

# PACIFIC CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

"GO YE, THEREFORE, TEACH ALL NATIONS."

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## Pacific CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,

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All business letters should be addressed to T. F. Campbell, Editor, or Mary Stamp, Publisher, Monmouth, Oregon.

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## Correspondence.

### Our Washington Letter.

(FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.)

WASHINGTON, July 19, 1879.

Probably the most poorly appreciated of all governmental Departments is that pertaining to agriculture, although it is second to none in importance. Its chief object is the introduction of every useful production of the earth that can be grown in any portion of our country; to ascertain the greatest amount of profit of which these various productions can be made capable, and to encourage Home Industry the only safe foundation of national wealth. Congress, with its multitudinous cares and party conflicts, and the necessity of keeping a conciliatory eye constantly upon the dear constituency, has neglected this Department in a most short-sighted and reprehensible manner. Were Congressmen eligible to but one election, and that on their merits only, regardless of monetary or other influences—and did their one term extend, as it should over a long series of years, they could then afford to think more of the country's interests and less of their own, and, not having the fear of a coming campaign in mind, would have more time and energy to devote to legislation of broader scope than that which in these anxious days, generally engages their attention. Then perhaps, some insignificant stream that can never be of any possible service except to the few people residing along its banks would not secure a half-million appropriation at the instance of its devoted representative in Congress, while the United States laboratory of the Agricultural Department languishes in a fifteen by twenty foot apartment with inferior apparatus and poorly-paid scientists to experiment therein. There are in the State of Penn., alone no less than seven laboratories, each one far superior to this supported by the government, and many private gentlemen throughout the country have better facilities for scientific experiment. Yet when Commissioner Le Duc asked for an appropriation of \$300,000 with which to build one that should be worthy of the Government, it was printed in the bill \$30,000 and even that in sufficient was denied. It has been ascertained that nearly two hundred and fifty millions of dollars are annually paid for importing articles which could just as well be raised in our own country. It is these needlessly imported products that absorb the capital and depress the commercial prosperity of the United States, whereas, were home industries properly encouraged, idleness, with the accompanying cry of "hard times," would speedily disappear.

The Democratic Congressional committee has established its headquarters in the rooms of the committee on military affairs of the House of Representatives, and is now entirely engaged sending into Maine and Ohio political literature suited to voters of these states. The two speeches which are being the most extensively circulated are the constitutional arguments made by Representative Carlisle of Kentucky, and Representative J. Randolph Tucker, of Virginia. It is noticeable that while the Republican Congressional committee do not attack as much importance to the constitutional arguments delivered on the army bill as to the political speeches that the democrats on the other hand do, thus keeping up their reputation as a party having great instrument in constant care. The incisive speech delivered by Frank Hurd during the last day's of the session has been largely subscribed for by democrats, and is being sent into every section of the country, regardless of any impending state campaign. Gen. Ewing's speech delivered on the Warner silver bill, is being extensively sent into Maine and will later be circulated in goodly numbers in Ohio. The fiery speech of Mr. Blackburn of Kentucky wherein he says "he who dallies is a dastard and he who doubts is damned." is not much sought after, but it will be utilized later along in the state campaigns in the south. Senator Thurman's speeches, as well as those of Bayare and Peek, are called for by the Maine democrats and a goodly supply will go off to that state this week. Senator Hill's speech defining the powers of the President and Congress is also in demand, and leading democrats say that it is the oldest of the series of speeches on that subject delivered during the special session. The short speeches made by the greenbackers, who, all deprecated the sectional issue and hoped for financial legislation, have been culled out of the Record, printed in pamphlet form, and will be sent into Ohio in large quantities.

It is stated that Secretary Evarts will before his departure for the summer decide the Wjel and La Abra cases which, it may be remembered, were referred by Congress to the President for examination. The cases were among those which the Mexican Claims Commission sustained, and upon them awards amounting to over \$600,000 were granted to the claimants. Subsequently the Mexican government alleged that these claims were obtained upon perjured testimony and requested this government to suspend payment of the award until the charges of fraud &c., were examined. The President referred the matter whether the disputed cases can be referred after awards have been granted.

