

Latest Intelligence.

By the arrival of the H. B. Co's ship Columbia, we are enabled to give the following items of news:

The Columbia left the Downs in the British Channel, on the 11th October last, and arrived at Sitka on the 29th March, freighted with supplies for the Russian American company, touching at no intermediate port. She brings no papers or letters, as a chartered ship was receiving cargo for the Sandwich Islands and this country, and expected to sail during the month.

All was quiet in the political horizon. Mr. McLean, (supposed to be Judge McLean of Ohio,) had been appointed Minister from the U. States, and had just arrived in England, to arrange the Oregon question, and from his known moderate and decisive character, it was confidently hoped an amicable arrangement would be effected.

The Captain saw a large frigate entering the straits De Fuca as he left Victoria, supposed to be the British frigate America, but did not speak her.

The French army had experienced a defeat at Algiers, their loss amounting to 5000 men.

Two calamitous fires had occurred at Quebec, Canada, by which 26 streets were entirely destroyed.

Bishop Blanchette, upon arriving in Europe, had proceeded to Canada—from thence he returned to France. He expected to freight a vessel with supplies for the Catholic Missions in Oregon.

Queen Victoria was daily expected to add to the list of responsibilities for England's benefit.

Waked Up!

We addressed a few words in our last, to our political friends, designed to awake them from the peaceful slumber of indifference into which they seemed to have fallen. It has taken effect, and aroused at least one, who subscribes himself "A spectator of the proceedings of the Oregon legislature." We feel gratified that the attention of one even has been arrested, while we regret that our "observing" friend, in the half-consciousness of the waking moment, so far forgot himself, as to rush from his chamber in dishabille before he had wiped from his opening eyes the damps of slumber, thus exposing himself to the chances of public observation. We hope, however, our friend will rub his eyes a little, and re-peruse those remarks, believing he cannot fail, when wide awake, to "perceive" a difference between a BILL or (in his own language) a "law," and a specific political principle involved in that bill. The object to which we invited the attention of the statesmen, was not Mr. Bassett's bill, but the principle or policy of "taxing litigation," as our very "observing" friend will "perceive" by referring to our remarks in the 7th No. of the Spectator. But this is quite a trifling mistake, compared with our friend's "recollection" of the bill in which this subject was introduced in our legislature, which he tells us was "headed a bill to prevent litigation." Now the truth is, that bill said not a word about taxing litigation, as may be seen by a reference to the file of papers in the secretary's office. The policy was proposed in the revenue bill, and if the "observing spectator" will take the trouble to examine the 2d section of this law, as published in the 3d No. of the Spectator, he will find a relic of the principle in question; and, if he be really observant, he will find another small mistake of his corrected, i. e. the litigation tax was never proposed to be paid into the "territorial," but into the county treasury; and consequently, could not go to "augment" the salaries of territorial officers. These are slight blunders, for one just emerging from the murky twilight of departing mental slumbers; and since our friend "wishes to have things fairly stated," we hope he will himself, in future, make some little effort to state things as correctly as circumstances will allow. Finally, he promises (should he be elected) to "guard the rights of the home and sinew of the country." That is right—we wish him great success in such laudable vigilance, for we are confident that, upon the "home and sinew" must depend the strength of the country.

A Scene in an Oregon Court.

Clerk.—Shall I call John and James Johnson.
Sheriff.—John and James Johnson! John and James Johnson! John and James Johnson! come into court.
Clerk.—Call one at a time.
Sheriff.—Come one at a time! Come one at a time! Come one at a time!
Clerk.—You've fix'd it, now!
Sheriff.—You needn't come, they've fix'd it without you! You needn't come, they've fix'd it without you! We left about that time.

On the Stamp.

On Monday next, (18th,) the several candidates of Clackamas county will address their fellow-citizens, from the stamp, in Oregon City.

This will be something new in Oregon, and as Monday will be the first day of the county court, we expect to see quite a crowd of voters, and not a few candidates, though we know of but eight for the legislature.

