

# The Hand of God in the History of the Pacific Coast.

—:o:—

ANNUAL ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE TRUSTEES, FACULTY,  
STUDENTS AND FRIENDS OF WHITMAN COLLEGE AT THE  
SIXTH COMMENCEMENT, JUNE 1, 1888, BY REV.  
MYRON EELLS.

MR. PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND FACULTY OF WHITMAN COLLEGE. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: —Fifty years ago a little band of nine missionaries were on their way from the United States to Oregon. A copy of the journal of one of them which I have says that on June 1st they were at Fort William, on the Laramie river, where they had arrived two days previous, and from which place they started the next day. The record for that day was very common place. It reads thus: "June 1st, Friday, (for it was on the same day of the week as it is this year). Attended to writing. Indian women and children continually calling on us. The company gives us a horse, Mr. Gray takes one he left here a year ago." Other records show that that period of two days was spent by the ladies in washing, mending, writing and the like, and by the gentlemen in making repairs and arrangements for the remainder of the journey. It was a short period of rest, to repair up the past, and prepare for the future. In this respect it was an emblem of what we are here for to-day to review the past and prepare for the future, and this is true whether we refer to those students of the institution who are only partially through their course and are still on their journey through college, as those pioneers were on their journey fifty years ago; or whether we speak of those who are now graduating and who are stopping for a day or two at the Fort, preparatory to going on with their education through life; or whether mention is made of the college, its founder, patrons, and all of you who come here to celebrate the period from 1838 to 1888, it is a short period of rest to look back over the past and prepare for the future. In doing so I wish to speak of the Hand of Providence in the history of this Pacific Coast, and to show first and mention how that hand has guided us, so that we have become what we are—that is to review the past; and last but briefly, to point to a lesson, which we ought to learn, that is to prepare for the future.

An old proverb says:  
"There is a providence that shapes our ends  
Rough hew them as we will."

And one who has read carefully the addresses made before the Pioneer Society of Oregon, will often find in regard to the word of those men who came to this coast in the thirties and forties the old expression used, "They builded better than they knew;" when they laid the foundation of the State of Oregon.



Both of these proverbs are only another way of expressing the truth of a verse in Holy Writ, "the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men and giveth it to whomsoever he will."

The maps of the United States, as made at the beginning of this century, and as made now, are very different, as far as respects this coast. All of the United States west of the Rocky mountains was left off; California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, and a part of Montana, with Alaska, with its area of one million, four hundred thousand square miles (1,431,477) or two-seventh of the United States.

Less than fifty years ago the title to much of this country was in dispute between the United States and Great Britain, and the rest our government made no pretensions to claim.

I hold in my hand, an old and worn out letter which I captured in Massachusetts, which was written by one of that band who came here fifty years ago and is dated "Wiletpor, Oct. 4, 1838." Of the population it says, "The country is large and there are comparatively few inhabitants in it. The Hudson's Bay Company have a number of trading posts which are generally about three hundred miles apart. Mr. Spalding and Dr. Whitman each have a station about 125 miles apart. The Methodist mission have two stations, one 150 miles, and the other 400 miles from here (The Dalles and Salem). Besides these settlements there are no others in this great territory."

Again here is another letter, written by the same person (Mrs. M. F. Eells) to a sister in Massachusetts which begins, "Your letter dated Sept. 12th, 1841, I received July, 1843," twenty two months on the way. I refer to these items as they

are an index of the state of affairs then. Now how different. We have a population of about two and a quarter million, ~~Over~~ several trans-continental railroads, numerous internal lines of steamers, and foreign lines to China, Japan and Australia, and other countries. unknown millions of dollars already taken from our gold and silver mines; our richer wealth in farms, iron, stock, forests, coal, manufactures and the like, and our prospective population of at least sixty million, as many as there in the whole United States prospective wealth of which I am not competent to make an estimate—all belonging to the United States.

It is acknowledged without dispute that Great Britain wanted the Oregon of 1838, not to develop its resources, but to keep it simply as it was, a fur producing country for the benefit of the Hudson's Bay Company. It is just as plainly acknowledged that under the United States it has been developed far more than it would have been had Great Britain obtained it. Americans claim this, and the British acknowledge it to be true. Says Dr. W. F. Tolmer, who came to this coast in 1833, and who was for a longtime connected with that Hudson's Bay Company which tried its utmost to obtain this northwest coast, who lived for a long time at Vancouver after which he was in charge of Fort Nisqually for many years, and spent his last days at Victoria, always loyal to Great Britain, and who before his recent death had been a resident of this coast for more than fifty years;—says this gentleman in a letter to the Pioneer Society of Oregon in 1884: "I have never heard a Briton deny that the United States men have better developed Washington since the treaty of 1846, than, all things considered, our people, British and Canadian,



could possibly have done in the same period." (Transaction Or. Pioneer Society 1884 p. 29.)

