THE SPECTATOR.

W. G. T'VAULT, EDITOR.

Oregon City, March 5, 1846.

☞ The absence of the editor will account for the want of editorial matter in the columns of this day's paper.

☞ "A Citizen" is informed that another communication, touching the subject upon which he writes, has been received, which, we presume, will be sufficient apology for not publishing his remarks.

APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR.

4TH MARCH.

JOHN H. COUCH, Treasurer, vice FRANCIS ERMATINGER, resigned.

☞ The question for debate, before the "Falls Association," on Saturday evening, the 7th inst., we understand, is—

"*Resolved*, That the tendency of the law on Ardent Spirits, is productive of more evil than good, and ought to be repealed."

Doubtless an interesting debate will be had on this question, as it is one in which the present and future interests of this entire colony are involved.

WASHINGTON BALL.

Mr. Editor—Having been present at the ball on the evening of the 24th ult., given by Capt. H. M. Knighton, I have ventured to offer a communication on the subject. I was apprehensive there would be a failure of attendance on the occasion, from a report being circulated there was to be ardent spirits served out. This speaks well for the citizens of Oregon. If they would only be as energetic in suppressing the manufacture as they are in giving their voice against the use of it, they would effect more for the cause of temperance. I can say, for one, that no one showed any signs of intoxication on the occasion, and though the room was filled, all went on smoothly and agreeably, much to the credit of Mr. K. and lady, who, I feel confident, as far as in their power, left nothing undone that would contribute to the happiness of their guests. There were three officers of H. M. S. Modeste present. I cannot give their names or rank. Not being of the *select*, I had not the honor to make their acquaintance. They appeared to be, as might be expected, quite gentlemanly, uniting "*otia cum dignitate*."

The managers were assiduous in endeavoring to make all agreeable, and I believe, succeeded. A feeling of gaity and cheerfulness appeared to pervade the room, especially with the ladies, (of whom there were not a few,) who appeared to be in the finest humor imaginable. Quite a ball, I assure you, for Oregon, and worthy the event it was intended to commemorate.

Perhaps it will not be amiss to say that, as the 22d came on the Sabbath, the ball was postponed until the 24th. Q.

A GOOD PLAN.—The Prussian government, in order to avoid as far as possible accidents upon the railroads, has founded a school at Berlin for teaching the art of directing and managing locomotives; and an ordinance has been issued that from and after the first of January, 1846, no persons shall be employed as drivers of locomotives on the railways of the kingdom but those who have been taught at this school, and obtained a certificate of their capacity.

THE BRITISH NAVY.—The number of ships of war composing the British Navy, either in commission, ordinary, or building, is 681, carrying from one to one hundred and twenty guns each. The number of vessels building at Chatham, Deptford, Pembroke, Sheerness, Woolwich, Liverpool, &c., is eighty-six, of which one is for 120 guns, six for 110 guns, five for 90 guns, one for 84 guns, and eight for 80 guns.

FRUIT AND FOREST TREES.

The following extract from an address delivered by Dr. William Darlington before the Philadelphia "Society for Promoting Agriculture," is as applicable to Oregon as any other portion of the globe. Much depends on the farmers of the present day for the future rural beauty of our land. If all who build in this country, would follow the advice given below, in half a century from this it will not be said of us as a people, "that our houses stand exposed as it were, in the open field, without a shrub or a grass-plot to cheer the inmates, or a friendly tree to protect them from the summer's sun." Let no one say, I expect to leave in a year or two; but let every man act as if he intended to spend his days where he builds.

