

**LAND AND TIMBER CLAIMS.**

We happened to get into conversation with a young man yesterday. We have met him daily at meals for a month or more past. He has done some hard daily work in this vicinity to our knowledge. He speaks good English and has the manners of a modest gentleman. He fell to speculating as to what he should do. Somebody had been kind enough to secure him the reversion of a regular job at \$2 per day in one of our manufacturing establishments, with a prospect of preferment. Our young friend, however, has been up in the Whatcom county, where he worked in a logging camp just long enough to find out that he did not possess the robust physique necessary for that kind of labor. He saw, however, in that region much vacant government land, some agricultural and some timber. He has money enough on deposit to support himself while perfecting land claims and pay all charges at the land office. His father, however, wishes him to work for a salary. The young man is in doubt. He asked our advice. We told him to go and take up his claim and let us write to his father to shove off a row. Now, suppose this young man accepts a clerkship or a laborer's position. He can't reasonably expect more than \$60 per month at the best. He has been accustomed to the comforts of a home, and lives comfortably and soberly, and would not be likely to live otherwise under any circumstances. Out of his sixty dollars per month, if he got that much, and had no sickness or other extraordinary demand on his purse he might hope at the end of each month, after paying for board, washing and clothes, to have from \$10 to \$15. In five years at best, he might hope to have \$1,000, taxes paid and interest added. Now, let him go and take up his agricultural and timber claims, and stay by them until he gets patents. All this can be done in less than five years, considerably less. Very well. His agricultural claim will be worth \$2,000 in less than two years. If he gets a good timber claim \$2,000 won't, or shouldn't, buy the stumpage on a fourth of it.

These are facts for young men with a few dollars, say two hundred or three hundred dollars, in their pockets, to think of. And if any "young fellow" will look at in the right light, and take up his claims—not with a view to selling them as soon as, or before, the title vests in him, but with a view to become a farmer and the seller of stumpage when stumpage will be stumpage, we tell him that right here on Puget Sound he can get, and keep after he gets it, a better thing than falls to the share of one man in a thousand who seeks a clerk's or a laborer's berth and trusts to luck to have the wheel of fortune pick him up and turn him over and drop him in a soft place. The young man who secures 160 acres on Puget Sound and holds to it and works it for what it is worth, has an independent fortune before him.—*Post-Intelligencer.*

The above applies with equal force to this portion of Oregon. An officer of the 7th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Lincoln, Dakota, received a letter from a woman who owns a ranch near Mandan, which in substance read as follows: "Dear sir:—My man, perhaps you know, is dead, I buried him Tuesday. It is coming on spring now, and I am a lone woman, with a big ranch and the Indians about. I don't mind the Indians, the red devils, but I have too much work for any woman to do. If you have any sergeant about to be mustered out, or a private, if he is a good man, I would like to have you inform me about him. If he is a steady man, likes work, and wants a good home, I will marry him, if we think we can get along together. It's a good chance for any man. Please answer immediately."

**A Mystery of the Sea.**

In December, 1873, the British ship Die Gratia arrived at Gibraltar, with the Mary Celeste, an American brigantine, found derelict in latitude 38 deg 20 min N, longitude 17 deg 15 min W; but without any apparent cause for her abandonment. The admiralty court ordered a special survey. The exterior of the ship's hull showed no trace of damage, nor was there any appearance of her having struck on any rock or ground, or been in collision. The stern, stempost and rudder were in good condition. As with the exterior, so it was with the interior of the derelict. A minute examination proved conclusively that no accident had befallen her; and that she had not encountered very heavy weather; for the pitch in the water-ways had not started, and the hull, masts and yards were as perfect as they well could be. There was no crack in the paint of the deck-house. The seamen's chests and sundry articles of clothing on board were quite dry; moreover a small vial of sewing-machine oil, and a reel and thimble over it, had not even been upset. The harmonium and the rest of the cabin furniture were in their proper places, the music and books scattered about had evidently never been wet. The barrels of spirits, forming the ship's cargo, were all well stowed, and saving one that had started, were intact and in good order. No bills of lading, no manifest, rewarded the industry of active searchers. They found, however, abundant evidence of the presence of a lady and child on board the brigantine. The last entry in the log showed that at 8 A. M. on the 9th of November she had passed to the north of St. Mary, one of the Azores; but, for divers reasons, it was inferred that she was not abandoned until some days later.

Why had the Mary Celeste been abandoned? A very terrible answer was suggested by the finding of a sword, appearing as though it had been stained with blood and afterwards wiped; and the discovery that the top-gallant rail bore marks of the same ominous character, while both sides of the ship's bow had been cut by some sharp instrument. The captain was well known in Gibraltar, and no one believed him capable of lending a hand to the perpetration of any foul play. "Up to the present time," said the Gibraltar Chronicle of January 20, 1874, "not a word has been heard, not a trace discovered, of the captain or the crew, or the lady and her child. It can only be hoped that by giving the utmost publicity to the circumstances some light may be thrown upon them." The home press did its part in scattering the story far and wide, but as far as we have been able to ascertain, the hope expressed was not realized; and the abandonment of the Mary Celeste, and the fate of those belonging to her, are still among the many unsolved mysteries of the seas.—*All the Year Round.*

**A Black Squatter's Dignity.**  
Fifteen miles out of the Chattanooga on the Bridgeport road I came upon a negro squatter. The cabin was a structure of poles which a man could have pushed over, and the roof was simply a lot of straw and weeds and bushes thrown upon the rafters and held down by large limbs. The one room was not over twelve feet square, and in this, with no floor but the earth, lived a family of nine. There were two straw beds, one chair, one table, three plates, one knife, one fork, two spoons and a bowl. It had been raining, and part of the earthy floor was a mud-puddle. The family had about five pounds of meal and three or four of bacon, and of all the patches one ever saw the greatest show was right here. The old man had thirteen patches on one leg of his trousers, eleven on the other, seven on his vest, and his cotton shirt was patched in a dozen places with red, yellow and white

and blue woolen. The old woman's dress looked like a crazy quilt, and two of the boys had only one trouser-leg apiece. "Great Scott! but how do you live?" I asked while one of the boys was watering the horse. "Lib, sah—how does we lib?" repeated the old man. "Well, sah, we is gainin' on it right smart, I reckon its wine to be a good y'ar fur poo' folks." "What do you raise?" "Chill'en an' dogs, sah!" he soberly replied. "Do you work any?" "Only when I feels like it." "And this is all your furniture?" "Well p'rhaps dar' may be a cha' out behind de cabin." "And these are all the clothes you have?" "Yes sah, cept one ob my ole hats on de roof." "And you call this living, do you?" "See heah, sir," he began as he rose up from his seat on a log near the door step, "pears to me like you was inquirin' a leetle too much! We doan' advertise to keep no fust-class hotel heah, an' if you doan' like de way we fling ourselves aroun' you'd better be sailin' along down de road! Some white folks is so mighty nice an' peart an' pertickler dat nuffin' on airth am quite up to der style. Boy! bring up dat hoss an' let dis pertickler white man git den gone afore dem two naked chillen cum home wid de sassafrass an' skurry his feelin's!"—*M. Quad, in Detroit Free Press.*

An exchange thus answers the inquiry, "What is home without a newspaper?" It is the place where old hats are stuffed into the window sashes, where the little children are like so many unmannerly barbarians, where the housewife is like an aboriginal savage and the husband with a panoramic view of a Grand river swamp painted on his shirt front with tobacco juice.

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