Previous to the time when Great Britain was trying to obtain possession of a part of this coast, and during a part of the time, Spain, France and Russia all made some attempts to get hold of it. And it is just as plain, when we look at the colonies of these other countries in other parts of the world, that if either of these nations had obtained it, it would not have been developed as much as it would have been even under Great Britain, and hence very much less than it has been under the United States. But these nations which have been mentioned are among the foremost nations of the globe, hence it is plain that this coast has been more highly developed by us under the Providence of God, than it would have been under any other nation, and this prosperity is likely to continue in the future.

The question now arises, how has this been brought about? was it a plan of man's devising or not? I answer: It was not the plan of any man, for in general the people, and especially the government of the United States planned the other way. Nor was it chance. There was a great intelligent Architect who laid the plan; and men did the work—carried out the plan, but in doing so they "builted better than they knew."

As many a soldier, has fought and helped to win a grand victory, who had nothing to do in planning the battle, who was not capable of making a successful plan, and who if he had tried would have made so many blunders that the enemy would have gained the victory, so there was many a battle fought before the United States gained this coast, diplomatic, intellectual and moral, in which men, as it were, fought, but which neither men or our govern-

ment planned. A greater Captain did this, that Providence "which shapes our ends, rough hew them as we will."

Much has been said and written of late years in regard to what missions have done to save this coast to the Nation, that is how God honored the missions in making them thus instrumental in this great work—but not only has God done this, he has done more, he has also overruled many other events in which missions had nothing to do, in order to accomplish this.

How this all occurred however is not attributed to one great event of Providence like a single great battle, so much as to a series of Providences: intertwined, as the links of a chain; it is due to a chain of Providences, of which God is the author. Three items now are to be considered, first how little our government did to obtain this coast, second, how much Great Britain did to obtain it, and third what God did for us so that the action of men was overruled to accomplish either far more than they intended, or else directly contrary to what they intended. True, if the United States had bent every energy to acquire this northwest coast, and had been successful God's hand would still have been in it. But it is very interesting to note, how, when the United States did not do so the Most High still ruled in the kingdoms of men, and gave them to whomsoever he would.

#### WHAT THE UNITED STATES AS A GOVERNMENT DID.

First,—In 1803 she made a treaty with France, by which she obtained Louisiana, and with it all of the French title, by contiguity to land, west to the Pacific ocean, that is because the French had discovered the Mississippi river, and travelled a little to the west, France claimed the country drained by it on the



west, where the French had never been, or any other civilized nation, up its tributaries to the Rocky mountains, and even west of them to the Pacific; a very slight foundation. Still that little title which the United States obtained by this purchase of fifteen millions of dollars led

Second, Thomas Jefferson, our President, in connection with other ideas of his to send Lewis and Clarke on an exploring expedition to this coast in 1804-5 and 6. Previous to this, while minister to France, Jefferson had thought considerably about this coast, and had induced a famous traveller Ledyard to begin an exploring expedition through Asia in Russia, to America, and down the coast to this part and thence across the Rocky mountains, to the head waters of the Mississippi. But this was not an official act of our government, and it failed because that after Ledyard started, the Russian government turned him back as a spy. (Benton, Vol. 1:14) But after Jefferson became President, and the Louisiana purchase had been made, Jefferson's ideas were renewed, and he sent out Lewis and Clarke. This was the only expedition of discovery which our government sent out, which was of any value in giving us a title to Oregon. True in 1841 Commodore Wilkes' expedition explored the coast, and in 1843 Gen. Fremont was sent across the continent, but that was too late to acquire any title by discovery. They simply gave valuable information to government about the country. Wilkes' expedition was even so afraid of making trouble with England that it would not encourage the American settlers in the Willamette valley to form a provisional government, although they were making an effort to do so—a government which

should be actually auxiliary and loyal to the United States, though not legally so, because the treaty had not been made, by which the United States acquired a title to Oregon—that is a government which should be provisional, or provide for the time being until the United States should acquire the country, and give her a territorial form of government.

Third,—In 1818 she made a treaty with Great Britain, by which we jointly with that nation were allowed to occupy this country, a treaty which was renewed in 1828.

Fourth,—In 1819 our government made a treaty with Spain, by which we acquired Florida, and also all the rights which Spain had acquired because of her discoveries on this coast, between California and the Russian possessions.

Fifth,—These were, I believe the only things which the government as a government did to acquire the country until the Oregon treaty was made in 1846.

