Strong's History of Oregon. Copied from handwritten Mss. in files of the H. H. Bancroft Library, University of California. W. D. Strong.

The following copy was made from a copy of the above Mss. which is in the possession of Dr. W. D. Strong, Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Dr. Strong is the grandson of Judge Strong, who dictated the Mss.

"(0) JUDGE WM. STRONG'S Narratives and comments.

Time and place In the Chambers of Judge Strong
Portland, Oregon, Thursday evening, June 20th., 1878.
Present, Strong, Bancroft, and the writer A.B.
(personae - See at the end)

Judge Strong said: I was born at St. Albans, Vermont, in 1817, and am therefore 61 years of age. Remained at St. Albans until I was 5 years old then lived in Connecticut two years. From there moved to New York state. From there at the age of 17 I went to New Haven & spent four years in Yale college, graduating. Was principal of an academy at Ithica. Then went to Cleveland & taught two years. Left Ohio in November 1849 & came to Oregon under an appointment to act as one of the associate judges of Oregon in place Judge Peter H. Burnett, who had declined.

I came around Cape Horn in the U.S. Store Ship "Supply", to San Francisco, and from there to this place in the "Falmouth" sloop of war
(1) arriving in August 1850. I immediately commenced the performance of my duties as Judge.

My first trip up the river was in company with thirteen persons in a boat, the only means of navigation at the time.

The Territory of Oregon had been organized under the organic law by Ben. Lane on the 4th., of March, 1849. W.P. Bryant, Chief Justice, and O.C. Pratt Associate Justice had been here for part of the year 1850, engaged in the discharge of the duties of th
At the town of Olympia, the only access to the town was by canoes from the head of the bay, from what is now Tumwater. At Olympia there was one resident who had a house, one small saloon, the contents of which were a small keg and about three glasses and a store full of goods kept by an old pioneer, Mike Simmon and a young man from Maine by the name of Smith. This was in the Fall of 1850. Mr. Smith was the man who named Olympia. He named it from the Olympic Range which is in view from there. Its Indian name is Stickas.

Smith's first name was Charles. He was from Calais, Me. At that time there was, I understood, a military post at Nisqually and the Puget Sound Agricultural Co had quite a large farm established near Nisqually. There were no white settlements, as I was informed, below, on

(4) on the Sound. Probably the whole white American population north of the Columbia R at that time would not exceed 150 men, women and children; although there were quite a number of Canadians, and persons who were attached to the Puget Sound Agricultural Co. At Vancouver there were only a very few; perhaps not exceeding half a dozen persons excepting those connected with the rifle regiment and the Hudsons Bay Co. The Hudsons Bay Co. had at that time their principal distributing depot for the Pacific Coast at Vancouver. It was then in charge of Peter Skeen Ogden, a chief factor.

They kept at that depot three annual outfits consisting of Indian trade goods, and each outfit was said to have cost $100,000 in London. The annual ship was called an outfit; that is, they brought one outfit in each ship. It made an outfit for the entire coast, including the interior. And the posts were supplied from this outfit. It was their custom to bring out an outfit for 1853 after my arrival in 1850, and the first ship that came in brought the outfit of
1853 these years ahead. That was to provide against the loss of a ship. So that an outfit would be in the Fort at least two years before it was broken into, and except in case of an emergency or of having lost an outfit they never touched it until the year arrived for which it was marked. They intended to have constantly $300,000 worth of goods in their fort and warehouse at Vancouver. All the trade of the Hudson Bay Co posts west of the Rocky Mountains including the northern trade was brought to Vancouver, and sent from there. They were accustomed to send what they called a brigade across to Hudson Bay - to York Factory - every year; and with this brigade they sent valuable & light parcels. The brigade consisted of five or six large boats, or batteaux containing above seven men. They were taken up the Columbia river to somewhere I suppose about Lat 53, to the "Boat Encampment", & crossed from there to the Saskatchewan, & went down the Saskatchewan to Red (S) river, & from there on to York Factory on Hudsons Bay. They made the trip every year, & brought out the mail, letters, papers & orders, & also the recruits etc for their operations out here. And until the Americans established a mail line that that was their only way of receiving letters & despatches from England. They received them only once a year.

The "Boat Encampment" I see by the map is in Lat 53. From there they went down the Saskatchewan & through the Northern portion of Lake Winnipeg, & through Nelson River to Fort York on Hudsons Bay.

The Hudsons Bay Co came here in 1823, on the settlement of the rivalries between the H.B. Co & the Northwest Co. The Hudsons Bay Co was a double organization. It had a company of what were called stockholders who were in England. They were bound to furnish them the capital & to purchase their goods; & the furs & products of the country were sent to them from this country, & from the northeast
around Hudsons Bay. They furnished the capital & were allowed 8 per cent on it
(7) & they sent out the outfits. The persons in this country who had actual management of the trade in the Indian country were the "Associates," I think they were called. They were divided into classes. There was the Chief Factor, the Factors, the Chief Trader, & the Traders; then the clerks who were young men brought into the service a good many from Scotland, educated young men, and men of good families, who had an opportunity to rise by promotion in the business.

It was carried on with military precision almost, in this, that age gave rank to a person possessing corresponding merit & success as a trader. He became from a clerk a trader, & then a Chief Trader, & so on. The association of traders were paid from the profits of the business. The first moneys were paid for the goods, & six percent interest to the stockholders, after deducting the expenses of the business; & all the profits over & above the expenses & payment of interest of these stockholders, was divided among themselves in the Indian
(8) country - the Factors, Chief Factor, Traders & chief Traders.

When I first came out here I was informed by Mr. Ogden that the pay of Chief Factor - his share of the profits - was as high one or two years while I was here as $6000. a year. Besides all these officers and men were furnished with their board & everything except their clothing; & that they purchased at 30% above / cost in London, from the Company.

The other persons connected with the company were simply boatmen & common laborers, called "servants". The men connected with the depot at Vancouver averaged about a dozen officers, half a dozen clerks, & 100 or more servants - Kanakas, half-breeds, etc. They had quite a number of Kanakas there.
They had a general commons for the officers. They all ate at a common table; all the gentlemen of the association, including the officers and clerks had a common table where the provisions were supplied by the company; & at Vancouver they lived very liberally (9) indeed.

They had a small post at Cape Disappointment, a small post on the Cowlitz, a post of considerable size & importance at Walla Walla, now called Wallula, a small post at Fort Hall, & also at Okanagan, & one at Colville. These were all the posts I recollect, of the Hudsone Bay Co. when I came here. They might have had some other small ones.

The Northwest Company, which preceded the Hudsone Bay Co to this coast commenced establishing their posts — made an attempt to establish posts down here, in this country in 1810, to anticipate the arrival of Astors party here. However, they did not establish their posts until a year or two afterwards; & then they established posts at Okanagan or Colville, & gradually came down the river. And it was not until 1813, when they bought out the traders that had been left at Fort Astoria, part of Astors Company, that they got entire possession of this country; & even then they were interfered with by parties of American traders.

(10) Colville, I think was the first post they had here. It was named after the person who was Lieut Governor of the company afterwards; I do not (know) whether it had that name at first. That was established near the falls of the Columbia, within a few miles of the 49th. parallel.

Of the other traders who came here after this & before my time, attempted to there was Wyeth & Co. Wyeth came & / established a post near the mouth of the Willamette; & did establish a post there I think in 1833, though he came there first in 1833. He only remained a year or two; he was unsuccessful & sold out to the H. B. Co. He was an American from
Boston, & independent. His post was on Sauvie Island; it was also called Wapatoo Island, by the Indians. I do not know how much of a company Wyeth represented. He was the principal man & they were a Boston Co. He brought out quite a large number of men across the plains, & he sent out two ships, at different times. Some of the remains of his place were shown to me when I came to the (11) country, where he had his post.

