

stained by slaughters, massacres and routs; and we have never seen an instance of such wide-spread villainy as that of Titus Oates and others, in England. Such a scheme could not succeed among our honest and shrewd population. Our experience has demonstrated that the popular principle in our government, is eminently practical as well as beautiful in theory. Our history will conclusively show, that the American people have, in the main, selected the most able and upright men for public officers; and that talents and integrity have not gone forgotten and unknown. And the reason of this is plain and obvious. Every citizen has a direct interest in an honest and just administration of the government; and although the people may sometimes dismiss an honest and able officer for specious reasons, they are certain not to retain in office an unfaithful incumbent. It may be safely said, that in any civilized community, where there is honesty enough to obey a judicious system of laws, there is always intelligence enough to appreciate them. The nature of our popular institutions has taught men to know their rights, it has made them acquainted with the limits of power, has brought the governors and the governed into so close a union, that there is that politeness and attention to the wants of the community, to be found among our officers, that does not exist among the officers of other governments. But this principle has not only taught our people to resist oppression on the part of those in power, and to watch with jealous vigilance the administration of their government; but it has led them to resist imposition even in private life, come from what quarter it may. And the freedom of speech and of the press, in our country, though some times abused, has had the most beneficial influence in society. Public censure is a great check upon vice, and public approbation is a great rewarder of virtue. The honest mind, conscious of its own integrity of purpose, will not perhaps be driven from its course by ill-timed censure; but the dishonest man, equally conscious of his own turpitude, will tremble before that public censure, which he too well knows he justly merits.

Permit me now, my fellow-citizens, to suggest a few considerations upon other points of our subject. The subject of education (that most noble enlightener of the human mind) has received in the United States very great attention. Our statesmen have acted upon the principle, that a few people, in whose hands are placed the sacred deposits of liberty, won and left by our forefathers, should be intelligent. Congress has made liberal donations of land for purposes of education; and in many states a system of free schools has been successfully put in operation. The census of 1840 has shown that in some of the states, where free schools are common, that only about one out of every hundred males of the age of 20 or upwards, could neither read nor write. Our national literature, it is true, does not yet equal that of the oldest nations of the world; but this is owing to our youth, and to our want of those greater facilities which they enjoy. But it may be said, that intelligence is more extensively diffused among the great mass in America, than in any portion of the world. And this is more especially true as regards a knowledge of our government; for you will scarcely meet a man, in our country, however ignorant he may be on other subjects, that does not fully know and understand his rights as a citizen. The progress of manufactures in our country has been most rapid; so much so, that all the useful articles can be, and are now made at home, with the exception of needles. The value of manufactured articles in Massachusetts alone far exceeds all the exports of the entire union; and such has been our wonderful progress in this branch of industry, that it will very soon be difficult for our government to raise an adequate revenue by the imposition of a tariff upon imports. And while our progress in manufactures has been thus gratifying, our progress in agriculture and commerce has been equally successful. The census of 1840 exhibited the enormous value of the agricultural productions of our country. Commerce has extended to every nook and corner of the habitable globe, and our ships fill every sea; and the day is rapidly approaching when our commerce will be second to that of no nation on earth.

I will now say something in relation to the territory and population of our country. At the period of the American revolution we had a population of about three millions, and we

