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OREGON PIONEER HISTORY.

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

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NUMBER XXIX.

The Remarkable Career of Ewing Young, an Immigrant of 1834.

Early "Pioneer Days" cannot be described with justice unless we stop awhile by the way to study the character of a frontiersman who undoubtedly had strong influence in his time, and did much to emancipate the earliest settlers from the land monopoly of the Hudson's Bay Company. Dr. McLoughlin can be well credited with great kindness and benevolence, and fully deserved the highest honors to his memory, but he had his duty to discharge towards his company, and that brooked no rivalry. The earliest comers resented in their hearts the manner in which Mr. Wyeth had literally had the ground cut from under and was run out of the country, almost an impoverished man. It is true Dr. McLoughlin was personally friendly, and even kind. He sent to Wyeth's trading post on Sauvie's island for articles not to be had at Fort Vancouver, exchanged traffic to some extent, and no doubt felt sincerely a regret that his business duties required Wyeth's ruin.

But "business was business," and the agents of the H. B. Co. stood ready to interfere with Wyeth's business whenever they could do so. They put up the value of furs to a ruinous figure; he could only buy or sell at a loss, and after several years of this ineffectual struggle, and after commending himself favorably to the kindest regards of all who knew him, Wyeth "gave up the fort," literally, and taking what McLoughlin was willing to give abdicated in his favor. Wyeth brought with him a few Americans, who remained in the country and made the nucleus of a settlement, few as they were, that had the American cause at heart. It must be conceded to Wyeth that incidentally he greatly influenced the early fortunes of Oregon, if only by bringing these few energetic men here to establish an American sentiment.

Hall J. Kelly was another man who took a deep and abiding interest in Oregon, and from a very early date advocated settlement here; so early that his faith and zeal seemed preposterous. It will perhaps be news for the Oregonian itself, and certainly to all its readers, to know that half a century ago a publication was regularly issued at the East—probably at Boston—under the name of The Oregonian, that advocated the settlement of Oregon. This was very probably one of the means Hall J. Kelly took to make Oregon known and advocate his theory of its settlement. Mr. John Minto had several copies of this journal that were given to him by Mr. Horate Holden; but these and some other documents that would be invaluable as additions to Oregon's historical archives have been destroyed. Mr. Kelly eventually came to Oregon, by way of California, and when there found Ewing Young and a number of daring and resolute men, who were persuaded by him to journey northward in his company. The men who came with Ewing Young were John McCarty, Carmichael, Weby, Hawkhurst, Joseph Gale, John Howard, Kilbourn, Brandywine and George Winslow, a colored man. This, as Gray recites in his history, was in 1834, but that history does not mention Hall J. Kelly at all, and certainly not in connection with this overland expedition from California.

Early Adventures of Ewing Young.

Mr. Hugh Harrison, a deceased pioneer, who was in the Santa Fe trade many years ago, met Ewing Young there about 1820. Young was then

making trips from St. Louis to New Mexico, and even then was a very daring and determined man. Mr. Harrison related to Mr. Minto an incident where the New Mexican authorities placed the American traders under unfair disabilities. To leave the matter as it was would cause great loss to many of the traders, so Ewing Young organized a company of fifty determined Americans, who took possession of the New Mexican capital and gave the Hidalgo, who was executive there, time to reconsider his injustice. So, in his younger days, Ewing Young captured and held Santa Fe, not an inconsiderable event, and certainly a very high-handed one, but effective withal.

Young did not make a success of trading to New Mexico, so later on he organized a small company for a trapping, hunting and trading expedition, and pushed westward to the confines of New Mexico, through Arizona and into California. He seems to have tarried there long enough to have a family and produce heirs, for years after his death, when his estate had escheated to our State, Judge O. C. Pratt produced from that section a son of his named Joaquin Young, who plainly enough proved his legitimacy to secure the reversion of the escheat. Harrison remembered that Young once made a trading and trapping expedition as far north as the Oregon border, but drifted back again. It was owing to the influence of Hall J. Kelly, who met him there, that Young organized the trading and trapping expedition that finally brought him to Oregon.

Overland from California in 1834.

That was the company concerning which Weby Hawkhurst made the posthumous confession that I narrated a few weeks ago, that being ill on Rogue river they moved to an island in that stream, where all were taken down with chills and fever. During this time they received a friendly visit from two Indians, and for fear these would go away and disclose their weak condition they killed their visitors and concealed their remains, which is considered the first ground of the implacable hate the Rogue River ever after manifested towards the Americans. Young's party seems to have had considerable property to lose, and were excusable for having apprehensions, if not for perpetrating that dreadful murder. Young had purchased quite a band of horses in California, besides which he had a trading outfit of some value. They journeyed north slowly and trapped as they went, also trading with the natives for furs and game. Some terrible stories were current concerning Young himself and the conduct of his party towards the Indians. They had some trouble with those of Rogue river, and making a detour to the ocean outlet of that stream seem to have made their way up the coast. A man of strong native judgment as Young showed would not jeopardize life and property by acts of ruthless violence when everything they could desire was purchasable of the Indians, so I receive these hard-featured stories with many grains of allowance and considerable disallowance. No doubt Young's life was a singular one, for a modicum of mystery encircled him always. He was a natural leader and may have done many unscrupulous acts in his time, and so far as his life in Oregon was concerned, from his arrival in 1834 until his death in 1841, he seems to have commanded respect, and to have fully overcome the evil reports that followed him to Oregon, where they arrived in due time, having made a rather successful expedition.

