

PORTLAND, ON., Jany. 14, 1869.

MR. EDITOR,—As the surrounding cities and rural districts of your proud and enterprising State are pouring into your editorial sanctum, their letters glowing with enthusiastic descriptions of the various celebrations of the Sixth Anniversary of the immortal Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation; let Mount Hood belch forth and proclaim that the colored citizens of Oregon are not behind in their appreciation of the glorious event.

We web-feet had a joyful time. Obedient to a previous call a mass meeting assembled on the 1st of December in the city of Portland. The necessary committees being chosen to make the arrangements, the ball went rolling on, and the result like our snow capped mountain should have been seen to be appreciated.

Through the energy of the committee, the County Court House was secured in which to hold the literary exercises. The programme and complimentary tickets to dinner and ball was sent you by steamer of 26th ult. We were in hopes that curiosity might have induced you to brave the dangers of Old Neptune, and mingle with us web-footers, but of course, it was "not convenient," so we accept your regrets, etc. But to the

CELEBRATION.

The day before the 1st, the colored people came pouring in the city from all parts of the State, exciting the curiosity of our white fellow citizens of the copperhead persuasion, that your correspondent was much annoyed with questions—thus. "What under heaven are all these niggers here for?" To heighten their curiosity I would answer—"Never mind, we will let you know to-morrow night" and pass on.

The "Day" opened with drenching rains at intervals, which did not intimidate the masses. Ladies and gentlemen could be seen during the day making "New Year calls," in a manner which reminded one of the good old times in our Eastern cities. Everybody kept open house, "and everybody called upon everybody else."

As the evening drew near the white people, friends and others commenced gathering in the vicinity of the Court House, attracted by the band which was playing soul-stirring airs. The exercises were announced to commence at 6 o'clock P. M. Long before the hour the spacious hall was crowded. It is estimated that there were 1300 persons present, most of whom were white. Nearly all the resident clergy, State, County and City officials, and men in all professions of life, were present. The utmost decorum was maintained by that vast concourse. Of our own people, the flowers of Oregon were present. Salem with its patriotic and liberal hearted citizens sent 30 representatives to the celebration; they contributed materially toward making it a success. The Portlanders rallied nobly around the stage, and showed by their enthusiasm that they were in earnest.

At 6½ o'clock, Mr. Wm. Brown, President, opened the exercises with a brief and well-timed speech, after which a prayer was offered by the Chaplain, when our old friend and pioneer of the Pacific slope, Chas. H. Mercier, read that immortal document, the Emancipation Proclamation. The next one introduced to that vast multitude was the orator of the day, our long tried friend, the patriot, scholar and Christian, Rt. Rev. T. M. D. Ward, Bishop of the A. M. E. Church. Of his eloquence and ability I will say nothing, you all know him, and know his worth—I will say he is a noble specimen of manhood,—morally, intellectually and physically, and by the demonstrations of the audience it is safe to come to the conclusion that he left the impression that if this is the white man's country, some black men are not afraid to talk in it. He was frequently interrupted by bursts of applause which shook the building.

Next in order came the Poem, which was eloquently recited by Miss Octavia Mercier, with correct emphasis and perfect intonation of voice and manner. This received the approbation of the audience, which was shown by the applause given.