

THE STATESMAN.

Its Nearly Thirty-Six Years of Existence.

A SOMEWHAT EVENTFUL CAREER.

Other Newspapers in Early Times in Oregon--Some Interesting History.

At the beginning of the year 1851 there were only two newspapers published in the territory of Oregon--the "Spectator," at Oregon City, and the "Oregonian," at Portland. The former of these journals had been established in the early part of 1846, the first number appearing February 5. It was owned by the Methodist mission, which organization was then of great influence in the infant territory, and also for some years afterward. The paper changed managers frequently, and maintained nothing more than a precarious existence during the whole of its career, which lasted, including the interruptions to its publication by the Cayuse Indian war and the discovery of gold in California, each of which events had a retarding effect upon its prosperity, until March, 1855, when it quietly lay down and gave up the ghost. The Oregonian was started at Portland, by T. J. Dryer, the first number bearing date December 9, 1850. It was issued distinctively as a whig paper, as an "organ" of the party then in power in the national government. All the territorial officers of course belonged to the same political organization. As a party, in the territory, the whigs made up nothing more than a respectable minority, but in intellectual capacity they were probably superior to their democratic opponents. The new organ of the whigs was of the blattant species peculiar to rural districts twenty-five or thirty years ago. It was full of sound and fury, literally signifying nothing to the educated reader, but the paper took with wonderful effect among the scattered adherents of the same party throughout the territory, even at the moderate price of \$7 a year. In the meantime, the democrats, being out of power, felt the necessity of a local journal to prepare and furnish the political pabulum for which they yearned. Party spirit was running high, and was vituperative to an unreasoning degree on the part of the democrats. The writer recollects hearing the whigs branded as "tories" by their opponents, and this not in heated political discussions, but in the calmness of private conversation, and often the accuser and the accused belonging to the same religious organization. (The term "tory" then meant one who adhered to King George during the revolutionary war, and was of vile significance as "copperhead" became during the war for the Union, which aptly characterized one in the loyal states who by his voice and vote favored the confederates.) Hon. Samuel R. Thurston was delegate in congress from the territory of Oregon, and being anxious for the establishment of a democratic paper here, began to cast about for a suitable person to take charge of and conduct the same. Asabel Bush, a young man from Massachusetts, then in Washington, was recommended to Mr. Thurston, and soon arrangements were made by which the former started to Oregon with the necessary outfit for a newspaper. Arriving here in the latter part of the year 1850, Mr. Bush was elected territorial printer by the legislature, which then met annually on the first Monday in December, at Oregon City. His printing material not reaching Oregon until late in the winter, the publication of his paper was delayed until the 21st of March, 1851, on which day the first number of the OREGON STATESMAN was issued to the world--Asabel Bush, editor. Its motto was, "No fear sways us; no fear shall awe." All the materials used in the publication of the paper were bought second hand, nevertheless the issues presented a very creditable appearance. The circulation of the paper had a rapid increase, and soon its weekly edition reached two thousand in number, which, considering the paucity of the inhabitants of the territory, was remarkable indeed. Its proprietor was the public printer, and his paper of course was the official organ of the territory--positions which each retained throughout the remaining years of the territorial existence and during the first six years of that of the state, in all about thirteen years. In 1852, the seat of government of the territory was changed, by act of the legislature, to Salem, and in June, 1853, the office of the STATESMAN was removed hither, and its publication continued as before. In 1854, the proprietor purchased an entirely new outfit in New York, including a power press, and shipped the same around Cape Horn to San Francisco. At that port, the materials were shipped on the steamship Southerner, for Portland, but alas! this proved to be her last trip, for the wind and waves were too strong for the old vessel, and she was disabled and driven past the mouth of the Columbia, far northward, and foundered on the coast of Washington territory. All the freight on board was lost, including a thousand volumes of the general laws of the territory, which had been printed in New York for the public printer. Mr. Bush's loss by this disaster was not less than \$30,000, not a dollar of which was insured. It is said that for weeks after the vessel was washed ashore, and occasionally some "swashes" of the vicinity, and wrought into rude ornaments for the adornment of their dusky persons. It is likely, also, that some of the metals were used by them for bullets in the war which broke out the following year and desolated that thinly-peopled region. The legislature that met at Salem in

