

The Oregon Scout has a large circulation as any two papers in this section of the State, combined, and is correspondingly valuable as an advertising medium.

For a full description of Union County see inside pages.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Those indebted to us on subscription or otherwise are hereby notified to settle the same at once. Several months ago we used up about ten dollars worth of postage stamps in sending statements to parties owing us. A great many of them came in and paid up, but a number of them did not. To these we will say, that as they are fully aware of what they are owing us, no more statements will be sent out, and unless settlement is made within two weeks from this date, the accounts will be placed in the hands of an attorney with instructions to collect.

The above does not apply to parties who have paid us regularly from year to year, although they may be a little behind at present. January 9th, 1890.

AT HOME.

A Paragraphic Record of Recent Happenings in and Around the City.

A. J. Weatherly, an old pioneer of Baker county died on the 14th inst.

Born, to the wife of Lindsay Roberts in this city, Jan. 17, 1809, a daughter.

Those indebted to Jones Bros are requested to settle at once. Just keep this in your mind.

The new "gas well" discovered at La Grande by some of our contemporaries is "still a blubberin'."

Some of the communications in this issue were received last week, but are still good, and worth reading.

The protracted meetings in this city still continue and several accessions to the church have been made.

A lot of household furniture, stoves, carpets, dishes, etc. for sale, and house to rent. Enquire of J. R. Critch.

A gentleman of mature years and liberal education would like to take a small country school the coming summer. Inquire at this office.

Sleigh riding is the principal amusement just now. Our young people are making the most of the present opportunity for indulging in this sport.

It is reported that a serious railroad accident occurred in the mountains near Stumptown the other day. In which one of the railroad employees was killed and another badly wounded.

All those knowing themselves to be indebted to me, either by book account or note, are requested to settle at once or costs of collection will be added. I need the money and must have it.—Wm. Wilson.

The O. & W. T. railroad company in addition to extending the road to Union, this year, will run a line from Pendleton to Heppner. It will not be but a short time till this company will do four-fifths of the hauling for the people of Eastern Oregon.

The state executive board have made a levy of taxes for state purposes for the year 1890 as follows: For general expense fund, five and twenty-three thirty-fifths mills; university tax, one-seventh mill; military tax, one-fifth mill, making six mills in all. This, added to our county levy, will make the tax for Union county this year twenty-seven mills.

A number of the good and charitable ladies of Union will give a social dance at Davis' hall on Friday evening, Jan. 24th, for the benefit of a very poor family in town who are suffering for the want of the common necessities of life. Tickets will be only \$1.50 including a beautiful basket supper. Everybody should go who can, and these who cannot go should buy a ticket anyway to help their less fortunate fellow creatures. The best of music has been provided.

On account of the extremely cold weather during the past two weeks but little has been done or said concerning railroad work. On account of the blockade Mr. Hunt was unable to come over, as he intended to do, and now writes that on account of ill health he will be unable to come at present, but desires work on the right-of-way to be prosecuted as quickly as possible, as he wants that matter settled before he commences active operations. The Union committee is now at work and anticipate but little difficulty in finishing their work. The Summerville and Elgin committees should get in with a will and finish the business as soon as possible.

The O. & W. T. railroad company evidently has plenty of money with which to build the Union branch, and other branches if necessary. The Pendleton Tribune says: "A mortgage was filed for record in the office of the county clerk of Umatilla county, Oregon, Saturday, by the Oregon and Washington Territory Railroad company to the Farmers' Loan and Trust company of New York, trustee," to secure the issuance of bonds by said railroad company at the rate of \$25,000 per mile upon each and every mile of railroad now constructed or to be hereafter constructed by said railroad company. The number of miles of railroad now constructed and in operation by said company is about 170 miles." This will amount to over four million dollars on the roads already in operation.

Call and Settle.

All parties indebted to us are requested to call and settle their accounts without further delay, as delays are dangerous. Now is the accepted time.

JENSON BROS.

OUR SOCIAL WORLD.

Brief Personal Mention—Epitome of the Week's Amusements.

Mr. M. Wilkinson, of High valley, called on us, Saturday.

Mr. Thos. Buckman, of the Sand Ridge, visited Union, Tuesday.

Mr. E. S. McComas visited Baker City the fore part of the week.

Mr. Dempsey McDaniel, of the Cove, sent in and subscribed for The Scout a few days ago.

