

icular point is only a mile wide. On the Washington side stands the town of Kalama, which is partly built on the river bottom and partly on the timbered hillside. Continuing the journey down the right bank of the Columbia we soon leave that stream and pass up grade along the banks of the Cowlitz river through the heavy timbered state of Washington. This country is but sparsely settled as yet. Openings in the timber have only been made here and there, and all the towns, villages and farming districts through which we passed, date back only a few years. Two of the largest towns on the road are Chehalis and Centralia. At the latter town a branch railroad takes off in a northwesterly direction to Olympia, the capital of the state. As we approach Tacoma, the lofty mountain peak known as Mount Rainier becomes an object of special interest on our right. This majestic peak reaches up to 14,444 feet above the level of the sea, and is the third highest mountain in the United States. Like Mount Hood, Mount Adams and Mount St. Helens, it is one of those remarkable peaks rising from the neilghs of the Cascade range, which centuries ago belched forth lava and smoke from the earth's interior. In other words, it is an extinct volcano. At 3 p.m. arrived at Tacoma, when I had my first glimpse of the salty waters of Puget Sound.

Tacoma, a city of about 40,000 inhabitants, is built upon a peninsular promontory, which runs out into the sound to a point forming a triangle. The highest point of the promontory is in its center, a moderately high ridge extending its whole length until at its extreme northern point it ends in an abrupt, bold precipice. The resident portion of Tacoma is situated upon the higher ground, and is thus lifted above the str and the noise of the business portion; the citizens continually enjoy the purest of air, the best of drainage and the most delightful of views. The bay, with its quiet waters and green islands, is given a spirit of life by a multitude of water craft, from the tiny canoe, pleasure boat and noisy tug to the dignified ocean steamer and full-rigged ship moving hither and thither, or lying quietly at anchor in the bay or moored to the docks. Looking eastward a most beautiful landscape greets the eye, back of which the imposing majesty of Mt. Tacoma lifts its mighty head far into the sky. Be the soul of the observer ever so unimpressible it must be stirred with sudden wonder and awe. From the quiet pastoral beauty of the valley of the Puyallup river to this great white robed monarch of all the mountains is a contrast which has but few, if any, equals in the world.

There are higher mountains in the world than Tacoma, but not one other known peak that rises so grandly alone from the level of the sea to such a height. At the present time of the season it is covered with a complete robe of snow from the line of green foothills in which its base is lost to the distant observer to the top where the steam of a slumbering volcano at times hovers over its crown, forming what is sometimes called the "liberty cap." Looking to the west there are the jagged peaks and white snow caps of the Olympic or coast range, forming an-

other beautiful and distant horizon. In 1880 Tacoma had a population of 720; ten years later it was a city of 38,006, an increase of 5,480 per cent in ten years. Tacoma is 144 miles north of Portland.

Continuing the journey from Tacoma we travel forty miles to Seattle, the metropolis of the state of Washington, and boasting at the present time of 80,000 inhabitants. Situated on a gently rising slope the town affords an inviting appearance from the distance. It stands on the east side of what is known geographically as Elliott bay, on the east side of Puget Sound, and only a few miles southeast of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The land or harbor line forms a semi-circle rising in terraces from the water front. Continuing for a mile to the east, the rising summit attains to the character of a ridge, perhaps 400 feet high. The growth of Seattle has been something wonderful. According to the United States census the city had in 1870, 1,107 inhabitants; there were 2,553 in 1880, and 43,847 in 1890. Twenty million dollars' worth of property went up in flame and smoke in Seattle's great fire of June 6, 1889; but the ashes were scarcely cold when her enthusiastic citizens began to build anew, better stronger and more beautiful than before. A city of brick, stone and iron has since arisen and notwithstanding the hard times which are felt here the same as in other places, the business part of the city presents an activity and bustle, which puts the traveler in mind of New York, Chicago or San Francisco. The city of Seattle embraces within its boundaries thirty-one square miles; its greatest distance from north to south is eight and a half miles; from east to west six and one-fourth miles; its eastern boundary is formed by Lake Washington, a beautiful fresh water lake twenty miles long and from two to five miles wide, from which Seattle gets its supply of drinking water. This remarkable lake is at a certain point only two and a half miles from Elliott bay; its mean level is twenty feet above high water on Puget Sound, and it runs almost parallel with the shores of Elliott bay.

Seattle has ninety miles of graded streets, twenty-five miles of wood-paved streets; the streets vary in width from forty to one hundred and twenty feet; thirty-one miles of sewers are already completed. About five million dollars has been subscribed by its citizens toward cutting a canal through the hill eastward to connect Lake Washington with the bay. The main object of this gigantic undertaking is to be able to run the ocean vessels into the fresh water, which will kill a certain worm that ingrafts itself into the bulk of a vessel and destroys its timber, but which perishes the moment it comes into contact with fresh water. The excavating of this canal will also supply the amount of dirt necessary to make a dam across the upper end of Elliott bay, which would, by filling up, turn the extensive tide flats or mud flats into a profitable business property. Already quite a portion of the city is built upon piles extending over a mile out into the bay.

The state of Washington, of which Olympia is the capital but Seattle the metropolis, is 340 miles long by about

240 wide. It is very rich in coal and lumber and is sometimes called the "Pennsylvania of the Pacific coast." The precious metals are also found in abundance in many districts. The yield of wheat is prodigious. Apples, pears, apricots, plums, prunes, peaches, cherries, grapes and the different kinds of berries flourish in the greatest profusion. A large portion of western Washington is densely timbered with fir, cedar, pine, oak, maple and alder, interspersed with small areas of prairie or open land; the area of the whole state is 69,994 square miles, or 44,776,160 acres.

The first actual settlement in what is now the state of Washington was made in 1845. Prior to this the country was known only to trappers and fur traders. Territorial government was organized in 1853, and Washington was admitted into the Union as a state in November, 1889.

In my travels so far I have had many interesting conversations with fellow passengers on the situation in Utah, and the history and doctrines of the Latter-day Saints. It is evident that a great change has come over the people of our land in regard to the Mormons. In my former travels as a missionary the mere mention of Mormonism would elicit smut and ridicule; but now the knowledge of the presence of a Mormon Elder in a railway car or on a steamboat will simply give additional importance to the situation, and his acquaintance will generally be sought, conversation solicited and questions asked in a respectable manner. A man always meets with people who have visited Utah at one time or another, and those of that kind, with whom I have conversed on this trip, have invariably expressed themselves as being highly pleased with what they saw and heard in the city of the Saints.

I stop in Seattle over night, and proceed to Vancouver, British Columbia, tomorrow morning.

ANDREW JENSON.

SEATTLE, Washington, May 14, 1895.

THE EUROPEAN MISSION.

[Millennial Star, May 16.]

RELEASE.—On account of sickness, Elder Thomas Stoker has been released from his labors as traveling Elder in the Sheffield conference, and returned home with the company of Elders on May 2, 1895.

The Butte (Mont.) Miner says the next great event in the career of Butte will be the football game between the Butte team and the athletic kickers from Salt Lake. The game will be played on Decoration Day, and that there will be an unusual amount of decoration on this particular occasion we feel confident the faces of the heroes of the day will prove. The boys from Zion are said to be experts at the great knock-down-and-drag-out game, and the friends of the Butte athletes are training their lungs for such vociferous and irresistible shouting as may insure success. No matter what the result of the contest, the visitors will understand before they get through with the game that they are attending no compromise milk-and-water Salt Lake convention.