

W. B. CARTER, EDITOR.

HOME DUTIES.

The recent admirable lecture of Judge Deady, upon "Towns and Cities," while well calculated to arouse the attention of property holding citizens of cities to their duties, is equally applicable to the property interests of the Willamette valley. The central idea of the lecture is "A town or city is a mere business corporation, in which none but those interested ought to vote." After quoting largely from English history as to municipal corporations, and showing how citizenship was obtained, &c., he compares these corporations under English and republican usage; these comparisons, as given, are not very creditable to ourselves so far as honor and economy are concerned.

But if municipal organization is not as effective for good under our system, all loss in the transplanting and growth of these institutions is not with the cities, but the country also has lost in the change; especially is this true of this valley, where, through its peculiar formation and the indifference of the owners of the soil, it has permitted an irresponsible body in Portland to take its interests in charge, and hold it, much as a subject, rather than an independent, equal, and necessary adjunct to the growth and prosperity of the city.

If it is well to study the growth of municipal organizations in England and to compare our own work with what it has taken ages there to perfect, we shall lose nothing by learning the position of the landed interests in the government of that country.

From time, reaching into the distant past, the English gentry or land owners have held the foremost position in the management of government, and this in all its bearings. If this right was questioned, it was stubbornly resisted, as the Pym, Hampdens and Cromwells have shown us; and, down to the present time, if Beaconsfield, Salisbury, or any of the cabinet wish to consult with the country, or, divulge some plan they desire to follow, they do not rush to the "Boards of Trade" of any of the large cities, but go quietly to some agricultural meeting in the country, where the gentry, and land owners of the vicinity are present, and there talk matters over, finishing with a speech, outlining what they desire to be promulgated by the press of the realm. The leaders of the opposition, like Gladstone and Hartington, if they desire to criticize the policy of the government, follow precisely the same method.

The picture which Judge Deady paints of the difference between the two systems of municipal organizations is pitiable enough, but let us give it in his own language: "How the times have changed! So far from putting any price upon the freedom of our corporation, we thrust it unasked upon and every one, be he pauper, vagabond, mountebank or convict, who chanced to come and remain within the corporate limits thirty days."

"This, true as it no doubt is, is scarcely worse than the landed interests of this valley have permitted their interests to drift. For instance, while we have bothered our brains about everything of national importance, the further from us the better, we have permitted a couple of dozen gentlemen in Portland to organize under state laws to look after and promote the interests of Oregon—(Portland?)

It is not supposed the eminent lecturer we have quoted would suggest that all those he mentions as having the franchise "thrust upon them after thirty days," always vote the wrong ticket; by no means. Nor do we desire to insinuate that every resolution the Portland Board of Trade passes is detrimental to the interest of Portland people or the people of the state; what we do wish to say is, if that board is to continue and is to be further reaching than state or municipal government, it ought to have a new element, from the interior, inserted into it.

That the Board of Trade makes blunders, is not questioned; but when blunders are made, which, to the rest of the state seem so outrageous, and show us that this board, as managed, seems little better than organized piracy, we begin to think other organizations besides municipal, require a little repair. If our readers desire an example of these blunders, we suggest, at random, the resolution of

the board and its efforts before the legislature to compel commercial agents from other states to pay exorbitant license fees before soliciting orders for the country trade.

The action of the board in reference to a Port of Refuge was equally selfish and officious; it was officious in taking upon itself to suggest a point to men who are well capable of doing the work government has entrusted to them. It was selfish when it supposed the commissioners, after reading Assistant Engineer Haber sham's report, might locate the Harbor of Refuge at Cape Foulweather. This would be too near Portland, in the opinion of this board. So, to get the Port located where it might do the least harm to Portland and the least good to the state, the board, in undignified haste, suggests a point in the southern extremity of the state.