The interior forts of the Hudsons Bay Co were not abandoned, nor was Fort Vancouver abandoned, until after the settlement by the United States, of their claims to lands. They did move however, a year or two before - and I cannot fix the dates. I suppose they could be gotten at Vancouver Island - their principal depot to Vancouver Island, a year or two before they finally abandoned their post at Vancouver. The date was some years after I came here. They had some minor posts also on the Willamette river.

At the time this boundary question was in dispute, the Hudsons Bay Co, for the purpose of giving the character of settlement to the country, perhaps as much as anything else, established this Puget Sound Agricultural Co. It was established partly for the purpose of filling a contract for wheat which they had with the Russians at Sitka, & also for the purpose of bringing out settlers from Red River. They brought quite a large number of settlers out here from Red River who (13) went North & settled about Nisqually. And they brought also in 1840 quite a number of emigrants who were called independent emigrants from the Red River settlement, & who settled in the Willamette Valley. But the American emigration set in so strong in 1843 that they could not keep up with it, & they stopped that. But the Hudsons Bay Co moved its corporation out of here entirely so far as doing any business was concerned, at the time they had that settlement with the government.
about the compensation that was due them for their rights here.

When I came here as I said I commenced holding courts, & I held them for some six months before any other judges came to the territory. I held them on both sides of the river, the several districts comprising all parts of the country where there was any business to be done.

Gov. Gaines came out here as Governor of the Territory at the time I came out as one of the judges. The capital of the government was (13) then situated at Oregon City, which was the largest place in the country. Portland - the first time I came here they told me there were about 30 houses in Portland & a little less than 350 people, principally men. There were very few families here at that time.

The first time, which is 38 years ago, that I came to Portland I slept under a tree on the bank of the Willamette near where the largest block of brick stores in town now is. There is not a single house now standing here in the place, that was here when I came here 38 years ago; & but one that I know of standing at all. The principal business of the courts was not largely of a commercial character. It was such as you generally find in a new country. There were a good many homicides. I think I tried some 18 homicidal cases, & most of them arose from disputes about land under the donation law. There were also some other cases of assault, & a few of a commercial nature. I cannot.

I recollect, the first three years I was here, the foreclosure of a mortgage. I travelled a good (14) deal over the country, & the only way of travelling not in a boat was on horse back.

The mines had, for a year or two before taken off most of the settlers from Oregon to California; & for some reason or other the Oregon men that went to California in the gold excitement came back richer than they had ever been in their lives, or than they had ever hoped to be.
The first settlement of the country here up to the time the emigrants came out & almost up to the time when the gold mines broke out, was made up of three or four classes: There were the Hudsons Bay people & their dependents, the Missions, principally the Methodist Mission, & its dependents, & then there were the loose settlers that had come out. And after a few years, perhaps not earlier than 1840, the first vessel came here with goods for sale. There were very few vessels up to 1850.

Up to that time the settlers were dependent entirely upon two stores, for anything they had to buy in the shape of stores. They had to buy either of the Hudsons Bay (15) Co or of the Methodist Mission. An old man by the name of Shortis, a very intelligent man who died recently here, said a man had to belong to one or the other of these organizations to get a living; had to attach himself to them.

When I came out here however a great many of the settlers had returned from California; & having felt a good many of the hardships & privations common from / what they called "Store goods", they were hardly any who returned from California by sea but what brought with them a small stock of goods. And during my first travels in this valley on horseback, at every house almost that I stopped at - there was no lumber in the country, - sometimes they had a floor of earth, sometimes of shakes; they had a table generally made of stakes put in the ground & shakes put on top; they never required moving; bed steads were stakes in the ground & slats bound together with raw hide. The floors were puncheon floors. I recollect going into the house of a man who died within a year or two (16) perhaps worth $150,000. He was then considered a very wealthy man. He had been very successful in California. I went into his house, & he had not a chair except a little rocking chair that his wife brought
over the plains. He had not an article of furniture, except a Chinese Secretary that cost him about $300, which he bought on his way back from the mines. In one corner he had a lot of Sandwich Island sugar & some calicoes for sale. Under the bed in the same room where we ate, the common room of the house, was a sailors chest. There were other persons that came to stop there the night I did. The man would take their cantiners of gold dust & put them in the sailors chest; & in the morning each one would go and help himself to his own property. I never heard of any one being accused of stealing during the first few years I was here. There were people in the valley where I stopped that had 100 cows without any milk or butter. They lived in the most primitive style, raising calves (17) all the while.

The country itself struck me remarkably when I first came. It was different from any country in its natural features, that I had ever seen. The country bordering upon the Columbia River does not give a fair idea of the country at all. It was covered almost entirely with fir & heavy timber, except in the upper part, where it is low and overflowed with annual June freshets, & there were not many settlements immediately on the river; & the land did not seem to be very good except for raising timber. But on all the little streams putting into the river, - & wherever I have been on such in this western part of the Territory there are valleys that have very rich & fertile lands, covered with a growth of Oregon maple & alder trees. And perhaps two thirds, or eight tenths of the population of the country West of the Willamette valley living upon farms, will be found up on some of these small streams. And these lands are very productive. All (18) over Oregon, so far as Western Oregon is concerned the good land will be found in the valleys of the small streams that are not seen
unless you will hunt for them. The Timber along the river, & in the mountains. Most of the timber is west of the Willamette valley, & on the edge of the mountains. The Cowlitz river has a very large area of excellent bottom lands that are very productive. The first trip that I took up the Cowlitz river there was no one living on the river within three or four miles of its mouth to thirty odd miles up; & then there was only a single cabin right on the river to where the Hudsens Bay Cos' farms were. It is now settled almost all the way up so far as the bottom is concerned, & there is quite a large settlement near the mouth; covering in all along the Cowlitz perhaps 50 square miles.

There were no settlers here in early days except those who had crossed the plains, & they were principally from Missouri (19) and the Western border of the Western states. There were occasionally a few Yankees that came out here, but the great bulk of the settlements made by the emigrations were of this western element. And they were a very honest class of people; not very fond of work; they cared very little about luxuries; were very independent, & their lives were generally very good.

When I came here there was not at Astoria a particle of liquor to be found, & it was against the law of the Territory for any one to keep liquor or to sell it. The only ones who had liquor were the military & Hudsens Bay Co people, who always lived in that respect, as English people generally do whether they are at home or abroad, pretty freely.

Every year after I came here there was an emigration, for quite a number of years, until the Isthmus route was opened. There was an emigration right across from the East, regularly expected. Sometimes it was large, sometimes it was small.

In my lecture I mentioned
(30) three routes across the plains, & the routes by sea. I know the routes by hearing people speak of them. When the mines first broke out in California the people here were situated in this way: They had an abundance of stock, & they lived very comfortably, but they had no money at all in the country, & they had no means that they could make any money with. There was no commerce here at all except a little that the Hudsens Bay people carried on with the Sandwich Islands - there were no vessels to make commerce. The people rushed off in large numbers to California, & went by land, taking down their horses; some went afoot; principally with pack horses. There was no wagon road between here and California then. There was a great difference in the emigration that came in, as to whether they had a good time or not in crossing the plains, whether they had sickness, or whether they had weather or a good time travelling across. I have known some to come across in those times with a mule team in 60 days.

(31) Others took three or four months & some years most of the emigrants came in in good condition, having had a comfortable time & no trouble with the Indians. But generally they came in pretty thoroughly broken down, & without much left except worn out stock. There was all the difference in the world in the emigrants.

