

The Daily Astorian.

Vol. xv.

Astoria, Oregon, Sunday Morning, July 17, 1881.

No. 66.

YOU BET.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE WILLAPA VALLEY.

A SOIL OF MARVELOUS FERTILITY, AND LAND FOR NOTHING.

THE DRAWBACKS—NO GOVERNMENT CLAIMS WITH HOUSES AND BARN UPON THEM.

NORTH RIVER NOT EXACTLY A PARADISE AFTER ALL.

COR. OF THE ASTORIAN.

According to promise, I will now try and give your readers a brief description of the Willapa valley, and in doing this I shall endeavor to give both sides of the question; the disadvantages as well as the advantages; so that people can act understandingly in regard to coming here. I believe there is no country in the world but has some disadvantages to contend with, but, as I said in a previous letter, I think this region possesses fewer than most others and such as they are, are briefly summed up as follows: Neighbors are some distance apart, and we have poor roads in the winter season. The one is a consequence of the other. In the upper end of the valley there is twelve miles of wagon road, with four settlers the entire distance. Of course it is manifestly impossible for four men to keep a road of that length in good repair. However, the road in summer is excellent, and a little corduroy here and there, and a few small creeks bridged, will render it the same in winter. It is but justice to the country to remark, that six months ago there was but one settler in this distance, and a very poor foot trail in place of the road, which shows that the country is being appreciated to some extent. If I think of any more drawbacks I shall mention them in the course of my letter. On the other hand we have vacant government and railroad lands enough in the valley to accommodate a great many families. How many it is impossible for me to say, and probably no one would be able to form a correct estimate, as a great part of the valley is still unexplored. At any rate settlers can keep coming until further notice, which will no doubt be given when there is room for no more. We have an exceptionally healthy climate with no excessive heat or cold, although it is necessary to feed stock a short time in winter; however, in many instances they are wintered in good condition without feeding at all. Water is excellent and abundant, there being springs and living streams in every direction. For timber, we have vast forests of spruce and fir of the very best size and quality for lumber, and a No. 1 steam mill at the mouth of the river to convert them into lumber. In addition to these, we have in the upper portion of the valley, an abundance of cedar which is very convenient for posts, rails, pickets, shingles and boards, as it splits almost as true as sawed lumber. Thousands of acres of vine maple furnish the very best of fuel. Now what more is to be desired? Your land for nothing, or next to nothing; a soil of marvelous fertility; the best of wood and water at your door; a healthy climate and good market facilities. All kinds of grain thrive exceedingly well here, and fruit, with the exception of peaches and grapes; while vegetables yield prodigiously. I have been in more than half the states in the Union, and nearly all the territories, but have never yet seen a country so peculiarly adapted to tame grasses as this. Three and four tons per acre is nothing unusual, and the hill lands will produce this crop equally as well as the bottoms, and as there are thousands of acres of this kind of land within one or two miles of tide water. Sheep farming would doubtless be immensely profitable. Labor, in logging camps and on farms, is in good demand and well paid, so that a man with small means would have no difficulty in keeping the pot boiling until he had his farm cleared, and a start made. Nor

