

# THE SPECTATOR.

Oregon City, April 2, 1846.

## EDITOR'S VALUATORY.

The editorial connection of the undersigned, with the Oregon Spectator, will close with the present number.

To obtain a printing press in Oregon, has been an object much desired; that object has been accomplished, and the publication of a semi-monthly paper commenced at Oregon City on the 5th of February last.

The proprietors of the press are the shareholders in the Oregon Printing Association. The constitution of the association was published in the first number of the Spectator; also, the names of the officers of said association, consisting of a president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and three directors. The 7th article of said constitution, in substance, says: "It shall be the duty of the officers and board of directors to manage and superintend, or procure a suitable person to do so, the entire printing and publishing concerns of the association; to employ all persons required in the printing or editorial departments of the press," &c. After the organization of said board of directors, it was deemed expedient to appoint an editor. For the purpose of ascertaining who, and upon what terms, a committee of three was appointed, consisting of Robert Newell, J. E. Long and J. W. NeSmith. Mr. Newell being the first on the committee, was considered chairman; but on account of his absence, J. E. Long acted as the chairman of the committee, and was the entire committee during all, or very near all, the time that the board of officers were figuring in selecting their editor. It will be recollected that, at that time, the acting chairman of the committee to obtain an editor, was secretary to the house of representatives, and when he did report to the board of directors upon the subject, his report was, that Mr. Lee, the then speaker of the house of representatives, would undertake the duties of editor for the sum of six hundred dollars per annum. The sum asked by Mr. Lee was, by the board, who by some of the shareholders, thought to be high; yet no person was employed as editor. Considerable excitement prevailed during the managing and maneuvering of the parties concerned, the acting chairman of the committee presented to the board of directors proposals from Mr. Lee for leasing the press, type, &c. This however could not be effected, consequently they were withdrawn. The undersigned was finally employed as editor, at a salary of three hundred dollars per annum—salary to commence the 1st of January, 1846.

In making his bow to the public as the conductor of a public journal, he declared and gave his reasons for so doing—that reason and good sense argued against the Spectator becoming a political paper—advocating the expediency of a neutral paper in this new, and at present, unprotected colony. Notwithstanding he belonged to the Jeffersonian school, believing the principles taught by that great apostle of liberty to be the true principles of a republican government—that it is the great object of such governments to devise ways and means by which the greatest amount of good may be done to the greatest number of its citizens. His political sentiments here avowed were in accordance with some of the present articles in the land, notwithstanding the ever changing columns of the Spectator should be a record of the con-

struction of the constitution of the printing association, that to discuss politics in Oregon would be no advantage to any—that there is two distinct parties in Oregon, no one will for a moment doubt—differing, however, not upon those great fundamental principles which is to govern a powerful nation, as is the case with our fellow-citizens in the United States, but upon subjects less worthy of the name. We have amongst us a class of mungrells, neither American nor anti-American—a kind of foreign hypocritical go-betweens, as we would say in the States, fence men, whose public declarations are "all for the good of the public, and not a cent for self." However the great object has not yet been accomplished. The press has got into operation, and it will not meet the interest of those who wish bolstering up in the estimation of the emigration just arrived, and the one expected this year, the present is the time for action. The political sentiments of the conductor are at variance with ours. Now is the time to effect whatever we wish to make available at some subsequent time. His syntax is bad; his orthography not good; he is a stranger to our country, and we will avail ourselves of our advantage at present, and place ourselves beyond the reach of danger for fear that if we procrastinate the time of his removal, it may be that his thorough acquaintance in the territory will endanger our prospects. A legal course will shield us, and we will say to the world, without giving him a chance to resign, that we have triumphed—that we have the ascendancy—that we will teach him a lesson—that he should not avow his political sentiments publicly; but to console him and his political friends, if he has any, we will say, you, sir, are not qualified; you do not suit that class that has to be served in and about the city; your syntax is bad; you do not work in our traces; your object is to assert and maintain the cause of democracy at the hazard of a few demagogues and political aspirants; you will please to accept the resolve that at the expiration of one month from the 5th of March, 1846, your services will be discontinued as editor of the "Oregon Spectator."