the spring of the Douglas wing, marshaled its forces, and had them in the division of the republican camp--that is to say, where Liberty's hosts were rallying. As evidence of the complete command that the paper had over its following, may be cited the result of the election for members of congress in 1852. At the previous election there was a democratic majority of over two thousand in the territory, which was reduced to a disputed majority of barely sixteen in 1852. The democratic majority in Marion county had been, up to that year, about 500, but the election of 1852 showed that it was buried under a republican majority of 800. Every one knew that the main factor producing that result was the OREGON STATESMAN, under the adroit management of Asabel Bush, its editor and publisher. As further evidence of the complete command that the paper had over its following, it may be stated that the republican party, which that memorable year maintained her stance as a republican stronghold, frequently rolling up her pristine majority of 800, and justifying James O'Meara's declaration that the revolution in Marion county in 1852 was unparalleled in political annals. The momentous year of 1850 came on apace, and the result of the general election in June and the senatorial election in October demonstrated the influence of the STATESMAN, and Baker to the United States senate, two of the most powerful defenders that the imperiled Union afterward had, was largely due to its cautious and conciliatory policy, and won for it unqualified praise from all lovers of the Union. When the war broke out, in 1861, the STATESMAN spoke in no uncertain voice for the Union, as its editorial columns at that time abundantly testify. Harvey Gordon, a writer of unquestioned ability, was then the managing editor, which position he retained until his death, in June, 1862. He was elected state printer on the Union-republican ticket a short time previously, but died before he could be sworn into office. He, in fact, had purchased an interest in the office shortly before his death. In the spring of 1863 Messrs. C. P. Crandall and E. M. Waite leased the office of the proprietors, and carried on the business until November, 1863, when the late J. W. P. Huntington, Ben Simpson, and other parties, purchased the STATESMAN office of Bush and Nesmith, and with D. W. Craig, of the Argus, which paper was then published in Salem, formed the Oregon Printing and Publishing company, incorporated under the laws of the State. The new company continued the publication of the STATESMAN, and supported the government unconditionally in the war for the suppression of the rebellion. A few years before this period the paper had received an entirely new dress, and an Adams power press had been procured to print its already large edition. This was the first power press ever brought to Oregon. The interest of the people in the war then at the height of its intensity, and the desire to supply the public demand for the latest news from the East, induced the publishers to undertake the issue of a daily edition. Accordingly, the first number of the Daily STATESMAN, was issued on July 10, 1864, coming out an afternoon journal. The latest dispatches, up to the hour of going to press, were received, and all the local news of interest was given. But the additional expense was too great to warrant the continuance of the daily issue, and so it was discontinued on the 20th of November, 1864, just four months after the first number was printed. In addition to the regular editorial force, P. S. Knight was employed as assistant editor. His vigorous and pungent style added so much to the interest of the paper that he was offered a permanent position as editor. His education, and literary tastes, however, led him to another field of labor, and he declined the proposition. J. Gaston, Esq., who had but lately become a resident of this city, was next employed as editor. For near two years he was retained in that position, to the satisfaction of the paper and its patrons. He was a ready, versatile writer, and well informed upon every subject of general interest. In the meantime, by the purchase of the interests of other shareholders, D. W. Craig had become practically the proprietor and business manager of the STATESMAN, and he and Mr. Gaston labored in harmony together until the subsequent sale of the former's interest in the establishment dissolved their connection. It was during this time that the youthful Fred Schwatka was employed in the office as mailing clerk. The work of addressing the papers then was done with pen and pencil, but in this business Fred was quite an adept. He remained at this post until a short time previous to his appointment as cadet in the United States military academy at West Point. He was quite a different boy, and rather inclined to mischief, but he showed no signs of possessing the spirit of adventure that has since prompted him to roam in hyperborean regions. He was given to studying mathematics and to writing "poetry," and was proficient in both occupations, although the two are as opposite as the poles. His effusions were sent anonymously, through the post office, to the STATESMAN, but only a passing notice was accorded to them, and often, while at his desk, the youth would, with inexpressible anguish, see his cherished poems unceremoniously pitched to the fire, before his astonished gaze, by the practical but unsentimental publisher. In August, 1866, Ben Simpson bought the interest of Mr. Craig in the paper, and installed his sons Sylvester C. and Samuel L. as editors and managers. This venture of Mr. Simpson's was purely political in its nature, its object being to accomplish the re-election of J. W. Nesmith to the United States Senate, but the attempt miserably failed; and was financially disastrous to Mr. Simpson. The editorials of the young men were models of graceful and scholarly composition, but they themselves had no taste for newspaper work, and at the close of the year, Ben Simpson sold out to W. A. McPherson & Co., who were publishing the Unionist in this city, and this was the end of the Oregon Printing and Publishing company. After several changes, the paper finally fell into the hands of J. W. P. Huntington, the superintendent of Indian affairs for Oregon, under whose charge it remained until the time of his death, in the spring of 1869. In August following, the administrator of Huntington's estate sold the newspaper to S. A. Clarke, who changed the name back to the STATESMAN, and proceeded to enlarge the journal, and to increase its capacity for news. Mr. Clarke was widely known in literary circles as a graceful and accomplished writer, and he

