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The Hand of Myron Eells in the History of the Pacific Northwest

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Michael J. Paulus, Jr., Seattle Pacific University
American Society of Church History, Portland, Ore., April 5, 2013
The Hand of God in the History of the Pacific Coast.

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

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 Columbia river, where they had arrived two days previously, and from which place they started the next day. The record for that day was very common for the place. It reads thus:

"June 1st, Friday, (for it was on the same day of the week as it is this year). Attend 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 today 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 how 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 built better than they knew;" when they laid the foundation of the State of Oregon.
An Act to Establish an Institute in Walla Walla County

1. Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Washington that there shall be established in Walla Walla County an institution of learning for the instruction of persons of both sexes in science and letters to be called the Whitman Seminary, and that Elkanah Walker, George W. Atkinson, Abigail J. Turner, W. H. Tompkins, H. H. Spalding, Amos B. Goodwin, John W. Smith, James Groseg, and company bee and their successors are hereby declared to be a body politic and corporate in law by the name and style of the President and Trustees of Whitman Seminary,
ART. IV.—THE TWANA INDIANS OF THE SKOKOMISH RESER-
VATION IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

BY REV. M. EELLS,
Missionary among these Indians.

PLATES 23-25.

INTRODUCTION.

The following account has been written in answer to questions asked* by the Indian Bureau, for the Centennial Exhibition and the Smith-
sonian Institution. If it is of any value, it is not altogether because it describes the Indians under their old native habits and customs, but because it gives an account of them in a state of transition from their na-
tive wildness to civilization. For the past sixteen years, a United States Indian agent and Government employés have been on the reservation. Previously to that, there were American settlers in this region for ten
or twelve years, and previously to that, the Hudson’s Bay Company were trading in the country for thirty years or thereabouts. They have therefore had contact with civilization for a long time, during which they have been adopting civilized customs more or less rapidly, and may be called about half-civilized. Hence, transition is marked in every de-
partment of their lives—in food, dwellings, clothes, implements of use,
manners, customs, government, and religion; therefore it is very diffi-
cult to describe their primitive customs, especially in regard to their
ancient ornamental dress, war and hunting customs, stone-work, adorn-
ment, secret societies, and tamsmanus. There are very few, even of the
old men, who know all these customs thoroughly.

The families have not all made equal advancement in civilization, and hence what applies to some will not apply to others, even at the present time; the younger, as a general rule, being further advanced
than the older ones. On this account, it has also been difficult to describe all truthfully. On looking over the list of individuals, which number about sixty-five, forty-two of them are at least half-civilized
in regard to eating customs and houses, while of the remaining twenty-

[*In the publication entitled “Ethnological Directions relative to the Indian Tribes of the United States.—Prepared under direction of the Indian Bureau, by O. F. Mason,—Washington: Government Printing Office, 1875.”—Svo, pp. 32. The article is in the form of answers to the questions there asked, following the printed heads of subjects of inquiry very closely.—Ed.]
A voyage to the North Pacific Ocean.

Round the world.

In the wake of the American discovery and exploration of the world by land and sea, the Oregon Trail became a popular route for expansion and settlement.

The discovery of gold in California in 1848 attracted many Americans to the Oregon Country, resulting in an increase in population and the establishment of new settlements.

This book was published in 1851 and contains detailed accounts of the voyages of explorers and settlers, along with maps and illustrations.

The text is rich with descriptions of the natural environment, the indigenous peoples, and the challenges faced by those who ventured into the unknown.

The book is a valuable resource for historians and researchers interested in the history of the Oregon Country and its role in American expansion.
Photograph of a number of articles in my cabinet, together with some which I obtained for the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago. Taken 1872.
Biography of Marcus Whitman, M.D.

And Mrs. Narcissa Prentiss Whitman

By M. Sills & S.

Author of Indian Missions, Ten Years at Shoshone, Father Sills, etc.
Collections of Minerals

1. Granite from Putnam County, New York
2. Basalt
3. Basaltic tuff
4. Gabbro Rock, Tolland, Rockville, W., Conn.
5. Limestone, Marlboro, N.Y.
7. Basalt, Adirondack Mountains, N.Y.
8. Basalt, Adirondack Mountains, N.Y.
9. Basalt, Adirondack Mountains, N.Y.
10. Basalt, Adirondack Mountains, N.Y.
11. Basalt, Adirondack Mountains, N.Y.

From my great-grandfather's grave.
Mt. Holyoke, Sept. 29th, 1870

From my grandmother's grave.
Stockbridge, Mass.
Dec. 25th, 1870

Elizabeth Cols died Aug. 3rd, 1882, aged 80 years.

The secret of eternal youth is to eat when you are hungry and when you are not.

The secret of eternal youth is to eat when you are hungry and when you are not.
Preface.

When I was six or seven years old, there was among our Sabbath school books, one entitled, “Fragmen...". On its title page was the verse, “Gather up the fragments, that nothing be lost.” It was a good book, composed of various stories, which I liked to read more than most books, and did read at least two or three times, but I have forgotten all now that was in it except the title, and that verse. This is in some respects, however, as much like it, that I have given it the same title.

It has the word I in it as many times that many men think it very egotistical, and I do not like it so better; and yet as it is a record mainlep of personal experiences, I do not know how I could leave the word out and do any better.

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

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 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.

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THIS book belongs to the Eells Northwest History Collection and was donated by Mrs. Myron Eells in memory of her husband.