Mr. W. A. Wilson has been quite sick for several days past, but is now improving rapidly.

Mr. E. E. Conter, of Island City, called on us few days ago and subscribed for The Scout.

Mr. John McDonald, our efficient county commissioner, subscribed for The Scout this week.

Mr. J. N. Smith, of Island City, made us a pleasant visit, Saturday. He had a rough time coming over through the storm.

Mr. S. D. Ficklin and family arrived in Union a few days ago en route to Baker City where they go to make his mother a visit.

Hon. L. B. Rinehart returned from Pendleton last Monday. He was there over a week unable to get home on account of the blockade.

Mr. Robt. Lloyd, who has been working in the Blue mountains above La Grande, was taken quite sick last week and brought home. He is improving at present.

At a meeting of the Union Hook and Ladder Company last Monday evening it was decided to give a grand ball on the 14th of next month. Further particulars will be given in the near future.

Mr. J. Christanson, of Elgin, who has been in the asylum at Salem, returned home a few days ago, by way of Union. The old gentleman made our office a pleasant visit and we enjoyed his stories of former days very much. We sincerely hope he will not be troubled again as he has been.

The Blockade.

The blockade on the railroad was broken last Monday and we were permitted to receive letters and newspapers from the outside world, after eight or ten days waiting. Pyles canyon, near this place, is the worst point on the road, and caused the most delay. Had this place been passable, but little difficulty would have been experienced in keeping the road open. Were the road located on the opposite side of the canyon, by way of Union, trouble of this kind would never occur, and the company must receive the just measure of the traveling public, and the people at large, until they change the location of the road.

P. S.—N. B.—Later, a train has been stuck on the hillside, at the mouth of Pyle canyon, in plain sight of the city, since Tuesday evening. The wind is rolling the snow over the hill, at that place, in such a way that the train is liable to be covered up at any time. This is a fine canyon—particularly the west side of Pyle canyon.

A Scrap of Paper Saves Her Life.

It was just an ordinary scrap of wrapping paper, but it saved her life. She was in the last stage of consumption, told by physicians that she was incurable and could not live only a short time; she weighed less than seventy pounds. On a piece of wrapping paper she read of Dr. King's New Discovery, and got a sample bottle; it helped her, she bought a large bottle, it helped her more, bought another and grew better fast, continued its use and is now strong, healthy, rosy, plump, weighing 140 pounds. For fuller particulars send stamp to W. H. Cole, druggist, Fort Smith. Trial bottles of this wonderful Discovery free at Brown's drug store, Union, Oregon.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

THE BEST SALVE in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetor, Chapped Hands, Chillsblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale at Brown's drug store.

Commendable.

All claims not consistent with the high character of Syrup of Figs are purposely avoided by the Cal. Fig Syrup Company. It acts gently on the kidneys, liver and bowels, cleansing the system effectually, but it is not a cure-all and makes no pretensions that every bottle will not substantiate.

Give the People Something for their Money

EDITOR OREGON SCOUT—

The bulwark of American liberty, the foundation stone on which every hope for the complete emancipation of the human race from injustice, wrong and oppression in the future as it has been in the past is the free and untrammeled press of this magnificent country—of this the best government on which the sun has ever cast its refulgent smile.

To a large majority of the intelligent readers who weekly scan the columns of your bold OREGON SCOUT the fact that its columns are open for the discussion in a candid manner by candid people, of all subjects of public interest, the independence of your journal is hailed with pleasure.

There is no guide-board pointing directly to the fact that the wisdom of the framers of the constitution of this great republic will be strictly adhered to and the line of their far-reaching discernment carried out that equal-ity of the progress that has been made by the secular press of the United States within the past decade.

Even a quarter of a century ago the

press throughout the north boldly attacked the institution of human slavery that found its shield and helmet behind the then supposed to be sanctity of the pulpit, and notwithstanding the "sacred word" and the almost unanimous support of fifty thousand so-called "divines" that "sacred institution" was wiped from the laws and customs of our now more thoroughly civilized but less christianized nation, although they yet stand in all their ghastly hideousness in the pages of so-called "holy writ," even though the "inspired word of God" has lately been much improved by being polished and modified by the "uninspired" hand of man.

Through the columns of the public press the minds of the people are reached and this great crucible, the human mind, is ever at work applying the sternest tests of the great chemicals of trade to every proposition that is offered for the advancement of the human race.

