

OREGON EXPEDITION.

IN order to understand this Oregon Expedition, it is necessary to say, that thirty years ago (1803), PRESIDENT JEFFERSON recommended to Congress to authorize competent officers to explore the river *Missouri* from its mouth to its source, and by crossing the mountains to seek the best water communication thence to the *Pacific Ocean*. This arduous task was undertaken by Captain M. Lewis and Lieutenant W. Clarke of the first regiment of infantry. They were accompanied by a select party of soldiers, and arrived at the *Missouri* in May, 1804, and persisted in their novel and difficult task into the year 1806, and with such success as to draw from President Jefferson the following testimonial of their heroic services, viz. "The expedition of Messrs. LEWIS & CLARKE, for exploring the river *Missouri*, and the best communication from that to the *Pacific Ocean*, has had all the success which could be expected; and for which arduous service they deserve well of their country."

The object of this enterprise was to confer in a friendly manner with the Indian Nations throughout their whole journey, with a view to establish a friendly and equitable commerce with them, on