The Currency.

It is a sad truth that, at present, there is much complaint of the currency of the country, especially among the farmers and mechanics; and it is a fact, equally lamentable, that there is but too much ground for such complaint; but the question is, who is to be blamed? Where is the fault? Many persons charge it to the merchants—others to the legislature—while others, doing a more wholesale business, fix the blame upon every one but themselves. That merchants and traders should avail themselves of the advantages afforded by the peculiar circumstances of any country, to profit by them, is nothing but human nature—that the legislators, though honest and wishing to do the best for the country, should err through ignorance, is equally consistent with the character of men, and, to complete the series of axioms, to complain is one of man's natural and unalienable rights, claimed and exercised by all at their own discretion, from Adam in his coat of leaves down to the skin-clad settler in Oregon. Thus, by a chain of self-evident truths, we arrive at the conclusion, that the whole matter is perfectly natural and consistent with the perversity of human nature.

Perhaps the greatest fault of the few merchants we have is, that they have been too liberal with their favors of credit, and thereby induced, or at least allowed us to go too extensively in debt. The legislature, fully apprised of the fact that the people were generally in debt, and fearing a general effort to force payment would be made by the merchants, and knowing there was not a sufficiency of the precious metals to pay the debts of the country, thought it their duty to do something to save the debtor from a ruinous sacrifice of property; consequently, they passed an act, making government scrip, accepted orders on solvent merchants, and wheat, a legal tender for taxes and all judgments and decrees, &c., &c. There is nothing in the Organic Law to prevent the passage of such an act; yet we all know that it is contrary to the constitution of the United States, and that, should that government favor us with their jurisdiction, this law would, of course, become null. The immediate effect of this act of the legislature, as might have been seen from the first, has been to check the credit system, and this checking has, doubtless, called forth the murmuring complaints of the real, as well as the would-be debtors. We regard the whole affair as a misfortune, the evils of which are felt by all classes in Oregon. We are still, as we have ever been, opposed to making the currency a subject of legislation, for we think it almost impossible to make any change of the "legal tender," without affecting, more or less, private contracts. Could we have our own individual choice of a legal tender, it should be the precious metals only, and to this we believe we will be compelled to come ultimately—perhaps the sooner the better.

Our Prospects.

We have recently been presented with a specimen of red paint, said to be found in considerable quantities on the waters of the Clackamas river. This paint, when calcined, ground with oil, and properly applied to wood, forms a good body on the surface, of a clear red color, resembling red lead. We have also seen some iron ore, found near this place. Sand stone, of the best grit for grind-stones, as well as of a quality suitable for building purposes, is found in considerable quantities on the Columbia river, and lime-stone has been discovered in different places. While the news of these discoveries comes pouring in upon us from every quarter, like a shower of national blessings, we can but exclaim, what is there of utility or convenience, that will not soon be discovered in Oregon? As these sources of wealth, comfort and convenience, develop themselves one after another, in rapid succession, the mind is naturally led into a train of pleasing anticipations of the future wealth and glory of our now infantile republic. With an article of wheat, inferior, perhaps, to none in the world, for our main staple—a soil and climate by nature, perfectly adapted to its production—pastoral advantages equal to any on the green earth—exhaustless forests of pine, fir, spruce and hemlock timber, not only suitable for an excellent quality of sawed lumber, but also for masts, spars, &c., numbers of which are already being exported by the Hudson's Bay Company—streams which not only afford us facilities for interior navigation, but bring us annual supplies, in vast abundance, of that most excellent fish, the SALMON; with all these natural advantages placed in the hands of the industrious and enterprising immigrants, who are fast spreading over the fertile plains, which seem still to invite, by their beauty and convenience, the annual ingress of American settlers, what may we not expect of individual wealth, commercial interest, and national distinction? With these resources, give us a good and

efficient government, well administered, or rather, give us the protection and jurisdiction of the United States, and nothing but a PROVIDENTIAL interposition, or a criminal supposition, can prevent our national, as well as our individual prosperity and happiness.