The effort of Judge Deady, in his lecture, was to point out the sore troubling the body politic, and in a manner suggest its cure. In like manner we trust our readers may see the drift of our desire, and, like the land owners of England and Europe, without the airs of an aristocracy, yet with equal spirit and promptitude upon every occasion, remember always home interests.

WESTERN LITERARY CURIOSITIES.

The following pathetic little article, from the Oregon Statesman of 1874, illustrates the best style of Calvin B. MacDonald. It is in wonderful contrast with some of his political sagacities in "a day of battle and war," and has been republished over and over by the leading journals of the South. It touched and electrified the Southern Democratic heart when returning in despondency and defeat from the national battle fields, and spoke peace and reconciliation from the still hoarse and discordant trumpet of war. In 1864, in the heat of the Irrepressible Conflict, and while heading the Union press of California, Mac, wrote and published an article entitled "Give us back our Dead," which went the rounds of the English-speaking world, and which a London paper declared the most savage and terrible passage that had ever come from the American press. In contrast with the following heart-melting dirge, and in these times of outshining and beneficent Peace, that fierce and implacable article sounds like Moloch's Oration in Hell spoken amid the graves of Paradise.

We have sometimes thought that Mac's "Angel of Reconciliation" was larger and older than represented. Be that as it may, a writer with such marvelous resources of light and shadow, and so capable of inspiring the emotions of mankind, is a most formidable power, whether for good or evil, in peace or war. Here, then, still surviving in the hearts and memories of thousands, all over the land, is Mac's sweet-faced

"ANGEL OF RECONCILIATION."
Since leaving Salem, we have been among the Southern people, have rested in their desolate households, have beheld the long ranks of graves waving over their multitudes dead, and listened to their dismal miseries in that once haughty and beautiful, then heart-broken and ghostly land of graves. While staying at a watering place in Missouri, and at last she came and laid her snow-white little hands on the stranger's knees, and looked up into his face with great, wide, desolate eyes, with an articulate reproachfulness, as though he had slain her father at Pea Ridge and buried him in the bloody trenches.

We are not ashamed to confess that this was more than human sympathy could endure; and for the time unmitigated there were many such melancholy scenes in our own Northern land, and seeing only American beauty and slender childhood in bereavement and desolation, we turned away from that stern and pathetic judgment with swelling heart and clouded eyes. It may have been only a sentimental fancy, a fever-dream under those brazen, sultry midsummer skies, but the and impressions still linger, and the sweet, accusatory face of that little one stands out in relief upon the walls of memory, prophesying against cruel, careless, inhuman war.

Since then, we have done with denouncing the unfortunate and mistaken people with whom we have been in bloody and exterminating conflict. We are cured of our patriotic inhumanity and vindictive uncharity. Henceforth, when provoked to bitterness of recollection we shall recall to mind the dead rebel's child, with her great, wide wondering eyes and air of unappreciable desolation. May God keep the sweet little preacher of peace and forgiveness, and crown her in her young womanhood with that imperial beauty, that spotless innocence, which all hallowed her childish face, as she wandered about in melancholy solitude amid the groves of Arcadia, beside the lovely Father of Waters. And of all she shall ever be found drooping upon the blood-stained slopes of Pea Ridge, searching in affection among the nameless graves for one of the unrecalled dead, may she look up from her weeping to behold the friendly and benignant standard of her country unfolding its splendor in the sun and flinging its protecting shadow all around her, and say to herself: "It was but an event of heroic war; it was long ago; the horrid storm-birds have flown far away, and no longer the charging trumpets blow!"

A few days ago an old man named Wm. Cook, well known on Coos bay, left the wharf at Gardiner in a small boat and has not been seen since. The boat has been found, and it is the general supposition that he has been drowned. He was under the influence of liquor when he left Gardiner.

ANTI-CHINESE MOVEMENT.