True Senators Benton and Linn of Missouri, and Floyd of Virginia, and a few others, worked nobly to do something, but they were in the minority, made motions, which did not accomplish anything, and blamed the majority, whose speeches in the light of the present day are somewhat amusing, and yet at that time were convincing. Said Mr. Dickerson of New Jersey in the U. S. Senate in 1855, after speaking of the impossibility, almost, of a Senator from Oregon, ever going to Washington overland, and returning in a year. "It would be more expeditious however to come by water round Cape Horn, or through Behring's straits, round the north coast of the continent to Baffins Bay through Davis' straits to the Atlantic Ocean, and so on to Washington. It is true, this passage is not dis-



covered yet, except upon the maps, but it will be as soon as Oregon will be a State." (Trans. Oregon Pioneer Society 1872-5 p. 65 )

Said Mr. Barbour of Virginia in 1825, "Oregon can never be one of the United States. Would to heaven there was a perpetual decree, that should forever secure the aborigines of that soil, the quiet possession of the country they now enjoy." (Trans. Pioneer Society of Oregon, 1878 p. 3 )

In 1843 Mr. McDuffie of South Carolina said, "I would not (for cultivation) give a pinch of snuff for the whole territory of Oregon. If, to enable our people to go there, an embankment of only five feet had to be removed, I would not consent to spend five dollars to remove it. I thank God for his mercy in placing the Rocky mountains there."

In the United States Senate in 1844 a resolution was offered to give the necessary twelve months' notice to Great Britain for the termination of the treaty which granted joint occupancy to both nations to what was then Oregon.

All the Senators claimed our right to be good as far north as 40 degrees, and yet for various reason a majority of them opposed the motion, some for fear it would involve us in war, some because they were afraid it would have a bad effect on the negotiations which, it was said, would soon be made, and for which preliminary arrangements were in progress, some because of the worthlessness of the country, and some because they wanted no more territory.

In regard to these latter points, Mr. Dayton of New Jersey, quoted the following description of the country from the *Christian Advocate*, of February 7, 1844: "With the exception of lands along the Wil-

lamette and strips along a few of the water courses the whole country is among the most irreclaimable barren wastes of which we have read, except the Desert of Sahara. Nor is this the worst of it. The climate is so unfriendly to human life that the native population has dwindled away under the ravages of its malaria to a degree which defies all history to furnish a parallel in so wide a range of country."

He also read from the *Louisville Journal*, as republished in the *National Intelligencer* of Washington, as follows: "Of all the countries on the face of this earth, it (Oregon) is one of the least favored by heaven. It is the mere riddlings of creation. It is almost as barren as the Desert of Africa, and quite as unhealthy as the Campania of Italy. Now that a territory should excite the hopes and cupidity of citizens of the United States, indorsing them to leave comfortable homes for its heap of sands is indeed passing strange. Russia has her Siberia, and England her Botany Bay, and if the United States should ever need a country to which to banish its rogues and scoundrels the utility of such a region as Oregon would be demonstrated. Until then we are perfectly willing to leave this magnificent country to the Indians, trappers and buffaloes that roam over its sand banks, and by the side of its rushing and unnavigable rivers."

After quoting more of a similar character, Mr. Dayton said, "I confess these descriptions are somewhat below my estimate. I had thought it a poor country as a whole, but not quite so poor as these authentic accounts would make it. Yet these accounts are substantially correct as applied to the country as a whole, though I have no doubt there are some green spots, some strips along



the streams, which may be good and even perhaps rich for agricultural purposes, and it is to these spots that the glowing descriptions have been applied. \* \* Judging from all sources of authentic information to which I have had access I should think the territory taken together a very poor region for agricultural purposes and in that respect unworthy of consideration or contest at the hands of this government.

"How will the speedy settlement of Oregon affect us? In my judgment it must be injuriously. The admission of Oregon as a State to the Union seems to me as undesirable on the one hand as it is improbable on the other; undesirable because by the aid of representative principle, we have already spread ourselves to a vast and almost unwieldy extent. I have no faith in the unlimited extension of this government by that principle.

"But it is not only in my judgment undesirable, but improbable. Distance and the character of the intervening country are natural obstacles forbidding the idea. By water the distance around Cape Horn is said to be about eighteen thousand miles. By land the distance by the only line of travel is about five thousand miles from this spot to Vancouver, in the valley of the Willamette. And when considered with reference to the facilities of communication, Europe is in comparison our next door neighbor.

"And this state of things must continue unless some new agent of communication shall cast up. The power of steam has been suggested. Talk of steam communication—a railroad to the mouth of the Columbia—why look at the cost and bankrupt condition of railroads proceeding almost from your capital, traversing your great thoroughfares. A railroad across 2500 miles of

prairie, of desert, and of mountain! The smoke of an engine across those terrible fissures of that rocky ledge where the smoke of a volcano only has rolled before! Who is to make this vast internal, or rather external, improvement—the State of Oregon or the United States? Whence is to come the power? Who supply the means? The mines of Mexico and Peru disemboweled would scarcely pay a penny in the pound of the cost. Nothing short of the lamp of Aladdin will suffice for such an expenditure. The extravagance of the suggestion seems to me to outrun everything which we know of modern visionary scheming. The South Sea bubble, the Dutchmans' speculations, the tulip roots, our own in town lots and multicaulis are all commonplace ploddings in comparison. But all the suggestions seem to me properly part and parcel of the great inflated whole."