"The first leisure of the young farmer—especially when he has erected a new residence—should be employed in laying out a neat garden, and in planting his fruit and shade trees with appropriate care and taste. That being done, the trees and shrubs will be coming on with a annual increase of beauty, shade and produce, to enhance the comforts of his rural home and solace the languid hours of age and infirmity. This is a duty which has been sadly neglected, hitherto, in Pennsylvania. It is really distressing to the eye of taste to witness the number of farm-houses in our ancient commonwealth, which stand exposed as it were, in the open fields, without a shrub or a grass-plot to cheer the inmates, or even so much as a friendly tree to protect them from the glare of the summer's sun. No resident of our naked villages, who has enjoyed a promenade beneath the arching elms which adorn the avenues of New Haven and other eastern towns, can fail to be humbled by the contrast—and to lament the tasteless, cruel negligence, the melancholy want of forecast which has prevailed among our own people. This repulsive feature of barbarism should be no longer tolerated. Every farm should be made a beautiful country seat. Such ornamental seats, instead of interfering with the essential duties of agriculture, tend rather to animate and cheer the labors of every farmer who has a soul susceptible of true enjoyment. The beautiful shade trees which surround the dwelling, as they grow old, become associated with pleasant reminiscenses in the family, and exert a delightful moral influence. The children who have grown up and disported beneath their spreading boughs, become fondly attached to them, and strongly disposed to protect and preserve them. The touching song of our countryman, Morris, owes its popularity no less to a deep seated principle in our nature, than to the engaging simplicity and pathos of its numbers. Every one who has spent the summer days of youth, under the loved shade around the paternal domicil, will be as ready as the poet to exclaim,

"Woodman! spare that tree!"

Every descendant of the patriarch who planted it, will interpose to save the venerable tree which sheltered the home of his childhood; and will remonstrate with the *Vandal* who may threaten it, in the earnest moving accents of the bard:

"'Twas my forefather's hand
That placed it near his cot;
There, woodman! let it stand.—
Thy axe shall harm it not.
When but an idle boy,
I sought its grateful shade:
In all their gushing joy,
Here, too, my sisters play'd.
My mother kissed me here;
My father press'd my hand.
Forgive the foolish tear—
But let that old *tree* stand!"

Such reminiscences of our purer day deserves to be fondly cherished; and should never be obliterated by the sterner pursuits of after-life. The tasteful arrangement of the trees and shrubbery on a farm, not only conduces to real comfort, but is the surest indication of a gentle, cultivated, and truly civilized people. It demonstrates that boorish rudeness has been superseded by refined feelings, and a just appreciation of the beauties of Nature. How delightful to the toil-worn farmer, in the evening of life, to repose in the shade of the trees which he has planted with his own hands! How grateful to the heir of the paternal mansion, to enjoy the umbrageous shelter provided by the care and taste of his revered progenitor! The shade tree thus planted, becomes, as it were, a cherished member of an affectionate family. Its longevity renders it an abiding friend of succeeding generations—a silent but most interesting witness of the advent and departure of children, and of children's children—while its aged trunk remains an emblem and a precious memorial of a line of venerable ancestry!

For the Spectator.

Mr. Editor—I notice over the signature of J. L. Meek, ex-marshal of Oregon, an article professing to vindicate the late marshal for his course and give his reasons for giving in his resignation. The writer seems to be charmed with the word "justice," and also to labor hard to show that it has not been given to him. He also tells us that "the faithful page of history furnishes innumerable examples of the baneful effects of private as well as public injustice." He also fears that our own history will add to the examples of both.

Allow me to give a plain statement of facts as I find them by a reference to the records in the hands of the secretary of the territory: Mr. Meek was elected by the people of the territory by the people at the election in May, 1843. He did not become [illegible] qualified till in July following, and was entitled to salary or compensation allowed by law [illegible] of the Oregon government. [illegible] the regular session of the legislature [illegible] for services rendered. In May, 1844, Mr. Meek was re-elected [illegible] post. In June the legislature [illegible] Mr. Meek [illegible] sergeant-at-arms to the [illegible] also made him collect [illegible] allowing him 10 per cent [illegible] also passed a law [illegible] census of the territory [illegible] Mr. Meek presented [illegible] which was [illegible] Mr. Meek's salary. In July, 1845, Mr. Meek presented to the [illegible] of his services rendered [illegible] Mr. Meek's salary [illegible] $100, making [illegible] Thus stand Mr. Meek's accounts against the government [illegible] and not to make less than $417 84 for services that must have been [illegible] the government within [illegible] months, over and above what Mr. Meek [illegible] by law, [illegible] $100. This was Mr. Meek's [illegible] dollars—he makes it [illegible] not requires, and only [illegible] low him to claim the other [illegible] *mine estimation*." [illegible] Mr. Meek [illegible] circumstances. I am [illegible] they would form a better excuse for his resignation than the want of pay [illegible] on the part of the legislature.