Theatre at Vancouver.

That happy ship, (H. B. M. S. "Modeste,") was a scene of mirth and amusement upon Tuesday evening, the "Corps Dramatique" again performing before a fashionable and crowded audience. The musical and favorite comedy of "Love in a Village," followed by the "Mock Doctor" and the Mayor of Garratt," were the plays of the evening, and we have to congratulate the whole performers in having so ably sustained their characters, and to thank those "tars" for the rich treat afforded us, in the far west, upon this occasion, as well as for the variety of attractions during the past winter. A PLAIN MAN.

The theatrical performances aboard the "Modeste" were followed up on Wednesday by a choice picnic party given by Captain Baillie, to a numerous circle of his friends in Oregon. The weather was threatening in the morning—however, the produce of the purveyor was early conveyed to the lovely spot picked out upon the "Dairy Plains," and the "good things of this life" tastefully laid out upon the green sward. Gallant steeds were in readiness for the company, and gentlemen vied with each other in politeness to assist the "blooming fair" to and from their saddles. A cavalcade of about 40 started, and it was really a pleasing scene to witness them scampering across the plains. All were soon transported to the lovely banks of the big lake, and squatted in true picnic style around the festive board—happiness depicted in every countenance—the sun shone forth in all his glory just as the feast began, adding lustre to the rosy cheeks present. A few hours were thus passed in the most agreeable manner, when the company again returned to Vancouver, delighted with this novel variety of amusement.

A ball and supper followed the above repast, given by the Captain and officers of the ship. The "faisans" were more numerous, and even more bewitching in their dresses, step, and grace, than on former occasions. Dancing was kept up with great liveliness, and it was pleasing to see the spirit of urbanity and happiness that prevailed in this brilliant assembly.—Com.

Vancouver has, during the week, presented a display of beauty, fashion, and gaiety. One can hardly walk a hundred yards without meeting pretty faces and gay costumes. The weather, generally fine, and the Modeste's entertainments seem to have brought out the "butterflies," and made our locality quite a scene of animation. We send you a list of arrivals to attend the sport. A CORRESPONDENT.

LIST.

- Mr. A. L. Lewis, from Lewis creek.
- Mr. & Mrs. & Misses Birnie, from Fort George.
- Mr. McPherson, from Scappoose.
- Mr. Roe, do do.
- Mr. Buck, do do.
- Mr. & Mrs. T. Smith, from Tualaty Plains.
- Mr. & Mrs. Raines, do do.
- Mr. & Mrs. C. McKay & family, do do.
- Mr. Burston, do do.
- Mrs. A. McKay, do do.
- Miss Mary Spence, do do.
- Captain H. M. Knighton, from Oregon City.
- Mr. Phineas Hunt, do do.
- Captain Newell, from Champoeg.
- Captain Cook, of the "Callipoolah."
- Miss Buck, from Tualaty county.
- Miss Anny Raines, do do.
- Mr. & Mrs. William McKay, from the Falls.
- Mrs. Solomon Smith, from Clatsop.
- Mr. & Mrs. Burris, from Tualaty Plains.
- Mr. William Flet, do do.
- Mr. & Mrs. Roumia, do do.
- Mrs. Logie, Souve's Island.

For the Spectator.