Some of the citizens of Portland, led by R. E. Shannon, Jno. Charles, and others, have inaugurated a movement in reference to Kearney's "Sand lot" meetings, in San Francisco, which is attracting some public attention. While we do not favor lawlessness or force, as expressed in the sentiment, the "Chinese must go," yet we are convinced that something must be done, and some decisive steps taken, by the proper authorities, to arrest the threatened inundation of our country by the pagan hordes who are now crowding our shores, not as voluntary immigrants, like those from other foreign countries, but who, like the plagues of Egypt, come upon us to spread ruin and dire disease, and destroy our noble heritage. In meeting this terrible calamity, and wide-spread evil, we need careful deliberation and the wisest statesmanship. This is no time for "sand lot" excitements, and "bloodshed" is not the proper antidote for the evil. This Chinese question is now one of the most grave and important questions before the American people. The Chinese were here by treaty stipulations, originally. If those stipulations have been violated by the Chinese government there is a proper remedy, and that remedy should be applied before resorting to the questionable policy of "brute force."

Congress, at its last session took a step in the right direction, and passed a law that would, at least, have given temporary relief, which was vetoed by the President. The reasons therefor, although satisfactory to himself and his immediate advisers, were not satisfactory to the people of this coast, who are the immediate sufferers from unrestricted Chinese immigration. The next Congress will doubtless give the desired relief. The following report of a special committee, adopted by the Portland Board of Trade, on the 16th inst., has the right ring, and will, doubtless, do more good than a hundred "sand lot" meetings:

To the Portland Board of Trade: The special committee to whom was referred the resolutions presented at the last meeting by the president for modification of the Chinese treaty, beg leave to report the following, and ask its approval by the Board:

To the President of the United States: Your memorialists, the Portland Board of Trade, would respectfully represent that the people of this state have, for a number of years greatly suffered by the unlimited and unrestricted immigration of Chinese, and that the Chinese who have thus come into our state cannot be classed as immigrants, in the meaning of the term generally accepted by the people of the United States, as the great majority do not come of their own free will and accord, but are brought in herds, and in a condition of at least semi-slavery, being obliged to perform a term of servitude to the companies or masters who bring them; that they seriously interfere with all free labor, as they are able to exist upon a pittance that does not suffice for the honest support of a white laborer and his family; that their crimes and pauperism are a continual source of expense to the state; that they do not in any manner add to the wealth or prosperity of this state; by the acquisition of real property, the payment of taxes or the development of any of its resources; that every dollar they earn that is not absolutely necessary for their support, is sent out of the country; and that they have introduced diseases and crimes in our midst entirely unknown prior to their advent.

That while we deprecate and censure any and all forms of violence towards the Chinese or any other class of people brought or immigrating to this country, your memorialists would assure you that the feeling against, and opposition to the Chinese are not entertained, as seems to be the prevailing opinion in the eastern states, by the so called hoodlum element only, but is held by all classes of our population. For these and various other reasons your memorialists would respectfully urge upon your excellency and the senate of the United States, that the interests of this state, as well as all the other states and territories on this coast, imperatively demand that the now existing treaties with China be so modified and revised as to restrict and decrease the landing upon our shores of these people, and would earnestly ask that steps be at once inaugurated to accomplish that end.

We would also respectfully call your attention to the fact that the consideration of the memorial upon this subject, adopted by the legislature of this state at its last session.

And your memorialists will ever pray.
Respectfully submitted,
H. W. CORBETT,
WILLIAM REID,
WILLIAM KAPUS,
Special Committee.

PORTLAND BOARD OF TRADE.—This body, at a regular meeting on the 16th inst., in lieu of taking any further decided action in the matter of a breakwater, or without rescinding its former action relative to indorsing Port Ord, as the proper place for such improvement, adopted a resolution, "inviting those who were desirous of recommending particular localities for the location of the proposed harbor of refuge, to send such recommendations to the board, and agreeing to forward the same to the authorities at Washington." If this action had been taken, in the first place, it would have shown more fairness and candor. Yet we cannot see what particular weight will be given to "recommendations" by simply passing through the hands of their Secretary—Wm. Reid, of Dundee, who is here without a single sentiment in common with the taxpayers of this State, and whose most careful study is to invest "Scottish loans," so as to avoid taxes.

