

THE POLYNESIAN.

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[NEW SERIES, VOL. 1.—No. 4.

POETRY.

For the Polynesian.

WOMAN'S VOICE.

Who can forbear to stay the while,
If woman's voice our time beguile,
To listen to those sounds so soft
That wake dull echo—O how oft!

When care and toil our bosoms vex,
And dangers nigh our paths perplex;
When angry passions rise and boil
And flash the fire of strife like oil,
There's naught can calm the troubled breast
Or from our pain can give us rest,
So soon as smiling woman's voice,
The music of our fondest choice.

Say, who in maddest hour of joy,
Ne'er has felt its dear decoy?
Or who in sickness' languid hour,
Ne'er has known its soothing power?
Or if by purling stream we walk
Or if in shady bower we talk
With fair one of our fondest love,
And vow in faith to vie the dove,
'Tis then is breathed the softest sigh,
'Tis then is heard the faint reply,
'Tis then the heart with joyous bound
Owns that there's magic in the sound.

Honolulu, June 10, 1844.

Z.

COMMUNICATED.

For the Polynesian.

RECOLLECTIONS OF OREGON. (Concluded.)

There is extent of country enough of this description to sustain a large population, and nothing seems wanting but enterprise and capital, to secure to the inhabitants not only comfort, but wealth. The falls in the river present a serious hindrance to the export of the productions and commodities of the country; as every thing which passes them has to be conveyed upon the backs of men. A canal is considered perfectly feasible, so soon as the exports shall warrant the expense; and it is thought that a lumber race could be constructed at no very heavy cost, through which lumber could be floated to the head of ship navigation, with perfect ease and safety.

The wealth of a new country is always a consideration of great importance, to those who are looking to that quarter for a permanent residence, or the investment of capital. In this respect, the valley of the Willamette is considered quite as highly favored as most new countries. Those who have become acclimated, regard it as decidedly healthy, while the new settlers generally regard it as sickly. Fever and ague prevails, certainly, to a considerable extent; but the mortality consequent thereon is by no means alarming, except among the aborigines, who possess neither skill nor the means of successfully treating that disease. And it is a melancholy fact, connected with the history of these tribes, that but a handful of once numerous tribes now remain, while many of the smaller tribes or bands, have become entirely extinct.

In leaving the Willamette river, we come to the head quarters of the Hudson's Bay Company, at Vancouver, which is on the North side of the river, at a distance of about eight miles from the upper branch of the Willamette. At this place is a large establishment, for commercial business, and also for agricultural purposes. A large farm is under cultivation here, and yields a large quantity of produce, consisting of bread stuffs, vegetables, fruits, etc. Several dairies are also connected with Vancouver, and others have been established in the vicinity under the same direction. Large herds of cattle and flocks of sheep are kept in connection with the farm. A hospital for the sick, and a thriving school are sustained

here by the company. Ships with full cargoes lie so near the shore, as to discharge their cargoes from a stage erected from the ship to the shore. A fine grist mill has been erected about five miles above Vancouver, which has produced flour of first rate quality. Two miles above the grist mill, a saw mill has long been in operation, from which the lumber brought to these islands has been obtained. A ship of over three hundred tons, took in her cargo at the mill, but this is not practicable at the lowest stage of the water, on account of a bar between the mill and Vancouver, where the water is not deep enough to float the vessel.

After leaving Vancouver, there are no white residents till we come to the Dalls, a distance of 140 or 150 miles. Here is a station of the Methodist mission, occupied by Mr. Perkins, and the Indian population within a few miles is quite numerous. At the Shoots, about ten miles above the residence of Messrs. Lee and Perkins, salmon are taken in immense quantities, and also in large numbers at the Dalls themselves. After leaving the Dalls we meet with the next post of the Company at Walla Walla, which is occupied by a single gentleman and his family, with a few servants. This post is estimated to be 300 miles above Vancouver.

