

THE WHITMANS AND OLD OREGON

If I never do more than to have been one of the first to take white women across the mountains and prevent the disaster and reaction which would have occurred by the breaking up of the present [1843] emigration, and establishing the first wagon road across to the border of the Columbia River, I am satisfied.

Marcus Whitman from Fort Walla Walla, November 1, 1843,
to Secretary David Greene, Boston.