

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON: WEDNESDAY, JAN. 26, 1881. B. C. IRELAND, Editor.

The Whitman Monument.

Hon. W. H. Gray, corresponding secretary of the Pioneer and Historical society of Oregon, is in receipt of correspondence from gentlemen in the east who have taken active interest in the project of erecting a monument to the late Dr. Marcus Whitman, from which we are permitted to extract. Hon. William A. Mowry, president of the American Institute of Instruction, Providence, Rhode Island, sends a lengthy communication to Mr. Gray in which he says: "You can hardly imagine the interest with which I have read and re-read your very kind letter of November the 28th, and the accompanying documents. They have proved of great interest and value to me. I have been very studious and industrious in gathering information concerning the heroic labors of Dr. Whitman, and his horrible death." Mr. Mowry has read with great interest various books, among which he names Gray's History of Oregon, DeSmet's Oregon, Irving's Astoria, and more than ten others besides the reports of addresses, etc., before the society of Oregon. Mr. Mowry wrote out the entire history concerning Dr. Whitman, some years ago, but it has never been published, because he wanted to gather more completely the facts relating to the entire history of Oregon. He has given the lecture on Oregon, with others, before the Rhode Island Historical society, the New England Historical General society, Boston, teachers institutes in New Hampshire, the Rhode Island Normal schools and other societies. He repeated the lecture during the latter part of December in Worcester, Massachusetts, and states that it has been received with great favor everywhere. Mr. Mowry thinks that some aid may be extended by the people in the east, and firmly believes that the wealthy men of Boston and Providence ought to give to the object handsomely. He will at once confer with such of his friends as will be most likely to take an interest in the matter and if he finds such encouragement as will warrant making an attempt he will try and see what can be done.

Rev. J. H. Hopkins, D. D., Williamsport, Pennsylvania, also addresses Mr. Gray under date of December 23d. He takes active interest in the matter, and has been elected as an honorary member of the society of Oregon. Before closing his letter he says: "I shall try hard to go out at the completion of the monument. Rev. Mr. Hopkins gave to the society of Oregon the design for the monument, heretofore described in our columns, which was adopted by the executive board. With the hearty co-operation of such gentlemen as Hon. William A. Mowry and Rev. J. H. Hopkins, Mr. Gray can feel assured that the monument will be erected in due time.

Mr. P. B. Whitman, nephew of the late Dr. Whitman, writes to Mr. Gray from Lapwai Indian agency, Idaho, under date of Dec. 25th, in which he gives data in regard to the birth of Dr. Whitman and wife, as follows: "I have only just received a letter from York state that informs me that uncle, Dr. Marcus Whitman, was born in Gorham, Ontario county, New York, September 4th, 1802. I only learn that aunt was born in the year 1808. No particulars." Mr. Gray informs us that Mrs. Whitman was born in Rushville, New York.

A press dispatch from Washington, D. C., under date of the 15th, says that Bishop Morris delivered an address before the women's auxiliary missionary association of St. John's church in that city, in which he gave a history of the missionary operations in his diocese, and especially the important work accomplished by the women's association.

The Holladay Claim.

The claim of Ben. Holladay, formerly of this state, has been so long before congress that most of our readers are more or less familiar with it. Mr. Holladay had lines of stages carrying United States mail on the route to California during the civil war, and suffered pecuniary loss by having his trips delayed, his horses run off, killed by the Indians, etc. The bill before congress states his damages at \$526,739. Several amendments to reduce the amount were offered in the senate, all of which were voted down, except that offered by Senator Cockrell, who placed the amount due Mr. Holladay at \$100,000. The amendment was adopted, and the bill passed.

How They Get India Rubber in Africa.

Rubber Era. Having passed fully three years on the southwest coast of Africa, as trader for an English firm, I will endeavor to describe the manner in which India rubber is procured in that country, as India rubber formed the staple products of the district where I was located. The natives are in a very rude, uncivilized condition. They have no currency, and do all business by bartering the native products for manufactured stuffs. Their wealth consists chiefly in the number of slaves they possess, who fish, hunt and keep their plantations in good order.

When rubber has to be collected, from four to ten slaves get their flint muskets in order, each carrying, in addition, a long sword-shaped knife called a machete, a number of calabashes or jars to collect the juice from the rubber vine, and a little food that has been cured in smoke, as they can find plenty of substance in the bush without carrying it about with them from place to place.

The vines are in some cases near to the towns, but generally the natives have to go several days' journey into the bush before they can sit down and commence business. The vine itself is of a rough, knotty nature, about as thick as a man's arm, and grows to a length of fully two hundred feet. Its leaves are glossy, like those of the South American rubber trees, and a large fruit, much liked by the natives, is gathered from it. I have tasted it, and found it very palatable, being slightly acid. This vine (what its scientific name is I don't pretend to know) yields several grades of rubber, each of different commercial value, the best quality being taken from the highest part, and the poorest from the bottom.

With their knives, or machetes, the natives slash the vines in several places, and put broad leaves directly underneath the wounds for the juice to drop on, and which, being of a strong, adhesive nature, none of it gets lost. When the top part of the vine is bled, calabashes, or jars, are placed with their openings to the wounds, so that none of it may drop on the branches of the tree, and so get lost; but it is not often they trouble themselves climbing, unless the vines happen to be scarce in the vicinity. The entire day they devote to cutting; next day they gather what was cut on the day previous, and so on. Each evening, after collecting, they put all the juice they have into several iron pots, or earthen vessels of native manufacture, and boil it; at the same time they can greatly improve the lowest quality by adding a little salt, and the more they boil the juice the better it becomes. When sufficiently boiled the water is poured off and the juice allowed to cool, when it is fashioned according to the grade—ball, flake, mixed or tongue—and is ready for the market. In this way about twenty or thirty pounds a day is generally collected. It is then taken to the factory, and there exchanged for guns, cloth, rum, etc. When it is received at the factory it is carefully marked, classed, weighed, and put into casks for shipment. It contains

so much water that twenty per cent. is deducted from the weight of each cask, as that is about the amount of shrinkage on the voyage. This is, however, a loss to the native, as it is deducted from him when selling.

This vine, from my personal observation, is to be found from Sierra Leona in the north to Vunsembo in the south, but along the coast line it is rapidly becoming extinct, as the natives are so careless or rapacious that in many cases they completely sever the vine, thus killing it, instead of simply bleeding it.

Surveyor General J. C. Tolman states that the government last year surveyed in this state 2,317,760 acres, mostly in eastern Oregon. He is of the opinion that a like number of acres will be surveyed during the present year.

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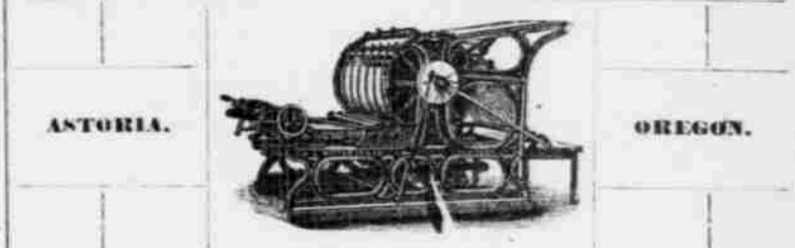
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