This connection being out of the question, Mr. Dayton then proceeded to discuss the idea of its being a colony, similar to the British colonies of which he made as much sport as he did of the railroad.

Other Senators said that if we obtained Oregon we could not hold it, as it would set itself as an independent nation after a time. (*Congressional Globe*, 1844 p. 275, etc.)

Moreover, two years later, April 6th and 7th, 1846, when the value of Oregon was far better known, Mr. Webster said in the Senate, while defending his part in the Ashburton treaty of 1842, which settled the northeastern boundary:

"Now, what is this river St. John? We have heard a vast deal lately of the value and importance of the river Columbia and its navigation; but I will undertake to say that for all purposes of human use the St. John is worth a hundred times as much as the Columbia is or ever



will be." (Webster's Speeches, Vol. 5, p. 102.)

And these things were said and done notwithstanding the fact that in 1838, 1840 and 1842 the settlers of Oregon petitioned Congress most earnestly to give them a free government. (Trans Oregon Pioneers, 1877, p. 24-26)

#### WHAT GREAT BRITAIN DID.

She had sent out some discoverers, Meares in 1788 and especially Vancouver in 1792 who explored the whole of Puget Sound and sailed up the Columbia river about four times as far as any previous explorer had done and took possession of the country in behalf of Great Britain; Sir Alexander McKenzie had subsequently crossed the continent on purpose to discover a way through, and find a good place for a British settlement, though he had unfortunately come to this coast 500 miles to the north of the mouth of the Columbia; the English government had allowed first the Northwestern Fur Company, and after her the Hudson's Bay Company by their charters to enter the region as far south as California for trade; she had made such strong claims that when the treaty of 1818 was made between Great Britain and the United States, our government had not dared to insist on her claims, but had agreed on joint occupancy of the country by both nations, an agreement which lasted for twenty-eight years, and then during this period had crowded out every American trading and fur company which had come to the coast, eleven in number; had choked the few attempts which had been made by Americans to establish colonies here; had brought in 1841, the first emigration of regular settlers to the coast from Red river, a year before any American emigration of settlers

had come, and had introduced so many of her subjects that it is said she could have raised an army of about 800 men west of the Rocky mountains.

And yet all this great empire is ours, with a much greater one in prospect. In answer to the question how it has occurred I wish to begin at the present time, and run rapidly back, simply noting the various links in the Providence which gave it to us, and then dwell more fully on each link.

Alaska is our latest acquisition, but Secretary Seward would probably never have thought of obtaining it, if we had not had other possessions on the coast. The same may without doubt be said of Arizona, obtained in 1854. Had we not owned California, we would evidently not have sought for that territory. California and New Mexico were obtained in 1848, and eminent men on this coast have said that this was really done because we had by treaty in 1846 obtained Oregon.

It was thus settled in that treaty because of the rights we acquire through the treaties with France and Spain, the expedition of Lewis and Clarke, the discovery of the mouth of the Columbia by Captain Gray, and last but not least the population of over six thousand American citizens which the five emigrations from 1842 to 1846 brought to this coast.

Why did they come? The later emigrations came because the first ones, especially those of 1842 on horseback, and 1843 with wagons had opened the way. Some of these came because of the offer made by a bill which was introduced into Congress by Senator Linn granting 640 acres to each settler, which however did not pass, but very many because of information which had been sent back by the missionaries who came

*What  
God did*



previously and also because of representations which had been made by the missionaries who had been here and returned east, especially Rev. J. Lee, Rev. S. Parker, Dr. M. Whitman, and Dr. E. White. But Dr. White came, first because of the wants of the Methodist mission, under Rev. J. Lee, and Dr. Whitman because he was induced to do so by Rev. S. Parker. Messrs Parker and Lee came because of the call made by four Nez Peres Indians for the Gospel, who went to St. Louis in 1832. Why did they make this call? Because of the information they had obtained of the white man's God and Bible from fur traders and trappers. What brought them here? Beaver. Because they wanted the money which could be obtained from selling the beaver skins and other furs, which God had placed in these wilds.

The Louisiana Treaty and Lewis and Clarke's expedition too were likewise made largely because of the discovery of the Columbia river by Capt. Gray in 1792, and the making of a treaty by the Governor of Louisiana; while the Florida treaty was made because the Spanish there sheltered the Indians who committed hostilities on our side of the line.