In 1840 there were some four men who came out here all enterprising men & young men. They came out more for the purpose of travelling & the excitement of adventure than anything else I suppose, from the character of the men, but they finally settled out here. But generally the character of the emigrants was that of these substantial Western men. And in later years when the excitement increased in regard to the country the men were of higher grade socially, men of larger property, who broke up & sold & came out here.

Wyeth's first trip was made here in 1832. He came overland with a few men. The vessel he had
(33) equipped to come around Cape Horn failed to arrive. He returned in 1834 & made a second trip with a large party, consisting of 300 men, overland. He built Fort Hall in 1834; & here he met the "May Dacre" a vessel he had sent out, & built a fort, the Wapatoe fort.

The explorations of the Spaniards commenced in the 16th century. They made nothing definite regarding the coast until somewhere in the 18th century.

The Portuguese were contemporaneous with the latter discoveries of the Spaniards, & so were the English & the Americans. Capt. Jonathan Carver of Connecticut set out from Boston in 1766 & spent two years among the Indians of Wisconsin & Iowa. He first mentions the "River Oregon", & calls it the "River of the West"; & he is supposed to have invented the name. Some have said it was derived from "Organa" the wild wormwood; some have claimed that it originated from the Canadian boatmen's name which they had given to the Rocky Mounts, the Curacane Mountains (Hurricane Mts). His journal (33) was first published in London in 1778. He might have invented the name for the river & taken it from the Curacane Mountains.

Gray entered the River May 11th., 1792 in the bark Columbia.

The first Missionaries that came here at all were the Rev. Jason Lee, the Rev. Daniel Lee & Sales Cyrus Shepherd. They came overland with Wyeth in 1834 and established a mission on the Willamette river about 15 miles north of Salem. They were Methodists. They finally removed to the site of Salem.

In 1835 the Rev Daniel Leslie & the Rev. David Perkins arrived & joined the men.

In 1836 Dr. White, wife & child arrived. The same year Alanson Beers, wife & two children arrived. Dr. Wilson & two or three young ladies came & joined the mission too. One of these was joined in marriage to Jason Lee & the other to Daniel Perkins, after their arrival.
In 1839 quite a large party left New York in the ship Lausanne, Capt. Josiah Spaulding, The Rev. J.L. Parrish, wife, & three (34) and three children; the Rev. Mr. Richmond, wife & 3 children; the Rev. Gustavus Hines, wife & one child; Judge Terry, now in San Francisco; the Rev. A.H. Waller, wife & one child; the Rev. J.H. Frost, wife & one child; the Rev. W.W. Cone & wife of these there is only one now living in Oregon, the Rev. Josiah Parrish. He is married to his third wife, I believe, or second wife, & has children not over three or four years old.

There was George Abernethy, wife & two children, they also came with the party, attached to the domestic department of the Mission. He died last year. He became quite a heavy merchant & failed again, but died here in Portland comfortably off. He was the first Governor of Oregon. He was a very good man, a man that everybody liked, a strong Methodist; a very prudent man. He made an excellent Governor. He was a man everybody respected; honest I believe in business, though he failed through the loss of a ship, & of other property.

(25) After he became suddenly very wealthy he bought out a cargo of merchandise in which he realized an immense fortune. He might have quit & business at that time / been wealthy but he had not foresight enough to see that the prosperous times were not going to last; & he bought out a second ship. I do not know but a third ship. But in the last one he bought out he purchased a great deal beyond his means, while the situation in the country had entirely altered. He lost a great deal of money & after that he went into some reckless adventure, as a drowning man will do.

His first ship arrived, I think in the Spring of 1851. It was after I came here, when everything was high. The people of Oregon were the most singular people in that respect that I ever saw.

When I arrived here I had but $300. I had a salary which was
considered pretty good, $2,000 a year, but I had not received any of it yet.

(36) Well, it hardly paid my travelling expenses the first year. But as I passed through New York I met the first delegate from here, Mr. Thurston, & he told me: "Dont you bring any money out here." "Well" says I, "what shall I take?". Says he "Take goods". "What kind of goods?". Says he: "Take side saddles".

($150?)

I took $150 & went down & bought side saddles. I bought them for $13 with hog skin seats; a good & substantial side saddle, such as I had seen in use. I invested the balance in side saddles at $7 1-3 apiece, very showy having plush seats etc. When I came out here I told Mr. Ogden of that; & said I, "What shall I do with them?". Says he: "send them over to the store."

I sent them over. Says he "Do you want an invoice?". "Oh no" I told him, "I do not care anything about that."

In about a month or six weeks I went in, and a lady came in for a side saddle, & there were two shown her. The one that cost $13. was offered for $50.

(37) & the one that cost $7 1-3 was offered for $60. She took the one that was offered for sixty dollars. Another person who was with her took another for $75. The clerk remarked to Mr. Ogden "That closes out that invoice."

They had sold them all at these rates. There were no side saddles in the country; & it was a very good thing for me that there were not.

The first ride I took out I rode with an army officer & his daughter. His wife had a side saddle, but the girl, 16 years of age had to ride astride with a shawl in front.

Everybody rode man fashion then.

There was another thing: When I was going from the hotel in N.Y.
over to the Brooklyn Navy Yard to take the ship I stepped into an auction store. They were selling playing cards. I thought very likely they could be disposed of, & I bought what I supposed would be a dozen packs; but instead (38) of that it was a great gross. What to do with them, I did not know. I went aboard the ship where we could not get at them. On our seven months voyage, with four or five boys of our company, & three lieutenants, & 38 in all in our crowd, there was not a game of cards played.

Mr. Ogden asked me after the side saddles were gone, and I told him about the playing cards. Says he: "Just the thing exactly. This rifle regiment here are the greatest card players I ever knew, & they have got to have cards; They have been wanting me to send to San Francisco.

The cards cost me about a cent a pack; & they were sold out at $1.50. "Tell me what you can spare" said Ogden & let me sell the balance for you. In six months there will be enough on the way here to bring them down as low / as you purchased them in New York. Tell me what you have & I will sell them for you". And he did.

(38) Ordinary New Orleans sugar that I bought for 5 cents in New York by the barrel sold for 50 cents & 60 cents. & in fact those who lived in the country would sooner buy, & pay more for brown New Orleans sugar than they would pay for loaf sugar; it brought a higher price.

I bought a box of ordinary clay pipes. They would sell for $1.50 a dozen. And it was true enough that in five or six months the country was flooded with goods that I could buy as cheaply as I could in New York.

If it had not been for these ventures I could not have lived the first winter in Oregon.
I never had anything charged for my stopping over night in any place where I travelled throughout Oregon. I always found the people ready to give me what I wanted & to help me along. I travelled on horseback. Everything was very high that you would buy. If they sold you anything they would ask you a good deal for it.

(30) Peter Skeen Ogden was of New York birth. There were two or three brothers Ogden in New York at the time of the revolution. One family remained loyal to the country & the other two remained loyal to England & at the close of the war went to Canada. This man belonged to a Canadian family. His brother was Attorney General of Canada for some time.

This was a man of great deal of ability, but he was wild, & went into the Indian country as a trader; & had risen as high as any of the had traders could rise. He / charge of the post at Vancouver. He was a cousin I think, an own cousin of Wm. B. Ogden of Chicago who died recently at New York.

