



# THE SPECTATOR.

H. A. G. LEE, EDITOR.—J. FLEMING, PR.

Oregon City, July 23, 1846.

☞ Duncan McLean was committed to jail on Friday last, (17th inst.) on suspicion of having murdered a Mr. Owens.

☞ The Rt. Rev. NORBERT BLANCHETT was consecrated Bishop of Oregon territory on the 15th of July, 1845, in the Roman Catholic Cathedral, at Montreal, Canada.

A HINT TO SUBSCRIBERS.—A Sandwich Island paper says, that for a year it had but one delinquent subscriber. Think of this, ye civilized christians.

THE STATUTE LAWS OF OREGON.—The publication of the laws is suspended for the present, the governor not feeling himself authorized to fill, by executive appointment, the vacancy occasioned by the death of Dr. Long, who was appointed by the legislature to revise and prepare said laws for publication.

## CALIFORNIA.

We give below a copy of the Proclamation issued by Wm. B. Ide, one of the emigrants from the U. States to California. Mr. Ide is said to be a Mormon—one of the twelve apostles of Jo Smith. He has a small body of armed men united with him, and under his command; they have succeeded in taking possession of Sonoma, which the commander now makes his head quarters, and from which he issues the following

### PROCLAMATION.

"To all persons, citizens of Sonoma, requesting them to remain at peace, and to follow their rightful occupations without fear of molestation.

"The commander-in-chief of the troops assembled at the fortress of Sonoma, gives his inviolable pledge to all persons in California, not found under arms, that they shall not be disturbed in their persons, their property or social relations, one to another, by men under his command.

"He also solemnly declares his object to be, first, to defend himself and companions in arms, who were invited to this country by a promise of lands on which to settle themselves and families; who were also promised a republican government; who, when having arrived in California, were denied even the privilege of buying or renting lands of their friends; who, instead of being allowed to participate in, or being protected by a republican government, were oppressed by a military despotism; who were even threatened by proclamation from the chief officer of the aforesaid despotism, with extermination if they would not depart out of the country—leaving all their property, their arms and beasts of burden; and thus deprived of the means of flight or defence, we were to be driven through deserts inhabited by hostile Indians to certain destruction.

"To overthrow a government which has seized upon the property of the Mission for its individual aggrandisement; which has ruined and shamefully oppressed the laboring people of California by their enormous exactions on goods imported into this country, is the determined purpose of the brave men who are associated under his command.

"He also solemnly declares his object in the second place, to be, to unite all peaceable and good citizens of California, who are friendly to the maintenance of good order and equal rights, (and I do hereby invite them to repair to my camp at Sonoma without delay,) to assist us in establishing and perpetuating a republican government, which shall secure to all civil and religious liberty; which shall detect and punish crime; which shall encourage industry, virtue and literature; which shall leave unshackled, by fetters of commerce, agriculture and mechanism.

"He further declares that he relies upon the rectitude of our intentions; the favor of heaven and the bravery of those who are bound to and associated with him by the principle of self-preservation; by the love of truth and by the hatred of tyranny for his hopes of success.

"He further declares, that he believes that a government to be prosperous and happy in its tendency, must originate with its people, who are friendly to its existence; that its citizens are its guardians; its officers and its servants, and its glory, their reward.

(Sd.) WILLIAM B. IDE, Commander.

"Head Quarters, Sonoma, June 15, 1846." There are many things in the above which we cannot comprehend, and which we think will be found hard to be understood by most of our readers—such, for instance, as the invitation given to Mr. Ide and his party to immigrate to California by the promise of lands and the enjoyment of a republican government. The Proclamation leaves us entirely in the dark as to the source from whence those promises emanated—whether from the proper authorities of California, or from some individual wishing to settle a colony in that country; nor are we informed as to whom the promises were made—whether to Mr. Ide & Co., as Mormons, or as American citizens. The whole affair, however, is but another fact in evidence of the now unquestionable truth, that the spirit of republicanism and free trade is abroad in the world, and its tread is disturbing the protracted repose of Mars, the god of battles. Republicanism—in the proper sense of the term, like all other truths—has nothing to fear so much, as the indiscretion of her avowed votaries.

## GREAT FIRE IN NEW YORK, JULY 19, 1845.

Abridged from the account in the N. Y. Spectator.

