

THE SPECTATOR.

For the Spectator.

Mr. Editor—Owing to circumstances over which we had no control, the fall and winter terms of the Oregon Institute closed on the 18th ult. This school has been in operation about one year and a half. We began with five pupils—during the last term we averaged between 30 and 40. The male department has been conducted by Mr. ALANSON HENMAN. His qualifications, fidelity, and devotedness to his work, richly merits the esteem of his employers. Mrs. WILLSON has had charge of the female department from the commencement. Her qualifications for teaching and conducting a school, are of the first order; and in a country like this, where so much depends on the correctness of the principles employed and inculcated in the education of our daughters, and in the formation of their character, we consider her eminently useful in this department, and hope she may continue.

We have also had an exhibition—not exactly theatrical, to be sure; but it was interesting to us, as it exhibited our youth, of either sex, in the laudable and successful pursuit of useful knowledge. Our young men and maidens were seen moving, understandingly, among the advanced rules and examples of Pike and Daboll, where they appeared quite at ease. As to the "fair sex," we have nothing to say of their graceful forms, or elastic step; but we received a very favorable opinion of their intellectual attainments, while we followed them with heart-felt pleasure through seven periods of history, with the events of which they appeared perfectly familiar. In their grammar, rhetoric, and philosophy, they discovered acuteness far beyond their years and opportunities. And then, to hear our little flaxen haired girls telling us more about the geography of the heavens and the earth than our old folks ever expected to know, set me to thinking, where will these things end? Shall they be encouraged or not? If encouraged, what will be the influence on community, and the results to our infant country?

Respectfully submitted by

AN OBSERVER OF THINGS.

Salem, March 10, 1846.

PUBLIC MEETING.

To the Editor of the Oregon Spectator:

Sir—I am requested to forward to you for publication the proceedings of a public meeting, which was held at Salem mills on Saturday the 14th inst.—said meeting being convened for the purpose of devising means to explore and open a wagon road from the waters of the upper Willamette to Snake river.

The meeting was organized by the appointment of Hon. J. M. GARRISON to the chair, and Jno. B. McClane secretary, when the following items of business were transacted: A subscription which had previously been circulated, was presented to the meeting, the aggregate of which amounted to one thousand dollars; whereupon, it was

Resolved, That a committee of six be chosen to still farther circulate said subscription.

The following persons were selected as said committee, viz: Jno. B. McClane, Thos. Holt, Jas. P. Martin, J. W. Boyle, A. C. R. Shaw, and Moses Harris.

The aforesaid committee were instructed to circulate the subscription as extensively as possible, and to call a meeting of the subscribers whenever they shall judge proper; also, to inquire who are willing to go on the expedition, and are competent to go as pilots, and to report the result of their inquiries to the aforesaid meeting, which is to convene at the call of said committee.

J. M. GARRISON, CH'rs.

Jno. B. McClane, Sec'y.

February 14, 1846.

For the Spectator.

Mr. Editor—"Fairly convinced of the truth of that great doctrine, that the fall of a sparrow is not unnoticed in the large scale of divine government, we are perfectly justified in the conclusion that the great events of nations are for the wisdom of their posterity, and that the highest office of human experience is to guide human conduct, and the guidance of nations is the providential purpose of history." Can we then, by perusing the annals of history, in which are recorded the great events of nations for our providential instruction, find sufficient evidence to lead us to the conclusion that Oregon ought to declare her independence? This subject is one of great moment to this people, and one which seems to be engaging considerable attention; and here we should not overlook a very great error which is generally relied on, and promulgated among us as a very great reason why Oregon should take that important step, and attempt to assume a name among the nations of the earth, is, that the United States will not lay out and expend her revenue in fortifying our seaboard, and in improving our rivers, and extend to us her protection, without, in some way, raising an equivalent by levying taxes, placing restrictions upon our imports, and limitations upon our trade and commerce, which will meet the expenditures of the territory upon the resources of the home government. Now, this is an entire mistake—an error which has crept into this country for the want of a better knowledge of her institutions, and a more familiar acquaintance with the principles of that government.