THE FUTURE OF BENTON COUNTY.

EDITOR GAZETTE: In consequence of the high rate at which land is held in the Eastern, and many of the Western States, places it beyond the reach of poor men, and even men of moderate means; the severity of winters in many localities, the proverbial return of epidemics, in others, and the high rates of leasing, and a desire for a healthier and more temperate climate, thousands, and tens of thousands, are daily seeking homes on the shores of the Pacific, where the songs of the birds are heard from January until December, and where man can live in his tent of cloth the year round. But, while some portions of our western shore are subject to droughts of from one, two, and even three, years in every five, Oregon never fails. The eastern portion of our State, at the present time, is mostly devoted to stock raising; but many portions have every advantage for agricultural pursuits, with some of the finest land in the world, where they can raise from twenty to fifty bushels of wheat to the acre. But the "garden of the Pacific" is the Willamette Valley, and its tributaries. Here the husbandman is sure of reward, and when grain is properly put in he never fails to get a good return for his labor. Our climate is mild and healthy; our lands are cheap, and within the reach of rich or poor. The man of moderate means can secure small, well improved farms. The poor man can find land to preempt or homestead, if he is willing to work. The rich can find good investments for his capital. The means of transportation are good, and growing better every year. The Oregon and California railroad Company have one line now completed and in operation from Portland to near the southern boundary of the State, running through the Willamette Valley, on the east side of the Willamette river; passing through or near all the principal towns of that portion of the valley, and has enhanced the value of land from one to two hundred per cent. The same company have built another line on the west side of the Willamette river up as far as St. Joe, and have now commenced work, and will build it as far as Corvallis, by next September. Corvallis is located in the center of the great Willamette Valley. It is in the healthiest locality of any city in the State, and its future is brighter than any of her sister cities. Situated at the junction of the Oregon and California and W. V. & C. R. R.; at the head of navigation on the Willamette river for nine months of the year, and within forty-five miles of tide water at Yaquina Bay. The W. V. & C. R. R. Co. have ten miles of their road graded; the ties contracted for, and the iron and rolling stock has been shipped from the East, and work will be commenced as soon as the weather will permit. There are 150,000 acres of land on the line of this road, that can be had at from two to ten dollars per acre; and thousands of acres subject to preemption or homestead; such land, by preemption or homestead, can be made worth from twenty to fifty dollars per acre. The terms of the W. V. & C. R. R. will open many opportunities for speculation and profitable investment, and great inducements to any who may wish to secure cheap and pleasant homes.

Improved farms, near Corvallis, can be had at the present time at very reasonable rates. City property is held firm; but, as yet, at very moderate rates. Our city has a population of some 1500 inhabitants, and situated on a fine level prairie. We have four church buildings. The State Agricultural college has been permanently located by the Legislature here. We have also two fine district schools, making opportunities for education unsurpassed in the State. One flouring mill and one steam saw mill.

Corvallis, April 23, 1879.

RAILROAD CONNECTION.

It is said that "straws indicate the direction of the wind," and the following brief notice from the Oregonian of the 23d inst., may have more force and weight than many persons would suppose, at first glance. The editor of the Omaha Herald is in a position to speak knowingly on U. P. R. affairs. The Oregonian says:

The editor of the Omaha Herald, who is supposed to have close connections with the managers of the Union Pacific railroad, writes from New York that he is informed by Gen. Dodge that the Union Pacific have decided upon extending the Utah Northern from its present terminus to the Columbia river and Portland, Oregon. One hundred miles, he is informed, will be built this year. We regret that we hear nothing in confirmation of this report, though it has been in circulation for several weeks, in one form or another.

Dr. Watts easily secured the heavy bond necessary before assuming the duties of the land office at Oregon City. He has removed with his family to that place from Yamhill county.

