



THE SPECTATOR.

H. A. G. LEE, EDITOR.—J. FLEMING, PR.

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EDITORIAL.

In assuming the duties and responsibilities of the editorial department of the "Spectator," it is due to our readers that we should state briefly the principles and objects by which we shall be governed in the management of the paper.

First: it will be one of our chief objects to support, cherish, and cultivate that spirit of friendly union, under the influence of which the members of our provisional government of Oregon first came together in compact, and said "upon these principles we will unite for purposes of mutual protection and defence, and for the preservation of peace and good order amongst ourselves." A spirit growing out of that great principle of human freedom, so beautifully expressed in the declaration of American independence—a principle embodied in, and pervading the whole constitution of the wise and happy government of the United States—a principle, indeed, which must ever form the chief cornerstone of all free governments. Let every man who thinks himself a champion of freedom and democracy, read the following, and see if he can better it: "All men are born free and equal."—*Jefferson*. "One man is not born with a horn on his leg, and another with a saddle on his back."—*Napoleon*.

We shall, also, under a sense of duty, labor to support the government of Oregon, until it shall have been superseded by the general government of the United States—not that we expect to support every measure that may have been or may hereafter be adopted by the house of representatives and approved by the governor: No! We shall at all times claim and exercise the privilege of calling in question the propriety, utility, or constitutionality of any measure, either while pending in the house, or after it has become a law. But while we claim the privilege to express any defect we may discover either in the laws themselves, or their administration, we shall still feel ourselves bound to support the laws, as a whole, believing that, in all free governments, the main body of the rules which they adopt for their own government, will be good. Indeed, if the majority of freemen could do otherwise than adopt rules and regulations founded upon principles of justice, then would all free governments be, in reality, what monarchists have pronounced and labored hard to prove them, precarious, and incompetent of self-support. But as there is no other ground upon which rational beings can agree in forming a social compact for themselves, but the law of justice, it follows that the main body of those laws must be just and equitable. So with Oregon; all will admit that her articles of compact, and most of her statutory provisions, are based upon the principles of justice and equity; although public sentiment, excited and maddened by repeated public declamations, may have led her astray on some particular subject for the moment—yet, it is impossible for her to remain in support of any measure unjust or oppressive, while the correcting power is in the hands of those who, have to suffer the inconveniences and evils of such unjust law, and experience must therefore soon bring her back to the immutable principles of justice. A rational being will not wantonly punish himself.

Of our politics, we need say but little, as they have been so often publicly expressed.

Lot it suffice to say, we believe in self-government; that a majority of the whole people hold the sovereign power; that it can never depart from them except by usurpation sustained by force of arms. Much has been said of *delegated* powers, and many politicians think, when the people have called them to perform certain specific duties, that they are vested with all the authority of the supreme power; we regard all such, as mistaken bigots. The power delegated must, from the very nature of things, be specific and limited, and never can be supreme while the government remains free, for if free, the the majority of the whole people must rule.

In conducting the "Spectator," we shall open its columns to the prudent discussion of the following subjects, viz: Politics, literature, agriculture, morality, temperance, domestic and political economy, national policy, education, common school and manual labor systems, commerce, local affairs, &c.; in short, our sheet is open to all subjects except *purely sectarianism and uncalled-for and unprofitable partyism*. We would not be understood to condemn true party spirit, by any means—far from it; we believe it one of the best safe-guards of a free government. But there is a kind of partyism unworthy of the name of party spirit, which ought more properly to be termed *faction*—which, assuming the character of true party spirit, causes much mischief, and should not be encouraged by any periodical professing the public good; and even party spirit itself may be, and often is, perverted from its legitimate use, and made an instrument of much evil. To extract the good and suppress the evil, will be our earnest desire and constant effort.