He was in charge of the Hudasen Bay Depot here at Vancouver when I came. I was at Vancouver the first four months after I came here. My family stopped there. James Douglas had then gone over to Victoria to establish that place there. They were both together. They kept their depot here, but Douglas had gone over to prepare for changing the depot over

(31) there finally. They had concluded to change. This was after the treaty had been made, & after the government was established here. After that took place they concluded as soon as they could to change their depot & did change it.

Mr. Ogden & Mr. Douglas were the Board of Management on this coast. They were both Chief Factors. And when they removed from here Mr. Ogden took furlough & never went back into the service again. He died here. He remained nominally attached to the service of the company however until he died.
The town of Ogden on the Overland Railroad was named after Wm. B. Ogden, the cousin of this man. I think Peter Skean Ogden had a brother who held an important sinecure in the old country. I think he was Justiciary of the Isle of Man, or perhaps that island on the south shore where Queen Victoria has a summer resort, — the Isle of Wight.

All these Missionaries that I have named remained here in Oregon permanently except the Rev. M. Richmond & (32) family who returned home in 1843; the Rev. J.H. Frost did likewise in 1843; the Rev. W.W. Cone & wife in 1843, & Dr. Babcock I think in 1844. The Rev. Gustavus Hines, one of the first missionaries returned in 1844, & remained away from Oregon about 8 years, & returned to this state where he finally died.

In 1876, at the time this lecture was delivered there were only 9 missionaries, & three of these belonged to the domestic department & were still living. Some of them have died since.

In 1835 the Rev. Samuel Parker & Dr. Marcus Whitman were sent by the Presbyterian churches of the eastern states to examine & report on the Oregon country as a missionary field. They left St. Louis April 7th., 1835, & came on a steamboat to (33) (? where they joined a trading caravan of the American Fur Company. Under their escort they travelled to Green River Rendezvous where they arrived about the 15th of August 1835. Here they met a deputation of Nez Perce whose desire to have missionaries (33) sent them was so strong that they thought best for Dr. Whitman to return to the east & bring out a party the next year.

He returned with the return caravan. Parker went on to the Columbia river & arrived at Wallulu on the 6th of October, & at Vancouver on the 16th, having been a little more than six months in making the journey from St. Louis. He was the first American that came over with a regular caravan. At the Dalles on his way down he met Capt. Wyeth who returned to
the states by way of Fort Hall.

Most of his time was spent in writing his journal. In the spring he went up the Columbia River & then returned to the States by way of the Sandwich Islands in 1837. The Journal was published - the first book in regard to the country by an American. I was teaching school at Ithica at the time & assisted in correcting the proof at the time that was printed.

The Rev. Mr. Spaulding & party brought the first wagons to Fort Hall. Two missions were established by this party, the one at Lapwai, the other at Wallatoo.

The first emigrants that came here (Americans) were: Robert Shortiss who came in 1841; he died at Astoria. He was a single man, a man of fine education, but a misanthrope. He lived by himself. He died about 77 years of age, last year. Mr. Cook, who was living in Yamhill Co; & Mr. Fletcher. These were the three men of education who from enterprise & curiosity travelled out here as I have already mentioned.

In 1843 a party of 130 started and about 75 men women and children reached Oregon. The rest turned back, or stopped on the way, or died. My informant says that at this time, when they arrived in Oregon, in 1843 - there were not over 50 white settlers in the country now constituting Oregon & Washington.

The first step towards forming a provisional government was made on the 17th of February 1841. At the second meeting of the settlers on February 2nd, 1843 they appointed a Committee to establish a Code.

The movement resulted in the formation of a Provisional Government.

There were some quite prominent "Mountain Men" who came here. There was an educated American called Doctor Newell who exercised considerable influence here. Another by the name of Ebberts; and Joseph Weck. There was one of the men that came with Wyeth, Solomon H. Smith, who was a member of the State Senate two years ago & who died about a year ago; a man of good ability. He came in 1834, & has resided in Oregon ever since.
He raised a large family through an Indian woman, some very bright children. One of them is practicing law at Astoria. He was the last of Wyeth's men that remained in the country.

I must tell you how we came to get Washington Territory set off. The first steps toward making a separate territory were taken in the Spring of 1853 at a court I was holding in the Cowlitz settlement, near Cowlitz farms. Half a dozen of us concluded that we would call a convention (36) to take steps to procure a division of the Territory, & the setting off of the country North of the River as a separate territory. So we issued a call for a convention of delegates; we were a voluntary committee for the purpose; to meet at Monticello in May 1853. Perhaps a dozen members attended; I did not attend; & they passed some resolutions petitioning for a division. The petition was drawn up & signed about the 1st of December. I came over here to attend the Supreme Court at Salem in the winter of 1851-2, with Judge Nelson, who was the Chief Justice at that time, & remained there during the winter.

At that time the country North of the Columbia River had but two delegates, two members of the legislature, both in the lower house; & Col Kelly was then Speaker of the Legislature - since Senator Kelly. We set to work to get the recommendations of the Legislature of Oregon in favor of a division.

When I first spoke to Kelly he said it was perfectly (37) ridiculous to think of any such could be gotten through. But two men, a man called Colonel Kby (?), & Judge Chenowith who is now in Corvallis practicing law; he was then North of the River; these two held, on some important question a balance of power. It was either where the penitentiary should be located among the buildings of the government, or else where the asylum for the insane should & by a proper disposal of their vote they secured a nearly unanimous vote of
the Legislature in favor of a memorial for division, setting off Washington. That was in the winter of 1852-3. Gen. Lane was then delegate to Congress. It was sent immediately on to Washington & arrived before the adjournment of Congress, which was to take place on the 4th of March.

I never heard anything more about it until I was going around Puget Sound early in April, 1853, to hold courts, the first courts that were held there. I was camped on (38) Whidbey's Island & heard guns at Port Townsend fired to celebrate the success of the measure. Gen Lane had got it there, & it was passed through and signed by the President on the 3rd of March 1854. It was started by five men, adopted by a convention of a dozen men, & carried by two members of the Oregon Legislature. Gen. Isaac I. Stevens was appointed Governor of the Territory.

Joe Lane is in town tonight. He was a good specimen of the rough western boatman. When I first saw him I think it was in the fall of 1851. I went up the Willamette river, & stopped at a place called Dayton; & Gen Lane had just come in from the mines, & was stopping there too, at the house of Gen Palmer, who was then Indian Superintendent. As I had just come to the country from civilization, & he had just come from the mines he insisted upon my taking the bed in the house, & he took his blankets & laid out on the porch. And I have no doubt from my subsequent (39) experience that he had a better nights rest than I had, for I have slept out a good many nights since. He was then a man of 45 or 50; he is 77 now; but he was one of the most vigorous men physically I ever met.

He had acquired, as you know, some distinction in Mexico; & I have known quite a number of men who had served with him there, & felt curious to get acquainted with him. He was a man of a good deal of
general intelligence, but not much polish in his manners at all & not much capacity for telling what he did know in ordinary conversation.

The news came that Thurston the Delegate had died on his way back from Congress at Acapulco. Gen Lane was then elected to Congress, & was there quite a number of years, I think until the State was formed; from 1853 until 1859, when the Territory became a State. He was there in fact when the state was admitted in 1860 or 1861. (40) He had a particularly happy faculty for what we would call domestic electioneering. He did not make speeches but he would go around to talk with families. They used to tell this story of him, & I think it was true: What he got at one place in the way of new seeds or choice articles he distributed at the next place. He brought these, with candies, & would always kiss the children. He is a man of unquestioned bravery, & would go into any Indian fight or anything else. He was badly wounded since he has been out here. I see he has volunteered to go out to fight the Indians now, but it seems to me he is too old to be anywhere but at home. He lives at Roseburg. About 8 or 10 years ago I was down at Roseburg holding court & he was then living on a farm at the edge of the mountains. He was very old at that time but very vigorous. He seems quite feeble now, & to have aged more than I expected, so that I did not know him when I (41) saw him. If you can get him in good humor & he tells a story as he used to do he would be very interesting on some of his early reminiscences. In his life in Congress he got polished a great deal, & got a greater faculty of talking.

