PRICE, FIVE CENTS.

EARLY DAYS IN OREGON.

Policy of the Hudson Bay Company. The second volume of the series of American Commonwealths is "Oregon; the Struggle for Possession" Whitman was the first man who cargon; the Struggle for Possession," by William Barrows. It is not a dry gon; the Struggle for Possession,"
by William Barrows. It is not a dry
and juiceless chronicle of events, as
too many of our Paeific coast histo
ries have been, but it is a remarkably
interesting sketch of the American
genius for colonizing and its success
and of his long and perilons ride ries have been, but it is a remarkably interesting sketch of the American genins for colonizing and its success in overcoming the formidable natural obstacles on the Oregon trail and the still greater obstruction placed in its path by that jealous British monopoly, the Hudson Bay company. We have had some good monographs on single episodes in Oregon history, such, for example, as Whitman's ride and his murder by the Indians to whom he had devoted his life, but it remained for this author to give the first clear and connected history of a struggle which had an important bearing on the development of the great northwest territory. After detailing the efforts in exploration on this const by Spain, France, Bussia and England, he devotes a chapter to the remarkable features of the Hudbson ay company, a corporation of the doctor had convinced all doubtay company, a corporation which played so conspicuous a part in the subsequent history of Oregon. to Oregon and that no danger was He shows that it was formed primarily "for the discovery of a new passage into the South Sea and for the finding of some trade for furs, minerals and other commodities." The first purpose was mythical, as the company m its long existence never made any material contributions to geography. The second was practical, and in few years the great region from Hudson bay on the east to Alaska on the west was dotted with trading posts, each presided over by one of the company's agents. They carried their trading expeditions as far down as the southern part of California, and they had many posts in what are now Oregon and Washington Territory. The system of the company was to dis-courage marriage of employes to European women and the result was that the agents took native women and reared a race of half-breeds. There was no such thing as settlement of the country on the long line of trading posts that stretched across the continent. The company was very jealous of its commercial supremacy, and the chief aim of its managers was to preserve the country as a great wilderness, since this meant no de-

then was not so close as it is with Central Africa to-day. "The goods of the company, packed and shipped in Fenchusch street learn I shipped in proprinted by contrast of the same I was appropriated by contrast of the same I was a same Fenchurch street, leave London, and the major the third year they are they are at the end of the third year they are delivered at Fort Confidence on Great Bear lake, or at any other extreme factors of the company, and at the end of three years more the return furs so and men who need their money are of three years more the return furs go up the Thames and into Fenchurch street again. So in cycles of six years, from age to age, like a planet, the shares in the Hudson Bay company made their orbit and dividends." same view prevailed at the main office in London. In 1719 rich copper nearly thirty years after, an expedition was really sent to the northward of Churchill, the company placed so many impediments in its way that Sir John Barrow said: "They not only discouraged all attempts at northern discovery, but withheld what little information came to their knowledge." They were consistent in this to the end and every obstacle was thrown by their agents in the path of Whitman and other pioneers to Oregon. The struggle after the Revolution

was between this great fur monopoly with its jealousy of all colonizing, and the hunters and trappers who were the advance guard of the great emigrant army which in a few years began to set its face toward the western shore. The company held its monopoly in the British possessions until 1870, when it merged in the erown; its control of trade in lands outside, commonly called Indian countries, which was granted in 1821, came to an end in 1839. Of the fruits of this gigantic monopoly, conducted in the meanest and narrowest trade interests, the author says:

Perhaps never in history has there been a better illustration of the dan-ger and damage to the public of a chartered monopoly. When a corporation becomes too powerful for a government, the design or end of that government is a failure. In this case a private interest was enabled to shut off from the crown the settlement and commerce and profits of millions of square miles. It shut off the king-dom of Great Britain from efficient \$20 to \$30 per month and board. The growth in North America. If the possession of the Hudson Bay Company had reverted to the crown at have cut, on the Penobscot, 3,142,902,the end of a 150 years, it would have 124 feet of lumber, mostly spruce. been returned as received, a wilder-ness. To know in comparison what might have been, one needs only to the northern tier of states lying just fish mistake, therefore, was double. It was a mistake in attempting to take and hold Oregon by trapping as against colonizing, and it was a mis-take to sacrific so largely the English interests in America to a corporate

