

first one is at a loss to determine the meaning of the above. Indeed, it is only by an arduous process of reasoning that light at last dawns on the reader. Is one to learn from the above that the "shark" (with a "young man" making a square meal off him) is what is on exhibition in the *Excelsior* office? No, for a 14x24 shark cannot be placed on exhibition in a 4x10 editorial sanctum. Again, it is an unnecessary insult to the intelligence of the editor of the *Excelsior* to suppose that it is the "young man eating shark" that is on exhibition. For why should he state that it is the "jawbone of the young man" that is "eating shark"? The "jawbone" usually does the "eating." The conclusion is irresistible that it is neither the "shark" nor the "young man" that is exhibited, but merely the "jawbone" \* \* \* eating [a piece of] shark." No wonder this exhibition "has attracted a constant crowd." A solitary "jawbone" \* \* \* with all its eight rows of teeth \* \* \* eating shark" may well cause the passers-by to halt. It is no ordinary spectacle. But at last, after having spent his valuable time in solving the above problem, the writer has begun to fear that this is only another advertising scheme on the part of Omaha or the *Excelsior*. It requires altogether too great a strain on one's imagination. It had been better to keep the announcement "sub rosa."

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MISCELLANY.

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A LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

CHEHALIS, WASH., NOV. 22, 1890.

To My University Friends:—

In every part of the country we find people who have never traveled. It is the same here as in other places. Since coming to Chehalis I have met many old timers who, like their prototypes in other parts of the country are so completely wedded to one place that they never experience a desire to see more of the world. Several times in my life I have read of people far advanced in years who had never been outside of the county in which they were born. I recall the story of a Washington woman fifty six years of age who never saw a railroad or train of cars until last spring, and that woman is immensely rich, too. An intelligent person is never content to spend a lifetime in such a way. The live, wide awake American is generally restless to see more of the world; and if he cannot see he at least enjoys reading something about a place, especially when the matter in hand comes from the pen of a friend.

Doubtless you have all heard of the great state of Washington. Perhaps many of you have friends who have come out here to make their fortunes. Others may remember the prairie schooner, westward bound, her cover emblazoned with Shakespeare's immortal words, "In God We Trusted, in Iowa We Busted, — Washington or Bust!" I have seen several wagons decorated in that or a similar way. So great and varied are the opportunities to win wealth and renown in this busy Northwest that it is not at all improbable that many of those same emigrants now have bank accounts, while others dispense law as justices of the peace (one dollar and costs for first offense, the usual rate,) in Phillchuck, Stillaguamish, Shookinchuck, or some other backwoods precinct. Many of them may own prospective townsites and sit and muse in sweet contentment, and listen to the carol of the birds as they sing their evening vespers, while they wonder if the next new railroad won't strike near them.

A careful reader can form but little conception of a country

by reading a description of it, be it ever so carefully written. One year in the U. of N. I remember the professor of rhetoric assigned for one of the essay subjects the apparently easy one of writing a description of a house. Those who suffered with me then know of the wailing and gnashing of teeth; yea, worse than Napoleon with all his armies ever caused. If then, it is no easy task to describe a house, how much more difficult it is to describe a country, especially one with such diversified resources as this one has. Do not think, then, that I intend to give you a splendid description, however much I should like to do so. I will, however, tell you a few things about Washington which may be of interest to you.

The state of Washington has an area of about 70,000 square miles, or in round numbers, 45,000,000 acres; 20,000,000 acres of this, lying almost entirely west of the Cascade range, is covered with the finest forests in the United States. The Cascades divide Eastern from Western Washington. The state has 10,000,000 acres of grain producing land, 5,000,000 acres of river bottom lands capable of producing hops, hay, and all kinds of fruit and vegetables; 10,000,000 acres of mineral bearing and mountainous land, generally timbered. Such is a summary of her physical condition.

Chehalis is the leading inland city of Western Washington. It is the county seat of Lewis county and is situated just midway between Portland and Seattle, being ninety miles from each. Lewis county is one of the largest in the state and was the first organized. Today more of the soil of Lewis county is subject to the plow than any other county in Western Washington. The county has almost 12,000 people, Chehalis 1,700. There is one saw mill here and two shingle mills, while within a short distance of the town are at least six other tributary mills. Other manufactories are a pump factory, foundry and iron works, a 100-barrel flour mill, sash and door factory, furniture factory, tile factory and marble works. There are a dozen general merchandise stores, one national bank and another one opening, drug stores, jewelry stores, and a new \$30,000 hotel. A \$20,000 brick block is being built. Chehalis has five churches and a fine \$10,000 school building. The state reform school is located here and about \$15,000 is now being expended in buildings. There are a number of beautiful residences. Several citizens of the town are quite wealthy.

The enormous timber supply of Washington is one of her greatest sources of natural wealth. The supply for the east must eventually be drawn from here. Even now an immense shingle and heavy lumber business is carried on with the eastern states. Dozens of ocean vessels are loading all the while on Puget Sound, and carry our lumber to all parts of the civilized world. The forest timber is principally fir, cedar and hemlock. A few redwood trees have been found. Along the streams the maple and the alders grow, with here and there the ash. Millions of acres of this vast timber belt have never been surveyed and great regions have never been explored. Off in the depths of these mighty forests are trees of enormous size, the growth of centuries. They are often found from twelve to fifteen feet in diameter at the base and towering forth hundreds of feet into the heavens.

While in Nebraska the poor farmer seems to be at the mercy of everybody else, (recent election returns to the contrary notwithstanding,) it is not so here. The Washington farmer knows but few of the ills his Nebraska brother is heir to—failure of crops or political discontent. The farmers here are the people, and the man who has a few acres cleared soon becomes nominally independent. He finds a ready market for all his produce, and the growth of the towns and agricultural industry seems so uniform that the time of