He had great influence in Congress as long as the Democrats were in power. I am told he is a candidate now for the senate.

Gen Lane was elected a Senator, & was in the senate shortly before the Rebellion broke out. You recollect his remark that they should pass over his dead body before they attacked the South. He came home and
about that time he met with an accident; he came near killing himself by the accidental discharge of a pistol. He was laid up for a long time.

The first persons that were appointed as officers of Oregon were appointed by President Polk. When Taylor came in they made an entire change of the officers with one exception.

(43) They did not turn out Judge Pratt, now of San Francisco. He was one of the Associate Judges at that time. When President Pierce came in he dismissed the old officers & appointed Democrats. There was no politics at all in the country when I came here, although most of the early settlers here were of Democratic proclivities, so that when the parties did divide the Democrats had a strong majority.

In regard to the Whitman massacre, it has been claimed by some that it was a matter in which the Catholics took a part against the Protestant Missionaries. The fact of the case was something like this. There was a good deal of rivalry between the missions. There was a Catholic priest located within a short distance of Whitman's, and also interfering with the mission of Mr. Spaulding who was about 60 miles up among the Nez Perces from Dr. Whitman's. Then there was a Hudson Bay post at Wallula, about 30 miles from where Dr. Whitman was located. At the time of this massacre the Doctor had been warned by Dr. Mc

(43) Loughlin that the Indians were feeling hostile towards his mission & towards him. American emigrants were coming in very rapidly at that time & the Indians were very much dissatisfied at the large irruption of American citizens; & they were coming & staying about the Doctors, & the Doctor was exchanging cattle with the emigrants & was making quite a farm there. And those Indians who did not want to become civilized at all were opposed to the missions generally, & they made these causes of complaint.

The Catholics went to work & illustrated their doctrine, & the effects of the Presbyterian missionaries doctrine by painting a ladder,
a Jacobs ladder I think it was. I have seen all those facts, but I cannot recollect much about it definitely. This ladder showed all the denominations, Methodists & Protestants generally climbing up to the top, & dropping off into Hell, while the good Catholics were going straight up to heaven. That was explained to the Indians. To counteract the influence of this

(44) Mrs. Spaulding, who was somewhat of an artist in a humble way illustrated the effect of the Catholic teachings. It is said they were very interesting. They showed the evil effects of the Catholic teaching.

Dr. Whitman was the first man the emigrants met that could do anything for their relief; & his place was a general stopping place for emigrants. Those who were sick or tired out & broken down, stopped at the Doctors. And as he was very hospitable there were always many around there. Of course his hospitable disposition was taken advantage of, & there were some about the Mission who were not what they ought to be.

There was a half breed Spaniard there, Joe by name, It is said there were quite a number of Indians who died with the measles & fevers there that fall; & quite a number that the Doctor treated died. They say this Joe was telling the Indians, & adding to the natural superstitition which they have in regard to their doctors, that Dr. Whitman was (45) poisoning them; & there was one said to have told the Indians that they overheard Dr. Whitman & Mr. Spaulding talking together as to whether they had better all be poisoned off at once, & one of them advised that they had better do it by degrees, & then they would not be suspected. They say these stories were told, & that added to the general character of suspicion of the Indians, & their disposition towards those who doctored their friends that died.

Mr. Gray has said in his History that this thing was encouraged by Mr. McBean, who was in the Hudson's Bay Cos employ, & that they were all urged on by the Catholic priest.
There is no foundation whatever for that. I understood that Gen. Palmer stated at the Pioneer Meeting (held at Salem recently) that Mr. McBean claimed to have analysed some of the medicine that the Doctor gave & found poison in it, & then afterwards gave it to the Indians, intimating that the poison might have been put in by McBean. Mr. Gray (46) thinks it was the Hudson's Bay Co.s. very natural desire to get rid of those who were destroying the hunting grounds, & interfering with their trade.

So far as Mr. McBean was concerned, he never would have been guilty of anything of that sort. The character of the Indian is such, besides, that if they had received it from him & died from it, they would have been as suspicious of him as they were of the Doctor.

I have been told by Paran Whitman, that they hold the interpreter responsible for what he interprets; & I have heard of interpreters refusing to interpret a disagreeable mess because they would punish them for it. If McBean had given it to them they would have said that he knew it.

Some tell this story: that they took three Indians there to be doctored one of whom was not sick at all, & that they all three took the medicine, & all three died; and that took place the day before the murder. I do not know that there is any reliance to be placed (47) in these stories at all. The facts account sufficiently that they were rather jealous of the Americans coming in there, & they were perfectly willing to plunder the Doctors establishment.

Mr. Bancroft. Most of the pioneers are of the opinion, it seems, that McBean substituted the poison.

Mr. Strong. I do not think there is any authority for that at all. I do not think there was any poisoning. I do not think there was any object in McBean doing it. A good many think that the poison was given,
if any was given, by that Joe - Joe Lewis was his name - who was of Catholic antecedents. Here is McBean's letter announcing the massacre to Ogden (the letter was read. See Evans' papers) You will recollect that the Hudson's Bay Co. did not interfere with the customs & superstitions of the Indians but it was a principle with them to make the Indians respect the lives of white men. Mr. Ogden told me that they never allowed the murder of a white man to go unpunished. Hence McBean wrote (48) this letter.

The women & children were delivered to Ogden. He made speeches & many of the murderers made replies. (Judge Strong here read from Evans papers the speeches of Ogden & others & extracts from the notes on the Trial, etc.)

I have never thought there was any reason to charge this on the Hudson's Bay Co. Where you find a sufficient motive to produce the effect, & no reason the (to?) believe anything different I think it is not philosophical or logical to go & hunt up a motive which will reflect discredit upon others - Men are not naturally blood-thirsty. So far as charging McBean is concerned, I knew him afterwards. He was a simple minded man; one who had grown up in, & been made by the Hudson's Bay Co. & who believed in the company. All he knew was simply to take care of his little post.

With regard to Lewis, it is possible there might have been some wrong done (sic) or prejudice created by him. He was said to have been a Spanish halfbreed & a fugitive (49) from Mexico; a member of the Doctors family, he was a man of whom nothing was known; & after the massacre he departed & was not harmed by the Indians. There may be some truth & perhaps it, in the charge that he had encouraged the Indians in their prejudice against the Doctor on account of those deaths. I think from all that I have learned that he was a bad man.
You will find the different migrations run down in these documents you got from the Pioneer Association, with the characteristics of some of them. The only way I know of getting a knowledge of all these men is to get a lot of old Oregonians around & give them a bottle of whiskey without letting them know there is a shorthand writer about. They will give you more illustrations of the character of the old emigrations than you could remember.

Those who came first were absolutely destitute when arrived almost. Those three or four that came in 1841 had nothing at all. They derived their support by staying (50) with the Missionaries, or with the trappers that came down in 1840, Meek, Ebberts, & some others.

The emigration of 1843, which was the emigration that decided the fate of this country, I believe, contained a quite a number of good & intelligent men. I think Nesmith came in that; he may have come a year later. It gave the Americans the preponderance; & they brought their wagons & cattle through with them.

The next emigration was a larger one; the next to that about the same size. In 1845 there was a much larger one. In 1846 a large emigration started, but a good portion went into California & settled around Sutters fort, & they constituted a band that aided in conquering that territory before the American troops got there.