was favored besides with much and varied journalistic experience, having been editor of the Daily Oregonian, and also of the Salem Daily Record, and for several years a regular correspondent of the Sacramento Union, New York Times, and many other Eastern journals. The town and country had made rapid strides in prosperity, but Mr. Clarke kept the paper abreast of the tide, and lost no opportunity to extend its usefulness. Under his management it was distinctly reputable in its political character, and was largely successful as a business venture, which was solely due to his own efforts, for Mr. Clarke was his own business manager, as well as editor. It may be stated that the publication of the daily edition was resumed in March, 1868, and has been continued without interruption until the present time. A fine job office was connected with the paper up to the time of the administrator's sale, but the same was bought by A. L. Stinson, who united the best of the material with his own office, which eventually went into the hands of E. M. Waite, who yet runs the same. In the spring of 1872 Mr. Clarke sold the office to C. P. Crandall, who published the paper until December 1873, when it fell into the hands of Clarke & Craig, of the Willamette Farmer. The latter soon discovered that they had bought into a vexatious lawsuit, but they published the paper until some time in April, 1874, when, by the decision of the court, the office was returned to Crandall. It soon passed into the hands of a company, with Capt. L. S. Scott as business manager, and G. B. McDonald as editor. E. Norton was afterward installed as business manager and local editor. In 1875, Capt. A. H. Waters and brother bought the STATESMAN office, and carried on the publication of the paper, with W. H. H. Waters as editor, until June, 1877, when W. H. Odell purchased the establishment, and fitted the office out with an entire new dress. Mr. Odell kept up his ownership of the paper for over seven years, retiring finally in August, 1884. For brief periods of time he had succeeded as partners--Jackson, Geo. E. Good, C. W. Waite, Geo. Dorris, and A. Gesner. From July, 1881, until December, 1882, Reuben C. Boise, Jr., and Whitney L. Boise were business managers and local editors, and were succeeded by A. Gesner. All of these gentlemen were successful in these departments, and the local columns were kept full of life while they had charge. In August 1883, W. H. Byars, the state printer, bought one half of the office, and took the business duties on himself, with H. H. Hendricks, then lately graduated from the State university, as local editor. Each proved himself a success in his position, and especially Mr. Hendricks, who, though a total stranger in the city at the beginning of his career as a journalist here, made a remarkably lively local editor. On the 18th of August, 1884, Mr. Odell sold his half of the STATESMAN office to R. J. Hendricks and George H. Saubert, two young men from Roseburg, the former becoming business manager and local editor and the latter taking charge as foreman of the mechanical department. Mr. Odell retired from the office, and was soon thereafter appointed postmaster at Salem, which position he now holds. Under his control, the paper fully maintained its character as an able exponent of republican policy, and editorials being mainly devoted to questions that had a national bearing. Mr. Odell's writings were deeply studied, logical, and argumentative, devoid of offensive epithets, and courteous to political opponents. In December of the same year Mr. Byars disposed of his interest in the office to D. W. Craig, which the latter retained until September, 1885, when he sold the same to his partners, and shortly thereafter the "Statesman Publishing Company" was incorporated, under which organization Mr. Hendricks, the editor, and business manager, and Mr. Saubert, the foreman, the paper is now meeting with unprecedented prosperity, both in the subscription and advertising departments, which sufficiently shows that its course commends itself to public approval. The press upon which the STATESMAN is now printed was purchased in Chicago in 1871, for the Willamette Farmer, by the late A. L. Stinson, and was used in the publication of that paper until the latter part of 1872, when it was sold to the proprietor of this office, who had previously disposed of the Adams power press to the state printer, Eugene Sample. It was afterward bought by A. G. Walling, and taken to Portland, for use in his job office. In January, 1874, Messrs. Clarke & Craig first applied steam to the printing of the STATESMAN, but upon the return of the office to its former publisher, the power of muscle was again resorted to, which was kept up until December, 1883, when Messrs. Odell & Byars purchased a steam engine from E. M. Waite, and set the same up in the press-room of the office, thus permanently dispensing with the services of Hiram Gorman, who had steadily acted as the motive power of the STATESMAN printing press for twelve successive years. He was loath to depart from the press-room, however, which had been a second home to him for so many years, and he yet lingers about its noisy precincts, and is nightly busied in the light work of folding the Daily sheets as they come from the press. The present proprietors have in contemplation the purchase of a new steam engine as well as a new press. Their growing business will necessitate this measure at no distant day, as, in addition to their own large editions, they do the press work for four other newspapers, with a likelihood of an increased number of publications in the near future. We have now gone through the history of the STATESMAN, in chronological order, and have noted, as accurately as possible, from memory alone, in the absence of all regular files, the various changes in its proprietors and editors, from the date of its inception to the present time, embracing a period of nearly thirty-six years. Of many incidents, both serious and amusing, that might have proved interesting in the recital, we have refrained from speaking, out of regard for the actors therein, some of whom are yet living, while others have crossed the narrow line between time and eternity. Perhaps when this paper shall celebrate its semi-centennial anniversary, in the year 1901, it will then be in order for some curious chronicler to recount in full, for the amusement of himself and his readers, its unwritten history, in its connection with that of the times. In such an event the foregoing summary may serve as a basis for that of the period which it covers. We may say, however, in passing, that the STATESMAN has been remarkable for the number of its editors and propri-