New York has fallen again, we regret to say, into the line of great conflagrations. The fire originated in the four story brick building, No. 34, New street—soon communicated with Crocker & Warren's store in Broad-st., in which a very large quantity of saltpetre blew up, with one of the most tremendous explosions ever heard or felt in that city. The building itself was scattered in fragments in an instant, together with several adjoining stores, and five or six on the opposite side of Broad street. The shock was felt far and near. A number of doors were blown open in Pine-st., and shutters dealt with in the same way in Greenwich street. The windows of the American Exchange Bank, though of plate glass three-eighths of an inch thick, were completely shattered. After the explosion, it was seen that several buildings, in different directions, had taken fire and were burning simultaneously. The fire extended through New street, and the whole of that street from Exchange to Beaver street, is in ashes. In Broad-st the destruction is immense—both sides of that noble street, from Exchange-place to Marketfield street, including three numbers above, on each side, being one mass of smoking ruins, with not a wall standing. From New street the fire soon extended to Broadway, sweeping all before it. The whole of the east side of Broadway from the Waverly House, including that noble hotel, to the Bowling Green, was consumed. The fire went through Beaver and Stone to Marketfield street. The flames soon crossed Broadway, and burned all the buildings from Morris street to No. 13. From the latter building it extended west toward Greenwich, but fortunately did not reach that street. A number of lives were lost. N. York readers are aware that the burnt district is the most important and valuable part of the city, being composed of large and costly buildings, filled with expensive merchandize. The French and German merchants congregated chiefly in that district.

The following table show something in the neighborhood of the number of houses destroyed:

Broadway	38
New street	30
Broad-st.	69
Exchange-place	30
Beaver street	44
South William-st.	16
Marketfield-st.	33
Stone-st.	9
Total	269

A large majority of which were what are called first class stores. Total loss estimated at \$15,000,000—losses of the insurance companies about \$5,217,000.

### For the Spectator.

MR. EDITOR.—A venomous or sphenetic tirade came forth in No. 11 of the Spectator, under the signature of X. Y. Z., aping a review or criticism of certain amusements, theatricals, improvements, &c., contributed to your columns in former numbers. Not to mention the ill-condensed aspersions of this "judgment passing" gentleman, it is evident that he has either had much difficulty in hatching this thapsody of unmeaning asseverations, or that he has suffered the torture of poor Mr. Caudle in "curtain lectures," as one paragraph of his production breathes the very essence of envy, where he alludes to the flattering compliments paid to the beauty, grace, &c., of the ladies of Tualaty Plains who attended these innocent gaities, and which he in the supremacy of his wisdom, seems disposed to condemn. Hear him! "I cannot but think that one of the young ladies mentioned, would blush if one of her acquaintances, even in jest, were to ask her if she were one of the fair sex whose name was paraded in the Spectator as possessing so much beauty, ease, and grace in her step." I do not know the fair one whom this judge of accomplishments is so invidious to point out, but of this I am certain, that the ladies alluded to, in our estimation, combined all the qualities mentioned, with all deference to the experience and profound judgment of this would-be dictator of taste. Had his 'Mrs. Caudle' or lady love been present at the sports, and partaken of these deserved encomiums, this sneer at the "so many that were from the Tualaty Plains," would have most likely been spared. But it is to the concluding sentence of this gruff complainant, that I more particularly advert. His plenitude of intellect would point out to you, sir, that your columns should be taken up with something more instructive than Oregon fashions, theatres, &c. You are the best judge of this, I presume; but we wonder that he has been so late in enlightening the public with something of a graver cast, more sage, and of a deeper dye, than this bilious emission which he has now discharged. In a rising colony like Oregon, surely there can be no impropriety or harm in appraising the world, through your columns, that we advance in industry, in buildings, in passage boats, and that there are recreations and diversions to those who have a taste for them, notwithstanding the illiberal snarls of this sapient critic. The press, the palladium of liberty, and conductor of information from the highest to the lowest subject in all civilized countries, which we take it for granted this "Delphian oracle" must know, allots a space for local improvements, theatres, balls, &c., and generally gives a list of the company present at the latter; and we have only to refer him to the New York and London papers where he will find "more outrageous and ridiculous excess," (his own pretty quotation,) in advertisements, than that of the "gummed, caulked and greased boats" which is so offensive to his refined feelings. It has even gone the rounds of the public prints, that the great lawyer and orator Lord Brougham, is the best Polka dancer in Europe. Who knows but we might yet hear of some of the Oregonian legal functionaries taking to this amusement, as remarkable occurrences take place in every corner of the globe, of men daily changing their opinions, principles, and manners.