Dr. McLoughlin Catches a Tartar.

Looking up a letter from Courtney M. Walker to Hon. Medorem Crawford, answering a request for facts and incidents in the life of Ewing Young, I find that Hall J. Kelly was in fact a mem-

ber of the company that came through with Ewing Young at that time. Walker also states that he first met Young a few days after his arrival in this valley; that he brought with him from California a herd of Spanish horses and mares, and located on the west side of the Willamette river, opposite Champoeg, and erected there the first house built on that side of the river by a white man. A large number of persons came from California about the time Young's party did, and some of these seem to have appreciated Young's enterprise in driving horses to Oregon who did not have the means to legitimately acquire herds as he did. These men, after their companions had got beyond the vicinity of some ranches and picked up what stock they could get hold of and drove them to northward. When discovered this fact was reported to the Governor of California at Monterey, where the Hudson Bay Company's schooner "Cadboro" was at the time, on a trading voyage. So the Governor of California addressed a letter to Gov. McLoughlin, informing him of the depredation committed, materially charging it on Young, who left about that time. The "Cadboro" arriving soon after Young's advent in Oregon, he found himself under a ban at Fort Vancouver. This fact transpired when he needed supplies and sent beaver skins to pay for them. The beaver were returned with a suggestion that the Hudson Bay Company, for sufficient reasons, declined to have any business transactions with Mr. Young. However, the good Doctor sent all the supplies asked for, without taking an equivalent, and added a few condiments and bottles of wine to grace the strangers' table. But the Doctor had "reckoned without his host;" Young indignantly refused to receive the goods or use the refreshments offered, and, chartering an Indian and his canoe, proceeded to Vancouver, where a rather harsh interview took place. In due time McLoughlin satisfied Young that he could not recognize a man who came thus under a ban as a leader of banditti until the charges could be disproved. This matter we will conclude here by saying that when the "Cadboro" returned the ensuing year to Monterey Young and McLoughlin both wrote to the Spanish Governor, and in reply to Young's explanation of facts all charges against him were retracted. In a short while he became on excellent terms with the Hudson Bay Company's officials and in good standing with all classes. There were then three powers in Oregon. First, of course, was the British company, next the Methodist mission, then Ewing Young. The scrip of these parties passed as currency.

A Fortune in Willamette Grass.

When Young saw the Willamette valley lying in all its primeval loveliness and pristine beauty and luxuriance of verdure he announced his determination to become the richest man on the Pacific, and fortune lay for him in having herds and flocks to consume the exuberant pasture. Mr. Harrison remembered to have heard him occasionally say that was his intention. Withal he was a patriotic American, and however kindly were the advances made to him in person by the controlling monopoly—for Dr. McLoughlin always recognized the utility of making friends of the Mammon of unrighteousness—Young to the last maintained a stalwart independence and did all that was possible to promote an American sentiment.

At this time all the cattle in Oregon belonged to the Hudson Bay Company, and they maintained a strict monopoly. Any settler could have cattle to work for the breaking, and cows were to be had for the milking, but the increase all remained with the Hudson's Bay Company. Two years after Young's arrival, in 1836, he was working up a scheme to

break up this monopoly. T. J. Hubbard rode round the settlement to see what the people could do and matters were progressing with the assistance of Rev. Jason Lee, of the M. E. Mission, so favorably that they were negotiating with Vancouver for an outfit for the overland expedition to California. But here the British monopoly interest came in contact and Dr. McLoughlin refused to let them have the necessary supplies, which at that time could not be procured elsewhere. Whether it was the stern, immutable logic of events, or should be termed an instance of poetic justice that came to the relief of the settlers and the discomfiture of the British monopoly the reader must decide. About this time there came into Columbia river a small vessel commanded by Lieutenant Slacom, of the U. S. navy, whose mission was to look after and protect Americans and American interests on the Pacific. The poetic justice as well as logic of events will appear when the cause of his coming is discerned.