At Walla Walla we first enjoyed the luxury of eating horse beef,—a standing dish in that horse abounding country. And although he who is guilty of such an act, may be considered at least cousin-german to a cannibal, I can assure you the thing itself is not so bad as the contemplation of it. But it does take a little time, and some little effort, to overcome the prejudice naturally arising from the association of devouring a portion of so noble an animal, and one which is held in such high esteem by the civilized world. And I shall not soon forget the effort it cost me, on the first occasion, to screw my courage to the "sticking point," and deliberately attempt to masticate the prodigious quantity with which my plate was furnished by our generous host. But after a few trials, and swallowing a few morsels without tasting them, and finding ourselves still in the land of the living, we made a virtue of necessity, and bolted the whole allowance; and, not to give offence to our kind host, who kept pressing us to take a little more, consented to be helped a second time to a delicious morsel, which he temptingly displayed upon his knife and fork, assuring us at the same time, that it was "very fine." And so it was. The only ill effects we ever discovered from eating horse-flesh, were, a tendency to corpulency, and a somewhat sudden contraction of our unmentionables!

Ten miles above Walla Walla, the South branch, or as it is usually called, the Snake River, unites with the Columbia. It was some two hundred miles above this junction, that Lewis and Clark prepared their boats to descend to the ocean, after crossing the entire continent on horses. The highest point of my personal observation, was at the very spot where they built their boats, of which event, the Indians retain a lively recollection; and they often praise the generosity of the first white men who passed through their country.

In speaking of Oregon, as a whole country, no general description will convey a correct idea of its different localities. To describe the lower country, (as the timbered section of about 200 miles in width on the coast is usually called,) as fertile, timbered, and affording facilities for agricultural and kindred pursuits, the mistake must not be made of supposing that the whole country is of like description. While it is true of a large district on the coast, it is no less true, that the

upper country is, in one sense, a barren, unproductive region, even to, and beyond the Rocky mountains. The soil is of a sandy nature, and the great heat of summer, together with the want of rain, renders the whole country unfit for agricultural pursuits. At the same time, there are small tracts, on the streams tributary to the great rivers, of an alluvial nature, and so situated as to be susceptible of irrigation, that are very productive; and it is on spots like these that the missionaries of the A. B. C. F. M. are now located. But these are exceedingly limited, and most of them are subject to inundation. The want of timber is another obstacle to the settlement of the upper country. Except upon the rivers, and the mountains, the country affords neither timber for building, or even for fuel, and at many points, as at Walla Walla, the drift wood of the Columbia is all the timber they have, for any purpose whatever. Thus, it will be seen, that two indispensable elements are wanting to render the upper country a desirable one for a dense population; and at the same time there does not, probably, exist upon the whole continent, a better grazing country, than the one just described as a barren, unproductive region. This anomaly is accounted for by the fact, that the grass, which is of a peculiar nature, and usually called buffalo grass, springs up luxuriantly, on the first opening of spring, when the soil is moistened by the winter rains and snow, and comes to maturity by the time the summer heat has absorbed the moisture from the soil. It is thus quickly dried, and becomes hay, and affords sufficient sustenance for herds during the fall and winter. The country of this description is of vast extent, and the number of cattle, horses and sheep it is capable of sustaining, is beyond computation. Some individual Indians own 1000, and 2000 horses.

The climate of the upper country differs materially from that of the lower. It is dry, and the atmosphere of a more bracing nature. It is decidedly healthy. And while the thermometer ranges from 103°, of Fahrenheit,—in the summer, to 10 degrees below Zero in winter, still, there is but little rain, and not usually a very heavy fall of snow, except upon the high lands.

MISCELLANY.

MAGNETICAL ATTRACTION.—Prof. Locke has announced to the National Institution the discovery of the pole of greatest magnetical attraction, so far as known, upon the whole earth. This pole is situated on a little Island at Copper Harbor, on the South side of Lake Superior. The remarkable fact that the pole of greatest force or the point where the earth attracts a magnetic needle the most intensely, is not situated at the point or pole of direction, viz: at the point where the magnetic meridians meet, nor the point where the dipping needle stands perpendicular—this was in general pointed out by Maj. Sabine in his report to the British Association in 1838.