Starting now at the other end of the chain, let us follow it out more fully and develop these various links.

First in order comes the discoveries of the Spanish. Do you suppose when Fernando Cortez ordered those men, whose very names to us are almost unknown, Hurbado, Mendoza, Grigalva and Becerra on a voyage of discovery into the North Pacific Ocean, or when in 1542, Cabrillo came as far north as Oregon, or when in 1512 Ponce de Leon discovered Florida, or when in 1775 Heceta evidently first saw the mouth of the

Columbia they intended, or expected to help in building up a great Protestant Empire here? No indeed. Some of those voyages were more than two hundred years before any one of the most far seeing statesmen in the world ever dreamed of the United States. What if Great Britain, Protestant, enlightened and powerful, had made those voyages? The case would have been different.

Second, Or do you suppose that when La Salle went from Lake Ontario through unknown forests to the Mississippi, and from thence to its mouth, and the French settled Louisiana, they had any idea of helping to build up an American Nation on this coast? No, but God did. They intended to rival Great Britain and Spain with a New France. But He who seeth the end from the beginning, foresaw that France would sell Louisiana, and all of her contiguous territory to the United States, and that this would help us in our claim to the country. If Protestant Great Britain had made these discoveries, our history would again have been different.

3 Why did six merchants in 1787 in Boston fit out the ship Columbia under Capt. J. Kendrick, and the sloop Washington under Capt. R. Gray to make the first American voyage for trade and discovery on the North Pacific Coast? Was it to add territory to the United States? Was it to discover the Columbia river? Plainly not. It was a private enterprise, chiefly to make money. And when Capt. Gray discovered the Columbia and entered it, he did not even take possession of it in behalf of our Nation, and only went up it twenty-five miles; and according to Greenhow, an ardent American was not the first to make his discovery widely known, but it remained almost entirely un-



known until the publication of Vancouver's voyages in 1798, six years after the discovery.

4 In 1788 the English Lieutenant Meares having heard a report that there was a great river on this coast had tried to find it, but God had blinded his eyes so that after looking carefully past the place where it is, he had declared that no such river existed; Vancouver was sent out about the same time as Gray to the region on a voyage of discovery, but God also blinded his eyes, so that he after a careful search, likewise said that there was no such river, and then the same 'God opened the eyes of Capt. Gray and sent him into the river only fourteen days after Vancouver had passed it Hon. Elwood Evans in a Fourth of July address at Tacoma in 1887 in commemoration of the completion of the N. P. R. R. across the Cascade Mountains, says that the discovery of the Columbia, rendered most desirable, if not necessary, the Louisiana purchase, and that these events led to the Lewis and Clarke expedition, and those subsequent acts by which Oregon became a part of the United States.

Five, Another event also helped to cause the Louisiana treaty. In 1795 a treaty had been made by the United States by which our vessels were to be allowed to come up the Mississippi river, as our country lay on the east of that river. In 1812 in violation of that treaty, the governor of Louisiana closed the port of New Orleans. Great excitement prevailed in the United States and a proposition was made to take forcible possession of that territory. But more peaceable measures prevailed, and when it was found that Louisiana and the other French rights here could be bought, it was done, and the treaty was made. Is it to be supposed, ~~do you suppose,~~

that when that governor was violating that treaty, he was planning to help our rights on the Pacific Coast.

Indeed not, but the Most High did. (Am. Statesman p 206 :) (Lossings Hist. U. S. p. 390.)

6 What caused the Florida treaty? Because the Seminole Indians and Creeks who were dissatisfied with the treaty of 1814 and runaway negroes aided by British subjects, and protected by the Spanish authorities in Florida, committed such hostilities on our citizens that General Jackson pursued the hostiles into Florida, captured their capital, Pensacola, and drove the Spanish governor to Havana. General Jackson was censured for invading the territory of a friendly power, but these events showed the United States the necessity of our owning Florida, and led to the treaty of 1819 by means of which Spain ceded to us, not only that State, but all of the Spanish rights on this coast north of California; an event which proved to be a very important item finally. As her discoveries on the Oregon coast preceded those both of Great Britain and the United States. Do you suppose that when those murderous Indians, runaway Negroes, renegade British and treacherous Spanish were acting so, they had the least idea that they were putting another important link into the chain which should give to us the Pacific Empire? No indeed. But the Great Author of the chain did. (Lossings Hist. of the U. S. p. 451. Also American Statesman p. 203.)

7 But these events did not give to the United States a clear title to Oregon. They only gave her the right of joint occupancy. More was needed to give her a clear title and Providence was planning for other links in the chain.

