

HOW IT SEEMS TO A STRANGER.

EDITOR HERALD:—Having lately arrived on the Pacific Coast, I congratulated myself on reaching Los Angeles in time for your District Fair, deeming it the best opportunity I should have for securing reliable information concerning the productions of Southern California. On examining the programme as published in the city papers, I found much about horse-racing, but very little of farm products, and the programme was faithfully carried out. There was horse-racing every day; but the magnificent fruits, the mammoth vegetables, the fine grains and the succulent grasses, which we in the east hear so much of, were not there. Pool-selling, betting on this horse or that, and speculations in regard to the winner, was all I could hear. On the streets, in hotels, at the ground, everybody, men, women and children were talking of the races, and all this excitement and interest was occasioned by trials of speed between horses that could barely make three miles in a trifle under three minutes. Naturally one infers that the exhibition given by an Agricultural Society will to some extent represent the condition of the industries of the country; and when I found that the agricultural and industrial departments were meagre and inferior in the extreme, while gambling was largely developed, the first hasty conclusion was that the people of Southern California were more interested in the scrub horse-races than in the cultivation of the soil. An examination of the manner in which the Fair was conducted, led me to think that possibly the people were not to blame for the character of the exhibition, and that they had simply erred in mistaking the annual meeting of a lot of horse jockeys for an agricultural jubilee. For instance: there was a greater sum given as a purse for a scrub race, than was paid in premiums for the entire products of the farms, orchards, vineyards, workshops and manufactures of a half a dozen counties. After thinking the matter over, I concluded not to send the city papers containing reports of the Fair to my friends at the east, fearing that a wrong impression might be conveyed. And now, if you will allow a stranger the liberty, I suggest that if the people of Los Angeles wish their Fair to amount to anything they must take the management in their own hands instead of prostituting it to the petty knavery of the race course, and devote their energies to building up and developing the great agricultural and mineral resources of your section of the State. If proper inducements are offered, there will be no difficulty in bringing together a creditable display of the products of the county, and such a display will be of infinitely more value to you as a community than all the horse-racing that can be crowded into a week. Such an exhibition will be a better and cheaper advertisement of your resources than any other you can devise, and it will in a very few years cause a marked improvement in the quality of your flocks and herds, and an ever increasing interest in the noble pursuit of agriculture. NORTHWEST.

The Jacksonville (Oregon) Sentinel of November 8th, says: "James C. Parker, the man who was stabbed at Ashland on Thursday evening of last week, by the August Walters, died on Monday morning. Walters is in jail here in default of \$5,000 bail. He was somewhat roughly handled by the circus men, who threatened to hang him, but were restrained from so doing by John Wilson, proprietor of the circus. None of Walters' injuries are very serious however."

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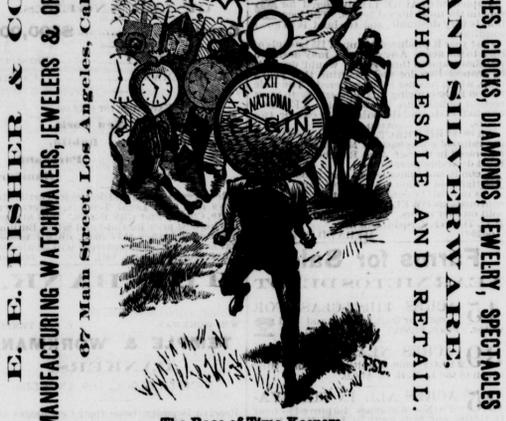
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