I think this about Whitman saving the country: He was a patriotic man; he had interest enough to go there, & did a good deal towards exciting the interest of the country; but I do not think the territory was in danger. He certainly did (51) not save it in the way his friends claim, by preventing it from being given up in the boundary treaty, because that was all settled before he got there. I know they say it was about to be surrendered, & that it was a hair breadth escape. I do not think there is anything in that at all. There
is a natural tendency to claim more for one's friends than they are entitled to. I came across some reading some time ago that gave dates showing that the matter had been concluded before he arrived there, & that there was no change afterwards. There is nothing in the history of the settlement agreeing with that claim. I have that opinion from some good authority, but I cannot give you the dates now.

When I came out here I came directly from the friends of Dr. Whitman. They had heard of his massacre. I was requested to investigate the matter. They had heard that it was from the influence of Dr. Whitman. I took pains when I came here; & I had especially (53) good opportunities for finding out. I not only inquired of the Americans, but of the Hudsons Bay men. I saw these pictures of the missionaries & saw letters of Mr. Spaulding, Mrs. Spaulding & other captives. The daughter & mother both sent anniversary presents to Mr. Ogden expressing their gratitude for their release. I conversed with a good many who were well acquainted with the circumstances. This was in 1850, shortly after the event.

Dr. Newell, who was probably the best posted American mountaineer in the country, a man of greatest ability, a very clever man in the English he had a good deal of natural ability & Yankee sense alike, but in the English sense especially; he had been what leader they call a bourgeois (voyageur?) (sic) in the mountains; I satisfied myself through him that there was nothing at all in the story of a combination, or that Whitman was killed by any design on the part of the Catholics, or of the Hudsons Bay Cos. people. There was nothing in the world to make it an (53) object in the case of the Hudsons Bay Co. because the United States had already become the owners of the country; so there was nothing to be gained by it & you would have to imagine that they committed a wanton murder when it could not result in profit, while it might result in great injury. And so far as the Catholic priests are concerned I see no cause
for suspicion. We all know that the Catholics are more acceptable missionaries to the Indians than the Protestants. In the first place the Catholics go & settle among the Indians; they do not accumulate any property, & do not require any high standard of piety. They adapt themselves to the people they want to convert. If they should go to Lapland & find there the idea of a hot hell was rather agreeable than otherwise they would immediately make a cold one to suit the country. As for the Protestants, our American people never did agree with the Indian character enough to assimilate themselves with them. (54) *Catholics do not represent hell as an agreeable place. (sic).

Mrs. Whitman was a remarkably neat woman. I knew her before she was married. She could not bear to have the filthy Indians around. She had a natural repugnance to the filthy, dirty, lazy Indians; almost everybody has. Most Indians do not like that. If they have all one father and are destined for one Heaven, they want to have them show it, & want to have them sit down & enjoy their society.

Mrs. Whitman was not popular with the Indians. The Doctor was very popular. The Indians said she would say "Ugh" when they came around. Mrs. Spaulding on the other hand, was popular with the Indians, but Mr. Spaulding was not.

I cannot conceive of anything but superstition, on account of the Doctor's profession a belief that he was a sorcerer, that could have induced them to take his life. And that is sufficient to account for it without imagining a fiendish disposition on the part of others. (55) So far as the wars are concerned, since I have been here, there has been only one, except this last war, of any importance. The Yakima war of 1855 commenced by the murder of an Indian agent of the name of Bolan Sullen (sic). There were a good many stories told about the cause of his murder. He was a man without much education, but of considerable force of character; & perhaps not a prudent man, such as you would select. He had
a good deal of physical courage, & a great contempt for the Indians. He was the first one that was killed. I suppose, from what I have heard in regard to it, that the Indians had been a little excited to hostility on account of the people travelling to the mines in the Yakima Country. There had been a little trouble, reports of some company miners being killed on their way to the mines from the Sound. White men came into a part of the country where the Indians had not been accustomed to see white (56) men - near the boundary. If a man would not permit himself to be robbed where the Indians were numerous, they would kill him.

Bolam Bulleen (sic) went in for the purpose of finding out something about the persons who were killed. Some of the Indians said he threatened them with troops. On his way back he was met by the Indians & killed. The Indians immediately sent emissaries all around. When they killed a white man they knew there would be trouble. I have no doubt as far down as where I lived their messengers arrived. Near Astoria where I was living at the time I had an Indian boy living with me. He told me the Clackamas Indians had come down among them to excite them against the whites.

The first attempt to make war, Major Haller took about 130 men from the Dalles into the Indian country & was surrounded & imprisoned by the quite Indians for/ a number of days, until (57) they nearly starved; & finally he escaped back to the Dalles having lost in killed & wounded one fifth of his force. They had to put there into the river, a mountain howitzer that he had carried out there.

Then commenced the volunteer movement. There were at that time very few United States troops in the country. There were about a dozen volunteer companies organized by acting Governor Mason, & three of these companies were mustered into the service of the colonel in command at Ft. Vancouver. I was in command of one of the companies, & Capt. Hayes of another; & there were quite a number of companies formed into a regiment by themselves.
We marched up & down & ate our rations & then marched back again. We did not do much. The Oregonians got up a regiment of perhaps a thousand men. They sent them up, & they followed the Indians around, but the Indians, when the whites (58) were too numerous kept out of their way.

Major Rains who was in command at Vancouver marched a company of regulars around. The Indians kept out of their way. I did not hear of more than one Indian being killed in that whole campaign; & he was killed by a Nez Perce scout. The newspapers had more killed than enough to populate the country but I did not know of a case. We had one killed back of Vancouver; the Indians killed him; which was more than the average though we did not kill any.

In such trouble the Indians are more scared than the white men, & they would keep out of the way if you would let them, Col. Wright came up from San Francisco, & he got up a well appointed force, & started to the Dalles. There were only two steamers on the river, the "Mary" & the "Wasp" (sic). He took one only up beyond the cascades, & the next day the Clickatats came (59) in & shut up a lot in a warehouse & killed 17. They finally got up steam & went up to the Dalles & brought down Col. Wright's force & drove out the Indians. They bought down nearly the whole regiment & managed to kill one Indian. But he was killed very dead. I was told by one who was there that he was shot by a scout named Pierson, & every man took a shot at him after he was dead.

That war I cannot tell much about, except that, as always happens when the Indians & whites come together the Indians were pushed a little to the wall.

There was a war down south about the same time, called the Rogue River war. That war was from crowding, I guess, like the rest. I have never heard any cause for it, particularly except that the Indians will once in a while get that way when you crowd them.
When the pioneers first established
their government in 1843 there happened to be but one law book in the
Territory. It was a blue covered book about twice the size of this (a 12 mo)
called the "Laws of Iowa", published in 1843 I think. The Legislature passed
an act adopting the laws of Iowa, naming the edition as published. They also
specified certain laws, changing them in letter so as to adapt them to this
country. These were the first laws of this government. They were the laws
in regard to probate court, proof of wills, finances, etc. These remained
the laws until 1863-3, some of them until 1863-3. Many of them were very good.
When we came to the country the legislative assembly under the organic act
had only met once. There was a meeting held at Oregon city the first year I
came, in the winter of 1851-3, where they first attempted to adopt a code of
laws. They attempted to re-enact the Iowa laws in part; & then they adopted
the chancery system, which was taken from Ohio. Judge Deady was
Chairman of the House Committee; I do not recollect who was chairman in
the Council — which comprised only nine men. They adopted the civil laws of
Iowa generally, so as to suit this country. Afterwards the chancery system
of Ohio was adopted.