His excellency of California had fancied that the learning and genius of Hall J. Kelly were a dangerous thing to let loose on the Pacific to tamper with its "benevolent monopolies," so he took pains to warn Gov. McLoughlin against Kelly, as well as Young, as a dangerous character. This was sufficient to place Kelly under a ban also. He did not enjoy good health here so abandoned the intention of remaining in Oregon, and made no location of land or permanent improvements, as Young did, and others he persuaded to come. The doctor, at the Fort, refused Kelly fellowship, but fitted and furnished him a dwelling and all the necessities of life during his stay, with a couple of servants to serve his needs. This was a singular way to ostracize a man, and shows the Doctor's philanthropy as counteracting his sense of justice. One would suppose that Kelly, a man of birth, education, character and no inconsiderable means, could have shown the Doctor the folly of any charge against him. But the Hudson Bay Company traded largely with California, and was bound to respect the wishes of its customers. To quote again: With Dr. McLoughlin "business was business." In the spring of 1835 a vessel went to the Sandwich Islands, and the Doctor gave Kelly a free passage there. He reached home (Boston) in time to publish a pamphlet, wherein he severely commented on the treatment of Americans by the H. B. Co. in Oregon, giving his experience and dwelling forcibly on the fact that Ewing Young was treated so unkindly. This pamphlet attracted the attention of our government, and a copy was sent to the American Consul at the Islands with orders to learn how Young and other Americans on the Columbia were being treated. As Lieutenant W. A. Slacom arrived there about that time, Mr. Jones, the Consul, fitted up a small brig and got him to go to the mouth of the Columbia river on a tour of investigation. So Kelly brought—incidentally—Slacom to the settlers' relief.

In Mr. W. W. Martin's window, on State street, Salem, can be seen a ripe fig, also some green ones. This fruit was raised in Salem by Capt. I. E. Pratt. He says the tree has had a severe tussel with the elements, but now seems to be fully acclimated. It is a genuine curiosity, and is well worth the trouble of looking at.

Mattie Allison has been brought to the Marion county jail. She has obtained a change of venue, and her trial will take place in this county.

The Salem Flouring Mills Company have received 60,000 bushels of wheat to date—all of this year's crop.

Vitriol, fifteen pounds for one dollar at Port & Son's, 100 State street.

COLE'S SAWBUST COMEDIANS.

White Headed Gags Knocked Out by a "Chestnut Register."

Momus, the merry god, and the deity at whose shrine the major portion of show patrons of the present day worship, will hold high carnival in the ring performances of W. W. Cole's new colossal shows, which appear here on Thursday, September 2d. The array of motley humorists will be something unprecedented, as regards number and cleverness, and if some "new gags" and "business" are not sprung on the people, it will be surprising. The list of merry-men is headed by the noted English pantomimic and acrobatic clown, the "Great Ernest," who will tickle the risibilities of the audience with his aesthetic donkeys, and ingeniously constructed rubber elephant, "Goodyear;" Tom McIntyre, the Chesterfield of Shakespearean wits, will amuse in his own quaint, inimitable style; "Billy" Rollins, one of the brightest jesters that have ever donned cap and bells, will vocalize the latest comic songs, tell rib-tickling stories, and introduce his comic little trained pig, "Ben Butler." Ten other high priests of Momus will participate in the revelries. Any clown that springs a musty, hoary-headed chestnut, with whiskers on it, is subjected to a fine of \$10. A new feature in connection with the clowning will be introduced in the shape of a "chestnut register," a clock-shaped affair, the hands of which record with unerring accuracy every venerable joke which the clowns, while in a reminiscent mood, may unconsciously utter. Everybody will want to see the workings of the "chestnut register."

Waste in Nature.

An English naturalist remarks that it is a sad reflection that while the turbot lays fourteen million eggs, not more than one on an average ever lives to reach maturity. In fish generally it takes yearly at least a hundred thousand eggs for each individual to keep up the average of the species. In frogs or amphibians a few hundred are amply sufficient. Reptiles often lay a much smaller number. In birds, which hatch their own eggs and feed their young, from two to ten eggs per annum are quite sufficient to replenish the earth. Among mammals three or four at a birth is a large number, and many of the larger sorts produce one calf or foal at a time only. In the human race at large a total of five or six children for each married couple during a whole lifetime makes up sufficiently for infant mortality and all other sources of loss, though among savages a far higher rate is usually necessary. In England an average of four and a half children per family suffices to keep the population stationary.

Lost.—A pair of running shoes and breech clouts, done up in a package, was lost Thursday morning between this city and the State Fair Grounds. A liberal reward will be paid if delivered at this office. WM. J. CLARKE.

Gen. Logan and party, who had intended to leave on the 20th inst. by steamer for Portland via Victoria, have changed their plan. This change was brought about by Senator Stanford inviting them to make a trip overland in special trains and stages, to be provided by him. The invitation has been accepted, and the party will leave on Friday next.

Parnell has requested all Irish members of parliament to be present Thursday at the reassembling of parliament. He says, in view of the grave and pressing condition of public affairs, it is very necessary there should be a full attendance of the Irish contingent.

A fund started for Mrs. Hancock now amounts to \$46,000.

A Fine Farm for sale.

We have had placed in our hands for sale a choice farm highly improved, about four miles south of Salem. The place contains 120 acres, all of which is cleared. There is a growing crop of 52 acres, consisting of barley and wheat. There are good buildings and an orchard. This place yielded thirty bushels of wheat per acre last year. Apply soon and obtain a bargain. Price \$35 per acre.