need men of means be at all backward, as there is plenty of chances to invest. A grist mill is one of our great wants and severely felt, and its absence one of the drawbacks I forgot to mention. A cheese factory, near Mallis landing, would also be a paying enterprise, as a large number of excellent cows are kept in that vicinity. There are also a few well improved farms for sale at reasonable prices. There are a few other items of interest to immigrants. The tornadoes and cyclones, so fashionable in the Mississippi valley, never visit us. Grasshoppers, chinch bugs and army worms, are unknown, while the floods, that have devastated so many sections over almost the entire globe, stand no show here whatever. We always have plenty of rain, so that a failure, or even a partial failure of crops, was never known. If the farmer sows he is absolutely certain to reap. Now I believe I have described a country that ought to suit any man who wants a home, and is willing to work for it. But there is a class of immigrants, and a few of them have been in here and been disappointed; who are looking for government claims with white houses and red barns on them. There are no such claims here, and parties looking for them should by all means go to Kansas, with the darkies, and take "forty acres and a mule." A man, in taking a claim here, must expect to do plenty of hard work and put up with a number of inconveniences for the first year or two; but I know by experience that all these things look harder in prospective than they really are, when it comes to the pinch. There is one more drawback I should like to mention while I think of it, and that is our abominable mail facilities. It takes at least fourteen days to get a letter from San Francisco to South Bend, while a passenger can come, and has come, from San Francisco, via Astoria, in three days. The Astorian is nearly a week old when we receive it. I believe THE ASTORIAN solved this problem in a late issue. Let the steamer South Bend bring the mail, and then we can have two mails a week and get them in some sort of season. It is difficult to over estimate the importance of this matter in a country with our present population, and so rapidly settling, and no telegraphic communication with the outside world. Where's Brady? let us have this route "expedited." It is a Star Route, is it not? If possible let us avoid the Oysterville office, where the delay undoubtedly occurs. There is one more subject I wish to touch upon while in a growling mood, and then I am done for this time. A great many letters have been published, in different papers, giving a highly-colored description of the North river country. I do not wish to discourage people from visiting North river, but, on the contrary, would advise any who are looking for homes, to take a look there by all means; but do not, as many have done, let the investigation end there, and turn back and give the whole territory a bad name. I know of three men, and men of means, who came all the way from California to look at the North river country. They spent a day or two on the bay in an open boat, in a driving rain, in a fruitless search for the mouth of the river, and turned their faces homeward, cursing the whole region. Such things are a serious detriment to the whole country. If those parties had visited the Willapa they would, no doubt, have been well suited, and have been the means of bringing in several more families. The North river country is undoubtedly a good country, but the river is not navigable, and the valley is walled in all on sides by the hills, so that the first duty of settlers would be that of constructing expensive roads over these hills. Three North-river victims, who spent several days there, paying two dollars per day for a guide to pilot them through the wet underbrush,

and afterwards took claims on the Willapa, told me that the land in this valley was in every respect superior to that of the North river valley. In coming here the immigrant can ride for twenty miles up the river in an elegant steamer, and the balance of the way there is a good wagon road the entire length of the valley; and it costs nothing for guides, as the people here will gladly lend every assistance in their power. There are several other matters of considerable importance that I wished to refer to, but time and space both admonish me to desist for the present, but may, at some other time, resume the subject. Respectfully Yours, You Bet, Fern Prairie, W. T., July 16, 1881.

CHEMEKETA.

WELCOME LETTER FROM THE CAPITAL CITY OF OREGON.

LOCAL NOTES AND CURRENT TOPICS—THE KINNEY BROTHERS.

COR. OF THE ASTORIAN.

SALEM, July 14.—Few visitors pass over the threshold so welcome as THE DAILY ASTORIAN; none more so. Like the white-winged messenger that it is, it seems to bring with it a cooling draught of salt sea air and ocean spray, in a vivid remembrance of the historical little city where the broad Columbia sweeps majestically to pay tribute to the ever-sounding sea. It recalls pleasant visions of myriads of swifty sails dotting the rivers expanse, incoming and outgoing water craft, distant headlands boldly defined against the sky.

And Fanning White-Tops.

Tossing to and fro on the rocky bar beyond. A striking contrast is our inland city, with only its bit of water scenery, the Willamet, and of which comparatively few citizens have a view; and further, in the prime regularity of our streets, in comparison with the ups and downs and ins and outs of your odd little city; and still more in the quiet which usually broods over this Capital city, while you have the commerce of the world, in a measure, represented at your very doors. A few events have transpired with us of late that have more than a local interest.

The Printer's Pic-Nic.

Of last month, was one of the pleasantest affairs that ever occurred in Salem, and Marion square was filled with a joyous company that passed the day in amusement and lulling, in the most approved style. Society was very well represented, and the "craft" had reason to feel proud of the representation. As it is to be annual, friends and members of the "art preservative," may favor us with their presence another year.

Perhaps from Astoria.

And they will be made welcome. Commencement week at the Willamet university, with its graduating classes, meeting of alumni, social and literary reunions, absorbed the attention of friends and patrons alike for one week. This institution has passed a dark crisis in local and financial affairs, but the prospects for future prosperity were never better than at the present time. President Van Scoy has filled the first position with ability as an educator, and an endowment fund of \$25,000 has been secured through the efforts of the agent, Rev. F. P. Tower. In regard to the state fair, it did not prove so complete a financial success as the Agricultural society hoped for; it did not free the society from debt, but rather increased it; yet no discouragement is felt, for its affairs have been in a worse condition than at present.

The Fair This Year.

