ASTORIA, OREGON:

Almost a Revelation.

J. B. McMaster has published a History of the people of the Uniwide spread attention.

that all noteworthy facts in our chairs, a table and a bed. domestic history as a nation have long ago been collected and placed can have any flavor of importance or permanent interest. But this tions as they were conducted only ster's or the tavern. * * * about a hundred years ago:

ING PEOPLE IN 1784.

ditches, who mended the roads, roof. who mixed the mortar, who carried The darkness was intense, the boards to the carpenter, and bricks caves reeked with filth, vermin to the mason, or helped to cut hav abounded; water trickled from in the harvest time, usually re- the roof and oozed from the sides

family a sum less than four dol- matism. The Newgate prison On such a pittance it was only country, yet in every country jails by the strictest economy that a such as now would be thought unmechanic kept his children from fit places of habitation for the Baby Carriages, Velocipedes starvation and himself from fail. vilest and most loathsome of In the low and dingy rooms which beasts. At Northampton the cells is called his home were wanting were scarce four feet high, and many articles of adornment and of filled with noxious gases of the use now to be found in the dwell- privy vaults through which they ings of the poorest of his class. were supposed to be ventilated. Sand sprinkled on the floor did Light came in from two chinks duty as a carpet. There was no in the wall. At the Worcester glass on his table, there was no prison were a number of like cells, china in his cupboard. There were four feet high by eleven long, no prints on his wall. What a without a window or a chimstove was he did not know, coal ney, or even a hole in the he had never seen, matches he never heard of. Over a fire of fragments of boxes and barrels which he lit with the sparks struck

Herarely tasted fresh meats as often as once a week, and paid for it a much higher price than his posterity. Everything indeed which ranked as a staple of life was very costly. Corn stood at three shillings the bushel, wheat at eight and sixpence, an assize of bread was fourpence, a pound of salt pork was tenpence. Many other commodities now to be seen on the tables of the poor were either quite unknown, or far be-

means.

If the food of an artisan would not be thought coarse, his clothes would be thought abominable. A pair of yellow buckskin or leathern flannel jacket, a rusty felt hat flogging him till he was too exceed up at the corners, shoes of hausted to utter a groan. neat skin set off with huge buckles of brass, and a leathern apron comprised his scanty wardrobe. The leather he smeared with grease to keep it soft and flexible. His sons followed in his J.A. BROWN, President. flexible. His sons followed in his footsteps, or were apprenticed to neighboring tradesmen. His daughters went out to service. She performed indeed all the She performed indeed all the duties at present exacted from women of her class, but with them were completed many others rendered useless by the great improvement that has taken place in the conveniences of life. She the conveniences of life. She

mended the clothes, she did up the ruffs, she ran on errands from one end of the town to the other, she milked the cows, made the APRIL 24, 1883 butter, walked ten blocks for a pail of water, spun flax for the family linen, and when the year was up, received ten pounds for her wages. Yet small as was her pay she had. ted States from the revolution to before bestowing herself in marrithe civil war, which will attract age on the footman or the gardner, laid away in her stocking enough The prevalling impression is guineas and joes to buy a few

But there is one other change which has, it must be admitted, before the public in standard his- done far more to increase the tories, by the ablest writers, and physical comfort of the poorest nothing remains to be said that class than better food, higher wages, finer clothes.

Men are no longer imprisoned impression, will be removed from for debt. No crime known to the the mind by reading the work. law brought so many to the jails The volume is full of historical in- and prisons as the crime of debt, formation of interest; he presents and the most likely to get into a picture of the home life of a cen- debt was the most defenseless and tury ago, its occupations, amuse- dependent, the great boly of serments, laws, manners and customs, vants, of artisans, and of laborers, that will be wholly new to the those in short who depended on great majority of readers. Those their daily wages for their daily who have prided themselves on bread. One hundred years ago knowing American + history will the laborer who fell from a scafwonder how it is that such a mass fold or lay sick of a fever was of interesting matter as this book sure to be seized by the sheriff presents could so long have re- the moment he recovered, and be mained hidden from view. Here carried off to jail for the bill of a The Regular Tillamook Packet. are a few extracts, showing the few dollars which had been run condition of some of our institu- up during his illness at the huck- BABBAGE, . . .

For more than fifty years after THE CONDITION OF AMERICAN WORK- the peace, there was in Connectient an underground prison which A wonderful amelioration has surpassed in horrors the Black taken place since that day in the Hole of Calcutta. This den, condition of the poor. Their known as the Newgate prishouses were meaner, their food on, was in an old worked out copwas coarser, their clothing was of per mine in the hills near Granby. commoner stuff, their wages were, The only entrance to it was by BEST SELECTED STOCK despite the depreciation that has means of a ladder down a shaft gone on in the value of the mon- which led to the cavern under ey, lower by one-half than at ground. There, in little pens of wood, from thirty to one hundred A man who performed what culprits were immured, their feet would now be called unskilled la- made fast to iron bars, and their bor, who sawed wood, who dug necks chained to beams in the

ceived as the fruit of his daily toil, of the caverns; huge masses of thirty-three cents. Sometimes, earth were perpetually falling off. when the laborers were few, he In the dampness and the filth, the was paid more and became the clothing of the prisoners grew envy of his fellows if at the end of moldy and rotted away, and their the week he took home to his limbs became stiff with rheumawas perhaps the worst in the wall. Not a ray of light ever penetrated them. In other jails in Massachusettes the cells were so small that the prisoners were lodgfrom a flint, or with live coals ed in hammocks swung one over brought from a neighbor's hearth, the other. In Philadelphia the his wife cooked up a rude meal keeps were eighteen feet by and served it in pewter dishes. twenty feet, and so crowded that at night each prisoner had a space six feet by two to lie down in.

Into such pits and dungeons all classes of offenders of both sexes were indiscriminately thrust. * * * Modes of punishment long since driven from the prisons with exeerations as worthy of an African kraal were looked upon by society with a profound indifference. The tread mill was always going. The pillory and the stocks were never empty. The shears, the branding wond the reach of his scanty iron, and the lash were never idle for a day. * * * A wretch so hardened as to be recommitted was branded on the arm. Keepers knew no other mode of silencing the ravings of a madman than breeches, a checked shirt, a red twing him up by the thumbs and

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C. H. PAGE. Astoria, Orogon,, April 14th, 1883, 11

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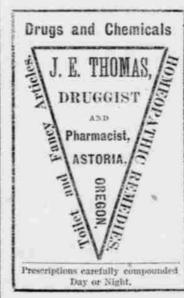
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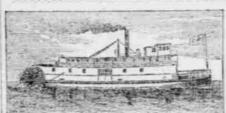
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