etors who have risen to high and honorable positions in the government, and indeed, in this respect, its career may be said to be unexampled in all the previous history of journalism. One of its editors became successively representative in congress, governor of the state, and United States senator, five of its stockholders at different times were elected to the United States senate, and another held a seat in the national house of representatives, while of those who aspired to such exalted stations, and fell short of their desire, it would be needless to enumerate. It is to be regretted that the allotted time and space for this article are insufficient for adequate mention of the many talented writers who have contributed from their stores of literary wealth to these columns, in the past years. Their influence, however, though unseen and unnoted, has nevertheless been as the falling of the dew upon the earth. And, in closing, we shall add that the aim of the present proprietors is to be foremost in every movement for the advancement of the moral and material interests of the country, and with that end in view, they will spare neither pains nor expense in holding the paper up to the required standard.

**CAPITAL NATIONAL BANK.**  
A Brief History of this Financial Institution--An Energetic Business House.  
During the summer of 1855, R. S. Wallace arrived in Salem from Greeley, Colorado, and soon thereafter, in connection with Hon. A. A. McCully, J. M. Martin, W. T. Gray, W. W. McCull, J. J. Polley, Squire Farrar, and John H. Albert, organized the Capital National Bank of Salem, Oregon, with a capital of \$75,000. On October 30, this bank was given authority by the comptroller of the currency for the United States to commence business. On January 13, 1856, Hon. A. A. McCully, R. S. Wallace, Esq., Dr. H. Carpenter, W. W. Martin, W. T. Gray, J. M. Martin, and J. H. Albert were elected directors, and R. S. Wallace president, and J. H. Albert, cashier, Mr. Albert having resigned the position of cashier of Ladd & Bush's bank to associate himself with the Capital National bank. The bank secured the room at 253 Commercial street, and fitted up a fine banking room, with parlor in the rear, and put in the latest improved fire-proof vault, and burglar proof safe with time lock. Since its inception, this bank has gradually gathered in and increased its business, until to-day the Capital National ranks with the leading financial institutions of the northwest. In August last Hon. A. A. McCully was killed by the kick of a horse, and Dr. H. Carpenter succeeded him as vice president, and H. V. Watwase was elected director. The Capital National bank has been very energetic in many ways since its establishment, and many improvements of interest or value to Salem have been aided by it. In the bridge matter, President Wallace and cashier Albert took a very active interest, and their labors did much toward securing its completion.