Can any one believe that the Hudson's Bay Company when they



came here, intended to help the United States to acquire Oregon? No. They intended precisely the opposite—to help Great Britain to obtain the country so that it might be made over to them, as a hunting ground for beaver. But God intended that they should take some note of the Sabbath, though they did not observe it, as the Bible requires, and talk some about God, and arouse a desire in the hearts of a few Indians to know more about him.

God also wanted the Hudson's Bay Company here, to take care of the missionaries, without whose protection and support, it would have been impracticable for them to have been sustained here.

8 Or did the Indians who went to St. Louis in 1832 for the missionaries wish to make a link in the chain, which would give Oregon to the United States? That was farthest from their thoughts. God did however, and the result was that the pioneers of pioneer settlers came.

9 The Methodist missionaries came first in response to this call in 1834, and began work near Salem Oregon. Were they in a partnership game with the United States to take possession of Oregon? No, but God wanted them here for three purposes at least, to bring out certain persons as missionaries, who should play an important part in breaking the rule of the Hudson's Bay Company, as George Abernethy, the first Governor of Oregon, under the provisional government; Rev. Jason Lee, who broke the embargo of the Hudson's Bay Company on cattle by beginning the measures which in 1837, brought a band of six hundred cattle from California; and Dr. E. White who left that mission and returned east, because of certain difficulties in the mission, and led the first emigration of settlers to this

coast in 1842; induced others to come afterwards, among whom were Senator J. W. Nesmith, Gen. A. L. Lovejoy and others, who did a good work for the country; to be ready to join with others to form the provisional government, in 1843 when the vote stood fifty-two for it and fifty against it so strong was the influence of the Hudson's Bay Company; to form the nucleus of an American settlement which, because of its missionary character, the Hudson's Bay Company could not drive out, as they had driven out every previous attempt of the Americans to settle here. God wanted them here to be as Mrs. Victor in her River of the West has pictured it, in an engraving which (~~See also Deady, Pioneer address 1875, p. 26. Crawford, Pioneer address 1881, p. 16, 17.~~) is perhaps more forcible than polite and yet which has truth in it, to be an entering wedge. (Her picture is that of a Methodist clergyman, large at the shoulders and narrowing down gradually in the shape of a wedge to very small ankles. River of the West p. 274 )

10 Rev. S. Parker started for Oregon in 1834 from New York State, but reached St. Louis too late to come with the American Fur Company that year, without whose protection it was almost sure death to him to come because of the Indians. So he turned back. This too was no fault of his, but because he did not receive permission soon enough from the missionary society to which he had offered himself nearly a year before. It was sad disappointment to him but Providence wanted him to go back, and while spending the following winter in interesting people in the mission work, to find Dr. Whitman. Had he done as he wished Oregon's history would probably have been written with a different chapter.



// But another thing was needed here. It was Christian homes, and proof that the trip across the continent could be made by woman. This was the work for Mrs. Whitman and Spalding to do, in 1836, and others in 1838, of whom one, Mrs. Walker, is present, the first to do so. It was not their intention thus to open a road for families and homes. No, for when they were across, Mr. Spaulding wrote to his home Board of Mission. "Never send another white woman over these mountains, if you have any regard for human life." But the deed was done. It was too late to stop the stone rolling down hill, for God was behind it and pushing it. As Hon. Elwood Evans wrote to Rev. H. H. Spalding: "The American missionaries were the apostles paving the way for American occupancy; nor need you fear that the missionary heroines, who proved that women could go to Oregon, and live and die there, will ever be forgotten."

/2 When Dr. Whitman came, was it with the intention of peopling Oregon with settlers or conveying most important information to our government at Washington? No; he came as a missionary. Says Hon. S. A. Clarke "How a man of such strength of character and nobility of purpose, could devote his life to the cause of civilizing, and christianizing savages, is, indeed, strange." To man it seems so, but it was just like God, for he had a clear idea of what he was doing. Indeed Mr. Clarke has answered his question in his next paragraph. "His presence in Oregon at that time was a providence that we may well appreciate, who reside in the land he did so much for; a land that possesses every gift that nature can bestow, and whose people should remember to suitably honor the memory of Marcus Whitman. When the hour came that Oregon needed a champion, he was raised up to enact the part. "The hour and the man." (*Oregonian* Jan. 24. 1886.)

And when he was bringing his old wagon, turned into a cart from Fort Hall to Fort Boise in 1846 the first wagon ever made the trip, against the advice of all the whites; his own wife feeling sad to see him thus wearing himself out, was he intending to break a wagon road for emigrants to follow? We have no evidence of this, but God overruled it thus; so that when he went east in 1842-3, he not only conveyed important information to our President at Washington, but was also able to say to the emigrants as he came back, when Captain Grant at Fort Hall tried to induce them to leave their wagons, as he had done to the previous emigration and missionaries before that or go to California, and almost succeeded, that he—Dr. Whitman—would see their wagons safe on the Columbia. And he did so. Said Judge William Strong, in an address before the Oregon Pioneer Society in 1878. "The arrival of the emigration of 1843 may be considered the turning point in the history of Oregon. It gave the American population in Oregon the control of civil affairs. It made Oregon of too great importance to prevent diplomacy to trifle it away."