have now a population of more than twenty millions. When our present constitution was formed, we had thirteen states, we have now twenty-nine. We have now a territory sufficient to contain three hundred millions population, and at the same rate of increase, in seventy years more we shall have a population of more than one hundred and thirty-three millions, at the least three times as many as the largest state in Europe. Our government is one of the mightiest on earth, having its territories all compactly united together, and not consisting of detached parcels, difficult and expensive to govern. Our country has a soil unequalled in fertility, and a climate varying from the frozen regions of Maine to the mild and sunny plains of Texas, and possesses immense manufacturing, commercial and agricultural advantages, producing within herself almost every staple article necessary for man's consumption, or for manufactures. We grow the largest portion of Indian corn, tobacco, and cotton, in the world. We have the means of national greatness at home. Our territories are invulnerable at home to any foreign power, for such is their prodigious extent, that no invading foe could penetrate to the interior. Our internal facilities for commerce are immense; and such has been the improvements in steam, rail road, and canal transportation, that we could concentrate a mighty army at any given point, within 20 days. The progress of our country is unparalleled in the history of man. When under the great Jefferson's counsels, the purchase of Louisiana was effected, it was feared by many of our great statesmen that our limits were becoming too great and unwieldy. Time, however, has shown that, in population, as our limits have extended, our government has become more stable and fixed. And this circumstance is founded in reason, and results from the nature of the human mind. There is something about a great, free, and magnificent government, that naturally allures men to its support. Who would not prefer being a citizen of such a government as that of the U. States, to the right of citizenship in some petty republic too poor to defray its expenses at home, and too weak to be respected abroad? The more population, and the greater the extent of territory the greater will be the facilities for trade, and the lighter will fall the burthens of government upon each individual. And one of the most pleasing reflections connected with this delightful theme is the fact, that our immense extent of territory, and our great prosperity, have been attained without the commission of a national crime. We have never carried the desolation of war into the bosoms of other countries from a base desire of conquest, and we have not sought, nor do we seek, to extend our authority over unwilling minds. If others, charmed by the free and noble principles of our government, seek protection under its mighty wings, they come in, not as slaves, but as fellow-citizens, entitled to all the privileges that belong to us; and form new and independent states, united to this great family of the free. And we love our country, not alone because she is great now, and is rapidly taking the front rank among the mighty nations of the earth, but because she is pure, just, and free. And it is a source of just pride to us, that we are not only powerful in war, but we are equally distinguished for our liberal principles, our civilization and humanity. And who can tell the destiny of America? Old Rome never filled a prouder destiny. We are like a young and vigorous giant, just beginning to feel his powers. But while we, with emotions of pleasure, contemplate our greatness attained so peacefully, and so soon, and anticipate with rapture that still greater destiny that awaits us speedily, let us act out the principles of our government, which teach us the most expanded charity, leaving all people, kindreds, and tongues, to that perfect freedom of opinion we claim for ourselves. We have the most unshaken confidence in the superiority of those eternal and unchanging principles of freedom upon which our government is based; and we believe that they are so founded and implanted in man's very nature, that they will inevitably triumph, unaided by fraud or force, and from their own innate and irresistible power. We have the faith to believe that our principles, ever glorious and free, will go down along the stream of coming years, gathering force and vigor, as man's mind expands and the soul improves, until they shall arouse and awaken the slumbering millions who yet never knew what freedom was. And I hesitate

not to say, that many years will not have passed by, until the whole of North America will compose one mighty family of peaceful states; and this by the free and unbiased voice of the people themselves, for we do not seek, as president Polk says, "to extend our government over a reluctant people."

And now, my fellow-citizens, let me say a few words in relation to ourselves here in Oregon. We, like our forefathers, are in a new world; but unlike them, we did not flee from oppression. Our government never oppresses any of its people. We have torn ourselves asunder from friends and early associations; and through the wide desert, have made our way to the shores of the great Pacific. Our minds naturally revert to the pleasing scenes of other days. Our country that we have left behind, we have not forgotten, nor can we forget. The people of other lands may scorn our noble principles, but we will cherish them ever. We are here here emphatically in a new world—are eminently distinguished by nature. We have great agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing advantages, and we are here to develop them. Great improvements have been made in Oregon since I first saw it. Our industry has been untiring, and our valleys and plains now exhibit large and well cultivated farms. Our progress is onward. We suffer, it is true, all the inconveniences of new countries; but he who expects to find all the advantages of a new and old settled country united, will certainly find himself much mistaken. There is much left, in the progress of human improvement, for us to do. I could wish that we should be as much distinguished for our improved social condition, as our new country is for its mighty features. A country so beautiful and interesting as Oregon, must and will occupy a proud stand. We too, like the founders of our government, are making experiments. We have here planted the principles we hold dear. Who knows but that from this point, those great principles may pass to the olden world, and one day give its enslaved myriads freedom and peace. I believe we will see the day when the valleys, streams, hills, and forests of Oregon will echo with the songs of freedom. And now, fellow-citizens, prone as Americans are to differ in opinion, I know you will all unite with me in saying (pointing to the American flag)

"That star-spangled banner, O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

NOTE.—While writing out my address, I had no books to which I could refer; and all my quotations and statements of facts, were made from recollection.
P. H. B.



THE SPECTATOR.

H. A. G. LEE, EDITOR.—J. FLEMING, PR.

Oregon City, August 6, 1846.

The editor respectfully tenders his thanks to the Board of Directors for the privilege of terminating his services as editor, with the present number of the Spectator. He gladly avails himself of the opportunity thus afforded him of returning to the more humble and far more pleasant duties of a laboring mechanic, with a happy consciousness of having done the best that circumstances allowed. And with a sincere wish that the paper may be rendered more acceptable to the readers, and more profitable to the proprietors, he bids them and the public a kind adieu.

A FRIEND IN DEED.—We are much indebted, and truly thankful, to the Editor of the Polynesian and Messrs. C. Brewer & Co., (Honolulu, S. I.) for their opportune kindness in receiving and forwarding subscriptions to the Spectator. We take this opportunity to inform our friends abroad, that, owing to the peculiar nature of our currency, the Board of Directors have been induced to fix the price of the Spectator at \$5 per annum. When cash is paid, however, a discount 33 1/3 per cent. is made, which reduces the price of the paper to \$3 33 1/3. We acknowledge the receipt of Gen. Miller's subscription, through the politeness of Mr. Stark, of \$5 cash, which is \$1 66 2/3 more than our due. It will stand as so much paid on the second volume, or be refunded, as he may wish.