**J. M. MARTIN & CO.**  
The Oldest Exclusive Grocery House in Salem--Established in 1865.  
The oldest established house in Salem devoted exclusively to the sale of groceries, is that of J. M. Martin & Co. at 257 Commercial street, which bears date from the year 1865. The business was first opened on November 5, 1865, by J. M. Martin & David Allen, who continued to conduct the business under the name of Martin & Allen until October 11, 1882, when J. W. Cox became a partner in the firm, by purchasing Mr. Allen's interest. Since it began business, this firm has confined itself exclusively to groceries and provisions, not handling any outside lines of goods at all, and this is the only grocery firm in Salem now, or ever so doing. The business is still conducted in the same store room in which Martin & Allen first began business, at 257 Commercial street. J. M. Martin & Co. always have on hand a complete and well selected stock of family groceries, vegetables, and fruits (California in season), cigars and tobacco; and they hold their immense trade by fair dealing, and a due courtesy to their customers. They also make a specialty of the celebrated "State" baking powder, manufactured at the Cleveland Laboratory in Cleveland Ohio, by Stuart & Schneider.

**ROTH & RUFF.**  
Commission Merchants, Groceries, and Provisions, Produce, etc.  
These young gentlemen are rapidly making their way into the ranks among the leading commission merchants and grocers of Salem. Though they have been in business here for a few months, comparatively, yet in that time they have established a reputation for honesty and integrity, coupled with a never ceasing business vigilance, that any house, no matter of how long standing, might be proud of. Their trade has gradually increased, from the time they began business, and they are doing everything they can to give satisfaction to their customers. They always keep on their shelves a full stock of groceries, crockery, glassware, cigars and tobacco, provisions and vegetables and other produce. They also buy and sell oats, hay, straw, wheat, mill-feed, and all kinds of grains and feeds. Their store is on the northwest corner of State and Liberty streets.

**LEO WILLIS.**  
The Principal Real Estate Agency in Salem--Fire Insurance, etc.  
Leo Willis, who is agent for the Phoenix Fire Insurance Co., of Hartford, Conn., the Home Fire Insurance Co., of New York, which companies issue joint policies, the North British and Mercantile Fire Insurance Company, besides several other of the leading fire underwriting companies doing business in the United States, is also the only person actively engaged in the real estate business in Salem. Persons having farms or other real property which they wish to sell, will find Mr. Willis ready to undertake to dispose of the same for them. He also negotiates loans and does a general brokerage business. Office at 115 Court street, in Reed's opera house block.

**J. G. FONTAINE.**  
The refreshment parlors over which the gentleman, whose name heads this article, presides, are located at 111 State street, near Liberty, and are fitted up in every way, so that a visitor may find them pleasant. The finest liquors, wines, and cigars are always kept on hand, and as for real fine mixed drinks, Mr. Fontaine is fully up with the times. To-day he will make a specialty of Tom and Jerry.

**THE OLD SCOTCH VERSION OF IT.**  
A lady in Scotland sends the following version of "Now I lay me down to sleep," to the Brooklyn Magazine:  
This night, when I lie down to sleep,  
I give my soul to Christ to keep,  
I wake a' noo, I wake a' never,  
I give my soul to Christ forever.  
This is a better prayer for the Christian than the one our children use.

**WILLIAMS & ENGLAND.**  
Ten years ago, Col. Geo. Williams, and William England, both residents of Marion county for over thirty years, began a general banking business in Salem. The firm of Williams & England now ranks among the wealthiest and most solid business firms of the city. They do banking and general financial business at 288 Commercial street. Both members of the firm have been, at different times, and are now interested in some of the heaviest corporate enterprises in Salem, and everything with which they have been connected has proved successful, largely, in each case, due to their personal efforts.

**THE FARMERS' STORE.**  
Forster, Tiffany, & Co., Proprietors, and Dealers in General Merchandise.  
This firm has been in business now for a little over a year, and has gradually drawn heavy trade to itself. Mr. Tiffany, who is the manager, is an active and energetic business man, and is an effective salesman. The store is well named "The Farmers' Store," as on its shelves can be found every thing that a farmer could possibly want to eat, drink or wear. Forster, Tiffany & Co. are agents for the Ashland woolen mills, of Ashland, Oregon, and they carry a full and complete stock of Ashland cassimers, blankets, hosiery, yards, and other woolen goods, besides having a complete and well selected stock of general merchandise, which includes men's and boys' clothing, gents furnishing goods, staple and fancy dry goods, notions, staple and fancy groceries, crockery and glassware, table and pocket cutlery, and an excellent assortment of boots and shoes. The store is located at 93 State street, near the corner of Commercial.