The legislation has not been very different since that time from the
ordinary legislation in early State history. Many laws from Eastern States
have been adopted. We never have had any of that civil law, nor any of the
Mexican law that you have in California. Washington Territory took the
Oregon laws to start with, & had a code commission. I was one of the code
commissioners of that territory, & we adopted the laws we found in other
states.

The first great controversy in Oregon was on the location of the capital.
The capital had always been at Oregon City, & the legislature passed a law;
they did not seem inclined to trust one another very much, & they wanted
to divide up the public
buildings so that each should have a share in the distribution of the
(63)
public money. They put them all into one bill, & so located the government & the sites for the territorial buildings. They passed a law to that effect, which the Supreme Court held to be void on account of having more than one object in the title. The consequence was that the next year the Supreme Court met at Oregon City & some of the members of the Legislature; one member of the council & I think 11 members of the Legislature, & the rest met at Salem. They did not have much legislation that year. We had a Supreme Court & Legislature composed of a vast minority at Oregon City; the other Legislature was at Salem. That was a very bitter war for years. Afterwards Congress passed an act locating the government at Salem & that ended the war.

I have always heard Burnett spoken of very highly, and as a man of a good deal of intelligence.

(63) You know he wrote an account of the emigration he came in, in 1843. I never have heard anything said in particular about him, except that he was considered a man of considerable ability. I see by the acts of the provisional government that he took quite an active part after he came here.

There is a good deal of wit among a class of people in Oregon.

I remember an Indian war once broke out in Idaho, about where the Indian war is now. There was a man who was quite a noted Indian hunter. I was riding out with the sheriff of Walla Walla Co, Jim Buckley, & we met this man out there. He wanted Jim to go out with him to hunt the Indians. Says Jim: "I haven't lost any Indians."

Once I was going to Olympia to hold court. McFadden was a great hand to make jokes, but he could not take any. We passed a nice farm with everything painted white, on the prairie. Fletcher says: "Judge, there lives (64) the meanest man in Washington Territory." "Well what does he do that is mean?" "Why he would not even bury his own mother in law."

"What is the reason he wouldn't?"

"Well, I don't know," says Fletcher "but I suppose it is because she is
not dead yet."

Ogden was telling me one thing about the management of the Hudsons Bay Co. I travelled with him somewhat, in boats. When they were building a fort up at Fort Langley in British Columbia, he was sent up there to build the post. When they built (sic) posts they did it at the request of the Indians. It was always their desire that the H.B. Co. should build a post there, because they got goods from them in that way, & it made them important among their neighbors.

One day a man who had been putting in posts at the stockade came & reported that the Indians had stolen his axe. It was a little Canadian axe, a queer thing that they brought here. The work was immediately stopped. The Indians were called together, & a council was held on the axe; it was worth about 50 cents.

The Indians denied having stolen it. Ogden however insisted that they should find it. Finally as they did not find it he made them pay a lot of furs before he would go on & threatened to abandon the fort. The next day the workman came in and said: "I have found that axe; it was covered up in the hill."

"Well", said Ogden, "you go, take it & bury it where it will never be found again."

"What for?"

"We told them they stole it, & if we should tell them now that we were mistaken we never could make them believe anything again."

Our western people could not understand the use of this kind of policy, for they hated an Indian as they do a rattlesnake. I must confess I do not like them very much myself. There is no generosity in an Indian, that I have ever seen, in all my experience.

(68) I used to travel a good deal with the Indians, up & down the Columbia River, in canoes. There is a great deal of romance about them; or else they think we like romance, and tell us the kind of stories we like.
I had one Indian in particular that always used to be telling me some romantic stories that had been handed down to them. We never could pass any prominent point, but that he would tell some stories connected with it.

Once passing Pillar Rock I asked him what that was. He said it was an Indian chief. The Cathlaniets lived on the one side & the Skomoquis on the other. There was one young man of the Skomoquis that fell in love with the daughter of the chief on the other side, & he used to come over & see her nights. But there was great hostility between the two tribes. They took away all the boats & he undertook to cross without a boat, & waded into the water. Some medicine man saw

(67) him, & made a tamance of him; & there he stands.

With regard to basaltic rocks; The Indians from Tillamook came to fight the Indians at the Cascades; & the Great Spirit was very hostile to the proposition, & told them they must not go up. They had got up here to the mouth of the Columbia R. when the Saghali Tyee brought on a great storm & wrecked their canoes. They were driven up to the north side of the river, where they got ashore. They had a great deal of trouble in getting along up the river & just before they got to the cowlitz river, when the Saghali Tyee saw that they were likely to go, notwithstanding his interdiction, he turned them all into stone - & there they stood.

Tolmie

There is a beautiful story of an Indian tradition that Dr. Tolmie once told me. I have lost it, & forgotten it. It is about an Indian maiden that was captured on earth & taken beyond the skies. He is brimful of such stories.

(68) There was a schoolmaster from Bangor Maine who came out here & stopped in Washington Territory, the first time I ever went over to the Sound. I met him (sic) He was one of the most curious men I ever knew. He would go & pretend he was seeking information over the country, would get introduced to a man, & ask him every question he could think of. He would then turn to the next man, & ask him; so that he made himself offensive by asking so many questions. Then perhaps he would turn to me, knowing I never had been in
the country before, & ask me the same questions. He was very timid about Indians, & when we found that out we told him stories about Indians & wild animals. We made that out to be very dangerous Indian country although it was perfectly peaceable. We had got about halfway across the portage & he was so frightened that he would try to keep up with you at any hazard. Sometimes on a long prairie he would get (89) a little behind, because he was a very poor rider. When we got to the woods he would always manage to keep up. He had bored me a good deal. Finally when we were going across Newaukem prairie there a saw a bowlder weighing about 500 pounds. It looked as if butternuts had been cracked on it. He wanted to know what that was. Of course I did not know anything about it; so I made up a story about its being a sort of sacred altar. I attributed it to a tribe of Levites among the Indians who had sole charge of the altar. I gave him a very vivid account. I told him there was a prophecy that when any white man saw that stone the Indians would perish from the earth; & it was the duty of the Levites to keep it from the sight of the white men; that they had moved out of the Mississippi valley & over the Rocky Mountains & finally had got it as far as that place, where by disease the tribe had got so feeble that they could not carry it any further, & (70) there it lay. It was a story I took perhaps an hour or two in telling, & I filled it all up with incidents. He did not say anything. About three months afterwards I got a paper from Bangor, Me. containing this story as an Indian legend. He said there was no doubt about the truth of it, it was a veritable Indian legend, for he had it from Judge Strong.

We used to have a good many queer characters. A man could not wish for any kind of country, but some one would send him somewhere where they could find it.

There was an Englishman who had a notebook in which he would put everything down. Gen. Fitton was a pretty good story teller, & the Englishman would get out his notebook & put it all down. I never saw these stories come back in print.
"Said I; "You did not stop it did you? What business (73) is it of yours. I told him it was just the thing. You were not his constitutional adviser."

There would have been letters of reprisal issued in a very short time if it had not been for Fitton.

This was the Territorial Governor of Washington.