In this report Maj. Sabine has given charts representing the magnetic force so far as ascertained, over the earth—by which it appears that the greatest force exists in North America, and that the force increase towards some point, as was supposed, on the coast of Hudson's Bay. Thus a line is drawn through all points where the force is equal 1. 7. This line commencing at Behring Straits, runs eastward on the parallel of 68 degrees of North latitude, bends southward, crosses Newfoundland, includes a small portion of the Atlantic, returns towards the West, meets the coast at Cape Hatteras, crosses the Mississippi below St. Louis, and reaching the Pacific bends northwardly and returns nearly or quite into itself at Behring Straits.

Within this great ellipsoid thus described, Maj. Sabine has given a sketch of the interior concentric curve passing through the places where the intensity is equal to 1. 8., and he suggests that there may be within it a point of 1. 9. Now at the place above named, on

Lake Superior, Prof. L. in his tour last summer, has found a magnetic force so great as 1. 92, and has also ascertained that the force is less on the North side of the same Lake than on the South side.

Continuing his researches for five years, Prof. L. has extended his observations personally over 20 degrees of longitude and 10 degrees of latitude, encountering in these labors all of the privations, fatigues, and perplexities of campaigning through pathless and savage regions; added to this, it has all been accomplished at his own expense. At one time he is seen at Cambridge, Massachusetts, patiently watching the results of the most delicate experiments; at another, on the prairies of Iowa; now in the centre of Kentucky; and again in the piney forest of Lake Superior, engaged in the same employment, and yet how few of us are aware that any such labor has been performed.

The result of these researches is ready for publication. Such researches are now being made by the British Government at its own expense; it would be worth the time to ascertain what would be the cost of this voluntary and unpaid labor of one of our citizens.—*Cincinnati Gazette.*

THE GREAT NORTHERN.—A trial of the Great Northern steamer, propelled by the Archimedean screw, was made in the Thames, under unpropitious weather, and against an opposing tide, which was considered quite successful. The report says that "she screwed her way steadily along, occasioning hardly any surge, and obviously presenting a grand subject for wonderment to the crews of the numerous vessels, working upwards with the tide. Shortly after starting, the log gave a speed of nine knots, but as the engine worked more freely it increased to ten knots. The Eagle Gravesend steambot could creep only very slowly ahead of the Great Northern, and the London, of Dundee, the fastest sea-going steamer which comes into the Thames, assisted by a fore top-sail and jib, could barely pass the screw boat, proceeding as she did without any help from canvas. Altogether, the success of the experiment is said to have been complete. It was demonstrated beyond doubt that the Great Northern, which only pretends to use steam as a secondary power, can easily accomplish ten miles an hour. She steers also very easily, and turns in double her own length. Sir F. Collier publicly stated that the speed of the Great Northern, with 700 tons of coal on board, exceeded the velocity of any steam vessel in the navy, except the Queen's yacht and the Black Eagle."

THE MECHANIC.—The beautiful sentence subjoined is from the "Carpenter of Rouen," a popular play.

"The Mechanic, sir, is one of God's noblemen. What have mechanics not done? Have they not opened the secret chambers of the mighty deep, and extracted its treasures, and made the raging billow their highway, on which they ride as on a tame steed? Are not the elements of fire and water chained to the crank, and at the mechanic's bidding compelled to turn it? Have not the mechanics opened the bowels of the earth, and made it contribute to his wants? The forked lightnings is their plaything and they ride on the wings of the mighty wind. To the wise they are the floodgates of knowledge, and kings and queens are decorated with their handy works. He who made the universe was a great mechanic."

CATHOLIC BISHOPS.—Eight new Bishops have been appointed by the See of Rome for the United States. The Rev. Dr. Reynolds fills the place of the late Bishop England. Rev. Mr. Quarters is Bishop of Chicago. Rev. Andrew Byrne is Bishop of Arkansas. Rev. Mr. McCluskey is Coadjutor Bishop of New York—the three last are now of New York city. Rev. Wm. Tyler is Bishop of the new See, Hartford, Conn.; Rev. John Fitzpatrick, Coadjutor Bishop of Boston. These gentlemen are of Boston.

AN ANECDOTE.—The Knickerbrocker relates the following on the authority of Mr. Robert Tyler:

"The old negro who receives and ushers visitors at the President's mansion is always very precise in his announcements. On one occasion a gentleman named Foot, with a daughter on each arm, was shown into the drawing room with the introduction, 'Mr. Foot, and the two Miss Feet!'"