Was really an enjoyable one, as the grounds are delightful; the roomy pavilion, with its plashing fountain and decorations unusually attractive; the floral garden a charming place, with its blooming flowers, rockeries and shrubs. Another fair will probably not take place until the autumn of 1882. The Congregational church holds its annual association in this city, its session commencing to-day. Representatives from all parts of

the state are expected to be present, and a season of much interest is in anticipation. The grand lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen is also in session at the present time. A reception to its members will be given at the Opera-house on Friday evening. The probable transfer of the Salem flouring mills from the Messrs. Kinney to other hands has been the subject of much speculation, and the following item which appears in this morning's Statesman explains what is of importance not only locally, but to every resident of the state.

The Salem Mills.

Were sold yesterday to a joint stock company for \$140,000. The capital stock of the purchasing company is fixed at \$200,000. The directors are W. S. Ladd, A. Bush, William Reed, George Beattie and Robert Bell. We understand there will be no change in the employees of the company. W. B. Scott, of the late company, will continue as managing agent in Liverpool, and Mr. Young will still be manager in Salem. It is proposed to enlarge the mills, and add new and complete machinery, so as to make them first class in every particular. The Kinney Brothers have none but friends in Salem, and it is a matter of profound regret that they should find it necessary to sever their connection with the mills, of which they may almost be considered the founders. Its size, capacity and prosperous condition, at least, are owing to the energy and labor of

The Kinney Brothers.

The removal hence of the late A. W. Kinney, was an irreparable loss to the mills. When the matter of a summer trip is under discussion, our invariable advice to friends and acquaintances is, "go to Astoria," for no place in the state affords so many varied charms to the tourist. In itself and surroundings those who have had the good fortune to pass summer days there, experience more than passing regret if circumstances forbid a repetition of the pleasure. Mrs. A. C. Kinney, of Astoria, paid her friends a short visit in this city, last week. Mrs. Kinney is always warmly welcomed, but her sea-side home hurries her away all too soon to please her friends and acquaintances. Even sending a message to Astoria, recalls a verse or two—perhaps

A Poem, of the Sea.

Mrs. Hemans, whose musical verses charmed us in our youth, writes of its sounds.

Thou art sounding on, thou mighty sea,
Forever and the same;
The ancient rocks yet ring to thee—
Those thunders naught can tame.

Thou liftest up thy solemn voice
To every wind and sky,
And all our earth's green shores rejoice
Even as first it rolled.

It fills the noontide calm profound,
The sunset heaven of gold;
And the still midnight heaves the sound,
Even as first it rolled.

Let there be silence, deep and strange,
Where scattered cities rose;
The speak of One who doth not change—
No man our hearts possess.

CHEMEKETA.

☞ If you will send us five subscribers for one year with \$9.00 advance payment, at the rate of \$2.00 for each name, we will send one copy of THE ASTORIAN free, to any address you may give, and we will send an additional copy for each additional five names that you may send to us, with the cash in advance of course, for one year.

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Full of Valuable and Practical Information, and Containing an INDEX OF DISEASES.

Which gives the symptoms, cause and the best treatment of each; a table giving all the principal drugs used for the horse, with the ordinary dose, effects and antidote when a person; a table with an engraving of the horse's teeth at different ages, with rules for telling the age of the horse; so engraving showing the important points in the structure of the horse, also illustrating positions assumed by sick horses in different diseases. A valuable collection of receipts, many of which would cost a horse-owner three to five dollars each.

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And when you have heard me, I'm sure you'll agree,
I will give you a story, and sing it out clear
And the name of my song is the ALBANY BEER.

You can find it all round in this city of gold,
And the way that they make it has never been told.
That's a secret they keep and hold very dear,
For the whole country is drinking that ALBANY BEER.

The brewery is large and the machinery is fine,
And every order is sent to you right up to time.
They get all kinds of orders from far and from near,
For every one's health that drinks ALBANY BEER.

For every thing these folks so clean and so neat,
And their beer is so sparkling, it cannot be beat.
If you are feeling bad or the blues do appear,
You can drive them away by drinking ALBANY BEER.

I have an old father, who's now eighty-three,
And this is the advice he gave unto me,
He spoke to me kindly with a voice bright and clear:
"If you want to be healthy, drink ALBANY BEER."
Since then I have done so, and I'm hearty and sound,
At the round age of fifty I can always be found.
At my daily labor before the sun does appear
And each day and night I drink ALBANY BEER.

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