A FRIEND TO JUSTICE.

## Fourth of July at Salem.

At the close of the oration, which will be found on the fourth page of this paper, the company was marched to the dinner table, which was laden with the Oregon substantial, even to breaking down. After dinner the following toasts were read:

### REGULAR TOASTS.

1. *The Day we Celebrate*—It gave birth to one of the proudest republics ever known in the annals of the world. May its return be hailed with gratitude by all true Americans.
2. *The Framers of the Declaration of Independence*—Their names are immortal; they rest from their labors; long live their glories; peace to their shades.
3. *George Washington*—A name embalmed in the heart of every patriot; great in goodness, and good in greatness.
4. *The Officers of the American Revolution*—Brave, intrepid, unyielding in their country's cause—we, their children, reap the reward of their labors.
5. *The Soldiers*, who, when our rights were invaded, gloriously volunteered in defence of equal rights, and poured out their blood to water the tree of liberty which was just budding—quiet be their repose beneath the lonely mound on the blood drenched field; may we, their children, never waste our inheritance, or dishonor the flag which they have gloriously planted.
6. *Our Mothers, who lived through the Revolution*—May our sisters emulate their example.
7. *Our Country*—The Beacon Star to nations; the birth-place of freedom; so long as liberty shall find an abiding place on the earth, America will be hailed as her home.
8. *The President of the United States*—The people's choice, and Oregon's friend, will teach the tyrant's of the earth that freemen, in defence of their rights, are invincible.
9. *The Army and Navy of the United States*—May they ever be cheered by the consistent example of their predecessors.
10. *Americans*—You have nothing to fear while every man erects the pyramid of his own fame.
11. *The Sage of the Hermitage*—Like Joshua of old, commanded and monopoly stood still.
12. *The Constitution of the United States*—The great chart of freemen's rights.
13. *The American Fair*—May they continue in accomplishments, which add so much lustre to beauty and innocence.

### VOLUNTERS.

By Napoleon B. Evans.—MR. HOLDEN & MISS LOONEY.—To whose liberality and patriotism we are indebted for the Banner presented to, and so enthusiastically received by, the Oregon Rangers.

By W. H. Wilson.—JAMES K. POLK AND THE INSANE MESSAGE.—May its noble principles be carried out.

After which the assembly repaired to the stand, and listened with great attention to a sermon from Rev. Mr. Clark.

### For the Spectator.

MR. EDITOR.—Since my last communication, we have had four ship arrivals, but I am not certain that this will much relieve our former condition; two of them belong to the Hudson's Bay Company, one only of which has goods on her, and the remaining two are under the control of Mr. Stark, supercargo, and agent of the house at this place, which is connected with that of Benson & Brothers, New York. The vessels of the H. B. Co. are confined to the business of that company, and the other two are American vessels, and confine themselves to the trade of the house just mentioned, refusing freight unless at 50 per cent. on former prices, and passage at 100 per cent. Thus our monopoly works, which seems to derive assistance from one of the papers at the Sandwich Islands. The avenues of trade are closed to all but those connected with these companies. They fix the price of their merchandize and that of our surplus produce, to suit an insatiable thirst for gain, whilst our indigent families and unoffending women and children must pay the penalty. I will give an example: Last fall, after the large emigrating party had arrived, it was ascertained that salt would be scarce; it immediately raised from 62½ cts. per bushel, (the price we had formerly paid for it at Vancouver,) to that of \$2 cash, and was sold through the winter, at the store of John McLaughlin, at this price, whilst this sum, in cash, was not sufficient to satisfy the cupidity of Mr. Stark and F. W. Pettygrove, who control the house at this place, connected with that of Benson & Brothers, having the monopoly of the salmon trade in view, they refused sale, at all prices, leaving many of our families, who had means to pay, without this necessary seasoning in their beverage, for months at a time, when they had hundreds of bushels in store, and had actually effected the object I supposed they had in view. I have before stated that the credit system had ceased, and the goods are paid for either in cash, lumber, or wheat delivered at the graneries or mills of the merchants, and orders at the stores must be based upon the deposit of these articles—the price of the latter article, which is a staple production of this country, is purchased at prices regulated by the Hudson's Bay Company and American merchants, which is from 60 cts. to \$1 per imperial measure, if sold to the H. B. Company; or, in other words, from 60 to 100 dollars for one hundred and eleven bushels