Among the employes of the Senate retained when the democracy came into power is the brother of senator Blaine. He is an assistant in the document room, and is ranked as a most faithful officer, but since so much has been said in condemnation of the removal of Wilson, the legless soldier, an effort is being made to have him removed. It seems that he stands between two fires. Some of the democrats want him employed because he is a republican, and the republicans want him out because his brother, the Senator, has secured his detention by having a democrat appointed to a clerkship in one of the departments. It looks like a fair trade, but the poli-

ticians don't like it.

From information obtained at the executive mansion, to-day, there is no doubt of the correctness of the statement heretofore published in regard to the successor of Secretary McCrary Ex-Senator Ramsey, of Minn., has been tendered the office of Secretary of War, and has accepted. The change will not occur, however, until the present Secretary retires from his present position to fill the office made vacant by the resignation of Judge Dillon, of the eight United States judicial circuit.

AUGUST.

### Three Weeks in Bunch-Grass-Land.

SALEM, OR., Aug. 1, 1879.

Editor Messenger:

I have lately, for the first time, visited the country drained by the Upper Columbia and Snake rivers. Until a few weeks ago, all the regions bordering on the Columbia above the mouth of the Willamette, had never met my gaze, and to tell of all that I saw and felt during a three week's trip in that part of Uncle Sam's dominions, would require an article much too lengthy for your columns.

My journey was from Portland by water to Wallula, thence by cars to Walla Walla, by stage through Waitsburg, Dayton, and Colfax, to Lewiston. From Lewiston to Portland direct by the steam boats and cars of the Oregon Steam Navigation Company.

A glance at the map will show you that my route gave me an opportunity to see a large portion of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho, as well as the scenery on the Columbia and Snake rivers, of which so much, of a laudatory nature, has been said and written.

No one ever spoke to me except to praise the magnificence of the scenery on the Columbia, especially below the Cascades. Thus were my anticipations wrought up only to be in quite a degree disappointed. Much grander was the thought that we were traveling on one of the first rivers of the world—the largest emptying into the Pacific ocean—but which flows so near our own doors, that we hardly stop to think that it has the capacity, and is destined to be one of the greatest arteries in the commercial life of this hemisphere. However, lest I offend those who profess to be always enraptured at the Columbia river heights, I will say, that after having wearied my eyes on the dull prospect of the barren hills on the Upper Columbia and Snake rivers, I was feasted upon my return trip on the forest crowned Cascades, with their varied crags and canyons and water falls. I found beauties, and felt the change to be a happy one.

We were detained about two hours at the Cascades, in making the portage of freight and baggage by cars, and reached the Dalles about three o'clock in the afternoon.

We found this place all in a bustle, busy building up new houses in place of those destroyed by the late fire. The place wears an air of great activity, and the streets, crowded with lumber and resounding with the noise of the builders, gives evidence of the great enterprise and business courage of the citizens. In but a few months the ruin will be fully repaired, and the city will enter upon a new era of prosperity.

You have heard of Celilo. Well, that is better than seeing it, for it is

only the landing place of the boats where passengers take cars for the Dalles, and consists of a few miserable houses ensconced in a sand bank. Umatilla Landing and Wallula are its big sisters—not very big either—only excelling it in the fact that one receives all freight for Umatilla county, and the other acts in that capacity for the Walla Walla valley.

We reached Celilo about five o'clock of the first day from Portland.

Much has been said about the grinding monopoly of the O. S. N. Co., but to their credit be it known that they provide in first class style for the comfort of passengers.

Leaving Celilo at two o'clock in the morning, we were until seven in the evening reaching Wallula. This day's trip was very monotonous, and one soon grew tired of gazing at the seemingly endless succession of sand hills and sage brush that line the river all the way. All day, I was out of sight of tall timber for the first time in my life, and the sensation produced thereby was quite curious.