Our previous rights by treaties and discoveries had secured for us the privilege of joint occupancy, and that was all; it was clearly to be settled by settlers, and this emigration settled it.

Dr. Whitman took the same view before his death, for in April, 1847, he went to his Home Board. "I often reflect on the fact that you told me you were sorry that I came east. It did not then, nor has it since altered my opinion in the matter. American interest acquired in the country,



which the success of the immigration of 1843 alone did, and could have secured, have become the foundation of the late treaty between England and the United States, in regard to Oregon, for it may easily be seen what would have become of American interests had the emigration of 1843 been disastrous as were the emigrations of 1846;" both of those years his route having been abandoned for another. "It demonstrates what I did in making my way to the States in the winter of 1842-3, after the 3d of October. It was to open a practical route and safe passage and secure a favorable report of the journey from the immigrants which in connection with other objects caused me to leave my family, and brave the toils and dangers of the journey, notwithstanding the unusual severity of the weather, and the depth of the snow."

/3 When Dr. Whitman reached Fort Hall on his trip east in 1842, Captain Grant of the Hudson's Bay Company, wished to stop him, and so told him a downright lie; that the Pawnees and Sioux were at war, and it was not safe for him to proceed. Does any one suppose Captain Grant wished to aid Dr. Whitman in his great work for the Nation? Precisely the reverse. But God overruled it so that because of this information Dr. Whitman went the southern route through New Mexico, which says one of his missionary associates (Dr. C. Eells) was undoubtedly his salvation, as the winter was much more severe than usual, and he would without doubt have perished had he gone the more northern route as he intended.

/4 Before the missionaries came, free trappers, as Joseph Meek, Robert Newell and others, had entered the Rocky Mountains. What for? To trade, trap, hunt, live a free and jolly life; some of them to

get away from the restraints of civilization;— rough men, who feared not God, or regarded man. Yet God wanted them there so that he might send them down to the Willamette in time to co-operate with the Methodist missionaries in forming the provisional government, without whom it probably could not have been formed, because, as already said, the vote stood fifty two to fifty. And this is said to have been about the only thing about which they and those missionaries did agree.

/5 The emigrants came. Why did they do so? To save Oregon to the United States? A very few have said that was in their mind, but the great majority say no.

Judge Thornton says yes, that by coming they would not only improve their own condition, but that they would thereby build up for the United States a solid foundation, on which to establish the American claim to the country. (Trans. Pioneer Association 1874, p. 46.) Hon. W. C. Johnson agrees with him (Ibid 1881, p. 23.)

Dr Atkinson gives no such reason, (Ibid 1880, p. 33.) While Hon. W. Lair Hill, H. Y. Thompson, and Col. Geo. B. Curry all say no. (Ibid 1883, p. 14; 1884, 14; and 1886.) What was it then that brought them here, and the same persons give the following answers; unknown adventure, to better their fortunes, to escape the fever and ague, to secure six hundred and forty acres of land, or even three hundred and twenty, to escape from a land of slavery, to find new fields for politics, to help establish churches, schools, temperance, virtue and morals, because "westward the star of the empire takes its way," a disposition to move, as the bird, goose, or salmon emigrate; ask them why they go, and then you can ask some of the emigrants why they came; because it



has been tramp, tramp, tramp from the Garden of Eden until now. Col. Curry says he has asked many why they came, and he has received the following answers: From the slave states they came because they were afraid of a negro insurrection, while one man from the north came to get rid of saucy free negroes. Some were tired of the catfish of Missouri, or the suckers of Illinois, and wanted to change to salmon. One had heard there were no cockle burrs in Oregon, and thought wool picking would be easy, but was disappointed because there was no "warmuck bark" here. Col. Curry says the best reason was given by one Westerner, "because the thing was not fenced in, and nobody dared keep him off."

But God overruled all these motives to bring them here, and when here he very naturally used them to possess the country.

After the treaty was made, no Territorial government was formed for Oregon, for about two years. Because of the troubles connected with slavery, all such legislation dragged along slowly. The massacre of Dr. Whitman and the thirteen others by the cayuses in November 1857, however, caused Col. J. L. Meek to be sent to Washington, and hastened the legislation, which gave to Oregon, a government connected with the United States. But the murderous Cayuses had no idea of accomplishing such a result. They intended to drive out the whites, not strengthen them. But God overruled their wickedness to cause the last step to be taken in making Oregon an active part of the United States.