FROM THE CAPITAL.

SALEM, April 21, 1879.

EDITOR GAZETTE: The week under review has been no exception to the general rule, taken from a business point of view, or speaking socially, even, for that matter. The season of Lent being over for the period of another twelve month, has, perhaps, caused a slight revival in amusement circles and balls, parties, picnics and festivals are already talked of for the coming season. A wedding is also hinted at in which one of the young ladies of the capital and a gentleman from San Francisco are more especially interested. There are also excursions by rail, and excursions by steamer, talked of, and the prospect of life in amusement circles is flattering in the extreme. Nor is this all, for what is better still there are glowing prospects for increased activity in business circles, several enterprises being under way which are calculated to set money afloat and prove of permanent benefit to the city. Efforts are being made, with prospects of success, to utilize to its fullest capacity, the stove foundry now almost entirely suffering under a suspension of operations. The Pacific Threshing Machine Company contemplate commencing operations, at an early day. The scheme of the erection of a new pavilion on the State Fair grounds is fast assuming shape under the efficient management of E. M. Waite, Esq., and last, but not least, by any means, is the organization of the Marion and Wasco Stock and Wagon Road Company, whose object is the construction of a clay road, or trail, for the passage of livestock and wagons, beginning at this point; thence to Melama by the most practicable route; thence up the North Santiam, following the general course of the route for a county road surveyed by J. W. Davenport, in 1874, to near the point where said route crosses the Santiam below Moses Lake; thence easterly crossing the summit of the Cascade mountains by the side of Black Butte and thence to Camp Polk and Prineville in Wasco county. The stockholders interested in the enterprise met on Friday evening last and elected the following directors: John B. Trask, R. M. Wade, Lewis Pettyjohn, John W. Crawford and George Downing. Of the 400 shares of stock, held at \$10 per share, 272 shares were reported as disposed of but little difficulty is anticipated in disposing of the remainder, as deep interest is manifested in the success of the undertaking. The directors met on the following day and organized by electing R. M. Wade as president; Mart L. Chamberlain secretary, and John Minto general superintendent. Work will be commenced at an early day, and when once completed the result will prove very beneficial to this city.

The state board of education met on Wednesday last, to consider the feasibility of a change in the text books now in use in the common schools of this State. The question is one of great importance as it touches the pockets of the people and hence the board felt no little hesitancy in ordering or sanctioning a change, to be governed by the votes of the county superintendents, as provided by law. The series now in use are imperfect in many respects, and have, for months, been a source of controversy in educational circles; the leading educators not only favoring, but literally demanding a change. Acting on what might well be called public opinion, the board, after careful consideration of the question and consultation with influential representatives of educational institutions, it was resolved to permit the people to choose for themselves and by the votes of their county superintendents decide whether or not a change was necessary; the series now in use to enter into the contest, so far as their merits will permit, on an even footing with the balance. A number of representatives were present as agents of the various publishing houses and samples were exhibited, without number. Appleton's, Barnes', McGuffey's, and other series, excel in every respect the series now in use; which, by the way, are greatly inferior to a series published by the same house, A. L. Bancroft & Co., and in use in the public schools of San Francisco. Of the many who have examined the specimens sent out for examination we hear a decided preference expressed for the Appleton series, which are standard works and in quality and prices are far preferable to any series heretofore used in the common schools of this State, and to which the present series are no comparison. The universal sentiment appears to be if we are to have a change, by all means give us the Appleton series. The books speak for themselves and relying on the intelligence of those who have a

voice in the matter of selection we feel confident of the result.

The canvass of the vote for Governor, as made by the Legislative Assembly of 1878, does not correspond with the certified returns made by the various county clerks and filed in the office of the Secretary of State, in that the returns from Marion and Umatilla counties are incorrectly reported, Mr. Beckman having received ten more votes in each county than he is credited with in the legislative canvass, reducing Gov. Thayer's majority twenty votes, leaving him but 49 majority instead of 69 as heretofore reported. A miss, however, is as good as a mile, and his Excellency can now smile over any majority with perfect impunity.

