

# Coquille City Herald.

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NO. 14.

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**Morning Star Lodge**  
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Meets at Coquille City every Thursday evening. Visiting members of this order, in good standing, are cordially invited.

**I. O. O. F.**  
**Coquille Lodge No. 53**  
Meets at Coquille City every Saturday evening. Visiting brethren, in good standing, cordially invited.  
J. C. Laird, N. G.

**A. F. and A. M.**  
**Chadwick Lodge, No. 68.**  
Meets at Coquille City on Saturday evening on or before the full moon in each month.  
John Goodman,  
W. M.

**G. A. R.**  
**Gen. Lytle Post No. 27.**  
Meets at Coquille City, on every first Wednesday. Visiting comrades, in good standing, cordially invited.  
A. H. Wright, Commander.

**Coquille City Command,**  
No. 1, O. R. C.  
Meets in this place every first and third Tuesday in each month. All members in good standing are cordially invited.  
A. T. Little, Commander.

**BLOODED FOWLS.**  
Pure bred Brown Leghorn and Plymouth Rock Poultry for sale by Derward B. Cartwright.  
Yacolls, Douglas County, Oregon.

## A Vain Attempt.

A wasp went buzzing to his work,  
And various things did tackle—  
He stung a boy and then a dog,  
Then made a rooster cackle;  
And last upon a Phoenix Special's back,  
He settled down to drill;  
He prodded there for half an hour,  
And then—he broke his bill.

## The Settlement of Oregon.

In the first volume of his history of Oregon, Mr. Bancroft begins to treat of those events in the state's annals which took place within the memory of living men, from the coming of the first American settlers, in 1834, to the arrival of the first United States Governor, Joseph Lane, of Indiana, a veteran of the Mexican war, in March, 1849. The period of discovery and exploration, which was treated in "The History of the Northwest Coast," is now succeeded by the period of development, and the Spanish race, as an element in the history of the western part of the continent, gives way to the Anglo-Saxon. There is a remarkable contrast between the methods of these two races, and the results are not unflattering to the latter people. Proselyting was not alone the object of the invaders, and their methods were accordingly different. Instead of the tender care of the aborigines—after they had been thoroughly subjugated; which characterized Spanish rule in the New World, and to which is in part due the present deplorable condition of Mexico and Central America, no attempt was made to mix the red and the white races, and the former have now almost entirely disappeared, leaving their conquerors undisputed. It was a "silent conquest," as Mr. Bancroft terms it, and its leading features are not found in "bloody conquest inspired by the thirst for gain and glory and the hope of winning heaven," followed up with an attempt to drag the conquered up to the level of their conquerors; it is a steady pressure, "actuated by the more gentle purpose of adding to the enjoyments of earth by commerce and agriculture," combined with a *laissez-faire* policy as regards the original inhabitants. A selfish policy, perhaps, but nations and races are not amenable to the codes of ethics which govern individuals.

After devoting a chapter to a description of the natural features of the region and a brief recapitulation of the more important events necessary to refresh the mind of the reader, Mr. Bancroft gives us a graphic and interesting picture of the life led at Fort Vancouver from 1824-5 to 1836. The establishment was under the absolute rule of Dr. John McLoughlin, an Irishman of good birth, who had studied medicine in Paris, but had thrown up the profession to enter the service of the Northwest Company, and who had remained in its employ after its absorption by the Hudson Bay Company. He was a man of strong individuality and of noble character. Invested with autocratic powers, he ruled as much by love as by fear, and won the respect and admiration of all who came in contact with him. Around him were gathered a number of men of education and refinement, all Scotchmen and Englishmen, whom hard fortune or love of adventure had brought to this far-off land. The historian thus describes their early life:

As nearly as possible McLoughlin maintained the fashions of manor life in England, the hospitality, the courtesy, the riding, hunting, and conversation. A dinner at Fort Vancouver was a dignified and social affair, not lacking either in creature comforts or table-talk. As early as 1836 there was good living at this post; plenty of cattle, sheep, swine, salmon, game, and an ample garden. The table was set off with a display of fine English glass and ruddy wines. No liquors were furnished. McLoughlin

never drank either wine or liquor, except on great occasions, to open the festivities. He presided and led the conversation, the others being seated according to rank. No more time was consumed at table than was convenient; there were present neither gluttony nor intemperance. If guests were present, the chief devoted some time to them; after dinner, he showed them the farm and stock, offered them horses or guns, or perhaps made up a party to escort them wherever they wished to go. Did they remain at the fort, there was the opportunity to study a whole museum of curious things from all parts of the savage and civilized world, all kinds of weapons, dresses, ornaments, mechanisms, and art. When these were exhausted, there were the pipe and books, and the long-drawn tales of evening. Where were met together so many men of adventurous lives—mariners who had circumnavigated the globe, leaders of trapping parties through thousands of miles of wilderness, among tribes of hostile savages, in heat and cold, in sunshine and storm, contending always with the inhospitable whims of mother nature—there could be but little flagging in the conversation. Sometimes the story was a tragedy, sometimes a comedy; but no matter what the occasion for mirth, discipline was always preserved and propriety regarded.