Although isolated for the present from the great bustling, busy centers of population and commerce, the minds of the people here are ever alert and they feel commendable interest in all questions of public importance. Without proper mail facilities, with no knowledge of what is going on in the outside world, with long evenings and little to do, the young and middle age people are naturally inclined to seek each other's company. Have you a free library in this the county seat of one of the wealthiest counties in Eastern Oregon? Have you a public reading room where gentlemen and ladies may drop in and spend a leisure hour during the day or evening with the leading authors or with the leading magazines and journals? Have you a forum or literary society where the young men and young ladies who are soon to be the voters and on whose wisdom and knowledge the very foundation of our government rests can be trained, and where all questions touching the best interests of an advancing civilization can be freely discussed and fairly tried at the bar of human reason? I have been with you but a short time, but I know of no such institutions. Can any one tell me why they do not exist? Is it because they are not needed? I do not believe any intelligent, unprejudiced citizen will assign this as a reason.

While penning these thoughts my mind is carried back some twelve, thirteen or fourteen years, even before the foundation stone was placed for your present county court house, and at that time the meetings of the Union Literary Society were looked for as the "feast of reason and flow of soul" that was regarded as a great public treat, and people came from far and near to take part in the exercises or to enjoy the occasion. If a stranger should be so unfortunate as to be compelled to pass a few weeks in this city at this season of the year, what have you to make his stay pleasant and give him an impression that would cause him to desire to return or to say a good word abroad that would give strangers a favorable impression of the place? The monotony of the hotel office becomes unbearable in an evening or two and the stranger walks out for a change. Where can he go to "kill time"? He can take his choice of the four saloons, walk the streets if he can face the storm or waiting until the "fire alarm" is sounded from the church bell he can fall in with the rest of the curiosity seekers and attend the alleged "divine worship" that is being carried on with so much zeal and so little reason at this time.

And now that the real cause of the entire absence of any place in the city where literary enjoyment can be indulged in is owing to the fact that the members of the church and the ministers here frowned upon it for the reason that free discussion leads to investigation and investigation leads to free thought and the moment that the people begin to think for themselves that moment the influence of the "doctors" who are "called" to doctor sick divinity begins to wane. In the discussion of almost any subject that may be brought before a society organized for the candid consideration of questions of public interest, the "sacred word" is appealed to as it conveniently furnishes evidence in support of either side of any subject. This always results in unveiling the fallacies, absurdities and inconsistencies of the writers of so-called holy writ and the snake story, the big red apple story, the fall of man, the story of the flood, which science has demonstrated to be a physical impossibility and of which geology has no record, the ascension of Elijah and the commanding of the sun to stand still by Joshua, the wandering for forty years of the children of Israel in a wilderness that geography teaches us never did exist or that John C. Fremont or Jim