The United States has a national pride in these matters, and does not stoop to become a government of mere dollars and cents, but steps up upon the great platform of the principles of human rights, and takes a broad view of the universe, teaching the great doctrines of self-government, and capacity of man to maintain it. The United States has always extended a fostering care over her pioneers, entirely defraying the expense of the territorial government, merely dictating the form, allowing the territory a legislature, chosen from among their own inhabitants, to enact laws and establish such wholesome regulations as they, in their wisdom, might deem expedient, taking care that the laws are judiciously and faithfully administered, always providing adequate tribunals to redress the grievances and sustain the rights of the citizens, dealing out equity and justice to the people. This must forever be one of the great ends of every wise and good government, especially in a free government like that of the United States—it lies at the very basis of all its institutions. Without justice being freely, fully and impartially administered, neither our persons, nor our rights, nor our property, can be protected. And if these, or either of them, are regulated by no certain laws, and are subject to no certain principles, and are held by no certain tenure, and are redressed when violated by no certain remedies, government fails of all its value, and man might as well return to a state of savage and barbarous independence. Every one familiar with the history of the United States, will not doubt for a moment that, to ensure and establish justice, was a very prominent motive in the establishment of the national government. It is true Oregon has some articles of compact which allow a legislature, who have established courts and made provisions to ensure the faithful administration of the laws; but it is equally true that the decisions of these courts, in many instances, are disregarded and treated as mere nullities.—They operate merely by moral influence and requisition, and as such, fail of their design, and soon will sink into insignificance. These evils, whatever may be their magnitude, do not create so universal a distress or so much complaint as others of a more domestic nature, which are subversion of the first principles of justice. I allude here to certain calamities inflicted by the common cause of legislation, which go to the prostration of all public faith, and all private credit—laws made by the legislature, violating with more or less degrees of aggravation, the sacredness of private contracts—laws compelling the receipt of a depreciated and depreciating treasury script, in payment of debts—laws authorizing the delivery of certain kinds of commodity, however unproductive or undesirable, in payment of debts. In short, by the operation of script currency, tender laws, two-thirds laws, contrived with all the dexterous ingenuity of men oppressed

by debt, and popular by the very extent of private embarrassments, Oregon is almost universally plunged into a ruinous poverty, distrust, debility and indifferent to justice; so that we see, completely demonstrated by our own history, the importance of a more efficient establishment of justice, under the auspices of the home government. Now exactly, what this course of reasoning would lead us to presume as probable, has been demonstrated by experience to be true in respect to our own little government of Oregon, during the short period of its existence, and under circumstances well calculated to teach the people a lesson, and every day teaching more effectually every intelligent man the necessity of appealing to the United States, and using every exertion to induce that government to extend the regis of her laws over this country at once, that the settlers of Oregon might be relieved from that state of uncertainty and doubt which, at this moment, must necessarily prevail—securing to them a wholesome code of laws, with some probability of their execution—promoting the prosperity of our country, by giving stability to our territorial acts, and confidence to the people, and co-operate with her pioneers in extending the great republic, and in planting the American eagle upon the shores of the Pacific.

Is Oregon in a condition to ensure her security against foreign influence, domestic dissensions and various difficulties attendant to weak and effeminate governments? These, however, are not the only evils.

In small communities, domestic factions may well be expected to arise. The dangers to a republican government, from that source, have been dwelt upon by the advocates of arbitrary governments with much exultation, and it must be confessed that the history of free governments has furnished but too many examples to apologise for, though not to justify their arguments, urged not only against the forms of republican governments, but against the principles of civil liberty. They have pointed out the brief duration of republics, the factions by which they have been rent, and the miseries which they have suffered from distracted councils and corruption, in a manner calculated to increase the solicitude of every well-wisher to Oregon, should she deign to raise a national ensign, and attempt to buffet the storms of an independent government. We know but too well that factions have been the special growth of republics. To be sure, if a faction be a minority, the majority may apply, in some measure, the proper correction, by defeating or checking the violence of the minority, in the regular course of legislation. In small states, however, this is not always easily attainable, from the difficulty of combining, in a permanent form, sufficient influence for this purpose; and, indeed, in the gradual operations of factions, so many combinations are formed and dissolved—so many private resentments become embodied in public measures, and success and triumph so often after follow defeat, that the remnants of different factions, which have had a brief sway, however hostile to each other, have an interest to unite in order to put down their rivals. These evils are felt in great states, but it has been justly observed that, in small states, they are far more aggravated, bitter, cruel, and permanent.