I must ask pardon for the length of this article, or making any reply to Mr. Meek; but I think that I have not to expect to Mr. Meek, but to a pen dipped in a compound of disappointment and political animosity [illegible] pened to a point by no [illegible] a disposition to render the [illegible] legislature of Oregon [illegible] the community. I [illegible] Mr. Meek [illegible] his unanimosity, [illegible] wherever he may be, think that the insinuations he has thrown out in the closing paragraph of his communication, they [illegible] himself, when he has not [illegible] stories of injustice to hunger [illegible] else? Does he conceive that [illegible] question, he has a right to impute the motives of a whole legislative body, and charge them with injustice? He [illegible] the whole burden of the government, and received [illegible] thing for it? Or have some other [illegible] in the burden, more than himself, and received what he imagines to be [illegible] nothing?" What, I ask, are the [illegible] of those who sat in the hall [illegible] which are [illegible] Mr. Meek [illegible] have said to his constituents that he cannot serve the government [illegible] And in what particular will the [illegible] page of history? [illegible] a law that deemed the [illegible] the tender [illegible] in fixing the [illegible] temporary government [illegible] cannot change [illegible] the people obtained [illegible] Will Mr. Meek (pardon me [illegible] tell us who rein the act [illegible] vials from the true American character, and how they are to heal the sacred relics of memory—tarnish the brightness of the sword, and force the shades she holds from their repose [illegible] Pretty language is used, but to bad purposes, and miserably applied; and I am of opinion that had Mr. Meek been satisfied with retiring from the services of the government, and keep his reasons to himself, it would have been better for all concerned.

With great respect, I am, [illegible]

A FRIEND TO THE PEOPLE.

INSTRUCTIONS TO POSTMASTERS RELATIVE TO THEIR DUTIES.

§ 1. Every person who receives the appointment of postmaster will take and subscribe [illegible] a person authorized to administer oaths, the following oath, viz: I, [illegible] do swear, or affirm, as the case may be, that I will faithfully perform all the duties required of me, and abstain from every thing prohibited by the laws in relation to the establishment of the post office and postmaster within the Territory of Oregon.

§ 2. The oath [illegible] may be taken [illegible] and certified [illegible]

§ 3. The person appointed [illegible] from the time he receives [illegible] and ending at the close [illegible]

§ 4. [illegible]

§ 5. [illegible]

§ 6. [illegible]

§ 7. [illegible]

§ 8. [illegible]

§ 9. [illegible]

§ 10. The law fix [illegible] postage [illegible] Letters [illegible] and [illegible] pamphlets [illegible] proportion [illegible] pamphlets [illegible] 10 per cent [illegible] also passed a law [illegible] census of the territory [illegible] Mr. Meek presented [illegible] which was [illegible] Feb. 06, 2-4 [illegible] E. Meek, sheriff. In July, 1844, Mr. Meek presented to the [illegible] of his services rendered [illegible] Mr. Meek's salary [illegible] August 20, 1845, [illegible] $100, making [illegible] These several items [illegible] Mr. Meek as [illegible] and not to make less than $417 84 for services that must have been [illegible] the government within [illegible] months, over and above what Mr. Meek [illegible] by law, [illegible] $100. This was Mr. Meek's [illegible] dollars—he makes it [illegible] not requires, and only [illegible] low him to claim the other [illegible] *mine estimation*." [illegible] Mr. Meek [illegible] circumstances. I am [illegible] they would form a better excuse for his resignation than the want of pay [illegible] on the part of the legislature.

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§ 12. You will receive in payment of postage, specie, and approved orders on solvent merchants. You are not authorized, in any case, to give credit for postage.

§ 13. At the beginning of every post office quarter, you will require the subscribers and others who receive newspapers regularly through your office, to pay the quarter's postage in advance, and without such payment, you will not deliver them any papers, even though they tender you the postage on them singly.

§ 14. You will permit any person who desires it, to pay the postage on any letter, newspaper or pamphlet, which he deposites with you to be sent by mail, marking upon it the rate of postage, and against the rate the word "Paid" at full length. Such paid letters are to be entered in the post bill, and when the mail is made up in the proper col-