However, all these gentlemen had taken wives from among the native women without the formality of a marriage; and this so disgusted the only chaplain ever stationed at the fort that he returned to England after having been an inmate of the fort a year and a half. His departure was hastened by an unusual outburst of the doctor's disgust. It was the chaplain's duty to forward a written report to the London council, which he was required to place in McLoughlin's hands before sending. On reading one of these reports, the contents so incensed the doctor that he demanded an explanation on meeting the writer in the fort yard. The reverend gentleman replied: "Sir, if you wish to know why a cow's tail grows downward, I can not tell you; I can only cite the fact." Up went the governor's cane, and before he was aware of it, he had bestowed a sound blow upon the shoulders of the impudent divine. But his better nature asserted himself soon after, and he apologized.

But while these gentlemen were leading this Arcadian existence, and incidentally making money for the company, American trappers were becoming troublesome; and, worse than that, their compatriots in New England were interesting themselves in the spiritual welfare of the benighted heathen who occupied the fertile valleys of the Willamette and Umatilla, and were sending out missionaries. Four Flathead Indians from the headwaters of the Columbia river, who had heard something of the Christian religion from the Lewis and Clarke explorers, visited the East, and asked the Missionary Board of the Methodist Episcopal Church to send missionaries to instruct them in the Christian religion; and in response to their request such an expedition was sent out early in 1834 under the leadership of Jason and Daniel Lee. These men with their half-dozen companions, were the first Americans who ventured into the new Canaan with the intention of settling permanently, but Mr. Bancroft ascribes an equal share in the founding of the future state to Hall J. Kelley, a Boston school-master, a religious fanatic and an enthusiast in the matter of emigration to Oregon; he had been collecting information regarding the country of the Columbia, and keeping alive among the people of

the East an interest in it since 1815, and he subsequently played an important part in the political action which afterward resulted in the admission of Oregon to the rank of a Territory of the United States. The other early residents were scattered French Canadian trappers and occasional remnants of the Lewis and Clarke and Astor exploring expeditions.

Among these early settlers was Ewing Young, a man who did much to advance the interests of the United States in the new Territory. It was through him that an authorized agent of the United States Government was sent out to examine into the condition of the country and the American citizens there, to sound them on their political feelings, and to further the interests of the government; and it was at Young's suggestion and under his direction that the first move was made toward freeing the settlers from the oppressive bondage in which the fur company kept them. The only animal food which they could obtain was the flesh of such animals as the hunters and trappers could kill. There were twenty-seven head of cattle in Oregon in 1825, but these Dr. McLoughlin owned, and he would not sell or kill them under any consideration—even, as late as 1839, refusing them to a British man-of-war, which was compelled to go to Yerba Buena for them; he was perfectly willing to lend to the settlers oxen and cows, but he would not allow them to be killed, as he wanted to have them increase and multiply as rapidly as possible. This kept the settlers under constant obligations to him, until, at the instance of Ewing Young, the Willamette Cattle Company was formed. This company was organized with a capital of \$2,500, of which McLoughlin furnished \$900, and a party went to Yerba Buena, under the leadership of Young, and purchased eight hundred and thirty head, of which two hundred were lost while being driven up from California. Mr. Bancroft describes the hardships and adventures of this purchasing party with much particularity—for instance, telling how they spent eight days and lost eighty cattle in fording the San Joaquin river. But the expedition attained its object. It freed the settlers from their dependence on Fort Vancouver, and where two hundred dollars had before been refused for a cow, one could now be bought for eight dollars. Young had had a bad reputation among the residents before this. He had come to Oregon with an indefinite idea of becoming a ruler over the country, and when the illusion was dispelled he had won unenviable notoriety by erecting a distillery. But this achievement won for him the gratitude of the people and placed him among the most important workers in laying the foundation of their present prosperity. The precedent then established was soon followed by the Hudson Bay Company, who, three years later, drove up two thousand head of horned cattle and four thousand sheep from California.

Immigration for half a dozen years was constant, almost all the settlers coming from the United States. Mr. Bancroft gives many interesting details of the various expeditions, but they are far too numerous to be even briefly summarized here. They were chiefly from the Methodist and Protestant organizations of the New England and Central States; and it is amusing to note the more sedate phrase of the famous "Pike's Peak or Bust" employed by one of these companies which started from Peoria, "Oregon or the Grave." The Catholics, too, were not idle, and in 1839 established themselves farther in the interior, among the Flatheads, whose envoys had long be-

fore asked the Methodists for teachers. But their arrival tended to weaken the political power of the Methodists. Where the first two petitions to the United States congress had been signed by French-Canadians as well as Americans, the subsequent memorials were signed by Americans only. Moreover, the Methodists thought that the coming of these Catholics was at the request of McLoughlin, and therefore they turned against him—a suspicion which was strengthened by McLoughlin's joining the Catholic Church in 1842—though this, Mr. Bancroft shows, was untrue. Among these early priests was De Smet, of whose success the historian says:

De Smet was a worthy member of his order. Young, handsome, intellectual, educated and energetic, he was well fitted to make a favorable impression upon the savages, and to succeed in a field which others had either shunned or abandoned. On becoming acquainted with the Flatheads he was surprised at the similarity between their religious practices and those of his own creed, but this he accepted as a proof of the special power of his religion to impress itself at once upon the minds of the heathen. The evening of his first day among them was closed in prayer and solemn chant, and prayer was again offered in the morning. On the second day he translated to them, with the aid of an interpreter, the Lord's Prayer, the creed, and the commandments. In a fortnight two thousand Flatheads knew the prayers. In two months six hundred were admitted to baptism.

The Catholics, however, played but a small part in the history of the country; the Methodists and Protestants, caring less for souls than for soil, were more progressive and more numerous besides, and they soon engaged in disputes with the British authorities at Fort Vancouver. They prepared and sent many memorials—the first in 1852—to the United States Congress, calling attention to the wealth of the country and to the oppressions, as they declared, which they suffered at the hands of the authorities at Fort Vancouver. These, however, were for some time without any important effect beyond the expedition under Lieutenant Wilkes which was described in a former volume. In January, 1841, after considerable discussion, the Government decided that, as the United States made pretensions to the territory lying between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, they might venture to send a sub-Indian agent into the country, to look after the intercourse between the natives and citizens of the United States. But the President was not prepared to commission a civil magistrate or governor, though the settlers could, if they wished, regard the agent as a magistrate among them without definite authority from the United States. Elijah White was the man so appointed, and he took a considerable body of emigrants to the new country. No government had existed previous to this time—other than McLoughlin's which was disregarded by the Americans—though an attempt was made to form one in 1841, when it was discovered, by the death of Ewing Young, that there were no laws under which a dead man's property could be administered; and other attempts succeeded his installations, but they were futile until 1843, when a government was established which was modeled on the civil and political code of Iowa.

In his fourteenth chapter, Mr. Bancroft gives an exhaustive resume "Oregon before Congress." Floyd, of Virginia, first introduced the Oregon question in December—it was certainly early to broach

the subject so soon after the Louisiana purchase—and, after four years of constant effort, had the satisfaction of seeing his bill for the occupancy of the Columbia river and the establishment of the Territory of Oregon passed in the House and sent to the Senate. Here Barbour, of Virginia, and Thomas H. Benton were among its champions, in 1825, but their efforts came to nothing, and the subject was occasionally discussed during the next two or three years; but it was not until 1838 that anything of importance was done. On the 7th of February of that year, Lewis F. Linn, of Missouri, introduced a bill "for the occupation of the Columbia river; the establishment of a Territory north of latitude 42 degrees and west of the Rocky Mountains, to be called the Oregon Territory; the erection of a fort on the Columbia, and the occupation of the country by a military force; the establishment of a port of entry, and requiring the country to be held subject to the revenue laws of the United States, with an appropriation of \$50,000 for the purposes mentioned in the bill." It was refused, and the question dragged wearily through session after session—being bitterly opposed by the slave-state men—until the 14th of August, 1848. The final passage of the bill in the Senate is thus described by the historian:

It had been agreed that Congress should adjourn on Monday, the 14th, and the policy of the opposition was to defeat the Oregon bill by preventing the ayes and noes from being taken. Almost the whole of Saturday was consumed in debate, in which Calhoun, Butler of South Carolina, Houston, Yulee, Davis and other eminent Southerners argued the same familiar ground, with no other object than the consumption of time. Benton only had replied at any length. In the evening session, after a speech by Webster, the debate was continued till after midnight, when a motion was made to adjourn, which was defeated. Butler then moved to go into executive session, when an alteration arose as to the object of the motion at that time, and the motion being ruled out of order, a vote was taken on appeal, and the Chair sustained. In this manner the night was, like the day, well-nigh wasted without coming to a vote on the Oregon bill. Toward morning, Foote, who had already spoken several times, rose again, when he was called to order. The friends of the bill, thinking the best way to bring matters to a conclusion was to humor the Mississippian, entreated that he might be allowed to proceed; and he, declaring his ability to speak until Monday night, commenced at the history of the creation, as given in the book of Moses, and talked on in a rambling strain until after nine o'clock Sunday, when it may be assumed that his spirits began to flag, and he sat down. Benton then hastened to recede from some amendments which he had offered, but which the House had refused to accede to; and the bill, restored to its precise form as it passed the House, was finally passed by the Senate, the long and trying ordeal was over, and Oregon was a Territory of the United States on her own terms. The rule disallowing bills to be presented for signature on the last day of the session was suspended, and this one was signed on the 14th of August, the President returning it to the House with a message, in which he reviewed the question of free and slave territory at some length, deprecating the agitation arising from it, and predicting that it would, if not checked, dismember the Union.

The passage of the bill had been long delayed by a fear of compli-

Continued on 4th page.