Mr. Editor—The attention of the politicians of Oregon has been called to a certain law offered by Mr. Bassett in the Missouri legislature, which the writer, in the 7th No. of the Spectator, informs the public had been called up in our legislature, and after a partial discussion, condemned; but which he thinks, under a more enlightened investigation, would result in a different verdict. Although we may not claim to be one of the class whose attention is called to this subject, we nevertheless feel ourselves interested in having things fairly stated, that correct conclusions may be arrived at. Being an observing spectator of the proceedings of the Oregon legislature, we were present when the bill referred to was under consideration; but cannot perceive the analogy it bears to that of Mr. Bassett's law, which had for its object the retrenchment of the salaries of nearly all the officers belonging to the county of St. Louis, Missouri, and raising a fund of \$3 per suit, expressly to pay jurors—while that of the Oregon legislature was headed "A bill to prevent litigation," and required the party unsuccessful to pay into the territorial treasury for each suit brought before a justice of the peace \$3, and for each suit before the

county court \$7, besides perquisites allowed clerks, &c., amounting, if we recollect right, to about \$10 or \$12, if an appeal be taken, which was over and above the ordinary expense of suits in these courts, and intended, as the heading of the bill would indicate, to act as a bar to further proceedings at court, or to create a territorial fund, NOT for JURORS ALONE, as Mr. Bassett's bill proposed, but, for aught we know, to augment the salaries of the very officers Mr. Bassett's law proposed to diminish, while there was a strong effort made by some of the friends of that bill to repeal the law allowing jurors their present per diem allowance, and an exclamation against the small sum allowed by the laws of Oregon to judicial officers. Judge now how much analogy this law has to that proposed in the Missouri legislature, and then, if it be necessary to raise a jury fund from persons litigant, why not adopt the old and usual plan by summing up in the cost the fee of each juror, and authorize the sheriff or constable, as the case may be, to collect and disburse the same without having it fleeced by the host of officers through whose hands it must pass before it reaches the honest juror. Had we the honor to be one of the class whose attention has been called to this subject, we should strictly go against creating salaried offices, which is the parent to those office-seek drones, or gentlemen of leisure, who so frequently fill the cities and villages of the states, and who become political demagogues, exercising, in some instances, a controlling influence over the unsuspecting bone and sinew of the country, while we should consider it our duty, in every instance, to guard the rights of that bone and sinew, not only in their just dues from the government, but in the just amount they should contribute to its support. A SPECTATOR.

For the Spectator.

Mr. Editor—The people of Oregon being of different nations, and in a land over which no power exercised exclusive sovereignty—their numbers increasing, and their interests bringing them in collision with each other, without any laws by which to adjust disputes, punish crime, or keep the peace—found it absolutely necessary to establish some rules, by the observance of which they could live together in peace and harmony.

These rules—our articles of compact—have been established, and though in many respects defective, are in spirit just and equitable, and however weak a base they may be for a government, yet, as they are founded upon just principles, they will serve as a guide to honest men in the adjustment of differences, and impose at least a moral restraint upon the vicious; and so long as they are adhered to, the great object for which governments are instituted, will be secured to the people of Oregon.

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to the Organic Law, not only for their actual bad policy, but also on account of their tendency to prevent the inviolate maintenance of this compact, to which all parties in Oregon have given their sanction.

I hold to the doctrine, that, though a constitution may provide for its own amendments, by the concurrence of certain majorities, yet an amendment changing the fundamental principles of the government, oppressive to the minority or depriving them of rights secured to them by the original compact, cannot be binding upon that minority; therefore, amendments, though in themselves of little importance, should be ventured upon with extreme caution, as they open the way to more serious inroads upon the original instrument, by which a minority, by oppression, may be driven to defend themselves by force, which, if successful, is revolution—if unsuccessful, rebellion.

The people of the British colonies in America, though a minority in the empire, claiming the rights secured to British subjects by their constitution, resisted a tax imposed upon them by a parliament in which they were not represented—success gave birth to a great nation—will any one say a contrary result to our revolutionary struggle would have changed the principle contended for?

But as principles, like mathematical truths, are in their nature immutable and eternal, if it ever has been, it forever will be, just for minorities to resist oppression. Therefore, any change in our Organic Law, depriving any portion of the citizens of rights secured to them by the original compact, cannot be binding upon them; and if the Oregon government, in the plenitude of its power, cannot exert physical force sufficient to ar-