The most sure and effectual means to control such effects in our little republic, seem most clearly to be, to cling to the United States. The authority of the home government will have a natural tendency to suppress such combinations by diminishing the chances of ultimate success, and mitigate, if it does not wholly disarm, the predominant faction. One of the surest means of peace is said to be, by being always prepared for war; but a still surer means is the power to repel, with effect, every aggression. The home government commands an immense revenue, a wider range of military power, of naval armaments and productive industry. She is more independent in her employments—in her capacities and her influences.

In the present state of the world, a few great powers possess the command of commerce, both on land and at sea. In war they trample upon the rights of neutrals, who are feeble, for their weakness furnish an excuse both for servility and disclaim. In peace they control the pursuits of the rest of the world, and force their trade into every channel by the activity of their enterprise—their extensive navigation and their flourishing manufactures. They little regard the com-

plaints of small, weak, and semi-annuated governments, and use them only as instruments to annoy or check the enterprise of each other. Such states are not formidable in peace or in war. To secure their rights and maintain their independence, they must become formidable and speak with the force of numbers, as well as the eloquence of truth. The navy or army which would be desired to be kept up in a small state, would be a grievous public burthen, and exhaust the whole resources of the state. But a navy or army for all the purposes of the home defence or protection upon the ocean, is within the compass of the resources of the home government, without any serious exaction.

Thus we see that the home government has more effectual means, more extensive jurisdiction, to promote the general welfare than can possibly be anticipated to fall to our lot, as independent Oregon. And it may be well remarked, that it will generally be directed by a more enlightened policy—a more comprehensive wisdom in the application of its means and its powers to their appropriate ends. Hitherto our experience has demonstrated the entire safety and success of the several territories subject to the home government. Each of her territories has grown in power, in vigor of operation, in commanding influence, in wealth, revenue, population, commerce, agriculture, and general efficiency. No one will venture to presume that the home government has attempted by taxes, limitations and restrictions, in any way, to secure to her the expenditures expended in aiding, keeping up and protecting her territories; but on the contrary, that government has nourished and protected her infant settlements by furnishing every means—defraying the expense of the territorial government—appropriating money for the purpose of erecting public buildings—opening and clearing rivers—laying out and constructing roads; in short, rendering every assistance, until they become sufficiently populated to be incorporated into the Union, and become entitled to all the privileges and immunities of the older states. Ought not then the government of our birth to become more deeply an object of regard and reverence, of attachment and pride? Most certainly she ought, because that government should be deemed to be the parental guardian of our public and private rights, and the natural ally of Oregon, in the administration of justice and the promotion of the general prosperity. "It should be beloved, not for its power, but for its beneficence; not because it commands, but because it protects; not because it controls, but because it sustains the common interest, and the common liberties, and the common rights of the people."

A FRIEND TO OREGON.

Oregon City, March 14, 1846.

"Where pleasure is eagerly pursued, the greatest virtues will lose their power."

HERMITAGE TOMB.

The editor of the Detroit Free Press, who recently made an excursion to the residence of general Jackson, thus describes the family vault:

"One of the most interesting scenes about the Hermitage, and one eminently characteristic of its distinguished occupant, is the monument erected by Gen. Jackson in his garden to the memory of his deceased wife. The whole, from top to base, is built of marble. First, there is a vault of circular form, twelve or fifteen feet in diameter. In the centre stands a pedestal of square hewn marble, six or eight feet high, and the whole is surmounted and sheltered by a marble roof. In the vault, on one side of the pedestal, are the remains of his wife, covered with a marble slab, on which is engraved a sublime description of her worth and virtues. On the other side is a place prepared for his own remains, which is also covered with a marble slab, and on which there is yet no inscription."

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