If in the course of my short editorial career, I have written aught which has wounded or done injustice to the feelings of friends or foes, I trust it may be attributed to the head, not the heart of the offender. If I know my own heart, it never has, and I hope never will harbor malice towards a fellow being.

In bidding a farewell to the readers of the Spectator, I feel it my duty to express, thus publicly, my gratitude for the uniform kindness extended to me by my fellow citizens of all parts of Oregon. Wherever my lot may be cast at any subsequent time, it shall be my proudest boast that "I am an American citizen."

W. G. T'VAULT.

Oregon City, April 2, 1846.

## MANDATE.

Well, the fiat has gone forth. The Board of Directors of the Printing Association have said that H. A. G. LEE, Esq., one of the ex-members of the last legislature, must be their editor. Of Mr. Lee we have nothing to say. He has placed himself in no enviable station. We sincerely hope that the interest of the Spectator and the Association, has been much advanced by his promotion.

It is due to the public that we should make an acknowledgment for accepting the station as editor, also of other responsible situations, with which we are no longer burthened. The great diversity of opinion in Oregon, renders it impossible for one man to please many. The jumble of aristocracy, in and about Oregon City, think they have the right to manage matters as best suit their views, and the citizens in the country will tamely submit to

whatever mandate the favored few may think proper to issue.

My lords and masters, you may be mistaken; Oregon territory is settling with the hardy freemen—as independent as the air they breathe—knows no master—acknowledges no superior, and believes there is no government equal to that of the U. States.

OFFICIAL INFLUENCE.—It could not be expected, in the present state of affairs, that one individual could stand the united opposition of the official influence of most of the important officers in the territory—such as secretary of the territory, clerk of the supreme court, clerk of the criminal court, recorder of land claims, recorder of deeds and mortgages, reviser of the laws, &c., &c., &c.

OUR DISMISSAL.—Our dismissal from the editorial chair of this paper, will not interfere with its continuance. We learn that Mr. Lee is convalescent, and it is to be hoped will soon be able to assume the duties of editor. Dr. Long informed the board that Fred. Prigg, Esq., would conduct the paper until Mr. Lee's health permitted him to assume the duties of editor. We leave the paper in a prosperous condition, and hope it may continue to merit public patronage.

The papers and books belonging to the office can be had by applying at the post office at any time.

PUBLIC MEN.—The acts of public men are for the inspection of the public; or, at least, they should be. Personal matters never ought to be made public through the medium of the press. Any person occupying a public station, or holding an office of trust or profit, must expect his official acts to be scrutinized by the public—beyond that, no one ought to be permitted to go. We may differ widely in matters of public policy from those who are our personal friends. It would be wrong to allude to that personal friend's acts. He that would do so, merits the scorn and contempt of all honorable men, and no person would do so but a demagogue and a rotten-hearted aspirant for office.

## JUNE ELECTION.

The time when the freemen of Oregon will be called upon to exercise one of their greatest franchises is fast approaching. The first Monday in June next, will be the day that will tell which party has the majority in Oregon. Let every man do his duty, and cast his vote understandingly. The power he delegates to his representative, may be of vast importance; yet it is confidently hoped that the next legislature will have nothing to do, further than to be convened early in September next, and receive the valedictory of the now governor of Oregon, and the inaugural of governor Atchison, or some other good democrat, sent by president Polk.

## C. M. WALKER.

We learn that this gentleman has consented to become a candidate for a seat in the next legislature, from Tuality county. Should Mr. W. be elected, we have no doubt but he will discharge the duties incumbent on that situation with honor to himself and credit to his constituents. Mr. W.'s natural and acquired abilities are of the first order. His long residence in Oregon and general experience, give him advantages over many. We are sure that if the free and independent voters of Tuality award to him their support, they will return an able advocate for their interests.