We are aware that many will look with surprise, and perhaps suspicion, too, at the word "politics," placed at the head of the list of subjects to be discussed in the "Spectator," from the fact, that heretofore the privileges of the paper have been closed against politics entirely. We understand the 8th article of the constitution of the Oregon Printing Association, as published in the first number of the "Spectator," to exclude *ex parte* politics only. This we believe to have been the true meaning of the association when they adopted that article. Moreover, politics, as we understand the term, means the science of government, and not the effervescence of fermenting partyism, or the noisy froth of spouting demagogues.

Taking this view of the subject, how the only paper published in the territory could exclude from its columns politics in every sense of the word, is to us, an enigma, the solution of which we shall never attempt.

Thus, throwing our columns open to all subjects, we most cordially invite ALL who desire to promote the interest of the country, in any sense of the term, to contribute freely to fill those columns. The whole field of science, politics, literature and natural history, is open to the author in Oregon. Let him who delights in studying the nature of the wild beasts of the forest, give us a description of these animals, together with a sketch of their history as observed in Oregon, and the difference between them here and elsewhere, for there is said to be a striking difference. Let him who is pleased with the song, the rich and beautiful plumage, and the interesting "manners and customs" of the feathered tribe, do likewise. If any is pleased with the beautiful and endless variety of flowers that decorate the plains of the Multnomah and other parts of Oregon, let him give us the result of his observations. To the geologist and mineralogist, we extend the same general invitation. All will be interesting, and more or less useful to the community.

But what shall we say to the agriculturist, the practical farmer? He, above all others,

has the power to promote the prosperity, and increase the happiness of his countrymen; and yet he is the last to be persuaded to communicate his knowledge, experiments, observations, and discoveries, to his fellow-laborers. Oh, ye delinquents! when will you wake up and redeem your characters from the imputations your derelictions have heaped upon you? Come! in the name of Ceres! arouse yourselves; put down that false pride which tells you, you cannot write well enough for a newspaper—that you will misspell some words, and that your language will not be sufficiently eloquent; put it all down! We want no fine-spun tissue of pretty words; we want common sense, sound judgment, and matters of fact, however expressed. Come, then, let us hear from you; should you perchance misspell a word, we will correct it, and no one will ever be the wiser of it.

Such of our friends as have read the Spectator up to the last number published, must be fully aware of the peculiarly embarrassing circumstances under which we enter on our editorial course. Believing, however, a generous people will properly appreciate the influence of those circumstances, we forbear all comment or remark, and frankly submit ourself and our sentiments to the test of a discriminating public.

In appealing to the friends and supporters of the "Spectator," we feel that we have some advantage over most editors, and if we should avail ourself of it, we hope our friends will excuse us. The Washington press is owned, not by the editor, but by an association of the citizens. We therefore can have no pecuniary interest in the success of the paper, but as a friend to literature and the diffusion of knowledge, we can but desire that the operation may prove successful. Therefore, we take the liberty to appeal to the proprietors: Gentlemen, you have once manifested a generous spirit of public enterprise, even when we were a small people compared with our present population; when our prospects were not so promising as at present—an effort was made to obtain a printing press in Oregon; the amount necessary was readily subscribed, and the liberality of our fellow-citizen, Geo. Abernethy, generously tendered in advance, the funds suitable. Your efforts, thus far, have been entirely successful; the press has been obtained; it is now in operation; the greatest difficulties are surmounted, but the work is not yet done; an effort still remains to be made; the Spectator must be encouraged and supported, or the operation cannot be profitable, but sadly the reverse.

My friends, allow us to ask, what have you done for the paper? What effort have you made to increase its circulation? Remember, it is your own interest, not ours; therefore, we have spoken freely. Exertion is necessary. The whole number of subscribers, up to this time, is only one hundred and fifty-five, in a population that ought to furnish at least five hundred.

The Falls Association was instituted in January, 1844, for the mutual advancement of its members, in discussion and composition, since when, many animated debates, on interesting and useful subjects, have taken place—perhaps, we might say, too animated occasionally, when the question affected our peculiar political situation; if no very weighty results have been produced, it tended at least to relieve the monotony of our drizzly winters, and something more, if we may infer from the numerous assemblage oft-times witnessed on the nights of meeting.