Gov. Isaac (sic) I. Stevens who made one of those Northern Pacific RR surveys was a man of a great deal of talent. He had a great deal of self confidence, & self will. At the time of the Indian war Canadians having Indian wives lived on the plains east of Steilacoom, & the hostile Indians would come in & get ammunition & supplies from them as was supposed. Stevens had some of them arrested & brought in without any authority of law. A court was being held by Judge Elder (?) (sic) at Steilacoom. The Indians got out, they a habeas corpus, & (sic) were about to be discharged. Stevens, to prevent that made Barclay(?) (sic) marshall (74) & he went down to arrest the Judge from the bench. Before he went in some of the gentlemen, among the rest George Gibbs the ethnologist then residing in Steilacoom, since dead, & several others came to see Shaw, a western man without much education but a good deal of character; everybody used to like him. Said he:

"Frank, what are you going to do?"

"I am going to arrest him & take him into the Fort."

"Going to arrest him? You can't."

"The h-ll I can't."

Says Gibbs: "There never has been a precedent of that kind in 500 years."

"Well", says Frank, "if there was not it is time there was." And he went in & took the Judge off the bench & carried him to prison. That broke up the court.

Col Frank Shaw was Colonel of volunteers. It was in the spring of 1856 that he was on the Sound.
In this Indian war, when it first began there was an Indian by the name of Leahi who was supposed to have shot a white man about the commencement of the war. At any rate he was taken up and tried & found guilty of murder in the first degree & sentenced to be hung.

There was no safe place to keep him in, so he was sent down to the garrison at Steilacoom. Frank Clark, who lives at New Tacoma was counsel for the prisoner & defended him. He had made a great effort to get this Indian free, but finally he was convicted & sentenced to be hung.

All the people of Olympia, pretty much, went down, & I among the number to see Leahi hung. They had heard he was not going to be hung that day. When we got down we found that a warrant had been issued against the Sheriff for some cause or other, & he had been put in the jail along with the Indian; so there was nobody to hang the Indian.

Then they went up to Col. Casey to remonstrate about it, & to demand the Indian in order to have him regularly hung. But he refused to listen & there were a great many anxious & excited people, & there was a great deal of whiskey drunk.

Before that we had a Governor by the name of McMillan sent out here from Little Tennessee or South Western Virginia. He had been a member of Congress, but was ignorant; & he had a great idea of the importance of the Governor of Washington.

Frank Clark had got an Indian to come from the lower part of the Sound, Canem, a prominent Indian, to petition the Governor for the release of Leahi. Almost every one could talk this Chinook jargon. The Governor was going to have Canem make an address to him, & the Governor was going to make an address to the Indians, because

the department was separate. Perhaps there were 8000 Indian men on the Sound, & if there should be a general Indian war it would be impossible to prevent the entire destruction of the white settlements. There was a good deal
of anxiety; & we wanted the Indian affairs managed with a good deal of caution.

The Indian's speech was translated into the jargon, & then by me into English addressed to the Governor. I interpreted it to the Governor just as the Indian told it. When the Governor came to make his speech back he made a very big speech, so that one would have thought he was President of the United States, from the dignity of his speech; & the tone seemed to me very imprudent. Probably there were 35 or 30 persons around who all understood the jargon except the Governor.

When the Governor commenced I undertook to interpret the speech to the Indian, but as he went on to say things that I considered imprudent I told (78) the Indian what I thought the Governor ought to have said. I did not pay any attention to the Governor's speech, but said what I thought the circumstances required.

Everybody understood, of course what the Governor said, & what I was saying, & probably everybody approved of my course. The Governor noticed a smile, & says he: "Judge are you repeating my precise language to the Indian?"

Says I: "Governor, this jargon is a very imperfect language; it is very difficult to give an Indian an abstract idea; you have to use a great deal of circumlocution because it is the only way I can convey the idea to the Indian."

Well sir, there was not a single man in that court room that ever informed the Governor, & he never knew all the time he lived in the Territory that I was not repeating his speech.

This happened during the Indian war of 1855-6.

(79) In regard to the proposition of the Northern Pacific RR Co. to make their terminus at Olympia. I drew up the subscription of the citizens of Olympia to give certain property to the company. It was in such a form as not to be binding on the Northern Pacific RR Co. to locate there, but left it to the discretion of the company.

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Personal. About 5'8", or 5'9" in height; well built, & rather stout.
Mustache, a shaven face. Hair white, & cut short. A full florid face, with good, & well defined features. Pleading expression. A remarkably well modulated, distinct, clear, conversational voice. Complexion light.

(add this to Judge Strong's narrative) (sic)

Under the treaty of joint occupation, Great Britain was represented by the Hudson's Bay Company and the Canadian settlers. The United States by the Missionaries and those few mountain men and the American wanderers whom chance and a restless spirit of adventure had brought to the country as has been before mentioned.

By far the most formidable pioneer in the country was the Hudson's Bay Company, a corporation chartered by Great Britain for the purpose of trading originally in the British possessions bordering on Hudson's Bay and in an indefinite scope of country called Rupert's Land, but which as early as 1833 (sic) (1823) had occupied with its traders and trading posts a large extent of country west of the Rocky Mountains. And at the time/ which we are speaking had control of the entire Indian trade west of the Rocky Mountains north of Mexico and as far north as the Russian Possessions, having its main depot of supplies at Vancouver on the Columbia River.

This was a powerful corporation, thoroughly organized, its principal officers by special commission from their government exercising civil and to a considerable extent (4) criminal jurisdiction over all their servants and other British subjects and having general supervision over Indians in all the land they occupied. No British subject was allowed to trade within their limits. And no subject or citizen of a foreign government could settle or trade on British territory where this corporation had way.

Their officers in the Indian country were Chief Factors, and factors, Chief-traders and Traders, whose income depended upon the profits of the trade. When trade was good and the price of furs high the income of a chief-
factor sometimes amounted to over $10,000.00. In bad years less. All the
living expenses were paid by the corporation whether trade was good or not.
They had also at all times a large number of educated young men called
Clerks in their employ who were sent out from England from time to time
at a small salary who after a certain period of service, were if capable
and worthy, promoted to traders, and in course of time could ascend to the
grade of Chief Factor. Promotion was exclusively from the class of clerks
and no one could rise except from actual service in the Indian country to
higher office. The officers and clerks were called
(5) gentlemen - all the other employees were called servants. At every large
depot chief factors or factors were stationed constituting a board of
management for the district. At other posts Factors, Chief Traders and Traders
were stationed, so that in every part of the country occupied by the
country (sic) at every post or trading establishment of the company was
represented by one or more trained and educated officers. The affairs of
the company were everywhere conducted and carried on with the discipline
and regularity of a military organization. And every officer and every clerk
who expected in due course to become an officer had the strongest possible
inducement to serve the company faithfully and to the best of his ability.

The sole object and aim of the company was trade with the Indians in the
products of an Indian country, giving them in exchange for furs, guns,
ammunitions, traps, blankets clothing, tobacco, trinkets. They never gave rum
or spirits, in their trade. It was not for the interest of the company that
their Indians should become vagabonds. They encouraged in them a taste for
civilized life only so far as it might advance their trade. If an Indian wanted
the goods they sold, ammunition, clothing,
(5) guns, etc. he could only purchase by giving in exchange the products of
the chase. They inspired him with a love of foreign luxuries only to induce
him to become a more active hunter in procuring the means of purchase. The
company was a peace maker between the Indians because war destroyed trade.
The civilization of the Indian was against the interest of the company and was therefore not attempted.

In their dealings with the Indians they were fair and honest, their goods were always what they were represented to be, and their prices uniform. The longer they continued their trade in the country the more dependent the Indians became upon them. Artificial wants grew up by use. As they never encroached upon the rights of the Indians wanting no land and making no settlement their posts were considered desirable acquisitions.

I have heard gentlemen connected with the company say that they had no trouble in establishing posts they were always welcomed, but that they often found it a matter of great difficulty to withdraw a post from a tribe when one had been established.