TO CANDIDATES.—The board of directors of the Oregon Printing Association, at one of their meetings, passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, That each person offering himself, through the paper, as a candidate for office, shall pay the sum of three dollars, in advance, for the same, to be inserted from this until the election."

For the Spectator.

## DIALOGUE.

The other day as a farmer was coming to town, he was met by a city gentleman. When they met, the usual salutations passed; and a hearty shake of the hand, when it was remarked by the city gentleman, this is a pleasant day; let us rest under the shade of this fir tree. After seating themselves on the grass, the conversation commenced, as follows:

City Gent.—Have you any news up in Yam Hill and Polk?

Far.—Why, no; nothing of importance. The people all seem to get along amazingly; yet there is some grumbling about taxes, the liquor law, and the like; but I reckon it will all be right after a while.

City Gent.—Well, I am glad you mentioned the liquor law, for I want to know what the people say about sustaining it. Now tell me what you have heard them say.

Far.—Well, now, that will be hard for me to do, for I have heard a mighty heap of talk about that liquor law; but the people almost all agree that it would be a good thing for this Pacific country to be a total abstinence country; but they think that the present liquor law is not the right stripe.

City Gent.—Why, the present liquor law is as near prohibitory as a law can be.

Far.—Yes, our up country folks understand that, and that is one objection the people have to it. They say the Organic Law that the people voted upon only give the legislature power to regulate the manufacture, sale and introduction of liquor in Oregon, and although we are not the best of scholars, yet we have looked at Webster's, Walker's and Johnston's Richard Snary's, and we can't find any place where regulate means prohibit.

City Gent.—Is it possible that you up country folks cannot so define the word regulate as to give the legislature power to pass a law regulating liquor out of the country?

Far.—It is possible, for though we know but little about law-making, or any other principles of government, except that we are farmers and know when to sow and reap, and cultivate our farms to the best advantage; yet we know that regulate does not mean prohibit, and for the legislature to say that to regulate liquor out of the country, they will pass a prohibitory law, they have out-jumped themselves; and instead of levying a tax as high as they pleased, which would have been regulating, they have made it a crime, and annexed a fine; therefore, it is not right in that particular, as well as the law does not prevent the rich from bringing in as much as they please for their own use, nor does it prevent any man from manufacturing it for his own use—then those favored few can have liquor and get drunk when they please; and another objection the people have, they say no high-minded man will set himself up as a target for the finger of scorn to point at, and say "there is the man that got half the fine for informing on A. or C." That kind of a law won't do for a new country, no matter how pretty it is. But how do you city folks get along? we heard you were holding public meetings, and doing wonders down at the city; how is that?

City Gent.—Why, we did hold a public meeting or two at the Methodist church, and had several lectures delivered—very good ones too, and signed a pledge, and appointed committees all over the territory to correspond with each other, and I believe it will have a good effect.

Far.—Well, I hope so; but we up country folks don't hear much truth, I suppose. We heard that the meetings were got up to manufacture a candidate for the legislature, and my neighbors all said it was a cunning move, but I reckon there was nothing in it.

City Gent.—Well, that is just what I might have expected—that good-for-nothing fellow, who is all the time guessing what other people want to do, has told some body that the meetings were to effect something different from what they purported to be. I know him—he can't be elected any how.

Far.—Well, friend, let us drop the liquor subject—I have some business to attend to in the city with the secretary of the territory. Who is secretary?

City Gent.—Doctor L.

Far.—My neighbor Jones sent down a land claim to get recorded. Who is the recorder?

City Gent.—The doctor.

Far.—My neighbor Smith sold his oxen and farm to friend Giles, and took a mortgage. Who is the recorder of mortgages?

City Gent.—The doctor.