

OREGON FREE PRESS.

FOR THE

VOL. I.)

WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1848.

(NO. 20.)

"Here shall the Press the people's rights maintain, Unawed by influence, and unbribed by gain."

TO THE PUBLIC.

In reply to a remonstrance published in a late number of the Spectator, and signed by S. R. Thurston and other citizens of Linn City, and which we think ought not to have been published until the proceedings of the meeting were before the public, so that they might have had the proceedings and the remonstrance before them at the same time, to form a correct opinion of their respective merits; and the mistaken view taken by the editor of the Spectator, of the object of certain resolutions passed at a meeting of the citizens of Clackamas county, (with only one dissenting voice,) held at Oregon City on the 22d of July last—the object of which meeting was to devise means for a cheaper and speedier remedy to remove intruders from land claims, etc., and to prevent others from harrassing the people in that way. The committee who reported on the by-laws, and as many of the committee of arbitration as are present, beg to make a frank avowal of their intentions, and to disavow the imputations so unjustly made against them in that remonstrance; and in doing this, we declare that our intentions were simply to organize a system of regulations similar to those which have been in existence for more than 20 years in all the states and territories where there has been public lands for sale, and having no desire to treat with disrespect the laws of Oregon or the United States; but to keep the proper claimant in possession, in as cheap and speedy a manner as possible, and to prevent the intruder from receiving a grant of his neighbor's claim by improvements and occupancy before he can be removed by the tardy and expensive operation of the law, and in doing this, our by-laws require us to be governed strictly by the Organic Law regulating the taking of land claims; the third resolution requiring the arbitrators to be governed by the spirit and intention of that law, and the principles of equity and justice.

Believing that a jury sitting in our courts would be governed by the same principles, and that a decision of theirs should be a quietus to all further proceedings, we do not as stated in that tissue of falsehoods, the remonstrance, make the decision of three men final; but if either party wishes an appeal, they can have it tried by twelve persons. We further deny, that we ever expressed an intention to disregard the decisions of the territorial courts, nor is it our intention, and neither have we heard any person connected with the association, intimate an intention in any event to overthrow the government of Oregon, or to resist the laws of the United States, except the two gentlemen who spoke in opposition to the association, but who declared their willingness to join us in resisting the laws of the United States—viz: Messrs. Wait and TVault; but whose suggestion, coupled with their co-operation, the meeting respectfully declined. But we here state, that it was plainly expressed and fully understood by the meeting, that the committee of arbitration were not to dispense with any of the requirements of the Organic Law in deciding upon land claims; and that claims, in order to be good, should have been taken, recorded and im-

proved in accordance with its spirit and intention; neither was it intimated or expressed that counsel should not be heard, if either or both of the parties desire it, before the arbitrators—yet we believe that community is abundantly satisfied with what they have heard from counsel on disputed land claims—one of our objects being to furnish such a remedy as would avoid the expense of that LUXURY for the future. The committee brand as a miserable subterfuge, that part of the remonstrance which charges them with refusing to sign the articles until others should do so—for the printing of them was not finished until the Spectator made its appearance containing this charge. But they are signed now, and the names of a majority of the committee stand among the first—for the proof of which we refer community to the proceedings of our meeting, published in the 17th No. of the Free Press, and the respectable assembly present at our meeting. The facts set forth in the preamble to our resolutions, as was intended, abundantly show the justice of our claims on the United States government for grants of 640 acres of land—but in view of these facts, (which we are compelled to question,) they should decline to make grants for this amount, we would refuse, as we did at the meeting, any and every measure that would seem like menace, and only urge the justice of our claims—and in the meantime, we will hold the occupancy of these tracts in the possession of the proper claimant, until they can be secured in whatever way the government may provide, and when this is done, the Association, with the reasons that called it into existence, are at an end.

THEO. MAGRUDER,
N. SMITH,
M. M. MCCARVER,

WM. MEEK,
P. SCHOLL,
P. H. HATCH,
P. FOSTER.

A friend has kindly translated for us from the French the following:

ANECDOTE OF THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA WHILE AT THE CONGRESS OF VIENNA, IN 1814 AND '15.—A young midshipman in the Russian Navy who had never seen the Emperor Alexander, had been sent, as the bearer of important dispatches to the Emperor at Vienna, who, as at St. Petersburg, used to stroll about town by himself. One morning as his majesty was coming out of his palace, in a plain dress, he saw the young officer who seemed anxious to enter the palace. As he appeared at a loss how to shape his course, the Emperor addressed him and said,

"You seem to be looking for some one."

"Yes," replied the young Middy, "I have a dispatch to deliver to the Emperor of Russia. I have been directed to the Palace of Burgh, and I am only this moment arrived at Vienna, and I have no person to take me to the Palace or introduce me, and I do not know who to get to do these offices for me."

Alexander was quite taken with the open and frank manners of the young officer, and therefore continued his incognito.

(See fourth page.)