

OREGON FREE PRESS.

GEO. L. CURRY, Editor and Proprietor.

OREGON CITY, SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4, 1848.

APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR.—S. M. HOLDERNESS to be SECRETARY of STATE, vice, FRED'G PRIGG resigned.

Notwithstanding the effects of the improvement-killing 'gold fever,' Milwaukie, we are pleased to learn, is employing numerous hands in pushing forward several worthy enterprises. We understand that another saw-mill is being erected and will be in operation before next season, and also that a schooner of from 80 to 100 tons burthen is in course of construction there, intended expressly for the coasting trade. Success to Milwaukie!

The Maine Street House, we perceive, is being considerably enlarged, thereby not only adding to its good looks, but also to its accommodations. The proprietor of this establishment, Mr. S. W. Moss, seems determined to merit the patronage of the public.

WEEKLY GOSSIP.—Capt. Stout, agent of the steamers, visited our city a few days ago. The first steamer may be expected here during next January. We do not learn as to whether Capt. S. will be able to obtain coal of the desired character in the country. We have several coal beds in the territory. But they have never been opened nor thoroughly examined, as to quality and quantity.

It is a mistake, we did not get any gold when we went to Clear creek the other day, but we got a "ducking" though.

The "gold fever" is raging again. It is said that the "abominable stuff" has been found on Pudding river, and in the vicinity of Fort Vancouver in 'big chunks.' Where is our old friend "NEDGO" that he don't inform us as to the truth.

The H. B. Company's annual express from Canada, is reported as just arrived at Vancouver.

SICKNESS IN CALIFORNIA.—In relation to the sickness at the mines in this country the "Californian" says—

Within the past month many sick persons from the mines have arrived at this place, and scarcely a launch comes down the Sacramento without more or less sick persons on board, while some die on the river. The very natural inference drawn from this by those who have never been at the mines is that they lie in a sickly section of country, and those at work there are in daily expectation of being taken sick. In our opinion, however, nothing can be farther from the truth. As far as our experience goes, it is on the larger rivers only where disease prevails, and in passing up or down upon them the persons not in perfect health is almost invariably the one to become sick. We have observed but few, very few cases of sickness in the immediate neighborhood of the mines but such as we believe would have oc-

curred under similar circumstances in any other climate. Let the miner pass the Sacramento safely, (and we would almost insure any person's doing so that was perfectly regular and temperate in ALL his habits)—let him not when he arrives at the mines, work as though he was privileged to operate for a limited time only, but, POCO POCO, resting at proper intervals;—let him abstain from free use of intoxicating drinks, living upon wholesome food—avoiding for instance, half baked hot bread;—let him sleep near the shelter of a tent, with warm bed clothing,—and if, after following our advice in all these particulars, the gold hunter becomes sick, why—we do not know any thing about the matter.

NOTHING IN PARTICULAR.

"Something for an Editorial." Really it is too bad that in the midst of our "type-sticking" we should be obliged to rack our brain with the conception of an editorial. For a "green" hand like our self, the setting of these type on end is quite engaging enough for the week, without the amusement of writing editorials. However, our assistant Editor, Mr. Scissors, grumbles a good deal about our using him so much lately, and has actually grown so "dull" upon it, that it is not without much effort that he operates at all. Therefore, a benediction upon those GOLD MINES, we are chasing up our stray thoughts, even into the remotest crannies of our mind's lodgement, for the purpose of putting them into "something for an editorial." It is not that there is not enough to write about, but it is that we do not feel in the writing vein.

Our country has closed a brilliant two years war, that has increased the glory of her name abroad, and exhibited her indomitable and magnificent power, which will have its due effect. By the treaty of peace, a large amount of valuable territory has been acquired, and the national indebtedness after all this is fixed at 67 millions of dollars. Our country is at peace, and, according to report, has at length turned her attention to the wants of the remote and long neglected people on the Pacific sea board. It is said that "patient waiters are no losers," we hope it may prove true with respect to Oregon. Lucky California has had an appropriation of \$700,000; Oregon needs but one third of this sum to pay off her indebtedness, and had it not been for the Cayuse war \$12000 would have been sufficient for the purpose.

As it is we trust that justice will be done to Oregon in this matter also—the debt—her troops should be—nay, must be paid, and her citizens receive liberal grants of land, for they came here under such assurance, and besides, they deserve this, having made the country all that it is by their industry and enterprise. Let us hope a little longer.

A few days ago we received a letter, via mouth of the Columbia river, from Mr. S. S. Ford of Lewis county, dated September 3d, detailing the particulars of the death of LEVI L. SMITH. They do not differ materially from the account we have already published of this melancholy circumstance, which occurred on the