

# OREGON FREE PRESS.

GEO. L. CURRY, Editor and Proprietor.

OREGON CITY, SATURDAY AUGUST 12, 1848.

**THE TROOPS AND IMMIGRANTS.**—An Indian from the vicinity of Ft. Colville, the bearer of letters from that post, reports the troops and Immigrants on Powder river. We do not know how much confidence to place in such reports, but if the Immigration were at that point in the route, we shall hear in a few days something more certain and definite.

**THE NEWS.**—We have intelligence from the States up to the 24th of April last, and Congress had done nothing for Oregon—literally nothing for the nation. Indeed it is difficult to conjecture how much longer Oregon is to be treated with indifference. Remonstrance should take the place of petition. Are not the greater portion of the people of this Territory Americans? Is not the government of the United States bound to protect the rights of her citizens wherever they may be? If we are to be utterly neglected—cast off, like aliens as it were, by the only country in the world that we love—our native land—it could not be much worse, for this constant deferment of hope truly makes the heart sick.

**FRIGATE CONSTANCE.**—The Constance is an English Frigate of 50 guns, commanded by Capt. COURTENAY.—We understand that she will leave Ft. Victoria about the expiration of the present month for the Islands, and that her polite commander very kindly offers to take any mail matter for that quarter which any of our citizens may desire to forward. Her presence on our coast shows that British interests in this part of the world are not neglected by the English Government;—we most heartily wish that we could say as much for the United States. It is now nearly two years since we have had an American vessel of war in our waters, notwithstanding the promise of Secretary Buchanan to the contrary; and it would really seem that American interests in Oregon were left to look out for themselves.

**THRASHING MACHINE.**—Our ingenious friends, Wallace and Wilson, have been engaged lately in the construction of a couple of thrashing machines. One has been finished and is now in successful operation out on Tualatin Plains, where it thrashes at the rate of four hundred bushels per day. The machine is worked by horse power. The second one combines numerous improvements upon the first, being portable, and designed to thrash from shock to shock. Such labor-saving machinery is of the highest utility, in operating to the decided advantage of the farmer.

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**—Several articles that we desired to appear in this paper have been deferred to the next number in consequence of the press of news, among which is the address of the committee concerning the Association for the protection of land claims.

**"KA ELELE HAWAII."**—We acknowledge the receipt of a copy of a newspaper bearing the above name, printed at the Sandwich Islands in the Hawaiian language. We do not understand the language, and therefore can say nothing as to the literary merits of the publication. Its typographical appearance is quite pretty.

**THE EXTRAORDINARY HARVEST.**—Tidings come to us from all parts of the country, of the extraordinary harvests that are rewarding the toil of the farmer. Such abundance is without parallel in the history of the country, and just at this time, too, it operates most advantageously to the territory—as it will leave, after a liberal allowance for home consumption, a large quantity of bread stuffs to answer the demand in California and elsewhere. The farm of Mr. Pomeroy, on Tualatin Plains, alone returns something like 6,000 bushels of wheat, a large yield of oats, and any quantity of potatoes—to say nothing about other important articles.—Mr. Zacharey, in the same neighborhood, realize some 4,000 bushels of wheat, and about 2,000 bushels of oats, the latter of volunteer growth too. Here are but two farms out of the several thousand that are under cultivation in Oregon, and they give an aggregate yield of 10,000 bushels of wheat alone.

As we wish to get at the quantity, as near as may be, of the produce that has been raised in the territory this season, our friends in the country can assist us very much and place us under obligation by forwarding any information that may tend to effect this object.

**OUR POSITION.**—Our cotemporary, the "Spectator," which is to be published to-day, instead of its regular publication day, we are told, is to contain a communication severely censuring us (and perhaps others) for the position we have taken in regard to the recent movement of the people of this county in the protection of their land claims. We can only say, in advance, that we are, and shall continue to be, in the habit of expressing our opinions freely upon all matters of public consequence that may present themselves to our notice, and it is to be hoped that we may never fear or hesitate to do so, especially while we occupy the situation of a public journalist. We have no ends or interests to subserve other than those of truth and right. And so long as we sincerely believe our opinion to be good and true, why should we care for the cavillings and ungenerous insinuations of any restless and never to be satisfied spirit that may attempt to cry us down? We court no popular favor—we require no one to think as we do—nor do we desire to think as others do, unless that thinking should be right. Justice to ourself and our readers demands this at our hands; we could not do less and be true to ourself—we cannot do otherwise and deserve their confidence.

**CALIFORNIA.**—According to the intelligence brought to us by the CONSTANCE, the blind goddess seems to have been smiling upon our neighbors, the Californians, most richly. Whether it will tend to their happiness and prosperity remains yet to be determined.—From the Polynesian we learn that an exceedingly rich gold mine has been discovered in the Sacramento Valley, and all classes and sexes have deserted their occupations and rushed en masse to the mines to make their fortunes. The gold taken from this newly discovered mine is not gold ore, but pure virgin gold. It is procured by the simple process of digging and washing, and is obtained at the rate of from two to four ounces per day by each laborer. It passes current at San Francisco for 15 dollars per ounce. San Francisco was entirely deserted—every one having gone mining. The 'Californian' announced the suspension of their paper on the 29th of May, and the 'Star' was also expecting to suspend publication. Laborers could not be procured at any price: ten and fifteen dollars per day