The tide of emigration was first with as far as legal enactment can turned in the direction of Oregon by four Flathend Indians, who made their way across the continent to St. Eastern Louis, in 1832, in search of some one are paying \$ wh would put the Bible into their yearings, \$25 tongue. They failed to find what \$40 for cows. they came for, but they gave such accounts of the wealth of the far-distant land that the imagination of more than one pioneer was fired with the idea of founding a home in the unsettled territory. Their visit also led to the dispatching of several clergymen to Oregon by the Methodist pain-cure.

Board of Missions. Among thes was Marcus Whitman, who, with the Rev. H. H. Spalding, both taking their spring saw them headed for the West. The doctor had convinced all doubtto be feared from the Indians along the line. All the stories of peril and hardship were manufactured by the agents of the Hudson Bay Company in order to discourage that immigration of which they stood in so much dread. So in 1843 the first wagon party started—the pioneer in the long procession which was soon to follow The only serious trouble encount-ered was at Fort Hill, a Hudson Bay empany post, about 100 miles north of the site of Salt Lake City. The agent tried to compel the emigrants leave behind their wagons and farming tools, but the persistence of the doctor conquered once more, and without the promised escort from Fremont the caravan reached the Columbia in safety.

Four members of Licut. Bay meteorological party are stranded in San Francisco through the blundering mananement of the signal office. These men were civilians who accompanied the party to Point Barrow. The government owed them for two years' pay, amounting for the four to \$2,500. When the men were landed wilderness, since this meant no decrease in the amount of valuable fars. Any encroachment by American emit grants was quickly resented, and to discourage settlement after the Astor experiment, the fiction of the great American desert, which was said to cover the fairest portions of the western prairies, was widely circulated.

The connection with the Old World

The connection with the Old World deprived of it by the careless man-agement that is so characteristic of

much that is done at the signal office. Yes, there is no doubt about itthe use of slang is greatly to be de the servants of the company and the preciated. It is utterly without war, people will catch on to your mean office in London. In 1719 rich copper discoveries were reported at the mouth of a river in the Arctic, but the company refused to send a vessel the company refused to send a vessel. the company refused to send a vessel tion will be far more toney beg up to verify the report, and when, pardon again—elegant. It is now declared, by the way, that the phrase, "It goes without saying" is slang; therefore no self-respecting person will use it hereafter. This goes withont's There we go again! Slang is horrid; but it is so convenient, especially when you don't know how to express your thoughts, or when you have no thoughts to express.

The Oregon City Courier says: Eight miles above the mouth of the Sandy river, where the river describes curve, may be found what is cleary the works of an ancient race. Here, at intervals of fifty feet, and in a straight line, are a series of shafts or holes, each of which covers an area of, say six by twenty feet, and judging from the embankments formed on the sides, must have been a dozen feet in depth. That these excavations existed prior to the grea tornado which swept over this valley about 200 years ago and has left its footprints everywhere, is evident.

In three weeks time all the wheat in this country that is to be shipped at present will have wended its way seaward, says the Walla Walla Statesman. A great deal is held for bette prices by those who are not pressed for money. Never before in the his-tory of this country has such speed been known.

Lumbermen are preparing to go is-to the woods of Maine for the winter.

Holland, in the la t three centuries, might have been, one needs only to has recoverd from the sea at least cross the boundary line and notice 90,000 acres. The lake of Harlem became terra firma between 1840 and south of that line. The great Eng- 1852, and the Zuyder Zee is in process of transformation into 500,000 valuable acres.

The bill for the consolidation of the towns of Tacoma and New Tacoma has become a law, and the town of New Tacoma has been done away

Eastern Washington cattle buyers are paying \$12 for calves, \$18 for yearlings, \$25 for two-year olds and

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