The following gentlemen have been elected as vestrymen of St. Paul's parish in this city: D. F. Wagner, A. F. Wheeler, A. S. Ramsey; William Dancy, F. E. Hodgkin; the latter being selected as clerk, and A. F. Wheeler treasurer. Messrs. Dancy and Wagner, respectively, senior and junior wardens.

The Odd Fellows' excursion from this place to Portland promises to be well attended, as the "three linkers" are not only plentiful about here, but they are jovial as well, and never permit a good thing to pass by unheeded. Your correspondent contemplates accompanying them, and will inform you as to how the members behave themselves when away from home.

W. B. Crane, Esq., son-in-law of Hon. A. A. McCully, died in this city on Sunday morning last. He had but recently arrived from San Francisco, having been advised to try a change of climate; but Death had already marked him for his own. He was a gentleman highly esteemed by all who knew him, and his death will be sincerely regretted by a large circle of friends and acquaintances, who knew him but to honor and respect his numerous excellent qualities. He leaves a wife and three children to mourn his loss.

Calvin B. McDonald, a gentleman whose eloquence and fame has preceded him, arrived in this city on Friday last, and he will at once lay out a campaign against King Alcohol, contemplating an extended tour throughout the State before his return to California. You may expect a visit from him and all who miss hearing him lecture will lose a rare intellectual treat.

Hugh Owens, Esq., an old resident of this city died on Thursday last and was buried according to the rites of the Good Templars Order, Capital Lodge taking charge of the remains.

The masquerade ball given on Friday evening last, by the Capital Guards of this city, proved, as was anticipated, a grand success. The Opera House was well filled with the youth and beauty of the capital city. Roos' orchestra of Portland furnished the music, which was pronounced splendid and the maskers were kept moving around right lively. The costumes were varied, the grotesque predominating. Miss Ella Wright, Miss Dora Lance, Mrs. T. B. Jackson, Charles Reiley, and Sol. Ripinsky were awarded prizes. The receipts were quite liberal.

The State Board of Military auditors have about concluded their labors in the matter of auditing the claims arising out of the late Indian war. The work has been necessarily slow, but it has been thorough; and in their findings they have endeavored to deal justly with claimants and, at the same time, protect the interests of the State. The aggregate amount of claims is about \$42,000, which, in the aggregate, will be reduced twenty-five per cent, making the actual cost of the war about \$30,000.

The base ball fever has broken out again, and the attack is severe. Several clubs have been organized, and broken fingers, dislocated wrists and sprained ankles are a rule, rather than an exception. The Eagles defeated a picked nine yesterday, to the tune of 24 to 22 which was glory enough for one day.

His Excellency Gov. Thayer, has appointed P. H. Springer of Perrydale, and J. M. Patterson of this city Notaries Public.

Mirror Lodge No. 57 I. O. O. F. has filed articles of incorporation in the office of the Secretary of State.

The bill passed by the United States Senate appropriating \$200,000 for construction of a steel refrigerator ship to disinfect the holds and cargoes of vessels containing or supposed to contain the germs of yellow fever, is a sign of the progress of scientific knowledge in dealing with a class of deadly diseases. Frost is known to be the best destroyer of yellow fever germs. This refrigerator steamer will run up beside a vessel at anchor and pass a hose into one of the lower parts of the vessel; and in a few hours everything within is frozen.

LOSS OF THE GREAT REPUBLIC.

We give much space, this week, to the account of the loss of this steamer, last Friday night, or Saturday morning, while attempting to cross the Columbia river bar. Thirteen lives were sacrificed to the fool-hardiness (no softer term would express it) of those in charge of that great ship, and the attempt to shift the responsibility upon Pilot Doig, is very weak, to say the least. The great wonder is that all on board was not lost. It is not sufficient to say that the officers exhibited great coolness and bravery in saving the lives of the passengers, after they had, in the darkness of the night, recklessly exposed them to danger of shipwreck, upon a bar that is none too safe, in broad day light. Let the blame rest where it properly belongs, which should be discovered by careful investigation. "Let no guilty man escape."