THE U. S. SCHOONER SHARK.

The United States schooner Shark came into the mouth of the Columbia river on the 18th ult., 24 days from the Sandwich Islands. After passing Baker's Bay, the Shark was run upon Chenook shoal, through the unskillfulness of a negro man found living at the Cape, who undertook to pilot her over to Astoria. She was however gotten off in a few hours, having suffered

no perceptible damage. We learn by this arrival that up to the end of March, no decisive action had taken place between the government of the United States and Great Britain with regard to Oregon. The senate of the U. States were still debating the resolution passed by the lower house, to give to Great Britain the necessary notice to a termination of the convention of 1818, admitting the right of joint occupation. There was no doubt the resolution would pass, but so amended as to leave it discretionary with the president to give the notice or not as might seem to him expedient. This was advocated by both parties in the senate as a peace measure, and not designed to close the door to renewed negotiations. No preparations were making in the U. States for a result other than peaceful to the settlement of the question. The English papers to nearly the same date with our own, are moderate and pacific on the subject. Sir Robert Peel had laid before parliament his views and intentions in regard to the tariff on articles of consumption, in which he advocates almost the entire repeal of the corn laws, and a rapid reduction, and finally complete repeal of duties on all kinds of provisions and articles of raw material. These measures, on the part of the Premier, were very favorably received in our country, especially by the producing states, and would doubtless call for a similar reduction of duties in the U. States on manufactured articles. By thus subserving mutual interests, the best feelings were excited, and all subjects giving rise to national differences likely to be facilitated to peaceful conclusions.

The U. States squadron, consisting of the frigates Savannah and Congress, and sloops of war Cyane, Portsmouth, Levant and Warren, are on the coast of Mexico and California, and the store ship Erie is at the Sandwich Islands taking on board provisions for the squadron.

The ship Brooklyn, from N. York, was at the Sandwich Islands with 175 passengers, principally Mormons, bound to St. Francisco. We learn further, that an immense emigration of Mormons, or, as they now style themselves, "Latter Day Saints," exceeding twenty-five thousand in number, were to set out in May from Illinois and Missouri, bound to California and the southern part of this territory.

LIST OF OFFICERS ON BOARD THE SHARK.

Lieut. Commanding, NEIL M. HOWSON.
Lieut. W. S. SCHLESK.
Acting Master, JAMES D. BELLOCK.
" Purser, WM. S. HOLLIS.
Assistant Surgeon, EDWARD HEDGECOCK.
Passed Midshipman, T. McLANAHAN.
Midshipmen, T. J. SIMES,
" H. DAVIDSON,
Captain's Clerk, J. M. MAURY.

Deserting Seamen.

We feel it our duty to call the attention of the citizens to this important subject, involving so deeply our moral, as well as our commercial interests. At present we have no efficient laws for the protection of masters & captains of vessels entering our ports or harbors, in the retention and proper control of their seamen. The consequences are easily imagined. Scarcely a vessel touches our coast without losing a portion of her crew; and there have been cases of desertion from whale ships which ventured barely within sight of the pine-cliffs of Oregon. A case of this kind occurred during the last winter. Five seamen deserted a whaler in the night, taking one of the boats and making for the shore near Gray's harbor, some sixty miles north of the mouth of the Columbia. In crossing the breakers—the sea being rough—three of the men were lost, only two reaching the shore alive. While this state of things lasts, we cannot expect vessels to visit us, unless their prospects of gain or sense of duty is sufficient to induce them to run the risk. Other results necessarily follow—few ship arrivals—scarcity of goods, and difficulty of exporting our surplus produce, &c., &c. These results, in their turn, become causes, and produce other effects equally unpleasant. Men, feeling exasperated under the chafings of these circumstances, and unable or unwilling to trace them to their prime cause, are ready to charge the evils to the cupidity of the few merchants who have ventured among us, and who are themselves more or less the sufferers with the rest of us. Thus adding to our unfortunate circumstances the greater evil of personal ill-will and unkind feelings among the citizens. A still farther, and we think, a still more deplorable consequence is, that we have thrown into society a host of unprofitable, and to say the least for them, undesirable characters. We regard desertion itself, under ordinary circumstances, as really mean and exceedingly low—quite beneath an honest man. Now, if we wish to free ourselves from this immense train of evils, it is quite as plain as it is important, that we should strike at the root. It is utterly useless, or something worse, for us to abuse the merchants, or the merchants upbraid the importers for high prices on goods and excessive charges for freight, while we allow deserters to enjoy all the rights and privileges of free citizens with us. So long as merchant ships are subjected to the risk of losing their men without the hope of getting them back again, or even of supplying their place—so long will those who freight by them, be compelled to pay a higher price for freight