham, who whirled through Oregon in the course of his journey round the world in 1839, Mr. Dunn finds "a rampant anti-Britisher." He likes him for one thing, because he denies that the soil of Oregon is equal to California or the Mississippi valley. He is jealous of any American who would say a word to induce emigrants to come here from "the States."

It seems that a certain "Captain Young" was not on good terms with the Hudson's Bay Company, and as they would not sell him clothing he had to go naked or clothe himself in skins. This was probably Edwin Young, who came overland from California and afterwards brought cattle through from that State to Oregon. Young said a false report prevailed that he had committed dishonorable acts in California, and alleged that as the cause of this peculiar treatment, or they might object because he purchased a few beaver skins. Dunn says: "The company, so long as this man conducted himself properly as a free trader, gave him every assistance. Of this alleged dishonorable conduct (though reports to his discredit were circulated confidently about him by his own countrymen) the company took no cognizance. They judged as they had experience. The company interdicted, all through their range of operations in Oregon, the use of spirituous liquors as an article of trade among the natives, from a knowledge of its injurious effects upon them; or as an article of general use or luxury among their servants. Young, thinking a trade in spirits would be a good speculation, set up a distillery and began to induce not only the natives but also the servants of the company, to deal with him. When the company expressed their disapproval of this and other proceedings he commenced an agitating course among the settlers and defied the company. The company then quietly left him to his own resources." That was the explanation of the Young difficulty, and all right-thinking minds will agree that Dr. McLoughlin was fairly excusable when he left Young "to his own resources."

Mr. Dunn afterwards was stationed on the north coast, but he carried there the great and abiding prejudice he had cultivated against Americans. There he often met American trading vessels, but

he declares that they lacked honor in their dealings. It is actually absurd to see the extreme to which his British tendencies are carried. He was under Mr. Manson, who afterwards became an American citizen and settled in the abused (by Dunn) Willamette settlements.

It was while he was trader for the company on the northern waters that Mr. Dunn and Finlayson, chief factor made a very important discovery of a rich coal mine. The natives saw coal burning in the blacksmith's furnace that came from England, and asked about its uses in a very especial manner. When they heard that it was brought all the way from England they lost their habitual gravity, laughed and capered about. Surprised at these uncommon antics, were told in explanation that the Indians had changed their opinion of King George's men since they brought such common looking stuff so far. They were told that it was the best fuel known, and especially for working iron. That made the Indians cut up worse than ever. They laughed immoderately, and passed jokes from one to another, laughing meanwhile. So the whites demanded to know what the fun was all about, and one of their chiefs, putting on a solemn visage, said: "We have supposed that the whites are endowed with wisdom by the great spirit as to all great and useful objects, but we have changed our opinions since the great spirit permits him to bring that black soft stone such a great distance to a country where it abounds." They then took them to where coal cropped out on the surface, requiring very little labor to dig it, and of excellent quality. They received orders from Vancouver to dig enough to answer the company's uses, and gave the Indians a job to furnish it as wanted. That account describes the way coal was first discovered on Vancouver's Island. The faith the savages lost in the whites because they didn't know better than to "bring coals to Newcastle" was however regained when they saw the little trading steamer Beaver navigate the sound and inlet waters, traveling on the strength of their newly discovered coal. They said the great spirit must have told them how to make it because it could do everything but talk. That occurred, very probably, in the year 1833, and we find that date in the succeeding chapter.

Some Bee Notes.

MILWAUKIE, June 21, 1886.
 Editor Willamette Farmer:
 As a preventive for good health among bees never take honey from the brood department at the bee hive.
 Long life to the apiarist; salt your bees.
 To prevent foul brood do not use the extractor in the brood department, and keep the hive chock full of bees.
 To prevent swarming allow no drone brood comb in the hive.
 The winter problem of Oregon is: Don't rob your bees, but leave them plenty of honey in the home. Rusk.

Pomona Grange

SALEM, June 25, 1886.
 Editor Willamette Farmer:
 Marion County Pomona Grange will meet in the Grange Hall in this city, Thursday, July 1, 1886, at 11 o'clock A. M. All members of the order are invited.
 E. STRONG, Sec'y.

Appropos of the summer sporting season comes an illustrated paper on "Salmon Fishing" in the July Harper's. Henry P. Wells, the writer, is an acknowledged authority on fishing and hunting, and his helpful advice is accompanied with an account of his own exploits with Canadian salmon.

The soothing and restorative effects of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral are realized in all cases of colds, coughs, throat or lung troubles, while its powerful healing qualities are shown in the most serious pulmonary disorders.