

The Daily Reporter.

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McMinnville, Or. - - Jan. 22, 1887

AN IMAGINARY VISIT

To the Scenes of the Carboniferous Age.

Read by Miss Ruth Rees at a meeting of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle of Newberg.

As we have sat by a coal fire in an open grate, have seen its blazes shoot upwards, and felt its genial warmth, we have often wondered what is coal? Of what is it made? We have visited mines and have seen that it is a mineral dug from the earth; we have dissected blocks of it and have found fragments of the trunks and branches of trees, of leaves and ferns, as perfectly preserved as in any fossiliferous rock. But how came they there? When and under what circumstances were they formed? As the facetious Josiah Allen's wife would say, let us lift the "mantilly" of the past and make an excursion to the world during the Carboniferous age, and watch the development of that wonderful growth which has furnished the material for the broad beds of coal. We choose for the scenes of our visit the Mississippi valley. We shall want a new lease of life as our stay must be for an indefinite period. We shall need refrigerators to cool the insufferable heat of the atmosphere, and some means of purifying the air, or the immense quantities of carbonic acid will soon put an end to our existence. We shall find balloons for carrying us about quite indispensable.

We find the greater part of the Mississippi valley and the future site of the Appalachian mountains a vast ocean. In its waters play the mighty animals of the Devonian age. Gradually the shrinkage inside, and the pressure outside of the earth's crust cause a portion of it to give way. There is a mighty splashing and eddying of the waters as they roll off to fill the synclinal thus made. Again, another prop of earth's crust gives way; there is another upheaval of the crust; again the waters roll and dash and when all is calm, the Mississippi valley is one vast bog or marsh in which are frequent pools or shallow lakes of water. Stimulated by intense heat and moisture, a luxuriant vegetation springs up in this rich old ocean bed, and nourished by the great quantities of carbon in the air, grow with wonderful rapidity.

Here is the Lepidodendron, or scale-covered tree, more than 100 feet high, its limbs covered with tufts of stiff linear leaves. There is the still larger *Sipillaria*, its unbranching trunk rising 80 to 100 feet and four or five feet thick, ornamented at the top with long rush-like leaves. We occasionally find coniferous trees resembling the broad leaved pines of Chili, but no hard wood of any kind is found.

A few of the trees bear nuts resembling the hazel nut or pecan.

Let us rest awhile in this grove of tree fern. The ground is higher and dryer here and the shade tempers the oppressive heat. These trees are 15 to 20 feet high and the long fronds at their summits wave gracefully in the breeze. In that marsh yonder are giant rushes or Calamites, 20 feet or more in height and a foot in diameter. How we wish we could carry back to civilization just a tree or two, with which to polish tin ware! Everywhere from the moist ground springs a matted undergrowth of broom-like plants, with short stems and long, broad leaves and ferns which remind us of "the green hills far away" in Oregon. But there is no grass to carpet the ground; there are no mosses or lichens or trailing vines to cover the dead, unsightly trees, or hang from the boughs. Not a bird is found in all this primeval forest to fly among the branches, or to enliven the solitude with stirring songs. There are myriads of cockroaches, scorpions, dragonflies and other net winged insects; many kinds of beetles are buzzing about but we look in vain for insects of a higher type, such as houseflies, bees, wasps or butterflies. What bulky animal is that which emerges from the river and ambles slowly along through the forest? In appearance it is something between a toad and a salamander, but its body is covered with scales and it is large as the largest crocodile. We conclude that it must be a Sabyrithodont and are politic enough to give him the "right of way." We see many other amphibious animals which now splash in the waters of the rivers and marshes, now wallow in the mud and now drag their slimy bodies over the land. In the waters are beautiful Crinoids and Brachiopods and numberless Mollusks and Radiates.

We are astonished to find real fishes, too, though they all look odd and old-fashioned. Huge sharks are swimming about, greedily devouring all of the "small fry" that come in their reach.

Gradually, as year after year passes, the leaves and decayed stems and branches drop from the trees. Great beds of such deposits many feet in thickness are formed in the marshes and shallow lakes; the gradual decomposition at the bottom of these beds we conclude must be the first step in the formation of coal.

But hark! There is a terrible rumbling and roaring, a sudden mighty convulsion of the earth, we feel it sinking away beneath us; the waters of the ocean are again pouring in, in mighty floods, and amid the general tumult we retreat to our air-ships and soar back again to the terra firma of the present age.

Emma Abbott will appear at New Market the 31st, for one week.