Spending the night at Wallula, we took cars next morning at seven for Walla Walla. For about twenty miles out from the river, the road leads through sand and sage brush, but after we entered the Walla Walla valley proper, the landscape was charming. On every hand were evidences of prosperity in the fine farms and abundant harvests. This summer is an unusually fruitful one in that country, owing to the plentiful rains that fell during the spring months. Walla Walla is a busy place, and is the emporium of that part of Washington Territory. I only had two hours to stay there, and hence cannot say much about it. At noon I departed by stage for Dayton, thirty-five miles distant. The day was warm, and the very dusty road led over a succession of hills, passing through Waitsburg. The country between Walla Walla and Dayton is largely under cultivation, and new fields are constantly being subjected to the plow. Although we saw many cattle—fine ones too—the country is evidently being devoted less to grazing and more to agriculture.

Waitsburg is a pretty old town and is settled in its ways, but Dayton and Colfax are comparatively new, and have considerable dash and style. They have city governments, sprinkle the streets, and organize fire departments in true metropolitan style. They are having flush times now, and are going too fast. They are already ahead of the country surrounding them. Dayton is about the size of Independence, and Colfax equals Dallas in extent.

We arrived in Dayton at six o'clock, very tired, hot and dusty. At three o'clock next morning, we climbed into a two horse stage for a sixty mile ride to Colfax. We had a genial, talkative driver, though, who did much to make the journey pleasant, and to give a stranger information about the country. He was much more courteous than the driver we had the day before. I account for this, by the size of the team. The first driver had a six horse team, and feeling his importance, was proportionally austere, and severely uncommunicative. Driver number two had only a single span, and the "pomp of power" was not so oppressive in his case as with the six horse driver.

Colfax was reached at five o'clock. I found some friends here, as well as

at Dayton. At Colfax is located our friend, Geo. W. Howard, so popular in Monmouth—especially in the eastern part of town. I did not get to see him as he, in company with Dr. J. M. Powell, had gone into the country to spend Sunday with some friends. I spent Sunday at Almota, seventeen miles distant from Colfax, waiting for a boat to take me to Lewiston, but was doomed to disappointment and returned to Colfax and took stage again on Monday morning. After sojourning among friends a few days, I took boat at Lewiston, Saturday July 26, and came to Wallula, 161 miles, in ten hours, including time consumed in making several landings.

Lewiston has much of the style it wore in early days when the gold fever raged through that country. It has never had a big fire, and hence the old buildings that were in use in 62-3 are still being occupied. There are many wealthy men there, however, and some day the town will begin to thrive and outstrip its more pretentious neighbors.

All the country I passed through above Walla Walla is very hilly, un-timbered, and covered with luxuriant bunch grass. Beyond Dayton, it is very hilly, and these hills formed the grandest sight on the trip.

As above mentioned, we left Dayton at three o'clock in the morning. At sunrise we were on high ground. Not a tree or human habitation was in sight. The sun gilded the tops of the hills with full glory in the clear morning, and in the little valleys between lay the deep shade in striking contrast. As far as natural vision extended, nothing appeared to break the surface of this ocean of plain with its huge billows of hill, except Kamiakin and Steptoe buttes that rested like dim clouds against the horizon in the far north-east. The sight impressed me like the first view of the sea, and bordered on the sublime.

The country thereabouts is thinly settled as yet, but there is a constant influx of new-comers. It will be difficult to develop the country for agricultural purposes, because as yet, it is difficult to obtain a good market for grain. Timber is scarce, many having to haul fire-wood thirty or forty miles. The country is emphatically a new one, and at present, for the city bred people, "has no form of comeliness that one should desire it;" but frugal pioneers of our western coast, to whom such experiences are not new, will in the next decade bring about a most wonderful improvement. The chief danger to be feared, is the tendency in all new countries to indulge in wild Cat speculation. The farmers seem to be going in debt too much. Even in so small a place as Colfax, there are four firms engaged in selling agricultural implements. They all do a large business, but almost entirely on a credit. The debts thus incurred, will undoubtedly distress the country in time, and will prove the most serious drawback to its progress.

In all my journey, I saw no country preferable in my judgment to our Willamette valley, and any one with a home here, or a fair prospect of obtaining one soon, had better stay here.

B.

SIN DEFILES.—A young girl was pleading with her father for permission to enter upon some questionable amusement. They sat by an open fire, and he, leaning forward picked up a dead ember and handed it to her. He assured her it would not burn her. I know that, she replied, but it will soil my hands. So, said the father, many a pursuit which does not burn, will soil.