The latest intelligence says: "No special change in the condition of the vessel." She continues to slowly break up, and light baggage and freight is constantly coming ashore. Land pirates flocked to Sand Island and made such wanton destruction by their vandalism, that a military guard became necessary, and no person is now permitted to visit the island without a pass.

Fares and freights were immediately advanced, by the old line, to former rates, we understand. It is stated, upon what is said to be good authority, that another steamer will take the place of the Republic. Mr. Cornwall will not give up the Oregon trade.

The latest accounts give the loss of life at thirteen, including the 1st and 2d officers. The steamer Astoria, after the arrival of the unfortunate passengers, was one never to be forgotten, and beggars all description. Churches, lodge rooms, and every vacant room, in the city were laid under contribution to provide shelter for the hundreds who were so suddenly thrust into the city utterly destitute, with naught save the clothes upon their backs. The only excuse that could be offered for attempting the crossing of that dangerous bar, in the night, was a desire to make the trip as close to the Oregon as possible.

THE SCHOOL BOOK QUESTION.

The "school book fraud" that was perpetrated upon the people of this State, a few years ago, is fresh in the minds of many of our readers. The GAZETTE sounded a note of warning, at that time, but it was unheeded, and the people have been robbed of thousands of dollars, while a worthless series of school books, through interested parties, was palmed upon our schools. The question is to come before the people of this State again, and our county superintendents will have a voice in the selection. We have no fears as to how Benton will stand in the next conflict. No frumpy, ephemeral series, will receive Prof. McElroy's sanction. A correspondent of the Oregonian, under date of April 18th, writes from Salem as follows on this subject:

The State Board of Education held an important meeting Wednesday evening to take into consideration the practicability of a change in the series of school books now in use in the common schools of this State. The question is one which is exciting no little interest in educational circles, and a change is strongly urged by all parties interested. Letters and telegrams are daily received urging the board to institute a change, and a number of resolutions are present from the various publishing houses of the east and west, and full lines of samples are on exhibition here, which speak for themselves. The change can be effected, it is supposed, without any material outlay on the part of the patrons, as new books will be exchanged for old and prices are fixed at astonishingly low figures. Some of the sample series are very fine and the agents for Appleton, Bancroft, McGuffey and others vieing with each other as to excellence, durability of finish and price, until the contrast has become decidedly interesting. There appears to be an almost universal demand for a change and the board of education having the best interests of the people at heart cannot reasonably deny them the privilege of choosing for themselves what text books shall be used in the education of the young. The matter has not yet come to a final vote, but, as before stated, indications are decidedly favorable for a change. Should these circulars be issued they will contain full particulars relative to the books themselves, the basis of exchange and the prices at which they will hereafter be furnished. Will endeavor to keep you posted as to the situation hereafter.

A special dispatch received last evening says that the "State Board of Education ordered the issuance of circulars with a view of making a change in the text books."

DIED.
In South Salem, on Wednesday, April 16th, Hugh Owens, in the sixty-second year of his age.

Mr. Owens was born in Wales, in the year 1817, and came to the United States when quite young, emigrating to Oregon in 1852. He lived in South Salem about seven years, first following his trade as a blacksmith, but later engaged in merchandising, and was at his place of business in usual health, when prostrated with an attack of epilepsy, remaining unconscious until his death, twelve hours after he was found. He was a man of unquestioned honesty and integrity of character, and was esteemed as a good citizen, excellent neighbor, and a kind husband and father. He was Justice of the Peace for the precinct where he lived. He leaves a wife and one daughter to mourn his irreparable loss. He was a consistent member of the Methodist church.