Thus I have noted sixteen links in this chain of Providence which gave Oregon to the United States, all of which were essential, and many of them absolutely necessary to our

possession of the country, as necessary as links are to a chain, so that if they had failed, the chain would have broken, and the great object, would not have been accomplished, humanly speaking. Yet in every one of these links man planned one thing and God another. Truly "man proposes, but God disposes."

The acquisition of California followed. Says Gov. Grover of Oregon who has given much study to the subject, "It is fair to claim that our government would never have ventured, with the small force it had at command, to push its arms to the Pacific, through Mexican Territory, during the war with Mexico, if we had not already possessed a domain in that quarter, and a reliable American population in Oregon." Arrangements were being made to transfer California to Great Britain. American settlements had been destroyed in the Sacramento valley, the public domain was being transferred to British subjects, a British fleet was expected on this coast, and California would probably been lost to us had we not had a strong and reliable population in Oregon, and because of the strong feeling which had been aroused in the United States on account of the Oregon question. (Trans. Oregon Pioneer Society 1884, p. 13; 1874, p. 39; 1875, p. 41.) Judge M. P. Deady agrees on this point, and Dr. G. H. Atkinson adds that after this "the golden grains there concealed were uncovered, so that fifty millions a year were added to the world's currency, and means provided to carry on the National contest for life from 1861 to 1865." (Missionary Herald, March 1869.)

Arizona and Alaska have naturally followed, and so God has given the great empire to the United States.

And now in closing I will spend a



short time in looking forward as we stand at our fort and prepare for the future.

What has God meant by doing all this,—by thus ruling in the kingdoms of men and giving them to whomsoever he would—to the United States for he does mean something, and something great. Does he mean to make of us a great nation, so that we can say, See how great we are! No, indeed. Or has he done it so that we may have a large population, a great empire, with its transcontinental lines of railroads, its extensive mines of gold, silver, coal and the like, with its vast agricultural resources, and its commerce across the Pacific? Yes; this and something more: That we may use it for Christ and our country. This is the work for us, the successors of those old pioneers. Yes, I am thankful that to-day I stand here, not before a State or Territorial Institution although I intend no disparagement to such which are working for the country, but before one which has for its motto that other word in connection with it, an addition to it, so essential "for Christ and the country."

It is for both of these that God has ruled and overruled the actions of men during the past century, so that while building up our country here, we might work for Christ here and everywhere, we might also be a light to other nations of the world, and so help to build up that other empire, the only one which we acknowledge to be superior to our own, the kingdom of Christ; that we might have the honor of being what that most educated of the Apostles, Paul, says we ought to be and are intending<sup>ed</sup> to be: "Laborers together with God."

Hence it is with gratitude that we look on the work of such institutions as these, that by educating aright

for Christ those who are to be the teachers and leaders of our country, to put the right kind of heart into the great material prosperity of the empire.

Fifty years ago a little missionary band crossed the plains. Among them was Rev. Elkanah Walker, one of the first Trustees of this Institution. Four years after his arrival an order came to discontinue the two southern stations of the mission, at Lapwai, and in this valley, leaving the northern one occupied by Messrs. Walker and Eells untouched. When Dr. Whitman went east on his now famous journey in that year, to do what he could to save Oregon to the United States, he also intended to do what he could to save the southern stations of the mission. In order to assist Dr. Whitman in this latter object Father Walker wrote a letter to the Board at Boston, which I now hold in my hand, pleading for the continuance of the two southern stations. It is also endorsed and signed by his co-worker, Dr. Eells. Among other reasons given at that time for this were the prospective white population, which was then beginning to come into the country and likely to come in much greater numbers. He also adds "It is also reasonable to suppose that there will be considerable commercial relations from this country with the Islands of the Pacific and China. This will open the way for a moral influence to go abroad, whether good or bad." Hence, he asked that the Protestant work here might not be curtailed, but enlarged. Father Walker then little thought that he would be a Trustee of two Institutions, Whitman Seminary and the Pacific University, whose object would be to give a higher Christian education to that incoming population. He little thought that his own son would go



forth to carry a moral and Christian influence to China, where he has been at work for the past sixteen years. He little thought that our commercial relations with the Islands would bring three young men from Japan to Pacific University, whom he should see graduate there, who should return to exert a Christian influence in their native country, as a judge of the superior Court, another in the line of education, and the other as an honored author and the fourth in rank of the imperial officers; although none of these are forty years of age.

That is but a sample of the work to be done by this institution and those like it: To remember that when God has done so much to give us this country, men having so many other plans, we are to put Christ into this country, and then from thence as a Christian country to send Christ's influence throughout the world for only in so doing can ever "bravely and rightfully," fulfill *your* motto *of this Institution.*  
 "PRO CHRISTO ET PATRIA"