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ASTORIA OREGON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21, 1889.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

BUSINESS CARDS.

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ATTORNEY AT LAW.
Office on Cass street, 2 doors back of Odd Fellows Building, Astoria, Oregon.

JOHN R. SMITH,
ATTORNEY AT LAW.
Office on Cass street, 2 doors back of Odd Fellows Building, Astoria, Oregon.

REEK MANAGA,
ATTORNEY AT LAW.
Office over White House Cor., Astoria, Or.

GEO. NOLAN,
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Office in Kinney's Block, opposite City Hall, Astoria, Oregon.

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A BACKWOODS SCHOOL.

A Teacher Who Did Not Know Much About Geography, But Who Knew How to Influence the School Trustees.

While traveling on horseback through western Arkansas toward the Indian territory, I came upon a log schoolhouse in a clearing in the woods. It was recess, and scattered over the playground around the primitive temple of learning were about twenty children, boys and girls, school-headed, dirty-faced and clad in the roughest homespun garb. As I drew near they ceased their sports, and every eye was fastened on me in wonderment.
Dismounting I secured my horse to a sapling and entered the school house. A tall, gaunt looking girl seated at a rough table at the farther end of the room arose with a surprised look on her face, and welcomed me with a country courtesy—a quick duck downward of the body, a sort of a spasmodic squat followed by an upward shoot into her natural standing posture.
"Ver welcome, stranger," she said extending a hand. "The friends o' larnin' ar' allers welcome in this temple whar larnin' resides. As soon as that shadder (pointing to the edge of the sharply defined shadow of the window casing on the floor) gits to the edge o' that knothole it'll be time to call school, and the young uns'll come in."
"Whar branches do you teach?"
"A b c's, readin' an' writin'." "Them's all the books we've got, but I teach 'em a little g'ography outen my head sometimes, just as I larned it radin' books an' papers that dad fotches me from town sence I got to be teacher. That don't amount to nothin', though. If young 'uns kin read an' write an' figger jest enough to know how much so many bushels o' corn or taters comes to at so much a bushel that's enough education fur these parts."
The shadow had crept up to the edge of the knothole, and picking up an old cow-bell the school-ma'am rattled it vigorously. In trooped the youngsters, panting from the violent exercise of play each one slinging hat or bonnet in one promiscuous pile in a corner as they entered. Taking their seats on the rough puncheon benches they again made me a target for their wondering eyes. The vigorous scratching kept up on all sides suggested the thought that their youthful heads were not teeming with learning alone.
Rapping on her table with a rod bearing marks of frequent use, the teacher said:
"Yung 'uns, ther's a stranger 'yar, an' I want you all to see how good you kin be. If I see any cuttin' up I'll send some o' you home with sore bac's. Clay Marm aduke, stop that snuffin' an' go out an' blow yer nose. Now I don't want to hear as much noise as a mouse'd make nibblin' at a year o' corn."
I heard the infant class worry through its a b c's, listened to some wild attempts at two-syllable spelling, and then the teacher said:
"I'll ask some o' the oldest young 'uns some g'ography questions for yer. I never study g'ography from the book myself, so I don't ask 'em questions only such as I've learned a readin' books and papers. John Vall, who fust discovered America?"
"America Vespuiscus."
"Right. Albert Pike, how was America fust inhabited?"
"By 'b'ars, painters, alligators and Injuns."
"Right. Thomas Baley, what war the greatest battle ever fit?"
"The battle o' the Revolutionary War."
"Right. Who licked?"
"George Washington an' his bra-a-a-ve Yankee sogers."
"Right. Marcus Kane, who made the airth?"
"Gud."
"How long war he doin' it?"
"Six days an' He rested on the seventh, an' ver'ly ver'ly I say unto yer, six days shalt thou labor an' do all thy work, but the seventh day is Sunday, an' thou shalt not labor and do all thy work."
"Right. Very good. Marcus, Now, Earl Matson, who war the fust man?"

"Adam."
"Who war the fust 'ooman?"
"Eve."
"Right. Clark Goodman, how war 'Eve created?"
"And Adam slept with his father an' the Lord tuk from his side a rib an' whittled it into human form. An' He blew upon it the breath of life an' the sea gave up its dead. An' thar war a great rushin' sound as o' many thunders an' woman war created."
"Right. Clay Marmaduke, go out an' blow yer nose again. John Ellery, recite the Golden Rule."
"If in the world you'd make a strike, Keep this one rule in view; Do unto others as you'd like To have 'em do to you."
"Very good. They know lots more, stranger, an' Sairy Blake as is hum with chills kin run through the Ten Commands 'thout stoppin' to ketch a breath."
Rising to depart, I thanked the young lady for the pleasure she had afforded me, and expressed the hope that the seeds of education sown by her might bear golden fruit. Accompanying me to the door, she stepped outside and said:
"Say, I Didn't want the young 'uns to hear this. As you ride down into the bottom about a mile ahead you'll come to a log house on the right side o' the road. Ol' Bill Ellery lives thar an' he's the head School T'r trustee. I wish you'd stop an' sorter hint that I'm as good a teacher as you ever seed, an' that I'm educationin' these young 'uns right up to the handle. You'll see a big yaller dog thar, an' you jist praise it up as the purtiest dog you ever seed, and say you'll bet he's a cooner from coon holler. That'll ketch ol' Bill, an' he'll blieve all you say, fur he's prouder o' that coon dog thar than a woman is o' her fust young 'un. You see, Sal Stryker is a tryin' to git the school next term, an' if you jist ketch Bill on the coon dog layout, an' 'hist in a word fur me, Sal won't have no more chance han a muzzled hog'd have in a tater patch."
Assuring her that William's dog should receive proper laudation, I mounted and resumed my journey.
PECOS JIM.

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