American measure. This is paid for, as well as all other surplus productions of this country, in dry goods and groceries alone. I understand that the price fixed for wheat by the H. B. Company, the ensuing year, is that of 60 cents per bushel, whilst the New York papers, just received, tell us that \$1 30 to \$1 35 cts. cash per bushel, American measure, is paid for an article which is undoubtedly inferior to ours; while hundreds of barrels thus purchased, are shipped on a voyage of six months around Cape Horn, and sold at Honolulu—the same market at which most of ours is disposed of. Thus we have a data to calculate their profits, and must demand a solution of this phenomenon by those who understand it, if it is not the effects of monopoly, and a speedy relief by those who have it in their power.

President Polk says in his message that we have a just right to complain of the tardy movements or neglect of our government. We join him most heartily, and would ask this relief, if none other, that the supplies for the American navy, now in the Pacific, be purchased in this valley, not of the various monopolies which control the markets, but of the *bona* and *sine*—our FARMERS. Our merchants with ships, who wish to embark in this trade, would do well to send some of them here, as freight, &c., is nearly as high from the Sandwich Islands to this place as from New York here. We give the prices of the Toulon on her last voyage from Honolulu, which vessel made the Columbia river in 22 days: Freight per ton \$24; per barrel \$3; cabin passage \$100; steerage do. \$10; and these vessels, now in port, demand an increase in freight from \$16, the former price for shipping lumber to Honolulu, to that of \$24 per ton, whilst the prices on freight and passage from New York to this place, are as follows: Per ton \$25—per barrel \$3; and we understand that letters have been received from Mr. Grimes, at Honolulu, agent of Capt. Couch and Mr. Abernethy, who sent freight thither on the Toulon, that the supercargo refused them freight at these prices, having in view the speedy sale and high prices of his own goods, which the urgent demands of this community were certain to insure, unless they would furnish him a thousand barrels at these exorbitant prices, which of course, could not be furnished, and has actually brought one vessel from thence to this place in ballast, leaving these goods at the Islands, and this community suffering the penalty, whilst we are compelled to make a merit of necessity, by seeming to yield, with grace, that which we know we have not the power, at present, to control. Such bargains as these may appease the easy consciences of gentlemen accustomed to the chicanery and frauds which sometimes accompany monopolies, and it may not be contrary to our code of civil jurisprudence, but if HEAVEN'S CHANCERY has justice, they will be set aside on the grounds of DURESS in that high court; and it will be long before wrongs like these are forgotten by this community.

If, by these statements, it should reflect on the conduct of some of our merchants, the blame is not at our door. My business is with facts; and I have no inclination to shrink from the responsibility, when the sufferings of a community as large as this, must pay the penalty of its suppression; and I earnestly invite correction by those interested, or any of their friends, in every instance, should my statements require it, and I shall strictly avoid stating what I have reason to believe is incorrect, or which I have not authority to produce in substantiating it.

M. M. McCARVER.

☞ The governor of Maine is said to be a shipwright. The governor of New Hampshire is a wheelwright, and a native of North Carolina; but Mississippi can beat the whole union at that game, as she can at almost any other—making cotton, breaking down banks, working out of debt, and breeding giraffes. She elected three mechanics to the highest offices in her gift—a tailor, a saddler, and a blacksmith. She is the only state in the union where the people are literally sovereigns, and have all the power in their own hands.

### Administrator's Notice.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the subscriber has been duly appointed administrator of the estate of Dr. John E. Long, late of Clackamas county, deceased; and has taken upon himself that trust, by giving bonds, as the law directs. And all persons having demands upon the estate of the said John E. Long, are required to exhibit the same; and all persons indebted to the said estate, are called upon to make payment to PETER G. STEWART, Administrator.

Oregon City, July 23, 1846—131f

Adm'r.