United States District Attorney McArthur is making some of the land grabbers of the Inland Empire disgorge. Make it unanimous; let no guilty man escape.

At Midnight.

The room is cold and dark to-night;
The fire is low:
Why come you, you who love the light,
To mock me so?
I pray you leave me now alone:
You worked your will,
And turned my heart to frozen stone;
Why haunt me still?
I got me to this empty place;
I shut the door;
Yet through the dark I see your face
Just as of yore.
The old smile curves your lips to-night
Your deep eyes glow
With that old gleam that made them
So long ago. [bright,
I listen: do I hear your tone
The silence thrill?
Why come you? I would be alone;
Why vex me still?
What! Would you that we re-embrace;
We two once more?
Are those your tears that wet my face
Just as before?
You left to seek some new delight,
Yet your tears flow:
What sorrow brings you back to-night?
Shall I not know?
I will not let you grieve alone;
The night is chill;
Tho' love is dead and hope has flown,
Pity I have still.
How silent is the empty space;
Dreamed I once more?
Henceforth against your haunting face
I bar the door!
—Louise C. Moulton.

Observations.

C. Grissen keeps a nice lot of shelf paper.

Board of trade meeting at the council chamber Monday evening.

The fireman's fair this year will double-discount any previous fair given in this city.

Miss Belle Johnson, teacher of music in McMinnville and at McMinnville college. Residence corner of Second and C Streets.

A good stock range of 160 acres, house and barn, can be bought for \$500; on county road. Apply at this office.

Half block of land and six room cottage with good well of water, and large and small fruit, is offered for sale on easy terms, by C. Symons. Furniture will be sold with the house or separate.

Dr. Taylors method of treating piles is the latest and most approved by the profession and although not entirely without pain there's no additional pain and the cure is permanent and complete. Call at Dr. Johnsons office and consult him, it will cost you nothing unless he treats you and cures you. This is no humbug.

John J. Sax has his chop mill in running order, and will chop feed for \$2 per ton. If this does not suit the customer call and get a special rate.

Bring on your job work. We are now prepared to do job work in the latest and most approved style of the art.

Coffee Club Meeting.

The ladies of the "Coffee Club," and all ladies who are interested in the fire department, are requested to meet at the Fireman's hall, Friday afternoon 2 o'clock, Jan. 21st.

NELLIE B. HOPSON, Secretary.

NEW TO-DAY.

DOCTORS

LITTLEFIELD & CALBREATH,

Office over Braly's Bank.

McMinnville, - - - Oregon.

A. H. & O. O. HODSON

Dealers In

HARDWARE,
TINWARE &

Stoves

Agricultural Implements, Pumps,
Pipes, Etc.

All of which will be sold as

Low for Cash.

As thy times will allow,

Iron and Tin Roofing,

Galvanized iron Cornices and window caps. In fact we do anything that comes in our line with neatness and dispatch, and never tell you it can't be done. Bring on your designs and we will cut your pattern, and do your work.

And Don't You Forget It.

South east cor. 2d and C streets, McMinnville, Oregon. A. H. & O. O. HODSON.

AUCTION! AUCTION!!

AT THE

St. Charles Hotel,

McMinnville, Oregon.

Monday, February 22d.

Will be sold at Public Auction to the highest bidder, a fine large Kitchen Range almost new, suitable for a large family, a hotel or restaurant.

Beds and Bedding,

CARPETS, Kitchen and Dining Room Furniture, Lamps, Tables and Chairs, and a thousand other things too numerous to mention.

TERMS OF SALE:

All sales under \$10, Cash. All sales over \$10, eight months credit, with approved notes.

This is a positive and peremptory sale.
F. MULTNER.

NOW Is the Time
to Buy Your-
self a Home.

While the tendency of interest is downward, the prospect for farming is better. Hence land will go no lower.

AN EXTRAORDINARY OFFER.

140 acre farm for sale, 1 mile south of Amity; 75 acres now summer-fallowed. Will rent 225 more of farm land with a sale with privilege of summer-fallowing half each year. A reasonable amount down will be accepted; balance in 3 or 5 equal annual payments to suit the purchaser. For further particulars, come and see, or address J. P. BEELER, Amity, Or.

Farm For Sale,

280 ACRES, 125 in cultivation; 6 miles south west of Sheridan

PRICE
\$5,000.

For further information address E. G. Northington, Sheridan, Or., or Wright & Ellis' Dallas, Or.