The essays and compositions having been preserved, we shall, with the permission of the members, occasionally cull from the repository, such as we may conceive worthy of placing in a spare column of the "Spectator," as among the early effusions of Oregon.

We can but express our humble thanks to the Almighty for the preservation of our life, through the late severe illness with which we have been afflicted.

From the Repository of the Falls Association.

Upon Mount Hood I stand,
And with rapt gaze explore
The valley, and that patriot band
Upon Columbia's shore.

If the contemplation of ruins of former greatness, with the long grass o'ertopping the mouldering walls, gives rise to melancholy reflections and sombre thoughts, how opposite and exceedingly delightful, are the feelings engendered and excited by a meditative view of scenes, just bursting from torpidity and insignificance, into life and animated importance—a sterile and savage wilderness just budding into a fertile and civilized region; such feelings are mine—as I take my fancied stand on yonder snow-clad peak, with naught above me, save heaven's high canopy, and the occasional passage of the lordly eagle, who, floating mid air on his expansive wings, screams with delight his praise of love and liberty. There, with a breast throbbing with rapturous hope, I view the plains of far west Oregon, gradually give forth the pleasing demonstration of the presence of the Anglo-Saxon race, "not as conquerors with roll of drum—not as the flying with silence and with fear," but proud, erect and free—the improver of nature and tiller of the soil—producing vegetation where none e'er grew before, and where one blade was only seen, making tens appear—what obstacles has not that race removed, to make advantages apparent, and what transitions will they not produce in this selected portion of the western world! A few short years will scarce roll o'er, ere, instead of glancing far and wide, to find a well tilled farm and comfortable abode, 'twill be more difficult to point out a spot without such an appendage, where now the mills appear but rare, their absence will be rarer still; and many a spot, where curls the smoke from matted wigwam barely seen, hundreds of well filled hearths will blaze around, sending forth their rolling columns to the skies, as a mighty cloud of incense, from the cheerful groups within. Cities will arise and towns spring from their sites, as if by spell of genius' magic wand, and genius 'tis—the genius of enterprise, industry, and skill. Each revolving year will bring her thousands on the wings of hope, to add their portions of divided toil, and reap the benefits of our temperate climate and virgin soil. Methinks I see the present starting band of hardy pioneers, the sister band, of that which last arrived, on tiptoe, watching to move at the command. O, on they come, and each year echoes still, they come! Then will the glassy surface of thy basaltic barrier'd stream, O, proud Columbia, which now rolls at my feet, with naught to stud thy bosom but the rude canoe, be fretted and chafed with mimic surf, by the sail-less and majestic monuments of Fulton—then will thy old companions, the lofty and gigantic pines, fall victims to the demand of that leviathan, steam; and where now one solitary craft is anchored seen, the towering masts of hundreds will appear, bringing the treasures and luxuries of the Pacific, and receiving, in return, the more solid and useful surplus of Oregon's multifarious productions. Thy shores, so uninviting at this moment, will then be wharfed and warehoused along their margins, and strong built forts will frown from thy o'erhanging crags—thy *embouchure*, with bar so dangerous to the stranger, will cause no longer fear or dread, for watchful pilots, with experienced knowledge, will steer each bark to port, safe from the rocks, the shoals, the waves, and wind. Thy noble name, till now almost unknown, will pass from hence to the Polynesian isles, from isles to Indus, China and Japan, as an ample depot of desired stores—a refitting port of the North Pacific, and where resides that enterprising band who crossed the mountain barrier from the east. Yes, Oregon, thou once despised land of crags and peaks! loon shall thy vales be blazoned to the world, as richer than those climes where mines abound: thy treasures grain, more precious far, than pearls or gems from famed Golconda's depths—for, where pale famine holds her melancholy court, or golden lands yield no amount of food, the balance of exchange will in thy favor be, as life to death. And though the hazy fog of moisture hangs darkening o'er thy plains for near three long and dreary months of winter, and the dim sun scarce glimmers through the storm, yet