Pennell would have cut a trail through in thirty days, all these and the thousand and one other absurdities that science has laid bare and that intelligent ministers no longer endeavor to sustain become ridiculous now although they were generally accepted without any mental struggle by church people a quarter of a century ago. In any society where free discussion is tolerated the narrow-gauge ministers who are "fitted for their work" in our narrow gauge theological schools are "knocked out in the first round" by almost any of our school boys who have been permitted to read the Oregonian, THE SCOUT and the secular press of the land; hence they promulgate absurdities from the pulpit that have a fiat earth foundation, the fall of man as a result for a weak, ignorant, naked woman's love of luscious red apples, the miraculous conception and birth of a Saviour made necessary to redeem man from his fallen condition, and do all they can to prevent their members from patronizing newspapers, literary institutions or any other means by which the calcium light of common sense can be thrown on the fossilized absurdities that they have so ably managed to preserve until the wane of the nineteenth century. Union has three churches that probably cost, equipped for the promulgation of doctrines in conflict with every known revolution of telescope, microscope or chemistry, about \$10,000, and the ministers, or "fire insurance agents," who rant and bluster or read prosy manuscripts from their pulpits, cost the public probably \$3,000 per annum. Ten thousand dollars worth of church property exempt from taxation for twelve years equals about \$3,000 in taxes or rebate for Christ's sake that the people have made. Twelve years salary for these ministers would amount to \$36,000 more and the amount that has been collected at Mite society meetings, church socials, entertainments, strawberry festivals and the revenue from the live oyster that has so frequently gotten into the soup, would foot up a magnificent sum. And what has the church to show for this? Echo answers only with hollow mockery. But let us not be deceived by our own candid observations of the echo that follows the inquiry; we have another more important witness. We have the direct statement of the minister of one of the churches here, who is engaged in the attempt to frighten children with imaginary pictures of Hell, that "there has not been a genuine conversion to Christianity in Grande Ronde valley for twelve years." Is this startling announcement true? If the cost of supporting the ministers and building the churches has been in the neighborhood of \$40,000 in Union within the past twelve years, the cost in Grande Ronde valley must have reached the enormous sum of \$100,000, and not a genuine conversion for all this vast sum of money! No wonder that the editor of the North American Review invited answers from a number of leading ministers to the question "Can our churches be made more useful?" suggested by the conceded truth that the influence of the Pulpit is waning and that masses of people—generally virtuous and intelligent people—are drifting away from church influence. The replies were suggestive and in some particulars startling. Among other things it was maintained that the process of mental development is making a wide breach between the people and orthodox religion and that the remedy could only be found in adopting a religion up to the requirements of the age; that it is now demonstrated beyond all intelligent question that no such fact ever occurred in the history of man as his fall, that his progress has ever been onward and upward, that every dogma of the old churches, every rite and sacrament presupposes the fall and consequent ruin of the race and but for this erroneous belief none of them would ever have existed or would now be tolerated, and the statement of this divine that "not a genuine conversion to Christianity has occurred in Grande Ronde valley within the past twelve years" is exactly in keeping with the evidence brought out in the discussion of this grave question in the columns of the Review by the most advanced thinkers in the Pulpit at the present time. The answer given by the Rev. Minot J. Savage is most remarkable. "Free minded, well informed people no longer believe in any fall of man. We are presented with the strange spectacle of hundreds perhaps thousands of ministers of all different churches who—in private at least—will frankly confess that they share the belief of all intelligent men in the antiquity and slow and gradual development of the race from the lowest beginnings. They believe in no Genesis story of either Eden or man's fall and

yet they go on preaching and administering the sacraments as if nothing had happened. Their one official business is to proclaim a loss that does not exist and offer a salvation that is not needed. They know this and confess it and keep on doing it." Will the "Rev" gentleman, who standing up in his pulpit boldly asserts that twelve years preaching in Grande Ronde valley has been so barren of results, admit with Mr. Savage that the reason is that the people do not believe the silly nonsense that has been taught from the pulpit at such enormous cost, and if so admitting will he endeavor to give the public the benefit of his honest convictions or will he undertake to plod along for another dozen years on the supposition that the people of Grande Ronde valley are a lot of ignorant denizens of the backwoods and that the same old story, the faithful promulgation of which has brought in such empty nets, is good enough for them. If, as the Rev. Mr. Savage puts it, the magnificent power of the church should no longer be expended "in the effort to deliver an imaginary man from the imaginary wrath of an imaginary God in an imaginary Hell"—the sooner they establish something to stand on that will gain for them the respect of kind-hearted, noble generous and intelligent men and women who dare think for themselves, the sooner will they begin to receive paying dividends on investments that do not now yield a genuine conversion in a dozen years. Whenever the clergy can offer the public a system of religion that has for its foundation the eternal principles of truth and for its aim the moral elevation of the human race, they will have a platform so broad to stand on that they will be proud to stand up in their defense outside as well as in the pulpit, and then they will soon have the entire populace as regular members, all willing to contribute to the support of the cause. Me.

TAKEN UP.

Notice is hereby given that I have taken up on January 3, 1890, at my place two and one-half miles from Pineville, in Pine valley, Union county, Oregon:

One light buckskin filly, about 3 years old, 14 1/2 hands high, white strip in forehead, white mane and tail, no brands visible. Owner will please prove property, pay charges and take the same away. 1-23 JOEL HEWITT.

STRAYED—\$5.00 REWARD.

Strayed from our place at Telocaset, and last seen on Elk creek, one sorrel mare, four years old, branded TB on left shoulder, the T above the B. Anyone giving information leading to the recovery of the animal will be paid \$5. TOMBLESON BROS. Telocaset. 1-16-m1

For Sale.

1600 ewes and lambs and 400 wethers, yearlings and two year olds. Will sell at a bargain. Enquire of T. G. WILSON, at Cove, or B. F. WILSON, Union, Oregon.

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